

III. Proverbs

Proverbs has several authors

-Solomon ch. 1-29

-Agur ch.30

-Lemuel (his mother taught him) ch.31

-The literary form of the proverbs is mostly in the form of couplets using three types of parallelism -

Synonymous parallelism- where the second clause restates what is said in the first clause

Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools 19:29

-Synthetic parallelism- where the second clause develops the thought of the first

The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him in anger sinneth against his own

soul

-Antithetic parallelism- where a truth is stated in the first clause and made stronger in the second clause by contrast with an opposite truth

The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out 13:9

Outline of Proverbs

- 1. A Praise of Wisdom 1-9

2. Miscellaneous sayings of Solomon 10-24

3. Sayings of Solomon which had been copied by Hezekiah's men 25-29

4. Words of Agur 30

5. Words of Lemuel from his Mother 31

-The key word of Proverbs is wisdom

Wisdom is a spiritual matter of the heart

-Proverbs mentions three types of people that need wisdom 1:20-23

1. Fool

- Hates instruction 1:7,22

- Is self confident 12:15

- Talks without thinking 29:11

- Makes a mock at sin 14:9

2. Simple

- Believes everything and everyone 14:15

- Is easily led astray for he lacks understanding 7:7

- Cannot see ahead, so he's always walking into trouble 22:3

— 3. Scorners

- Mocks at wisdom for it's too high for him 14:6

- Feels like he knows everything 21:24

- He never profits from rebuke 9:7-8; 13:1

- He will be judged 19:25

4. The contrast to these three is the wise man

- There are 34 statements made about wise men in Proverbs

1. Will hear 1:5

2. Will increase knowledge 1:5

3. Will understand 1:6

4. Will inherit glory 3:35

5. Loves one who rebukes him 9:8

6. Will receive instruction 9:9; 21:11

7. Makes a glad father 10:1; 29:11

- 8. Will labor 10:5; 21:20
- 9. Will receive Commandments 10:8
- 10. Will lay up knowledge 10:14 II . Will keep the tongue 10:19; 29:11
 - 12. Will rule over fools 11:29; 17:2
 - 13. Will win souls 11:30
 - 14. Will heed counsel 12:15
 - 15. Will speak to edification 12:18
 - 16. Will hear a father's instruction 13:1
 - 17. Walks with wise men 13:20
 - 18. Will be preserved 14:3
 - 19. Will fear
 - 20. Will depart from evil 14:16
 - 21. Will be rich
 - 22. Shall have the king's favour 14:35
 - 23. Speaks in knowledge 15:2,7
 - 24. Knows the way of life 15:24
 - 25. Turns away wrath 16:14; 29:8
 - 26. Teaches himself first 16:23
 - 27. Will receive reproof 17:10
 - 28. Holds his peace 17:28
 - 29. Seeks knowledge 18:15
 - 30. Is not deceived by wine 20:1
 - 31. Scatters the wicked 20:26
 - 32. Casts down the mighty 21 :22
 - 33. Is strong 24:5
 - 34. Keeps the law 28:7

-The key phrase of Proverbs is the fear of the Lord

Its found 14 times in Proverbs

-The path of wisdom is found in chapters 2-4

-There are many things Proverbs identifies as abominations

- 1. The froward 3:32
- 2. Proud look, lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet swift in running to mischief, liars. they that sow discord among the brethren
 - 6:16-19
- 3. Wickedness 8:7
- 4. A false balance 11:1
 - 5. Sacrifices brought by the wicked 15:8
 - 6. The way of the wicked 15:9
 - 7. The thoughts of the wicked 15:26
 - 8. The proud of heart 16:5
 - 9. Those who justify the wicked and condemn the just 17:15
 - 10. Diverse weights and measures 20:10
 - 11. The prayers of rebels 28:9

-Proverbs identifies things that tend to poverty

- 1. Withholding more than is meet 11 :24
- 2. Refusing instruction 13:18
- 3. Idle talking 14:23

- 4. Love of sleep 20:13
 - 5. Oppressing the poor and giving to the rich 22:16
 - 6. Drunkenness, gluttony and drowsiness 23:21
 - 7. Following after vain persons 28:19
 - 8. Hastening to be rich 28:22
- Proverbs tells us seventeen things that are better
- 1. Wisdom over gold 3:14
 - 2. Wisdom over silver 8:19
 - 3. Wisdom over rubies 8:11
 - 4. Being a despised man over one honoring self 12:9
 - 5. Little with fear of God over riches with trouble 15:16
 - 6. Dinner with love over a feast with hatred 15:17
 - 7. Slow to anger over the mighty 16:32
 - 8. One who rules his spirit over one that takes a city 16:32
 - 9. Quietness over strife 17:1
 - 10. Honesty over lying 19:1
 - 11. Poverty over lying 19:22
 - 12. Dwelling alone over dwelling with a brawling women 21 :9
 - 13. Dwelling in the wilderness over dwelling with an angry woman 21:19
 - 14. To be exalted over being abased before man 25:7
 - 15. Open rebuke over secret love 27:5
 - 16. A near neighbor over a brother far off 27:10
 - 17. A righteous poor person over a wicked rich person 28:6
- Proverbs says much about the tongue
- When used right the tongue is:
- 1. Like valuable silver 10:20
 - 2. It is a beautiful and fruitful tree of life 15:4; 12:14
 - 3. A refreshing well of water 18:4
 - 4. A healthy dose of medicine 12:18
- The sins of the tongue listed in Proverbs
- 1. Lying 6:16; 10:18
 - 2. Tale bearing Prov. 11:13; 25:18
 - 3. Talking too much 12:13
 - 4. Talking too soon 18:13, 17
 - 5. Quarreling 15:1; 1
- Proverbs says much about money and business matters
- 1. God hates a dishonest scale(balance) and delights in honesty 11:1; 16:11
 - 2. Dont sign a note for someone you dont know 6:1-5; 11:15
 - 3. Don'tuyithhold repayment of your debts 3:27
 - 4. God ownt let a righteous man starve to death 10:3
 - 5. Lazy men are soon poor; hard workers have plenty 10:4; 22:29
 - 6. A lazy person(sluggard) is like smoke in the eyes and vinegar to the teeth 10:26
 - 7. He that trusts in his riches shall fall 11:28
 - 8. It is wrong to accept a bribe to pervert judgment 17:23
 - 9. Riches are fleeting 23:5; 27:24
- Proverbs says much about the home, training children and husbands and wives

1. Training children Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15,17

2. Marriage Prov. 5:15-21; 12:4; 14:1; 19:13; 18:22; 21:9; 25:24

-In Proverbs 26, we find the fool, the sloth, the meddler, the prankster, the tale bearer, and the hateful — -In Proverbs 31, we find the virtuous woman

IV. Ecclesiastes

-Ecclesiastes means Preacher or Teacher

-The book is a systematic discourse on the vanity of everything under the sun

-The purpose of the book is to convince man of the uselessness of any world view which does not rise above the horizon of man himself." G.L.Archer

-One of the main problems in Ecclesiastes is self absorption- 135 personal pronouns are used in 12 chapters —

-Man is used 47 times, labor 36 times, under the sun 30 times and vanity 37 times.

A. The Problem 1:1-3

— 1. How to be satisfied without God

B. The Experiments 1:4-12

Satisfaction sought in:

1. Science 1:4-11

- 2. Philosophy 1:12-18

3. Pleasure and folly 2:1-11

a. In nature, he finds three things

-lust of the flesh 2:1-3

-lust of the eyes 2:4-6

-pride of life 2:7-8

4. Materialism 2:12-26

5. Religion 3:1-5:8

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6. Wealth 5:9-6:1

7. Morality 7:1-12

C. The Conclusion 12:13-14:14

- 1. Only devotion to God can bring satisfaction

2. Chapter 12 contains a picture of the frustrations of old age- Solomon saw the end of days as holding no pleasure

v.2-7

-Clouds return after rain

-Keepers of the house tremble

-Strong men become feeble

-The grinders

-The windows darkened

-Door shut

-Sound low

-Rise up at the voice

-Daughters of music

-Afraid of what is high and the way

Lack of clarity in thought

hands

knees, legs

teeth

eyesight

Homebound

hearing

poor sleep, easily disturbed

nothing entertains

fear of heights and traveling

-Almond tree	white hair
-Grasshopper a burden	little things are difficult
-Silver chord	spinal chord
-Golden bowl	brain
-The pitcher	the heart
-Wheel and Cistern	circulation (description of a wheel pumping up through

one pipe to discharge through another describes the heart and the circulatory system 2600 years before William Harvey was credited for his findings)

- Proverbs records life as man observes it through the eyes of God
- Ecclesiastes records life as man observes it through the eyes God gave him
- The Wisdom books
- Job shows the heart in darkness owing to occupation to self
- Psalms speak of the heart expressing dependance upon the Lord
- Proverbs reveals the condition of a heart under self-discipline and divine discipline -
- Ecclesiastes shows the heart empty through pre-occupation with that which is earthly
- In Song of Solomon we see the heart filled through devotion to the bridegroom

V. Song of Solomon

- A story of true love in which we see 3 main themes
 - The love between a man and a woman
 - The love of God the Father for Israel
 - The love Christ has for the Church
- The Jews compared Proverbs to the outer court of the temple, Ecclesiastes to the holy place and Song of Solomon to the Holy of Holies
- This love story involve three main characters
- It can be divided into five sections

A. First 1:1-2:

1. Introduction 1:1
2. Desire for communion 1:2
3. Absent bridegroom longed for 1:3
4. Confession 1:4-6
5. Hides himself while longing for his beloved 1:7
6. Directs her as to how to find him 1:8
7. Reveals himself and they boast in one another 1:9-2:2
8. Testimony of the satisfied bride 2:3-7

B. Second 2:8-3:

1. Bridegroom absent while the bride sleeps 2:8-10
2. Cry of bridegroom for his beloved 2:10-13
- 3. Bride sheltered in the atoning sacrifice 2:14

- 4. Bride turns her eyes to find him 3:1-3
- 5. Help form watchmen 3:3
- 6. She finds her reward in him 3:4

C. Third 3:6-5:

- 1. Differs from previous sections
- 2. Bride and bridegroom are never absent from each other
- 3. He alone speaks

D. Fourth 5:2-8

- 1. Bridegroom absent
- 2. Sleeping bride awakened by him but too lazy to follow him
- 3. She rises to find him gone and tells her grief to others
- 4. Boasts of his superiority
- 5. He returns and describes the glory of the bride

E. Fifth 8:5-14

- 1. Bride and groom emerge from the wilderness
- 2. He reminds her of her former position
- 3. She praises his true love

-This is the story of the love of Solomon for a maiden who is a vine-dresser, a shepherdess and a midnight seeker -Seven garden scenes in this book

- 1. Mine own vineyard have I not kept- speaks of carelessness 1 (Prov. 24:30-34)
- 2. An unguarded garden falling prey to little foxes that rob us of fruit 2:15
- 3. An enclosed garden for the beloved 4:12- five fruits are mentioned- her love, words, virtues, thoughts and activities
- 4. A fragrant garden 4:16- where the wind blows and the sweet smelling savor is carried to the beloved
- 5. A place of fellowship 5:1- On her invitation he comes into her garden to gather myrrh- this pictures suffering meekly submitted to
- 6. A flourishing garden 7:11-12- With Him (Christ) fruit will abound
- 7. Another fragrant garden 8:11-12

-Seven times we find "the beloved"

- 1. Voice of the beloved 2:8
- 2. The call of the beloved 2:16
- 3. Claiming+he beloved 2:16
- 4. Opening to the beloved 5:5
- 5. Praising the beloved 5:9-16
- 6. Leaning on the beloved 8:5
- 7. Longing for the beloved 8:14

-The phrase "I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem", is found 4 times 2:7; 3:5; 5:8; 8:4 - after three of those times we read of his coming

-Three stages of love found in the book

- 1. My beloved is mine and I am his 2:16
 - We think chiefly as the beloved as ours, as for our pleasure
- 2. I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine 6:3
 - Belonging to the other takes first place in our thoughts
- 3. I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me 7:10
 - "mine" is dropped in the perfect assurance that to be loved by the other is sufficient!

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