

# Proverbs— A Library of Wisdom



*The secret of happiness is not doing  
the things that you like but liking the  
things that you do.*

*- Unknown*

# Introduction

Written as poetry

The book of Proverbs is frequently quoted in the New Testament.

The book of Proverbs contains many brief but wise statements about how to live a godly life



Although the book was written in ancient Israel, its messages remain applicable in the modern world.

# Who Wrote Proverbs?

*These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out  
Proverbs 25:1*

Some of the book of Proverbs is attributed to “Solomon the son of David, the king of Israel”



# When Was Proverbs Written?

We do not know exactly when or where the book of Proverbs was written, but the initial compilation of Proverbs is traditionally thought to have taken place during the reign of King Solomon in Jerusalem, between 1015 and 975 B.C.



It is likely that many of the proverbs came from oral traditions that existed before Solomon's time. Also, some proverbs were added after Solomon's time: chapters 25–29 were added in the days of King Hezekiah of Judah.

It is unknown when the book reached its final form.

# What Proverbs Contains

Chapters 1–9 contain an explanation of true wisdom.

Chapters 10–24 contain a collection of sayings about the right and wrong ways of living.

Chapters 25–29 contain the proverbs of Solomon that the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, recorded.

Chapters 30–31 include a description of a virtuous woman.



# “That’s What Its All About”

## Proverbs 1:1-7

“A wise man will hear, and  
will increase in learning ...  
but fools despise wisdom  
and instruction”

A wise person knows that there is  
something to be learned from everyone.

- Unknown



"You can tell whether a man is clever by his  
answers.

You can tell whether a man is wise by his  
questions."

- Naguib, Mahfouz—Egyptian writer

# The Principle

Proverbs 1:1-7

*If we have reverence for the  
Lord and His teachings, then  
He will bless us with  
knowledge and wisdom.*

# Reverence

“Fear the Lord”

“Reverence is profound respect mingled with love. ...

[One writer] says it is ‘the highest of human feelings.’ ...

“Reverence embraces regard, deference, honor, and esteem.” (1)



# Gaining Knowledge

“Gaining knowledge is one thing, and applying it [is] quite another.

Wisdom is the right application of knowledge, and true education—the education for which the Church stands—is the application of knowledge to the development of a noble and Godlike character.” (1)



# Finding Wisdom

Froward = to be wayward or to go in a direction opposite of what is expected.  
deceitfulness, perverseness, and foolishness” Proverbs 4:5-9

Proverbs 2:10-15

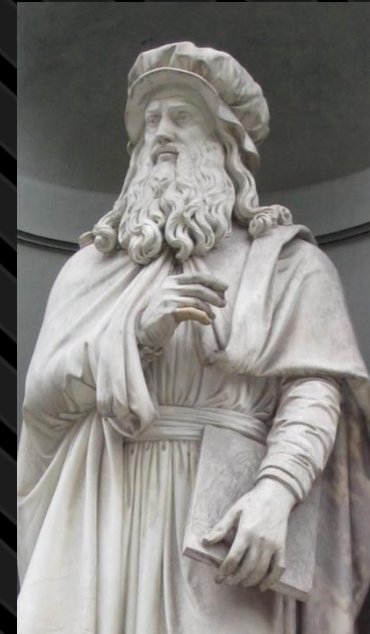
"To know that you know, and to know that you don't know - that is real wisdom."  
- Confucius



Proverbs 3:13-18, 35

“Wisdom is the Supreme part of Happiness”--  
Sophocles

Wisdom is the daughter of experience.  
LEONARDO DA VINCI



# Proverbs 4



## Proverbs 4:10

It requires wisdom  
to understand  
wisdom; the music  
is nothing if the  
audience is deaf.  
- Walter Lippmann

## Proverbs 14-19

If you find yourself  
in a hole, the first  
thing to do is stop  
digging.  
- Will Rogers



## Proverbs 4:20-27

God gave us mouths that  
close and ears that don't—  
that should tell us  
something  
--unknown

# The Principle

Proverbs 2-4

Gaining wisdom and living  
righteously lead to  
happiness and peace

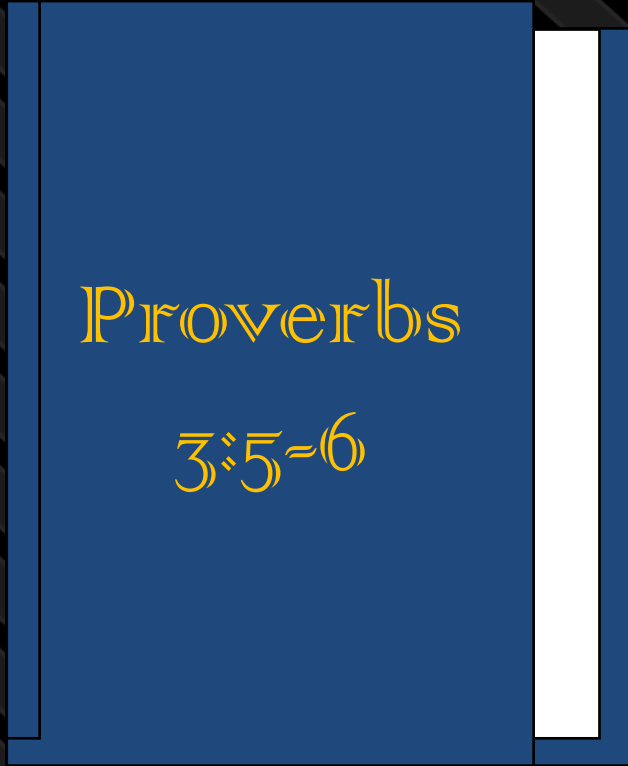
“Our Father in Heaven has invited you to express your needs, hopes, and desires unto Him.

That should not be done in a spirit of negotiation, but rather as a willingness to obey His will no matter what direction that takes. His invitation, ‘Ask, and ye shall receive’ (3 Ne. 27:29 ) does not assure that you will get what you *want*.

It does guarantee that, if worthy, you will get what you *need*, as judged by a Father that loves you perfectly, who wants your eternal happiness even more than do you” (2)



# Doctrinal Mastery



Trust in the LORD with all  
thine heart; and lean not unto  
thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge  
him and he shall direct thy  
paths.

# Proverbs 5

Proverbs 5:15-21



“A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.”

Mignon McLaughlin



# Proverbs 6:16

*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

“Seven is a number that symbolizes completeness; this list covers most abominable attitudes and acts, including pride, lying, murder, malicious thought, eagerness for evil, false testimony, and raising dissension. These generate most of the ills of society.” (4)



# Proverbs 6:16-19

A Proud Look

Don't think less of yourself, think of yourself less  
- Unknown

A Lying Tongue

The worst thing about being lied to is knowing you weren't worth the truth.--unknown

Hands that shed  
innocent blood

"Thou shalt not kill does not apply to murder of one's own kind only, but to all living beings; and this Commandment was inscribed in the human breast long before it was proclaimed from Sinai. –Leo Tolstoy

A heart that  
deviseth wicked  
imagination

"You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."  
- Abraham Lincoln

Feet that be swift in  
running to mischief

"I solemnly swear that I am up to no good." J.K. Rowling

A false witness

Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.  
- Sophocles—Greek writer

# The Fool--Proverbs 9:6

Who is more foolish?  
The fool or the fool  
that follows it?

--Alec Guinness



A fool will learn  
nothing from a wise  
man, but a wise man  
will learn much from  
a fool

- Unknown

Wise men don't need  
advice.

Fools won't take it.

--Benjamin Franklin

Proverb 10:4

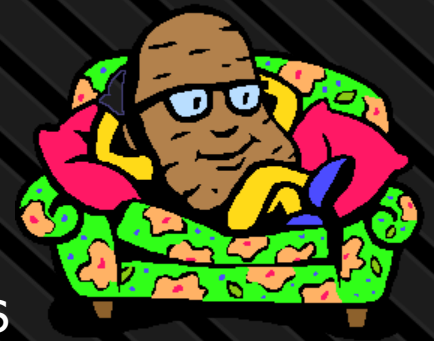
Laziness may  
appear attractive,  
but work gives  
satisfaction  
--Anne Frank

# The Couch Potato

Proverb 12:24

Work hard and  
become a leader,  
be lazy and  
become a slave.  
--unknown

Proverb 10:16



The good man  
labors that he may  
be able to support  
life; this is his first  
object: and then to  
have something to  
divide with the  
poor; this is his  
next object.  
--Adam Clarke

Great things come out of being  
hungry and cold. Once you're  
pampered, you get lazy.

Rob Zombie

# Pride—Proverbs 11:2



Pride is concerned  
with who is right.  
Humility is  
concerned with  
**WHAT IS RIGHT**  
--Ezra T. Benson

Humility is not  
thinking less of  
yourself, but  
thinking of yourself  
less.  
--C.S. Lewis

# A Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 12:4

A handsome guy  
and a pretty girl  
will make a  
beautiful wedding,  
but a faithful man  
and a virtuous  
woman will make a  
beautiful marriage.

--KM II



Proverbs 31:10-31

Who Can Find a  
Virtuous woman?  
For her Price is far  
above rubies.

# Virtue

“Virtue originates in your innermost thoughts and desires. It is a pattern of thought and behavior based on high moral standards. Since the Holy Ghost does not dwell in unclean tabernacles, virtue is prerequisite to receiving the Spirit’s guidance. What you choose to think and do when you are alone and you believe no one is watching is a strong measure of your virtue.

“Virtuous people are clean and pure spiritually. They focus on righteous, uplifting thoughts and put unworthy thoughts that lead to inappropriate actions out of their minds. They obey God’s commandments and follow the counsel of Church leaders. They pray for the strength to resist temptation and do what is right. They quickly repent of any sins or wrongdoings. They live worthy of a temple recommend” (3)



# A Wise Man Feareth

Proverbs 14:16

When you realize  
God is all you have,  
you realize, God is  
all you needed in  
the first place.  
--unknown



by Rehahn Hoia

Proverbs 31:10

A wise man once  
said: An error does  
not become a  
mistake, until you  
refuse to correct it.

--President John F. Kennedy

# Sorrow of the Heart

Proverbs 15:13

You have to have a  
darkness for the  
dawn to come.  
- Harrison Ford



# Gossip

Proverbs 16:13 and Proverbs 21:23

The quieter you  
become, the more  
you can hear.  
--unknown



Proverbs 18:4

If you want to know how far gossip travels, do this - take a feather pillow up on a roof, slice it open, and let the feathers fly away on the wind. Then go and find every single feather and re-stuff the pillow.

--Rebecca Pidgeon



Proverbs 16:28

Gossip is spread by  
wicked people. It  
stirs up trouble and  
breaks up  
friendships  
--unknown

# Children's Children

Proverbs 17:6

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

Lady Bird Johnson,  
Former First Lady of the United States



Proverbs 23:24

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."  
— Margaret Mead

Proverbs 22:6

"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate."  
— Anonymous

# Friends

Proverbs 18:24

Your truest friends are the ones who will stand by you in your darkest moments because they're willing to brave the shadows with you. And in your greatest moments because they're not afraid to let you shine.

--Nicole Yatsonskey



# Safety in the Lord—Proverbs 21:31

I can only show you the door. You're the one who has to walk through it.

- The Matrix ' Morpheus



When GOD leads you to the edge of a cliff, trust him fully. Only two things can happen; either He will catch you when you fall

or

He will teach you how to fly.

- Unknown



# Patience—Proverbs 24:32-33



God gives you answers in three ways: he says yes and gives you what you want, he says no and gives you something better, or he says wait and gives you the best.

- Unknown

# To the Poor—Proverbs 25:21

Nobody is so poor that he has nothing to give, and nobody is so rich that he has nothing to receive.

--Pope John Paul II



# Trust in the Lord

*He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. Proverbs 28:26*

Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Proverbs 30:5



“The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times.”

— Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

# The Stage

“Your mind is like a stage in a theater; in the theater of your mind, however, only one actor can be on stage at a time. If the stage is left bare, thoughts of darkness and sin often enter the stage to tempt.

But these thoughts have no power if the stage of your mind is occupied by wholesome thoughts, such as a memorized hymn or verse of scripture that you can call upon in a moment of temptation.

By controlling the stage of your mind, you can successfully resist persistent urges to yield to temptation and indulge in sin. You can become pure and virtuous” (3)



## Sources:

Videos: Trust in the Lord (0:39)  
Return to Virtue (2:34)  
A “Mother’s Heart” (2:51)



1. President David O. McKay (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* [2003], 30).  
Conference Report, Apr. 1968, 93–94.

Presentation by ©<http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/>

2. Elder Richard G. Scott (“Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 17).
  3. (*Preach My Gospel* [2004], 118–19).
  4. Ellis T. Rasmussen, *A Latter-day Saint Commentary on the Old Testament* [1993], 474
- Each Proverb means something different to each individual...  
These were some of my impressions.



by Walter Rane

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| The Purpose of Proverbs | Proverbs 1:1-7 |
|-------------------------|----------------|

**Proverbs to the Youth**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| The Purpose of Proverbs     | 1:1-7             |
| Proverbs to the Youth       | 1:8-9:18          |
| Obedying parents            | 1:8-9             |
| Avoid Bad Company           | 1:10-19           |
| Seek Wisdom                 | 1:20-2:22         |
| Benefits of Wisdom          | 3:1-26            |
| Be Kind to Others           | 3:27-35           |
| Acquire Wisdom              | 4:1-13            |
| Avoid the Wicked            | 4:14-22           |
| Keep Your Heart             | 4:23-27           |
| Do Not Commit Adultery      | 5:1-14. 6:20-7:27 |
| Faithfulness to Your Spouse | 5:15-23           |
| Avoid Surety                | 6:6-19            |
| Do Not Be Lazy              | 6:6-19            |
| Praise of Wisdom            | 8:1-9: 12         |
| Foolish Woman               | 9:13-18           |

| Proverbs of Solomon                      |             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Contrasting the Righteous and the Wicked | 10:1-15:33  |
| Encouraging to Live Righteously          | 16:1-22:16  |
| Concerns of various situations           | 22:17-24:34 |

**Proverbs of Solomon copied by Hezekiah’s Men**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Relationships with Others    | 25:1-26:28 |
| Relationships with Kings     | 25:1-7     |
| Relationships with Neighbors | 25:8-20    |
| Relationships with Enemies   | 25:21-24   |
| Relationships with Yourself  | 25:25-28   |
| Relationships with Fools     | 26:1-12    |
| Relationships with Sluggards | 26:13-16   |
| Relationships with Gossip    | 26:17-28   |
| Various Activities           | 27:1-29:27 |

**The Words of Agur 30:1-33**

**The Words of King Lemuel**

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Wisdom for Leaders and Wise Woman | 31:1-31 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|

**Outline  
of  
Proverbs**

# Proverbs 10–30

| Proverbs        |                         |           |          |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 10:4, 12, 17    | 15:1, 3, 16, 20, 26, 32 | 21:21, 25 | 27:1–2   |
| 11:17, 19, 28   | 16:7, 18, 32            | 22:6      | 28:1, 13 |
| 12:15, 19, 22   | 17:17, 22               | 23:7      | 29:18    |
| 13:1, 7, 15, 20 | 18:10, 12               | 24:1–2    | 30:5     |
| 14:21, 34       | 20:1                    | 25:21–22  |          |

| Instructions for Teaching                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <div>1. Read aloud the proverb you chose, and explain a principle it teaches.</div> <div>2. Share an example or experience from everyday life that illustrates the principle.</div> <div>3. Testify of the truth of the principle and explain why it is important to you.</div> |  |  |  |

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| 10:4, 12, 17    | 15:1, 3, 16, 20, 26, 32 | 21:21, 25 | 27:1–2   |
| 11:17, 19, 28   | 16:7, 18, 32            | 22:6      | 28:1, 13 |
| 12:15, 19, 22   | 17:17, 22               | 23:7      | 29:18    |
| 13:1, 7, 15, 20 | 18:10, 12               | 24:1–2    | 30:5     |
| 14:21, 34       | 20:1                    | 25:21–22  |          |

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| 11:17, 19, 28   | 16:7, 18, 32            | 22:6      | 28:1, 13 |
| 12:15, 19, 22   | 17:17, 22               | 23:7      | 29:18    |
| 13:1, 7, 15, 20 | 18:10, 12               | 24:1–2    | 30:5     |
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## A Virtuous Woman Proverbs 31:10-31

1. **Faith** - A Virtuous Woman serves God with all of her heart, mind, and soul. She seeks His will for her life and follows His ways. (Proverbs 31: 26, Proverbs 31: 29 – 31, Matthew 22: 37, John 14: 15, Psalm 119: 15)
2. **Marriage** – A Virtuous Woman respects her husband. She does him good all the days of her life. She is trustworthy and a helpmeet. (Proverbs 31: 11- 12, Proverbs 31: 23, Proverbs 31: 28, 1 Peter 3, Ephesians 5, Genesis2: 18)
3. **Mothering** - A Virtuous Woman teaches her children the ways of her Father in heaven. She nurtures her children with the love of Christ, disciplines them with care and wisdom, and trains them in the way they should go. (Proverbs 31: 28, Proverbs 31: 26, Proverbs 22: 6, Deuteronomy 6, Luke 18: 16)
4. **Health** – A Virtuous Woman cares for her body. She prepares healthy food for her family. (Proverbs 31: 14 – 15, Proverbs 31: 17, 1 Corinthians 6: 19, Genesis 1: 29, Daniel 1, Leviticus 11)
5. **Service** - A Virtuous Woman serves her husband, her family, her friends, and her neighbors with a gentle and loving spirit. She is charitable. (Proverbs 31: 12, Proverbs 31: 15, Proverbs 31: 20, 1 Corinthians 13: 13)
6. **Finances** - A Virtuous Woman seeks her husband's approval before making purchases and spends money wisely. She is careful to purchase quality items which her family needs. (Proverbs 31: 14, Proverbs 31: 16, Proverbs 31: 18, 1 Timothy 6: 10, Ephesians 5: 23, Deuteronomy 14: 22, Numbers 18: 26)
7. **Industry** – A Virtuous Woman works willingly with her hands. She sings praises to God and does not grumble while completing her tasks. (Proverbs 31: 13, Proverbs 31: 16, Proverbs 31: 24, Proverbs 31: 31, Philippians 2: 14)
8. **Homemaking** – A Virtuous Woman is a homemaker. She creates an inviting atmosphere of warmth and love for her family and guests. She uses hospitality to minister to those around her. (Proverbs 31: 15, Proverbs 31: 20 – 22, Proverbs 31: 27, Titus 2: 5, 1 Peter 4: 9, Hebrews 13: 2)
9. **Time** - A Virtuous Woman uses her time wisely. She works diligently to complete her daily tasks. She does not spend time dwelling on those things that do not please the Lord. (Proverbs 31: 13, Proverbs 31: 19, Proverbs 31: 27, Ecclesiastes 3, Proverbs 16: 9, Philippians 4:8 )
10. **Beauty** – A Virtuous Woman is a woman of worth and beauty. She has the inner beauty that only comes from Christ. She uses her creativity and sense of style to create beauty in her life and the lives of her loved ones. (Proverbs 31: 10 Proverbs 31: 21 – 22, Proverbs 31: 24 -25, Isaiah 61: 10, 1 Timothy 2: 9, 1 Peter 3: 1 – 6)