

Introduction: The book of Proverbs is a "Jewish" book. This book makes an application of the Law of Moses to everyday living. Even though these proverbs were directed to those living under the Old Testament Law, they carry timeless wisdom which is beneficial even for Christians today.

1. THE PROFILE OF PROVERBS (What is the structured content of Proverbs?)

See the attached "outline" for the structure of the book.

2. THE PURPOSE OF PROVERBS (Why was the book of Proverbs written?)

There are five "purposes" given for the book of Proverbs. This is based on the Hebrew word "to" (infinitive construct) showing the purpose of the Proverbs. What are the five purposes?

- A. 1:2 = to "know" (Hebrew "yada") knowledge acquired through the senses
- B. 1:2 = to "perceive" (Hebrew "bin") related to understanding
- C. 1:3 = to "receive" (Hebrew "laqaht") to take in, lay hold of, (marriage and the spoils of war)
- D. 1:4 = to "give" (Hebrew "natan")
- E. 1:6 = to "understand" (Hebrew "bin") cause understanding

These five "purposes" can be summarized in two statements:

- 1. "to give moral skillfulness" and
- 2. "to give mental discernment."

(Proverbs by Allen P. Ross, in Vol. 5 of The Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 904)

3. THE PRINCIPLES OF PROVERBS (What moral principles will Proverbs impart?)

The Proverbs will give "instruction in wisdom" to the reader so that he or she will be able to act prudently or circumspectly in three major areas of life (verse 3):

- A. 1:3; 2:9 = justice (Hebrew "tsesdeq") righteousness/rightness

Proverbs will help an individual conform to God's standards.

- B. 1:3; 2:9 = judgment (Hebrew "mishpat") discretion, that which is fitting and proper

Proverbs will assist an individual develop a sense of propriety in making decisions.

- C. 1:3; 2:9 = equity (Hebrew "mesharim") upright, that which is pleasing

Proverbs will instruct an individual in a lifestyle that is equitable.

Read Ecclesiastes 2:21 which relates a similar thought as Proverbs 1:3. Having wisdom in God's sight is doing: 1. what is right; 2. what is just; and 3. what is fair. An immoral, worldly minded person could never have wisdom.

(Proverbs, by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 907)

4. THE PROFITABILITY OF PROVERBS (How will Proverbs benefit an individual?)
 There are at least four types of people who would benefit from the Proverbs. List the four types and the benefits below.

	Type of Person	Quality Gained
A.	1:4 = the “simple” (Hebrew "peti") meaning = naive, easily lead astray, must be taught -need teaching and safeguards	“Subtility” (Hebrew "ormah") meaning = prudence or shrewdness the ability to foresee evil and prepare for it inorder to avoid its traps.
B.	1:4 = the “young man” (Hebrew “na-ar”) meaning = immature, inexperience, limited exposure birth to 20 years old) -need experiance and exposure to wisdom	“Knowledge” (Hebrew “da-at”) prudence “Discerning’ (Hebrew “mezimma”) wise planning
C.	1:5 = the “wise man” (Hebrew “hakam”) meaning = he has demonstrated skill in wisdom -need reminding of need for growth	“Increased learning” (Hebrew “leqah”)
D.	1:5 = the man of understanding (Hebrew “binah”) meaning = he is discerning -need to stay on course	“Attain wise counsel” (Hebrew “hokma tabbula”) guidance, steering, steer straight used of rope pulling done by sailers by steering a ship

5. THE POWER OF PROVERBS (verse 7) (What effect does Proverbs have on a life?)
 There are at least two effects the book of Proverbs can have on a life.

A. The power of enhancing a life.

What will be enhanced by applying Proverbs to one's life? (verse 7, 9:10)

Your relationship to the Lord.

1. Fear meaning reverence
2. Beginning of knowledge

B. The power of revealing a spiritual condition.

What kind of a spiritual condition is revealed by rejecting Proverbs? (verse 7)

One in need of salvation.

1. Foolishness
2. Hold in contempt

CONCLUSION: Proverbs can be a great blessing and help to believers today

1 Kings 4:32 reveals that Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs.
At the very least, we have recorded 640 proverbs collected in the Book of Proverbs.
Proverbs 1:1-7 contains introductory items and gives the purpose of the book.

SECTION I: PROVERBS OF SOLOMON: DIDACTIC DISCOURSES 1:8-9:18

(265 verses)

This section contains a father's wisdom to his son. These proverbs were compiled during Solomon's reign from 971BC to 931BC.

- A. Wisdom concerning the enticement of sinners. 1:8-19
- B. Wisdom's appeal and address to her despisers. 1:20-33
- C. Wisdom as a treasure house and a safe guard. 2:1-22
- D. Wisdom's benefits 3:1-35
- E. Wisdom and life's choices 4:1-27
- F. Wisdom and marriage 5:1-23
- G. Wisdom that corrects pitfalls 6:1-35
- H. Wisdom versus the simpleton and the seductress 7:1-27
- I. Wisdom's defense, 8:1-36
- J. Wisdom versus folly, 9:1-18

SECTION II. MORE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON: SHORT STATEMENTS 10:1-22:16

(375 verses)

- A. Contrasting proverbs, the godly versus the wicked, 10:1-15:33
- B. Synonymous proverbs, encouraging godly lives, 16:1-22:16

SECTION III. PROVERBS OF OTHER WISE MEN 22:17-24:34

Closely resembling the teaching of Egyptian Amenemope

SECTION IV. MORE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON 25:1-29:27

Parable type teachings, collected by Hezekiah's scribes (25:1), and added to the book approximately 200 years after Solomon's death (720BC).

SECTION V. PROVERBS OF AGUR 30:1-33

Possibly non-Jewish based on language and spelling of words.

SECTION VI. PROVERBS OF LEMUEL 31:1-9

Possibly a title of Solomon, Lemuel in Hebrew means "to God."

SECTION VII. PROVERBS OF A GODLY MOTHER TO HER SON 31:10-31

Contains an alphabetic acrostic. Possibly the mother of Solomon.

Sections I and VII contain proverbs that seem to flow together and the verses relate to each other in the section.

Sections II-VI contain proverbs that do not flow together and seem to be a collection of various non-related proverbs.