



Outline of Old Testament: Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Proverbs = Likenesses In Life's Limits [God Is Precise] Of about 915 proverbs: **Blueprint for Redemption**

Solomon wrote most (**Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1**, about 800)
but many are not included in this book (**1 Kings 4:32**)

Hebrew "mashal" meaning "to be like," hence New Testament "parable."
1st time word occurs (**Numbers 21:27**), 1st proverb quoted
(**1 Samuel 10:12**)

I. The Mystery Of Wisdom (for the young) 1:1-9:18

A. Wisdom Stands 1:2-7:27

1. Five ways a "proverb" helps **1:2-6**
2. Goal and means to goal repeated **1:7; 9:10**
3. Listen to your parents, not a "gang" **1:8-19**
4. Listen to Wisdom everywhere **1:20-33**
5. If you listen to wisdom:
 - a. You will be given it by God **2:1-10**
 - b. You will be delivered from:
 - (1 teachers of perverse ideas **2:11-15**)
 - (2 *the immoral woman* **2:16-22**)
6. Holding on to wisdom leads one to:
 - a. Completely trust God **3:1-6**
 - b. Be humble **3:7-8**
 - c. Give God His portion of our earnings first **3:9-10**
 - d. Learn from Lord's dealings with us **3:11-12**
 - e. All the benefits of being wise **3:13-18**
 - f. See God's wisdom in the Creation **3:19-20**
 - g. Be confident throughout life **3:21-26**
 - h. Treat one's neighbor uprightly **3:27-30**
 - i. Not envy the ways of the wicked **3:31-35**
 - j. Listen to a father's instruction, for it will:
 - (1 Make wisdom your principal purpose **4:1-9**)
 - (2 Help you see what your parents learned **4:10-19**)
 - (3 Know how to focus on what's right **4:20-27**)

- (4 Keep you faithful to the wife of your youth **5:1-23**)
7. Hasty misjudgments of youth:
 - a. Agree to help a "friend" you don't know **6:1-5**
 - b. Mistaking leisure for laziness **6:6-11**
 - c. Not knowing a worthless person when you see one **6:12-15**
 - d. Doing what ***God Hates*** **6:16-19**
 - e. Thinking adultery is easily forgiven and forgotten **6:20-35**
 - f. Offering your body to an immoral woman **7:1-27**

- B. Wisdom Speaks:
1. Publicly **8:1-5**
 2. Plainly **8:6-9**
 3. Preciously **8:10-11**
 4. Prudently **8:12-21**
 5. Powerfully **8:22-36**
 6. Protectively **9:1-9**
 7. Principally **9:10-12**
 8. Purely **9:13-18**

II. The Mastery Of Wisdom (for the adult) **10:1-24:34**

A. Proverbs for Government:

1. Leaders: **8:15-16; 16:10-13; 20:8,26; 25:2-5; 28:16; 29: 2, 14; 31:1-9**
2. Moralists: **11:14; 14:34; 24:6; 28:2**
3. Better government: **4:23-27; 16:32; 23:1-3**

B. Proverbs for Economists

1. Wealthy: **18:11; 23:45; 28:20,22**
2. Poor: **15:16,17; 17:1; 19:1,22; 22:7; 28:6**
3. Good business: **27:23-27**

C. Proverbs for Individual Improvement:

1. Tongue: **4:24; 10:19, 31; 11:12; 12:17; 14:5, 25; 17:14, 20, 27-28; 18:4, 8; 19:19; 20:5; 22:24-25; 25:18, 23; 26:18-19, 20-26**
2. Eyes: **5:20-21; 6:25-29; 23:26-27**
3. Heart:
 - a. Unjust **18:5; 28:8; 29:27**
 - b. Angry **29:22**
 - c. Proud **29:23**
 - d. Afraid: **29:25**
4. Diagnosis and cure for:
 - a. Laziness: **6:6-11; 12:27; 13:4; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25-26; 24:30-34**
 - b. Bad judgment: **6:1-5; 14:8,15,18; 22:3; 25:6-10**
 - c. Discouragement: **4:14-15; 28:1**

- d. Drug Addiction: **23:29-35**
- e. Fornication: **5:15-19; 23:26-28**
- 5. Home and Hearth:
 - a. Marriage: **15:17; 17:1; 30:18-19**
 (1 Husband: **11:29; 15:27; 17:2; 27:8**
 (2 Wife: **12:4; 14:1; 18:22; 19:13-14; 21:9, 19; 25:25; 27:15-16; 31:10-31**)
 - b. Discipline and Children: **13:24; 19:13, 18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 28:24; 29:15, 17**
- 6. Business:
 - a. Servants: **29:19, 21**
 - b. Hard work required: **6:9-11; 10:4-5; 12:11, 24, 27; 13:4; 14:4, 23; 16:26; 18:9; 19:15; 20:4, 13; 22:13; 24:30-34; 26:13-15; 27:23-27; 28:19**

III. The History Of Wisdom (for the seasoned) 25:1-31:31

- A. Solomon's Transcribed by Hezekiah's Men **25:1-29:37**
- B. Agur's **30:1-33**
 - 1. There is no wisdom like God's **30:2-6**
 - a. Not about life on earth **30:2-4**
 - b. Not about God's word **30:5-6**
 - 2. The best one can seek in life **30:7-9**
 - 3. Don't arrogantly misjudge
 - a. The servant to the "boss" **30:10**
 - b. The former generation **30:11-14**
 - 4. "Four!"
 - a. Unsatisfied things **30:15-16**
 OR disrespecters of parents **30:17**
 - b. Wondrous things to contemplate **30:18-19**
 OR **how an adulterous woman justifies herself 30:20**
 - c. Unbearable things **30:21-23**
 - d. Small but smart things **30:24-28**
 - e. Smooth striders **30:29-31**
 - 5. "Well, shut my mouth!" **30:32-33**
- C. King Lemuel's ("Mama Said...") **31:1-31**
 - 1. Don't waste your strength on women or rebellion **31:2-3**
 - 2. Don't use intoxicants but for 2 necessities **31:4-7**
 - 3. Don't be silent when some need defending **31:8-9**
 - 4. Don't miss finding the right woman **31:10-31**

Proverbial Points:

1. "Word pictures" of life:
 - Depending on the lazy irritates like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes **10:26**
 - Beauty is wasted on woman without good judgment just like a gold ring in a swine's nose **11:22**
 - Some words stab to death, the wise tongue smoothes to health **12:18**
 - Anyone can have clean stalls without oxen, but to produce anything with oxen requires extra effort **14:4**
 - Having good favor with "the king" is like late rains on crops **16:15**
 - Gold jewelry is as pretty as wisdom passed along to an earnest hearer **25:12**
 - The sudden response caused by singing to the sorrowful is like yanking off clothes in the cold or vinegar on soda **25:20**
 - Fire cannot burn without charcoal or wood, contention and strife cease without talebearers or contentious people **26:20-21**
 - Strife is caused by "the forcing of wrath" just as certainly as butter comes from churning milk, and blood from twisting the nose **30:33**
2. "Wisdom," "understanding," "knowledge" are basically equivalent.
3. One who "*fears the Lord*" in **Proverbs** will:
 - 1:7** - begin to know
 - 1:28-32** - call on God and not be answered
 - 2:1-5** - seek wisdom like hidden treasure
 - 3:7-8** - be physically and morally healthy
 - 8:13** - hate evil, pride and arrogance
 - 10:27** - live a longer life
 - 14:2** - walks uprightly
 - 14:26** - is confident
 - 14:27** - has an inexhaustible source of preservation from death
 - 15:16** - is content with little rather than troubled with much
 - 15:33** - learns how to be wise
 - 16:6** - departs from evil
 - 19:23** - lives a contented life
 - 22:4** - obtains the blessings of living
 - 23:17** - does not envy sinners of their life-styles
 - 24:21** - respect government and not rebels
 - 31:30** - may be a woman who is praised for inward beauty
4. In **Proverbs**, a "Fool" will:
 - 1:7,22** despise learning and hate knowledge
 - 14:7; 18:2;** reject knowledge
 - 23:9; 26:4-5**
 - 14:17** is quick-tempered
 - 17:7; 21:24;** is arrogant and think themselves superior
 - 26:12**
 - 17:12; 22:10;** quick to quarrel and invoke hostility
 - 27:3; 30:32-33**

- 17:16; 19:10; 26:1,8; 26:7,9** have no use for money, luxury, honor, proverbs
- 17:21, 25; 19:13** bring grief to its parents
- 19:2** have zeal without knowledge
- 19:29; 20:30; 26:3; 27:22** is often punished, even with death
- 26:4-5** can spread their foolishness
- 26:11** repeat its mistakes
- 26:12** be wise in its own opinion
- 26:6; 26:10** be useless as messengers or workers
5. "Simple," "scorners, and "fool" are equated **1:22**
6. **Proverbs** quoted in the **New Testament:**
- 1:28** **Matthew 7:21-23**
- 3:7** **Romans 12:16**
- 3:11-12** **Hebrews 12:5-6; Revelation 3:19**
- 3:34** **John 3:19**
- 4:26** **Hebrews 12:13**
- 6:24-25** **Matthew 5:28**
- 10:12** **1 Peter 4:8**
- 10:29** **Matthew 7:23**
- 11:28** **1 Timothy 6:6-10**
- 11:31** **1 Peter 4:18; Matthew 5:5**
- 12:5** **Philippians 4:8**
- 12:16; 14:29; 16:32** **James 1:19**
- 13:7** **Revelation 3:17-18**
- 13:24** **Hebrews 12:7**
- 15:16** **Hebrews 13:5**
- 15:29** **1 Peter 3:12**
- 16:7** **1 Peter 3:13**
- 16:26** **2 Thessalonians 3:10**
- 18:21** **James 3:5-8**
- 21:17** **1 Timothy 5:6**
- 21:23** **James 3:2**
- 22:8** **Galatians 6:7-8**
- 22:9** **2 Corinthians 4:7**
- 24:21** **1 Peter 2:17**
- 24:23** **1 Timothy 5:21; Romans 2:11; John 7:24**
- 24:29** **Matthew 5:39-44; Romans 12:17-19**
- 25:6-7** **Luke 14:7-11**
- 25:21-22** **Romans 12:20**
- 26:11** **2 Peter 2:22**
- 27:1** **James 4:13-14**