

LESSONS ON WISDOM

Proverbs Chapters 1 -9

INTRODUCTION 1:1-7

1:1 The title, the longest in the OT

1:2-6 Listed here are the purpose of the proverbs. To know wisdom and understanding, have the ability to understand wisdom, justice, judgment and equity. For gaining prudence, knowledge and discretion for the young and adding wisdom for the wise. For understanding proverbs, sayings and riddles of the wise.

1:7 Fear (proper respect and awe for God) is required to grow in knowledge. Fools despise wisdom and instruction, but those who fear the LORD have laid the foundation for knowledge and wisdom

THE FIRST LESSON 1:8-33

Law = "torah" Ideally godly parents would be instructing their children in the "torah" of God. See Deut. 4:9; 6:7; 11:19; 32:46

1:8-19 The disciple is urged to follow his parents teachings and avoid entanglements with evil companions.

1:10-14 Peer pressure is strong especially among young people. This describes people who will do anything to attain their desires, earthly wealth.

1:15-16 Keep your foot from their path which leads to their own destruction.

1:17-19 You will not fall into the trap if you see it laid out for you. But the sinners because of their own greed "lie in wait" for others but they are caught in their own trap.

1:20-21 Wisdom, personified as a woman, is calling to the simple or naive, the untaught. Notice that wisdom is calling out in the open not hiding or whispering, everyone has a chance to hear the wisdom. What is more accessible than the Word of God in the world today?

1:22 Three groups or classes of people that wisdom is calling out to turn or repent.

Simple - lit. "open to influence"

Scorners - wisdom's worst enemies, they are arrogant, cynical, and defiant.

Fools - hate the knowledge that could save them.

1:23-30 Repent and surely the spirit of wisdom will come to you, but refuse and wisdom will have the last laugh. The spirit of wisdom is associated with the messiah. Is 9:2 and is a privilege of Messiah's people. Eph 1:17

1:31 Calamity will surely follow such disobedience and then it will be too late to seek for the heavenly wisdom.

1:32-33 The consequences of folly and wisdom are setting the tone for the rest of the book of Proverbs.

THE SECOND LESSON 2:1-22

This section stresses 3 things

1. That wisdom requires diligent search. vv.1-5. If receive, incline, apply, cry out, seek and search vv. 1-4 then you will understand and find vs. 5.
2. But it is still God given vs. 6
3. God watches over and protects those who walk in wisdom vv. 7-9

2:6 Even though we may have to seek and search it is still God who gives the wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

2:7 God stores up wisdom for the wise that they will never have a famine of spiritual food.

God is a protective shield for the wise.

2:8-10 God watches over the path of righteousness and He watches over his saints to make sure they stay on it. God will chasten those who are His.(Heb 12:5-8)

2:11 When wisdom has entered you "discretion"=purposefulness, will preserve you and keep you from the path of evil. Specifically look at the path of the sinners in 1:10-19

2:12 lit.- the man who speaks things turned upside down.

2:16-18 Wisdom, Discretion, Knowledge will get you out of the clutches of the sexual tempter, the flatterer, and the unfaithful

2:19-20 It is a path that people usually do not recover from

2:21-22 show the results of the two paths. The wise will dwell in the land.

The fools will be cast out of the land.

Picture this as the end result when God will separate the sheep from the goats and the sheep will dwell in the new heaven and new earth.

THE THIRD LESSON 3:1-10

The theme is "trust and obey". If you trust in God's commandments and keep them you will have a long and peaceful life. Be careful not to lean upon your own understanding or wisdom

3:3 If you are merciful and truthful always you will find favor with man and God (Jer 31:33) bind them on your heart

3:4-5 Jesus was the epitome of this (Luke 2:52)

3:6 Direct = make straight (see Is 40:3)

3:9 The faithful need to give to God all their firstfruits to properly honor Him. But they don't have to worry about not having enough because God will give them abundance.

3:10 See Malachi 3:10-12

THE FOURTH LESSON 3:11-20

The theme is the delight of wisdom. But first a warning that God may bring adversity as well as prosperity upon His children. This thought is brought into the New Covenant see Heb 12:6

3:15 Here is the key phrase about all that wisdom profits. It is better than any earthly things you may desire.

3:19 Wisdom was God's guiding principal in creation. And it is part of the guiding laws of the universe.

THE FIFTH LESSON 3:21-35

The theme is sound wisdom and discretion will bring life, health, and peace.

3:25 Do not be afraid - even though trouble will come, because the LORD is able to snatch you out of the trouble. See Isaiah 10:24

3:27 Do good to all as you are able. See Gal 6:10

3:28 As James teaches your faith must be accompanied by good actions. See James 2:16

3:31 Many times oppressors are envied because of their apparent power and wealth, and it can be tempting to follow their ways to try and gain their power and wealth.

THE SIXTH LESSON 4:1-9

We seem to have some autobiography. It is possibly David encouraging Solomon to acquire wisdom. Could this be why Solomon asked for wisdom when God granted him a request?

THE SEVENTH LESSON 4:10-19

The theme "do not walk in the way of evil"
But first a plea to receive the instructions

4:18 Though proverbs generally deals with life on earth, long life, here we have an allusion to a future perfect day that the right path leads to.

THE EIGHTH LESSON 4:20-27

Theme- "Establish yourself on the right path". The instruction brings it in to your heart, mouth, eyes, and feet.

THE NINTH LESSON 5:1-23

Theme – “The danger of sexual immorality”. The temptation of sexual immorality is personified as an immoral woman.

5:1-2 - Pay attention to my wisdom

5:3 - She seems to taste good but the taste will turn to wormwood - "hemlock" - a bitter poison

5:4-14 - But this happens to those who are enticed by her.

5:15-19 - Cherish holy love

5:20-23 - Remember God is watching.

THE TENTH LESSON 6:1-19

The theme is about being snared by one's own sin.

It seems to be expanding upon the idea presented in 5:22.

THE ELEVENTH LESSON 6:20-35

The theme is the peril of sexual immorality.

THE TWELVTH LESSON 7:1-27

More instruction on sexual immorality, specifically adultery.

It starts with the customary exhortation to listen to wisdom and make them a part of your family. A description of a young simple man being seduced by a lustful married woman.

THE THIRTEENTH LESSON 8:1-36

Now wisdom herself calls out. It plays in stark contrast to the immoral woman calling out and snaring the simple.

Wisdom was there before the foundation of the worlds.

Those who seek wisdom will find it.

Wisdom is better than gold and rubies

Those who love wisdom will inherit wealth.

SUMMARY 9:1-18

Some of the main topics found in chapters 1-8 are summarized here in the form of wisdom and folly calling the simple to a banquet.

9:1-12 Wisdom invites the simple to a grand feast she has prepared in her own house.

9:13-18 Folly invites to a secret place with very simple stolen food