



Book — By — Book

PROVERBS

A GUIDE FOR GODLY LIVING

In order to understand the book of Proverbs, it is important to learn about a type of Hebrew poetry known as *parallelism*. In our English poetry, we most often rely on rhyming or rhythm. This form of Hebrew poetry uses repetition and elaboration.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES.

SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM (REPEATS)

"By wisdom the Lord founded the earth;
by understanding he created the heavens."

Proverbs 3:19

ANTITHETIC PARALLELISM (CONTRASTS)

"A wise child brings joy to a father;
a foolish child brings grief to a mother."

Proverbs 10:1

SYNTHETIC PARALLELISM (CLARIFIES & EXPANDS)

"For the Lord corrects those he loves,
just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."

Proverbs 3:12

COMPARATIVE [EMBLEMATIC] PARALLELISM (COMPARES A TRUTH TO COMMON EXPERIENCE OR OBSERVATION OF NATURE)

"Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow
is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor."

Proverbs 25:18

THE PURPOSE OF PROVERBS IS SPELLED OUT CLEARLY IN THE FIRST CHAPTER.

1. To teach people _____ and _____. (1:2)
2. To help them _____ the _____ of the wise. (1:2)
3. To teach people to live _____ and _____ lives. (1:3)
4. To help them do what is _____, _____, and _____. (1:3)
5. To give _____ to the _____. (1:4)
6. To give _____ and _____ to the young. (1:4)
7. To help the _____ to become even _____. (1:5)
8. To give _____ to those with _____. (1:5)

THE BENEFITS OF APPLYING WISDOM

The _____ become _____. (1:5)
Those with _____ receive _____. (1:5)
You will _____ what it means to _____ the Lord. (2:5)
You will gain _____ of God. (2:5)
You will understand what is right, _____, and _____. (2:9)
You will find the right _____ to go. (2:9)
Wisdom will enter your _____. (2:10)
Knowledge will fill you with _____. (2:10)
Wise choices will _____ over you. (2:11)
Understanding will keep you _____. (2:11)
Wisdom will save you from _____ people. (2:12)
Wisdom will save you from the _____ woman. (2:16)

FATHER TO SON

Listen when your father _____ you. (1:8)
Don't _____ your mother's instruction. (1:8)
If sinners _____ you, turn your back on them! (1:10)
_____ your ears to wisdom. (2:2)
Concentrate on _____. (2:2)
Cry out for _____. (2:3)
Ask for _____. (2:3)
Store my _____ in your heart. (3:1)
Never let _____ and _____ leave you! (3:3)
Trust in the Lord with _____ your heart. (3:5)
Seek the Lord's _____ in all you _____. (3:6)
Honor the Lord with your _____. (3:9)
Don't _____ the Lord's discipline. (3:11)
Don't be _____ when the Lord _____ you. (3:11)
Don't lose sight of common sense and _____. (3:21)
Do not withhold good from those who _____ it. (3:27)
Don't _____ harm against your neighbor. (3:29)
Don't pick a fight without _____. (3:30)
Don't envy _____ people or copy their _____. (3:31)
Pay attention and _____ good judgment. (4:1)
Guard your _____ above all else. (4:23)
Avoid all _____ talk; stay away from corrupt _____. (4:24)
Look straight ahead, and fix your _____ on what lies before you. (4:25)

WISDOM SPEAKS

How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being _____? (1:22)
How long will you mockers relish your _____? (1:22)
How long will you fools hate _____? (1:22)
Come and listen to my _____. (1:23)
I'll share my heart with you and make you _____. (1:23)
I called you so often, but you wouldn't _____. (1:24)
I reached out to you, but you paid no _____. (1:24)
You ignored my _____ and rejected the _____ I offered. (1:25)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

**IF WE TAKE APART SOME OF THESE LINES OF POETRY, WE
CAN LEARN SOME SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
TYPES OF PEOPLE DESCRIBED.**

THE MOCKER (SCOFFER)

- They _____ their mocking. (1:22)
- Answers a _____ with an _____. (9:7)
- They answer correction with _____. (9:8)
- Refuses to listen to _____. (13:1)
- Hate to be _____. (15:12)
- Stay away from the _____. (15:12)
- Wine _____ mockers. (20:1)
- Proud and haughty; they act with boundless _____. (21:24)
- Accompanied by _____, quarrels, and _____. (22:10)
- Everyone _____ them. (24:9)
- They can _____ a whole town. (29:8)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

THE FOOL

- Despises wisdom and _____. (1:7)
- Hates _____. (1:22)
- Destroyed by their own _____. (1:32)
- Will be put to _____. (3:35)
- Brings grief to their _____. (10:1)
- Falls flat on their _____. (10:8)
- Invites _____. (10:14)
- _____ others. (10:18)
- _____ by their lack of common sense. (10:21)
- Has _____ doing wrong. (10:23)
- Will be a servant to the _____. (11:29)
- Think their own way is _____. (12:15)
- Is quick _____. (12:16)
- _____ their foolishness. (12:23)
- Refuses to turn from evil to see their _____ come true. (13:19)
- Those who _____ with them get in trouble. (13:20)
- Their proud _____ becomes a _____ that beats them. (14:3)
- They _____ themselves. (14:8)
- Make fun of _____. (14:9)
- They plunge ahead with _____. (14:16)
- Their _____ yields only foolishness. (14:24)
- Wisdom is not _____ among them. (14:33)
- Despises a parent's _____. (15:5)
- They feed on _____. (15:14)
- They despise their _____. (15:20)
- _____ is wasted on them. (16:22)
- Can be _____ when they are caught in their _____. (17:12)
- It's _____ to pay to educate them. (17:16)
- Are thought wise when they keep _____. (17:28)
- Have no interest in _____; only want to air their own _____. (18:2)
- Their words get them into constant _____. (18:6)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

THE FOOL (CONT.)

- Their mouths are their _____; they trap themselves with their _____. (18:7)
- Spout off before _____ to the _____. (18:13)
- Ruin their _____ by their own _____ and then are angry at the _____. (19:3)
- Insist on _____. (20:3)
- _____ whatever they get. (21:20)
- _____ the wisest advice. (23:9)
- Their schemes are _____. (24:9)
- Trusting them to _____ a _____ is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison! (26:6)
- _____ their foolishness. (26:11)
- If taken to court, will _____ and _____. (29:9)
- _____ their anger. (29:11)

THE WISE

- Will _____ honor. (3:35)
- Will love those who _____ them. (9:8)
- Will become even wiser when _____. (9:9)
- _____ to be instructed. (10:8)
- Treasure _____. (10:14)
- Wins _____. (11:30)
- _____ to others. (12:15)
- Stays calm when _____. (12:16)
- Their words bring _____. (12:18)
- Don't make a _____ of their knowledge. (12:23)
- Accepts a parent's _____. (13:1)
- Their _____ is like a life-giving fountain. (13:14)
- They _____ before they _____. (13:16)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

THE WISE (CONT.)

- Their _____ keep them safe. (14:3)
- Cautious and avoid _____. (14:16)
- Wealth is a _____ for them. (14:24)
- Their tongues make knowledge _____. (15:2)
- They learn from _____. (15:5)
- Give good _____. (15:7)
- _____ stay away from them. (15:12)
- Hungry for _____. (15:14)
- Their life's path leads _____; they leave the grave behind. (15:24)
- _____ to constructive criticism. (15:31)
- Known for their _____. (16:21)
- Their words are _____. (16:23)
- Uses few _____. (17:27)
- When corrected, will become _____. (19:25)
- _____ than the strong. (24:5)
- They _____ anger. (29:8)
- Quietly hold back their _____. (29:11)

THE LAZY (SLUGGARD)

- Are soon _____. (10:4)
- Irritate their _____. (10:26)
- Become _____. (12:24)
- Want _____ but get _____. (13:4)
- Their way is _____. (15:19)
- As bad as someone who _____ things. (18:9)
- Get lots of _____, but left _____ by idleness. (19:15)
- Will come to ruin for refusing to _____. (21:25)
- Consider themselves _____ than the wise. (26:16)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

THE IMMORAL WOMAN

- She is as _____ as poison, as _____ as a double-edged sword. (5:4)
- Her feet go down to _____; her steps lead straight to the grave. (5:5)
- She cares nothing about the path to _____. (5:6)

THE SIMPLETON (NAÏVE)

- Can gain _____ from wisdom. (1:4)
- Are easily _____. (1:4—AMP)
- Believe _____ they're told. (14:15)
- Are clothed with _____. (14:18)
- Goes blindly into _____ and suffers the _____. (22:3)

THE PRUDENT

- Understand where they are _____. (14:8)
- Carefully consider their _____. (14:15)
- Crowned with _____. (14:18)
- Foresees _____ and takes _____. (22:3)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

SINNERS

- _____ the innocent. (1:10)
- Ambush, rob, and _____ the innocent just for _____. (1:11-14)
- _____ to commit evil deeds; hurry to commit _____. (1:16)
- Set an ambush for _____; trying to get themselves killed. (1:18)
- Their _____ robs them of life. (1:19)
- _____ chases them. (13:21)

THE GODLY

- The Lord offers his _____ to the godly. (3:32)
- The godly are _____ with blessings. (10:6)
- We have happy _____ of the godly. (10:7)
- The _____ of the godly are a life-giving fountain. (10:11)
- The _____ of the godly enhance their _____. (10:16)
- The godly have a lasting _____. (10:25)
- The _____ of the godly result in happiness. (10:28)
- The mouth of the godly person gives wise _____. (10:31)
- The godly are directed by _____. (11:5)
- The whole city _____ when the godly succeed. (11:10)
- The _____ of the godly will last. (11:18)
- Godly people find _____. (11:19)
- The godly can look forward to a _____. (11:23)
- The godly have deep _____. (12:3)
- The plans of the godly are _____. (12:5)
- The _____ of the godly stands firm. (12:7)
- The godly care for their _____. (12:10)
- The godly give good _____ to their friends. (12:26)
- The way of the godly leads to _____. (12:28)
- The godly hate _____. (13:5)
- The life of the godly is full of _____ and _____. (13:9)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

THE GODLY (CONT.)

- The godly acknowledge it (guilt) and seek _____. (14:9)
- The godly have a _____ when they die. (14:32)
- The heart of the godly thinks carefully before _____. (15:28)
- It is wrong to _____ the godly for being good. (17:26)
- The godly _____ to him (the Lord) and are safe. (18:10)
- The godly walk with _____. (20:7)
- _____ is a joy to the godly. (21:15)
- The godly love to _____. (21:26)
- The father of godly children has cause for _____. (23:24)
- The godly may _____ seven times, but they will get up again. (24:16)
- If the godly give in to the _____, it's like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring. (25:26)
- The godly are as _____ as lions. (28:1)
- When the godly succeed, _____ is glad. (28:12)
- When the godly are in _____, the people rejoice. (29:2)
- The godly care about the _____ of the poor. (29:7)
- The wicked _____ the godly. (29:27)

THE PROUD

- Pride leads to _____. (11:2)
- Pride leads to _____. (13:10)
- The Lord _____ the proud. (16:5)
- They will surely be _____. (16:5)
- A proud heart is _____. (21:4)
- Being proud makes you a _____. (30:32)
- Pride goes before _____. (16:18)
- Pride ends in _____. (29:23)

PROFILES IN PROVERBS

FRIENDS

- With their _____, the _____ destroy their friends. (11:9)
- A wise person _____ friends. (11:30)
- The godly give good _____ to their friends. (12:26)
- The _____ have many “friends.” (14:20)
- Gossip _____ the best of friends. (16:28)
- Dwelling on a _____ separates close friends. (17:9)
- A friend is always _____. (17:17)
- It’s poor judgment to... put up _____ for a friend. (17:18)
- An offended _____ is harder to win back than a fortified city. (18:19)
- _____ separate friends like a gate locked with bars. (18:19)
- There are “friends” who _____ each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. (18:24)
- _____ makes many “friends”; poverty drives them all away. (19:4)
- Everyone is the friend of a person who gives _____. (19:6)
- Wounds from a _____ friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. (27:6)
- Never _____ a friend—either yours or your father’s. (27:10)
- As iron sharpens iron, so a friend _____ a friend. (27:17)
- Those with _____ friends bring shame to their parents. (28:7)
- To _____ friends is to lay a trap for their feet. (29:5)

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

HONOR

- The wise will _____ honor. (3:35)
- If you accept _____, you will be honored. (13:18)
- _____ precedes honor. (15:33)
- Avoiding a _____ is a mark of honor. (20:3)

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

HONOR (CONT.)

- If you pursue _____ and unfailing _____ you will find life, righteous, and honor. (21:21)
- True _____ and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life. (22:4)
- Humility brings _____. (29:23)

FEAR (REVERENCE)

- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true _____. (1:7)
- All who fear the Lord will _____ evil. (8:13)
- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of _____. (9:10)
- Fear of the Lord _____ one's life. (10:27)
- Those who follow the right _____ fear the Lord. (14:2)
- Those who fear the Lord are _____. (14:26)
- Fear of the Lord is a life-giving _____. (14:27)
- Better to have _____, with fear for the Lord, than to have great treasure and inner turmoil. (15:16)
- Fear of the Lord teaches _____. (15:33)
- By fearing the Lord, people avoid _____. (16:6)
- Fear of the Lord leads to _____, bringing _____ and _____ from harm. (19:23)
- True humility and fear of the Lord lead to _____, honor, and long _____. (22:4)
- Always _____ to fear the Lord. (23:17)
- A woman who fears the Lord will be greatly _____. (31:30)

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

FEAR (DREAD)

- But all who _____ to me (wisdom) will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm. (1:33)
- The fears of the _____ will be fulfilled. (10:24)
- Fearing people is a dangerous _____. (29:25)

WORDS/SPEECH

- Avoid all _____ talk; stay away from _____ speech. (4:24)
- The words of the _____ are a life-giving fountain. (10:11)
- The words of the wicked conceal _____ intentions. (10:11)
- Wise words come from the lips of people with _____. (10:13)
- The words of the godly _____ many. (10:21)
- The lips of the godly speak _____ words. (10:32)
- The mouth of the wicked speaks _____ words. (10:32)
- With their words, the godless _____ their friends. (11:9)
- The wicked are _____ by their own words. (12:13)
- Wise words bring many _____. (12:14)
- The words of the wise bring _____. (12:18)
- _____ words stand the test of time. (12:19)
- The words of the wise keep them _____. (14:3)
- A _____ answer deflects anger, but harsh words make _____ flare. (15:1)
- Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the _____. (15:4)
- The Lord delights in _____ words. (15:26)
- The heart of the godly thinks carefully _____ speaking. (15:28)
- The mouth of the _____ overflows with evil words. (15:28)
- Pleasant words are _____. (16:21)
- The words of the _____ are persuasive. (16:23)
- Kind words are like _____—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body. (16:24)
- _____ create trouble; their words are a destructive blaze. (16:27)

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

WORDS/SPEECH (CONT.)

- A truly wise person uses _____ words. (17:27)
- Wise words are like deep _____. (18:4)
- Fools' words get them into constant _____. (18:6)
- Wise words _____ like a good meal. (18:20)
- Soft speech can break _____. (25:15)
- Smooth words may hide a _____ heart. (26:23)
- People may cover their _____ with pleasant words, but they're _____ you. (26:24)
- _____ words cause ruin. (26:28)
- There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without _____. (29:20)
- Speak up for those who cannot _____ for themselves. (31:8)

MARRIAGE

- Drink water from your own well—share your _____ only with your _____. (5:15)
- Let your wife be a fountain of _____ for you. _____ in the wife of your youth. (5:18)
- Sleeping with another man's wife will cost you your _____. (6:26)
- A worthy wife is a _____ for her husband, but a disgraceful woman is like _____ in his bones. (12:4)
- The man who finds a wife finds a _____, and he receives _____ from the Lord. (18:22)
- A quarrelsome wife is as _____ as constant dripping. (19:13)
- Only the Lord can give an _____ wife. (19:14)
- It's better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a _____ wife in a lovely home. (21:9)
- It's better to live _____ in the desert than with a _____, complaining wife. (21:19)

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

MARRIAGE (CONT.)

- Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than _____. (31:10)
- Her husband can trust her (a virtuous and capable wife), and she will greatly _____ his life. (31:11)

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