
Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life



Proverbs, Introduction

PROVERBS 1:1-7

What is a Proverb?

"A short sentence drawn from long experience"

"A short, pithy statement that usually offers life advice, wisdom, or a truth."

Heb: *"Mishle"*

"a parable", "byword, "discourse"
Root: "Mashal" "to rule" (Gen 1:18)

- General rules for life
- "to be like"

"maxim", "aphorism", "axiom", "adage", "witticism"



Wisdom ("CHOKMA", "SOPHIA")

"***Chokmah*** is the knowledge and the ability to make the right choices at the opportune time."

"an understanding of the principles which control and direct human living to its highest and best level."

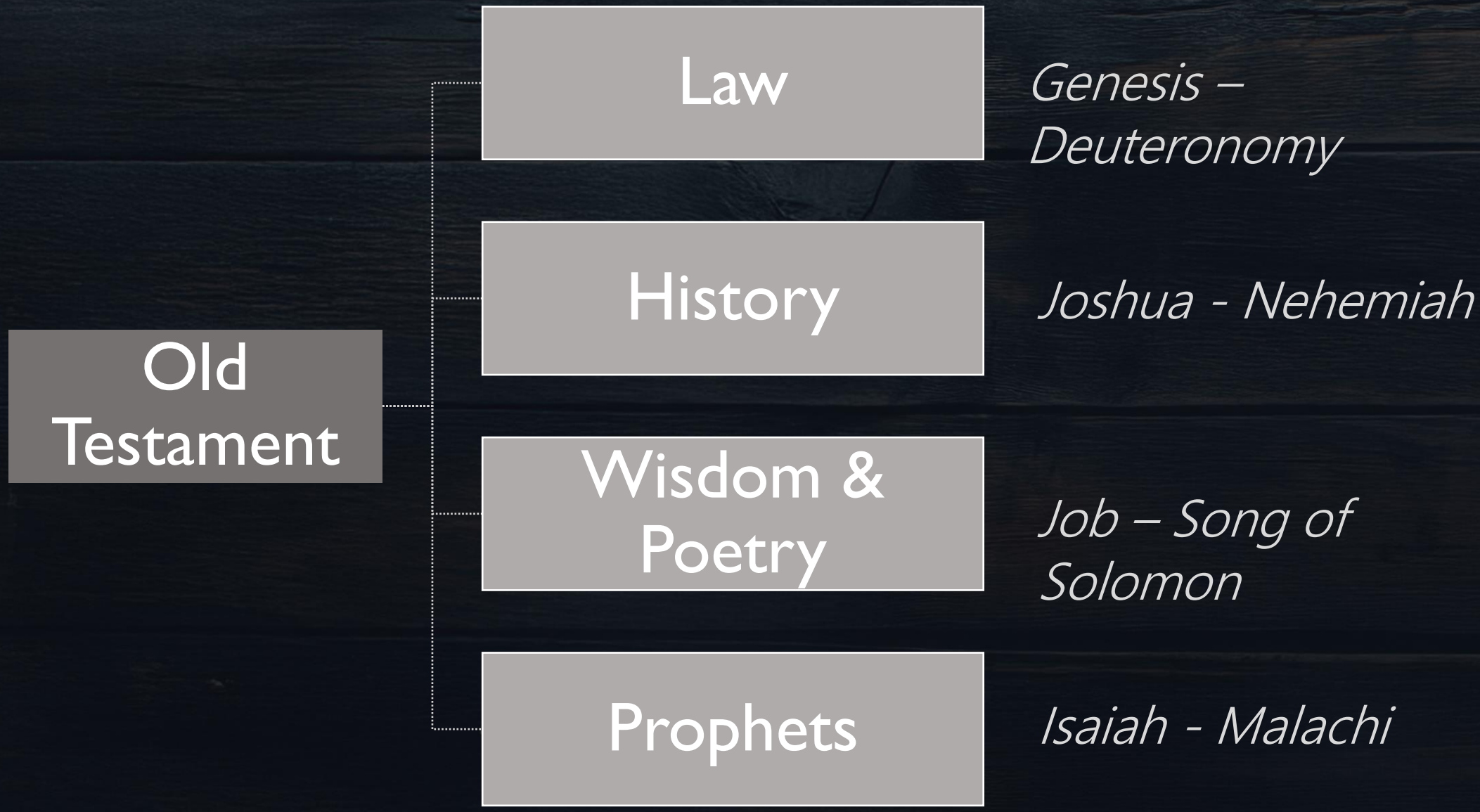
"the ability to make godly choices in life"



The Authors

Prov. 1:1 *The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:*	Solomon	Chs 1-24
Prov. 25:1 *These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, transcribed.*	Solomon, compiled by the men of Hezekiah	Chs 25-29
Prov. 30:1 *The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle. The man declares to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:*	Agur	Ch 30
Prov. 31:1 *The words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him:*	Lemuel	Ch 31

The Arrangement



Job

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Prudential or
Proverbial wisdom




humility
pride
justice
correction
discipline
discern
prayer
righteousness
wealth
friend
rulers
generosity
social
honesty
wisdom
kindness
commandment
understanding
lust
blessings
wickedness
adultery
happiness
fairness
favor
relationships
sin
integrity
alcohol
contentment
laziness
conduct
poverty
joy
leadership
diligence
temptation
drunkenness
self-control
prudence
counselors
divine-sovereignty
neighbor
command

Speculative wisdom

Job

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Prudential wisdom



Hebrew Poetry

Parallelism

Synonymous Parallelism

"Evil men will bow down in the presence of the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous." (14:9)

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (16:8)

Synthetic Parallelism

"The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels,
And they go down into the innermost parts of the body." (18:8)

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity. (17:17)

Antithetical Parallelism

The hand of the diligent will rule, But the slack hand will be put to forced labor. (12:24)

"The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened." (10:27)

The Approach

- One general theme, many topics

Theme: *"Divine Wisdom For Life"*

Theme verse: *"For he who finds me finds life*
And obtains favor from the LORD." [8:35]



The Approach

Major Theme	Message Title
Wisdom and Foolishness	Introduction to the book
	Wisdom and Foolishness contrasted
	Christ, the wisdom of and from God
	The Appeal of Wisdom
	The Blessings of wisdom
	Wisdom in "trusting" Him and "finding" His will
	Wisdom in "listening" and "avoiding"
	Wisdom calling: "Forsake Lust", "Avoid Adultery"
	Wisdom and the gospel
Wisdom and Relationships	Marks of a godly family
	Excellent wife vs a contentious woman
	In dealing with neighbors
	Kings, rulers and leaders
	The Power of words (Anger, fight and strife)
	Counsel, Counselors and Consultation
	Be a friend and be friendly



The Approach

Major Theme	Message Title
Wisdom and Godly Life	The life of the righteous and the way of the wicked
	Diligence Vs Laziness
	Emotions and Addictions
	Numerical proverbs
	Pride and Humility
	Wealth and Poverty
	How to be a man of favor + Wrap up



The Approach

- One general theme, many topics

- A Proverb does not state everything about a truth but rather points toward it.

Prov. 6:27-29

v.27, Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned?

v.28, Or can a man walk on hot coals And his feet not be scorched?

v.29, So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her will not go unpunished.



The Approach

- One general theme, many topics
- A Proverb does not state everything about a truth but rather points toward it.
- In Proverbs are general truths but not truths which do not allow for exceptions

Prov. 16:7, *"When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."*



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- Proverbs are not legal guarantees from God but poetic guidelines for good behavior

Prov. 29:12, *If a ruler listens to lies, all his ministers will be wicked. [NET]*



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- God's wisdom transcends time and culture
- "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom"



Pro 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Pro 9:10, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding".*



FROM ABOVE

Pure

Peaceable

Gentle

Reasonable

Full of mercy and good fruits

Unwavering

Without hypocrisy

James 3:13-18

Earthly

Natural

Demonic

Promotes arrogance

Promotes Jealousy

Has selfish motives

Disorderly

FROM BELOW

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- "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom"
- Christ is the source of all wisdom



- **1Cor. 1:24** *but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

- **1Cor. 1:30** *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,*

- **Matt. 11:19** *"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."*



The Attitudes

- Humility (1:1-6)

Pro 1:2-6

v.2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,

v.3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity;

v.4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

v.5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

v.6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.

The Attitudes

- Urgency

Prov. 1:20, *"Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square;"*

Prov. 8:1-2, *"Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice?" On top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;"*

Prov. 8:3, *"Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out:"*

Prov. 8:4, *"To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men."*

Prov. 8:5, *"O naive ones, understand prudence; And, O fools, understand wisdom."*

The Attitudes

- Obedience

Deut. 4:5, *"See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it.*

Deut. 4:6, *"So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'*


Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life
To be wise requires work
Prov. 8:35 "For he who finds me finds life,
And obtains favor from the LORD.