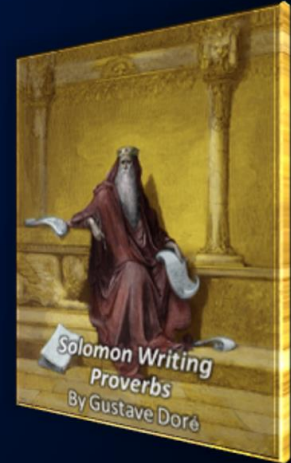


THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

Proverbs 1–9 is a collection of longer discourses or “essays,” rather than individual proverbs. These discourses help prepare the reader for encountering the collections of proverbs in chapters 10–29 and the narratives and reflections of chapters 30 & 31.



Notes & Questions:

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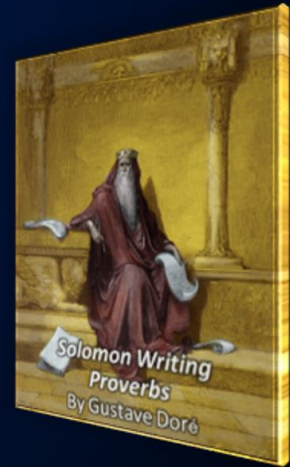
The Call of Wisdom: Proverbs 1 – 9

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

There are two major thematic emphases in Proverbs 1 – 9:

- A strong & virtuous family life is essential, and the father and mother are the primary teachers of wisdom and moral instruction (1:8; 6:2). Anything that threatens the home is viewed with great concern.
- That *life is a path* is a metaphor that permeates these passages and recurs throughout Proverbs. There are two paths in life: the path of wisdom & righteousness and the path of foolishness & wickedness (2:6-15).



Notes & Questions:

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The Call of Wisdom - Proverbs 1 - 9

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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

The prologue, written by the final editor, tells us the purpose of the book and encourages readers to commit themselves to mastering it. The writer tells us four characteristics of biblical wisdom (Garrett):

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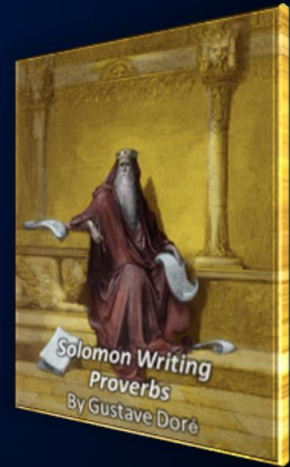
The Call of Wisdom: Proverbs 1 – 9

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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

Prologue & Purpose (1:1-7)

In v. 7 we learn that the first, and continuing principle, of wisdom is the “fear of the Lord.” We also learn that, when we & our children pursue wisdom, our culture will surround us with people pursuing foolishness and encouraging us to do likewise. The opposition of the path of the wise and the path of the fool that pervades Proverbs is introduced at the very beginning.



Notes & Questions:

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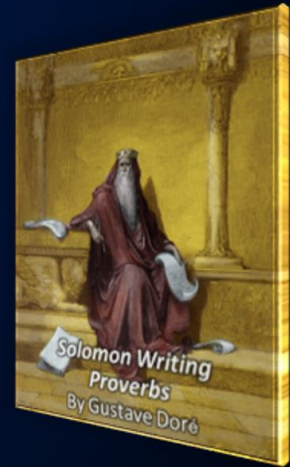
The Call of Wisdom: Proverbs 1 – 9

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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

First Exhortation from Father to Son (1:8-19)

The father encourages his son to maintain fidelity to the wisdom he has learned at home and warns him to avoid associations with evil persons, particularly gangs & criminals. The “heart of the warning is that crime is self-destructive” (Garrett). This warning dovetails with the importance of training our children to avoid negative peer pressure and resist the immoral influences of popular culture.



Notes & Questions:

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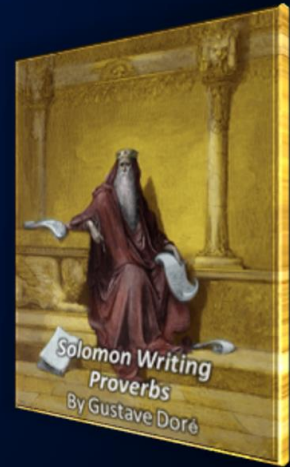
The Call of Wisdom: Proverbs 1 – 9

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

Wisdom's First Call (1:20-33)

Wisdom is here personified as a woman for the first time. The first call of wisdom is a warning not to reject her & of the consequences of such rejection. Wisdom's cry "in the public squares" & the "noisy streets" tells us that wisdom is not complicated philosophy or secret knowledge; wisdom is available to anyone who is willing to hear it. This is not an optional or indifferent choice; there are real life consequences. V. 29 indicates that to refuse wisdom is ultimately to reject God. In vv. 32-33 the "doctrine of retribution" is clearly declared.



Notes & Questions:

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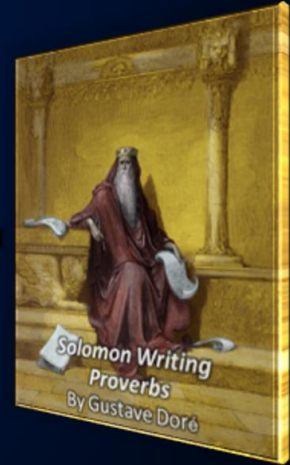
The Call of Wisdom: Proverbs 1 – 9

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

Second Exhortation from Father to Son (2:1-22)

The father tells his son the benefits of seeking wisdom, imploring him to seek it as though it were the most important thing in the world. Seeking wisdom also has its consequences. The first is that “when you seek wisdom you find God” (Ross). Wisdom also bestows moral discernment and a “strong sense of personal ethics” (Garrett). It will save you from evil men & evil women and bring you into the company of good men. VV. 21 -22 again remind us of the doctrines of “the two ways” and of retribution.

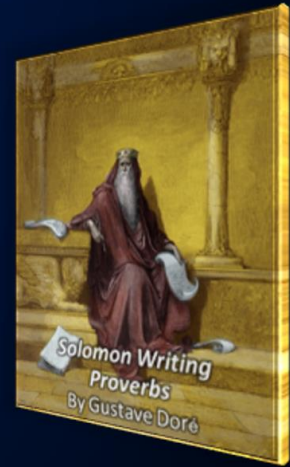


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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

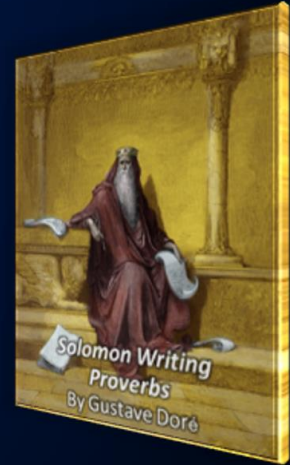
The father appeals to his son to follow the way of wisdom and maintain humility and faithfulness in a relationship to parents, to God, and to one's neighbors. The inseparability of wisdom and both devotion to God and love of one's neighbors is stressed. The one who follows wisdom will find *shalom* (v. 2), security, and peace of mind (vv. 17, 21-26). The interlude of vv. 13 – 20 is a “hymn” to wisdom, stressing the value and reward of wisdom, and that God, by his wisdom, has made the world a well-ordered whole.



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The Call of Wisdom - Proverbs 1 - 9

The father pleads with his sons to heed the wisdom he himself had passed down to him by his father. He personifies wisdom as a lady of high esteem who honors & rewards those who embrace her. The father appeals to his son to stay on the path of wisdom, which is like walking upward toward the rising sun, and avoid the path of the wicked, which is like walking down into a dark valley. He counsels his son to “guard your heart,” which means not merely the emotions, but one’s inner being and character.



Notes & Questions:

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