

The Book of Proverbs

“Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord: Proverbs as a Book on Faith”

Week 1: Introduction and Proverbs 1

Proverbs as a Book of the Bible

- Included in the Wisdom Literature
- Authors: Solomon and others
- Date written: between 970-931 BC
- Theme: “The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom” (1:7)

Who most likely are the recipients of these Proverbs by Solomon? (1:8)

How are they beneficial for us today?

The Text:

Read 1:1-7

1. Quite plainly, who is the author? (1:1)

2. How did he receive his wisdom? (1 Kings 3:3-15)

3. What is the progression of wisdom found in verses 2-4?

4. What especially does “wisdom and instruction” (verse 2) point to? Is it simply secular?

5. How does verse 5 remind those who are wise themselves that they are not finished learning?

6. Verse 7 is the key verse for all of Proverbs. How does it instruct our understanding of true wisdom?

7. How then do we understand the contrasting “fool”?

Read 1:8-19

8. Where is wisdom not found? (verse 10)

9. Where will it lead? (verse 19)

10. Are there consequences for sin?

Read 1:20-33, “First Poem to Wisdom”

11. How is wisdom personified in this section?

12. How do “simple ones” differentiate from “scoffers” and “fools”? (verse 22)

13. Verse 23 speaks of “turning at my reproof.” Is this education language or repentance language?

14. What will happen to those who reject God, but realize it too late? (verses 27-28)

15. Where does true Wisdom lead? (verse 33)