

## The Book of Proverbs

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

Week 16: Proverbs 22:17-24:22, “The Wisdom of Amenemope and Other Wise Men”

### **I. Introduction to Proverbs and This Section of Proverbs**

1. The author for most of this book is Solomon (see Pr. 1:1). On occasion other Wise Men’s sayings are included. Who are they? Read Pr. 30:1 and 31:1.

2. Solomon took much of his material for Pr. 22:17-23:14 from an Egyptian wisdom document called, “The Wisdom of Amenemope.” Although parallels exist, and it is probably cited as “thirty sayings” (22:20), how does Solomon himself address the gathering of knowledge and wisdom from worldly sources? Read Prov. 1:5-6.

3. Where perhaps was Solomon introduced to this writing? Read 1 Kings 3:1 and 4:29-30.

4. What is the new context that Solomon fits these verses into? Whose wisdom does Solomon seek to proclaim? Read Prov. 22:17-21.

### **II. Proverbs 22:22-23:14, “Advice for Living with Your Neighbor”**

5. What is God’s promise for those who have no help in this world? (22:22-23)

6. What would we call the crime mentioned in v. 28?

7. How should one be wary of the rich food on a ruler’s table? What are his intentions? (23:1-3)

8. How should we regard wealth and our toil in this world?

9. What is the goal of discipline? How does Solomon bring out the “tough love” of a parent elsewhere? Read Prov. 13:24.

**III. Proverbs 23:15-24:22, “Advice from Your Father”**

10. The sayings from Amenemope have ended, and proverbs from other Wise Men follow here, in the form of a father’s advice to his son. What is the tone of the father, and what is his hope for his child?

11. How can this instruct us as we live out our various vocations?

12. Martin Luther spoke highly of education, saying, “You parents can provide your children with no greater gift than an education in the liberal arts.” How does he echo Prov. 23:23?

13. What vices and their consequences are described in the latter half of chapter 23?

14. A house is often a metaphor for one’s life. How should one go about establishing his life?

15. How must we guard ourselves against evil which is touted as good in our society? (24:11-12) Which of Jesus’ parables does this remind you of?

**Memory Verses for Today:**

Proverbs 23:23, “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

Proverbs 24:3-4, “By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;  
by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”