

An open book lies flat on a light-colored, textured surface. From the center of the book, a vibrant green tree with a thick trunk and a full, rounded canopy grows upwards. The scene is bathed in a soft, golden light, with a subtle lens flare effect emanating from the tree's base. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the text overlaid on the tree's canopy.

WISDOM

The Book of Proverbs 1



Introduction

- The Book of Proverbs is mostly written by King Solomon
- He reigned for forty years (970-930BC) from the age of about twenty.
- Solomon has more books in the Old Testament than anyone apart from Moses.
- Song of Solomon as a young romantic perhaps, followed by Proverbs in his prime and then Ecclesiastes towards his end of life.
- Solomon's gifting was not on the battlefield like his father and kings before him, but in the realm of the mind, meditation, planning, creativity, the arts, organisation and negotiation.

Introduction

- Due to his gift of wisdom from God, Solomon was ahead of his time.
- In an era marked by warring kings and battles, Solomon reigned peacefully due to his gift of wisdom.
- ²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.
1 Kings 4:29-30



Introduction...

- ³¹ For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.
- ³³ Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. ³⁴ And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.



Wisdom...

- If the Psalms contain the spirit of worship and praise, then Proverbs definitely contain the spirit of Wisdom and pragmatism.
- If God guided your every decision and action, you would personify Wisdom.
- Therefore, we can say Wisdom is God's actions in a fallen world.
- There is a Spirit beyond the text within the Book of Proverbs. An Anointing which 'falls' on the Reader as they meditate and act on the scriptures within Proverbs.



Wisdom...

- Wisdom is the ability to judge and act according to God's directive.
- When your heart and head can submit to the instruction of the Holy Spirit, you will walk in great wisdom and authority.
- Those who can follow orders from God will flow in the spirit of Wisdom because this quality flows from God.
- Wisdom therefore originates in God, not self and comes by attention to instruction.



Wisdom...

- Wisdom is available to everyone but comes at a high price.
- Wisdom and Righteousness go together. It is good to be wise and it is wise to be good.
- According to Proverbs, evil doers suffer the consequences of their dark deeds in the end.
- The naïve, the fool, the lazy, the ignorant, the proud, the immoral, the sinful are NOT to be admired or copied.



Contrasts...

- There are many antithesis statements in Proverbs which help to clarify meanings of key thoughts or words:
- Wisdom versus Folly
- Good versus Evil
- Life Versus Death
- Prosperity versus Poverty
- Honour versus Disgrace
- Permanence vs Transience

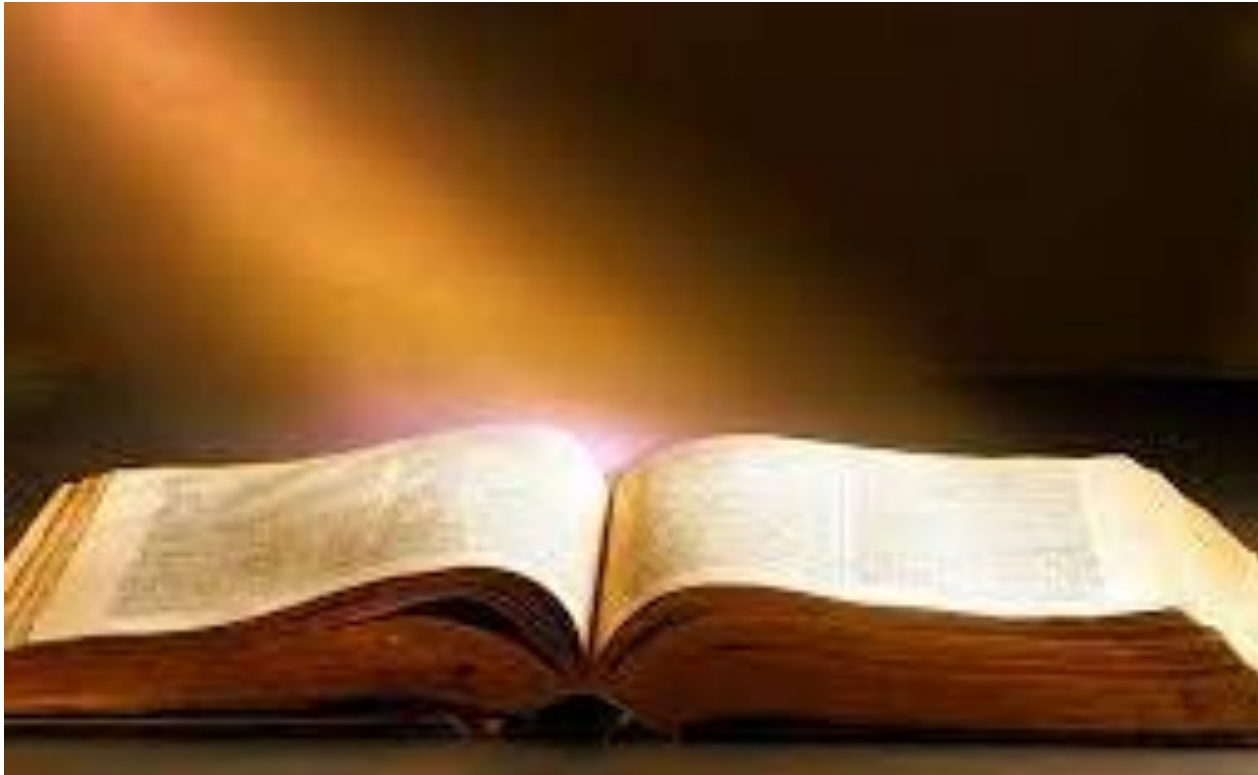


Contrasts...

- Truth versus Lies
- Industry versus Indolence
- Friend versus Enemy
- Prudence versus Rashness
- Fidelity versus Adultery
- Peace versus Violence
- Goodwill versus Anger
- God versus Man



To Know...



*To know [skillful and godly] wisdom and instruction;
To discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight,*

*To receive instruction in wise behaviour and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness,
Righteousness, justice, and integrity;*

That prudence (good judgment, astute common sense) may be given to the naive or inexperienced [who are easily misled],

*And knowledge and discretion (intelligent discernment) to the youth,
Proverbs 1:1-4*

The Fear of God...

*The wise will hear and increase their learning,
And the person of understanding will acquire wise counsel and the skill [to
steer his course wisely and lead others to the truth],*

*To understand a proverb and a figure [of speech] or an enigma with its
interpretation,
And the words of the wise and their riddles [that require reflection].*

*The [reverent] fear of the LORD [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him
as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of knowledge
[its starting point and its essence];*

*But arrogant fools despise [skilful and godly] wisdom and
instruction and self-discipline.
Proverbs 1:5-7*



What IF...?

*My son, **if** you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you,
So that you incline your ear to wisdom,
And apply your heart to understanding;*

*Yes, **if** you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,*

***If** you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;*



What IF...

- Three Ifs that open the door to wisdom
- 1- a humble spirit – will open its heart, head and hands to learning and instruction
- 2- a hungry heart – will request and cry out
- 3 – a persistent spirit – look and keep on looking until it finds



Then...

*Then you will **understand** the fear of the LORD AND **find** the knowledge of God.*

*For the LORD gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

*He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;*

*He guards the paths of justice,
And preserves the way of His saints.
Then you will understand righteousness
and justice, Equity and every good path.
Proverbs 2:5-9*



When...

- *When wisdom enters your heart,
And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,*
- *Discretion will preserve you;
Understanding will keep you,*
- *To deliver you from the way of evil,
From the man who speaks perverse things,*

*zFrom those who leave the paths of
uprightness
To walk in the ways of darkness;*
- Proverbs 2:10-13



Forget Me Nots...

- *My son, do not forget my law,
But **let** your heart keep my commands;*
- *² For length of days and long life
And peace they will add to you.*
- *³ **Let** not mercy and truth forsake you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart,*
- *⁴ And so find favor and high esteem
In the sight of God and man.
Proverbs 3:1-4*



Trust...

- *Trust in the LORD with **all** your heart,
And lean not on your own
understanding;*
- *⁶ In **all** your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.*
- *⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.*
- *⁸ It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.
Proverbs 3:5-8*

