

The Wisdom of Solomon

Chapter 13

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #58



Objective: To learn practical wisdom from the book of Proverbs and understand how to apply it to our lives.



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

—Proverbs 3:5-7

Be very careful, then how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

—Ephesians 5:15-17

The book of Proverbs is the most practical book in the Bible. Solomon wrote three thousand proverbs, and nearly one thousand of them are in this book. He was considered to be the wisest man in the world. He wrote these practical insights for every area of our lives. He also compiled the writings of other wise people of his day.

Much of Solomon’s wisdom was learned from his failures. He wanted to teach young men not to do as he did. For that reason, the book of Proverbs is in some ways a summary of Solomon’s own life experiences. His purpose was for the wise to become wise leaders, the simple-minded to become wise, and for people to discern how to live right. God inspired him to write and compile this book because He wants us to enjoy the consequences of doing what is right and good.

1. True or **false**? The book of Proverbs is good poetry, but not very practical.
2. **True** or false? Most of the proverbs were either written or compiled by Solomon.
3. True or **false**? Wisdom and knowledge are the same thing.
4. True or **false**? It is not possible to learn wisdom from failures.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What qualified Solomon to write proverbs of wisdom? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. He demonstrated perfect wisdom throughout his life.
 - b. He was inspired by God’s Spirit to write them.**
 - c. He had learned from experience, even his failures.**
 - d. He loved wisdom and knowledge and feared God.**
 - e. He had studied all the ancient philosophers from other cultures.



6. Why did Solomon write so many proverbs?
 - a. **He wanted people to know how to live.**
 - b. He needed to prove his value as king.
 - c. He wanted people to be more loyal to him than to the high priest.
 - d. God sent an angel to dictate the proverbs to him.

7. What is the wisest way to live?
 - a. Seek the most pleasure.
 - b. Transcend the material world.
 - c. **Do what is right.**
 - d. Become a solitary person, living alone and away from temptations of the world.

8. What is the best way for a man to avoid the temptation of adultery?
 - a. To marry many wives
 - b. To live in isolation or among men
 - c. To rely completely on self-discipline
 - d. **To have a fulfilling relationship with his wife**

9. What lesson can we learn from ants?
 - a. How to get the proper amount of rest
 - b. **How to be diligent workers**
 - c. How to eat well
 - d. How to live as individuals

10. What does Solomon say about accusing others?
 - a. It is good to point out others' faults.
 - b. **The wicked accuse, but the godly defend.**
 - c. Only accuse someone when there were other witnesses.
 - d. The godly make sure their accusations are justified.

11. What attitude toward the future does the book of Proverbs recommend?
- a. Never have a plan and let the Holy Spirit guide wherever He will.
 - b. Always have a plan and never depart from it.
 - c. Make good plans, but let the Holy Spirit guide you.**
 - d. Do whatever fits your personality best.
12. What does Proverbs say about disciplining your children?
- a. Discipline should be avoided because it makes children feel bad.
 - b. Discipline should be as severe as possible.
 - c. Discipline demonstrates love.**
 - d. Discipline should be learned as an adult.
13. What is the relationship between wisdom and speech?
- a. Wise people talk constantly.
 - b. Fools do not speak because they do not know what to say.
 - c. Wise people do not permit fools to speak.
 - d. Wise people do not talk a lot and use their words carefully.**



In what areas of your life do you most need to learn God's wisdom? How would your life change if you knew God's ways in those areas?

If any man lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

—James 1:5-8



God promises to share His wisdom with those who ask for it and are willing to follow it. Thank Him for that promise and ask Him to give you the wisdom you need.



Going Deeper

1. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? _____

2. According to Solomon, what is the beginning of wisdom? _____

3. What are we instructed to do when we know that we lack wisdom? (Consider James 1:5) _____

4. Make a chart, with vertical columns, that categorizes the subjects addressed by the proverbs, and then study this book topically. _____

5. To appreciate the wisdom of these proverbs, write five proverbs yourself and share them with your friends. _____

6. To whom are the proverbs primarily addressed? _____

7. Since there are 31 chapters in this book, consider using this book as a calendar and reading the chapter every day that corresponds to the day of the month. What changes would you expect to experience in the ways that you experience events? _____

