

Learning from the Proverbs

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All references were taken from the King James Bible

Bible references without a book name are to the book of Proverbs. Examples: "1:1" or "6:23".

Learning from the Proverbs

The Authorship

The first and foremost author is **Solomon**: “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;” (1:1). He probably wrote chapters 1–29. **Chapter 30** is attributed to Agur, the son of Jakeh (30:1). **Chapter 31** is attributed to King Lemuel—the prophecy or teaching that his mother taught him (31:1).

Purposes of the Book of Proverbs

- 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction;** to perceive the words of understanding;
- 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;**
- 1:4 To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion;**
- 1:5 A wise man will hear,** and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
- 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation;** the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

Note in verse 4 the use of the word, “subtlety”. That word comes from the Latin word *subtilis*, which means “fine”, “delicate”, according to the American Heritage College Dictionary. Among the meanings given for the word “subtle” we find that it can mean, “Able to make fine distinctions such as a subtle mind.”

In the Matthew Henry Commentary (pages 763–764), we find that the book of Proverbs will help us:

- 1. To form right notions of things, and to possess our minds with clear and distinct ideas, that we may know both how to speak and act wisely.

- 2. To distinguish between truth and falsehood, good and evil—*for understanding words of insight.*
- 3. To order our conversation aright .

To sum up we must read and study the Book of Proverbs: A. For instruction; B. For a better grasp of justice, wisdom, judgment, and equity; C. For “fine tuning” thought quality; D. For knowledge; E. For developing greater discretion; F. To increase one’s learning; G. For wise counseling; H. To understand the proverbs and their interpretations; I. To understand the words (teachings) and dark sayings of the wise; J. To hear what God—the Eternal—has to say and about His ways.

To Whom the Book was Written

It is obvious that Solomon, the king of Israel and son of David, was writing to his male descendants and all the young males of Israel as he addresses them in totality as “my son.” Such an address can be found in the following references: **1:8,10,15; 2:1; 3:1,11,21; 4:10,20; 5:1,20; 6:1,3,20; 7:1; 19:27; 23:15,19,26; 24:13,21; and 27:11.** See also **31:2.** It is certainly a fitting book for all youth and adults to read and study for spiritual wisdom or insight.

Main Themes and Topics of the Book

A. Wisdom

One would be hard put to come up with any topic other than wisdom as being the most referred to theme or topic in the book of Proverbs. There are at least 100 references to “wisdom”, “wise men”, or “being wise” in this book. Plus, there is one section where Wisdom, personified, calls and speaks (1:2–7,

& 20–33), and still another section where we hear, as it were, the voice of Wisdom (8:1, 4–36). Linked to this or coupled with it is the matter of which comes up as the next theme but which can hardly be separated from wisdom in essential meaning. In many verses listed below as *wisdom* references you will find *understanding* mentioned as well. You might want to make special note of those verses. “Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech” (1:20–21). Wherever men are found, wherever they come together, wisdom, that is based on the fear of the Lord, cries out to be acknowledged, accepted, and allowed to guide and direct men’s lives. Today the voice of wisdom or her teachings come to us over the air waves, from the printed page, as well as from those who follow God and live according to His ways. The call can be heard. Jesus Christ said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” Wisdom, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, empowers you to make right decisions—decisions that lead to living a life of righteousness.

In I Kings, chapter 3, one can read as to how Solomon came to acquire great wisdom. God told Solomon to ask for whatever he desired most earnestly. Solomon asked for wisdom so that he might be able to govern his people properly and wisely. That gained for him God’s favor and brought him rewards. See verses 10–12. In Halley’s Bible Handbook Solomon is credited with having vast business enterprises, and that he was famous for literary attainments. “He wrote 3000 proverbs, 1005 songs, and scientific works on botany and zoology.” See verses 32–33. Attributed to him are three books of the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

Here are the texts in Proverbs that refer to **wisdom**:

1:2–7, 20–33 (Wisdom calls.)	16:14, 16, 20, 21, 23
2:2, 6, 7, 10	17:2, 10, 16, 24, 28
3:7, 13, 19, 21, 25	18:1, 4, 15; 19:8, 20
4:5–9, 11	20:26
5:1	21:11–12, 20, 22, 30
6:6	22:17–21 (Words of the wise)
7:4	23:4, 9, 15, 19, 23, 24
8:1, 4–36 (Voice of Wisdom)	24:3, 5–7, 14, 23
9:1, 8, 9–12	25:12
10:1, 5, 8, 13, 14, 19–23, 31	26:5, 12
11:2, 12, 29, 30	27:11
12:8, 15, 18	28:7, 26
13:1, 10, 14, 20	29:3, 8, 9, 11, 15
14:1, 3, 6, 8, 16, 24, 33, 35	30:3, 24
15:2, 7, 12, 20, 21, 24, 31, 33	31:26.

What you should do if you want wisdom?

1. Accept God’s word (2:1).
2. Store up His commands.
3. Develop an “ear” for wisdom (2:2).
4. Set your heart to get understanding (2:2).
5. Call out—cry aloud for understanding (2:3).
6. Search for it as if it were a treasure (2:4).

There are promises and rewards for you if you seek wisdom:

1. You will understand the fear of the Lord (2:5).
2. You will find the knowledge of God (2:5). Jesus Christ said, “Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened up unto you” (Matt 7:7, see also Matt 5:6, 6:21–23, 6:33, and 7:11.)
3. From the Lord will come knowledge and understanding (2:6).
4. Victory is in store for the upright (2:7).
5. God will be a shield to anyone whose walk is blameless (2:7).
6. God guards and protects the faithful

ones (2:8).

7. You will understand what is right and just (2:9).
8. Wisdom will enter into your heart (2:10).
9. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul (2:10).

Other important Bible Scriptures about seeking wisdom may be found in Daniel 2:20–22, Isaiah 51:7, 25:8, & 11:1–9, Psalms 1:1–6 and 19:7–11, and James 3:17.

Without wisdom one is bound to follow in the ways of wicked men and women—to go the way of death.

1. Their words are perverse (2:12; Romans 3:11–14, James 3:8).
2. They walk in dark ways—love darkness rather than light (2:13, 1Jn 1:5–6, Pslm 91:6, Eccl 2:14, Luke 1:79, John 1:19).
3. They rejoice in evil, perverseness, and wickedness (2:14; Heb 11:25, Luke 8:14, 2Tim 3:1–7).
4. They won't go straight but follow a crooked path (2:15; Matt 7:13–14, Phil 2:15).
5. They are devious and deceptive (2:15; Eph 4:14, Matt 24:24, Rom 3:13, Mark 7:22, Prov 7:22).
6. They ignore covenants—especially marriage bonds (2:17, Rom 1:22–32).
7. They may even communicate with the dead—deal in spiritualism (2:18, Rom 1:22–32).

B. Understanding:

One who has true wisdom also will have understanding. This especially applies to spiritual things. One with wisdom understands God's principles and His teachings. He knows God's laws are good and are right for him or

her. This person applies them in every day living. Yea, he or she not only knows God's laws but loves them as did David, the psalmist. The Holy Spirit that he or she possesses helps to impart that understanding to the believer.

One very moving story found in I Kings 3:16–28 shows plainly that Solomon understood human nature. With that understanding as to how women and especially mothers think and react, he was able to render the proper judgment in the case involving two women who claimed to be the mother of one baby. Verse 28 reads as follows: “And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.”

Here are the texts in Proverbs that refer to **understanding:**

1:2, 5–6	15:14
2:2–3, 5, 9, 11	16:22
3:4, 13, 19	17:18, 24, 27, 28
4:5, 7	19:8, 25
5:1	20:5, 24
7:4, 7	21:30
8:1, 5, 9, 14	23:23
9:4, 6, 10, 16	24:3, 30
10:13, 23	28:2, 11
11:12	29:19
14:8, 33	30:2.

C. The Commandments or God's Law:

King David, Solomon's father, said of God's commandments: “Thou through Thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for Thy testimonies *are* my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Thy precepts. Through Thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:98–100, 104). The Apostle Paul told Timothy, “And that from a child

thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:15–16). The laws of God certainly play a key role in instruction in righteousness and for men and women to be able to obtain the wisdom of God as taught by His Holy Spirit.

The following texts in the book of Proverbs make reference to **the commandments** or God’s law.

2:1–2, 22	16:17
3:1–2	19:16
4:4	23:26
6:20–23	28:4, 7, 9
7:1–3	29:18
8:32	31:5
13:13–14	

D. Sin and Iniquity—the Breaking of God’s Law

153 verses in Proverbs make reference to sin and iniquity which is defined in the Bible as the breaking of God’s law. It is the subject of virtually one whole chapter. So this topic belongs in the list of the major themes of the Book of Proverbs. In this book we gain an insight into the ways of sinful human beings.

The following texts make reference to **sin and iniquity**:

1:10–18, 29, 32	19:1–5, 26–29
2:12–16	20:19–20
4:14–17, 19	21:2, 4, 13, 18, 24–27
5:12–14, 22	22:8, 12–13
6:1–2, 12–14, 16–19	23:29–30
(Key text: 7 things the Lord hates)	24:8–9, 16–24
8:36	25:14, 18, 23, 28
10:17–18	26:1–28
12:20	27:3–8
16:27–30	28:17, 23–25
17:4–5, 15, 19–20, 23–25	29:22–27
18:6–13	30:8–14
	31:5.

Note especially the references to the strange (whorish) woman: 5:3–6, 20; 6:24–29; 7:10–27 (The last text gives a graphic description of the ways and techniques employed by the harlot); 9:13–18; 11:22; 30:19–20.

Contrast the texts just cited with the text which offers praise for the virtuous woman: 31:10–31.

The following is a list of things or persons that the writer of the Book of Proverbs claims are abominations unto the Lord. The first seven are found in Proverbs 6:16–19.

1. A proud look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. The heart that devises wicked imaginations
5. Feet that are swift in running to mischief
6. A false witness;
7. One that sows discord among brethren
8. Lying lips 12:22
9. The sacrifice of the wicked 15:8
10. The way of the wicked 15:9
11. He that justifies the wicked 17:15
12. He that condemns the just 17:15
13. Divers weights and measures 20:10, 23.

E. Comparisons & Contrasts

A big key to understanding and appreciating the Book of Proverbs is recognizing it as a book of many comparisons and contrasts. To give you a flavor of this, the comparisons and contrasts found in chapters 2 through 12 are presented below. Each comparison given is preceded by the chapter and verse where it can be found.

- 2:20–22** The good man, the righteous, the upright / the wicked, the transgressors
- 3:32** The froward (perverse, crooked, devious etc.) / the righteous
- 3:33** The wicked / the just
- 3:34** The scorers / the lowly (meek)
- 3:35** The wise / the fools
- 10:1** A wise son / a foolish son
- 10:2** Wickedness / righteousness
- 10:3** The righteous / the wicked
- 10:4** He that deals with a slack hand / the diligent
- 10:5** A wise son / he that sleeps at harvest time
- 10:6** The just / the wicked
- 10:7** Memory of the just / name of the wicked
- 10:8** The wise in heart / a prating (chatting, talking idly, using empty words) fool
- 10:9** He that walks uprightly / he that perverts his ways
- 10:10** He that winks / a prating fool
- 10:11** A righteous man / the wicked
- 10:12** Hatred / love
- 10:13** He that has understanding / he that is void of understanding
- 10:14** Wise men / the foolish
- 10:16** The labor of the righteous / the fruit of the wicked
- 10:17** He that keeps instruction / he that refuses reproof
- 10:19** One that uses a multitude of words / he that refrains his lips
- 10:20** The tongue of the just / the heart of the wicked
- 10:21** The righteous / fools
- 10:22** A fool / a man of understanding
- 10:24** Fear of the wicked / the desire of the righteous
- 10:25** The wicked / the righteous
- 10:27** (Those with) the fear of the Lord / the wicked
- 10:28** The hope of the righteous / the expectation of the wicked
- 10:29** Strength of the upright / destruction to the workers of iniquity
- 10:30** The righteous / the wicked
- 10:31** The mouth of the just / the froward tongue
- 10:32** Lips of the righteous / mouth of the wicked
- 11:1** A false balance / a just weight
- 11:2** Pride / lowliness (meekness)—what comes or is found with each described here
- 11:3** Integrity of the upright / perverseness of transgressors
- 11:4** Riches / righteousness
- 11:5** Righteousness of the perfect / wickedness of the wicked
- 11:6** The upright / transgressors
- 11:8** The righteous / the wicked
- 11:9** A hypocrite / the just
- 11:10** The righteous / the wicked—effect of both on society
- 11:11** The upright / the wicked
- 11:12** He that is void of wisdom / a man of understanding
- 11:13** A talebearer / a faithful spirit (or person with)
- 11:14** Where there is no counsel / having a multitude of counselors
- 11:15** He that is surety / he that hates suretiship
“Surety” Means a guarantor or giver of security (The International Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. V, page 2872). Judah was *surety* to his father Jacob that Benjamin would safely return from Egypt (Gen. 43:9). He pledged his life on his safe return. See also Job 17:3 where it indicates that they shook hands ‘*strike hands*’ manifesting the suretiship was taking place. However, the Book of Proverbs condemns the practice. No mention is made of it in the Mosaic Law. See also Hezekiah’s desire of God’s surety in Isaiah 38:14. Jesus is called

‘the surety of a better covenant.’ (Heb 7:22).”

11:17 The merciful man / he that is cruel

11:18 The wicked / he that sows righteousness

11:19 Righteousness (and life) / evil (and death)

11:21 The wicked / the righteous

11:23 Desire of the righteous / expectation of the wicked (Refer back to 10:28)

11:24 The one that scatters (deals out to others in need) / one that withholds (blessings)

11:25–26 The liberal soul / he that withholds

11:27 He that diligently seeks good / he that seeks mischief

11:28 He that trusts in riches / the righteous

11:31 The righteous / the wicked and the sinner

12:1 He that loves instruction / he that hates reproof

12:2 A good man / a man of wicked devices

12:3 Wickedness / the righteous

12:4 A virtuous woman / she that brings shame

12:5 Thoughts of the righteous / counsels of the wicked

12:6 Words of the wicked / mouth of the upright

12:7 The wicked / the house of the righteous

12:8 One that is commended for wisdom / one despised for his perverse heart

12:9 He that is despised / he that honors himself

12:10 A righteous man / mercies of the wicked

12:11 He that tills his land / he that follows vain persons

12:12 The wicked man’s desire / the root of the righteous

12:13 The wicked / the just

12:15 Way of a fool / he that hearkens to counsel

12:16 A fool’s wrath / a prudent man

12:17 He that speaks the truth / a false witness’s deceit

12:18 One who speaks like “the piercing of a

sword” / the tongue of the wise

12:19 The lip of truth / a lying tongue

12:20 Those that imagine evil / counselors of peace

12:21 The just / the wicked

12:22 Lying lips / they that deal truly

12:23 A prudent man / heart of fools

12:24 The diligent / the slothful

12:26 The righteous / way of the wicked

12:27 The slothful man / a diligent man

Now you are encouraged to go through the rest of these texts in Proverbs, studying the contrasts to be found in them.

13:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25

14:1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35

15:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32

16:8, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22

17:1, 9, 10, 22, 24

19:1, 4, 12, 16

20:3, 17

21:2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 26, 28, 29, 31

22:1, 3, 15, 29

23:26–27

24:15, 16

27:3, 5, 6, 7, 12

28:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28

29:2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 23, 25

Key Verses in the Book of Proverbs

These verses were determined by their content, by how they emphasize the themes of the book, by the degree to which they speak to doctrines that are vital to our faith, and to the degree by which they become powerful verses in the way they impact upon us:

3:1–2 My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life. (See Psalm 119:105, 119:97–104, 119:165 as well as Prov. 7:1–3).

8:15–16 By Me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles *even* all the judges of the earth.

9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy *is* understanding.

12:20 Deceit *is* in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace *is* joy.

12:22 Lying lips *are* an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly *are* His delight.

13:22 A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.

13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

(Note: *Betimes* can mean early, in good time, in due time, early in life, before too late, or while there is yet time. Reference from **Archaic Words and the Authorized Version** by Vance.)

14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death (same as Prov. 16:25).

14:26–27 In the fear of the Lord *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

15:5 The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

15:9 The way of the wicked *is an*

abomination unto the Lord: but He loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

16:1 The preparation of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue *is* from the Lord.

16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps.

16:16 How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

17:25 A foolish son *is* a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

18:10 The name of the Lord *is* a strong tower: the righteous run into it, and is safe.

(It would seem to indicate here that the man of God does not necessarily need a “rapture” or physical “place of safety”. His real safety is found in the Lord.)

18:24 A man *that hath* friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

19:13 A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dripping.

19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him.

21:21 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

24:3–4 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

28:4 They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them. (What better example do we have in this day and age than Dr. Laura Schlessinger?)

29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

30:5 Every word of God *is* pure: He *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.

31:31 Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the Lord, she shall be priased.

Wisdom Verses in the Book of Proverbs

For those who would want to find true wisdom or to know how to exercise wisdom (act wisely) the following verses are offered as good sources for help and direction. Take heed to what they say.

4:18 Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it *are* the issues of life.

9:9 Give *instruction* to a wise *man* , and

he shall be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

22:4 By humility *and* the fear of the Lord *are* riches, and honour, and life.

22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

22:15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

22:17–21 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise and apply thine heart unto knowledge. For it *is* a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee: they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge? That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

24:21 My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change.

24:33–34 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep. So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travaileth; and thy want as an armed man.

25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

25:17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and *so* hate thee.

25:21–22 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink. For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee (see Matt 5:44).

- 27:1** Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth
- 31:3** Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. (Remember Samson—how his strength left him when he gave in to the seductive strange woman.)
- 31:9** Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

The “Heart” in Proverbs

The following texts make reference to the heart—the center of thought. Each reference is given in a short, concise meaning, not the entire verse.

- 2:10** Wisdom enters the heart.
- 3:3; 7:3** The tablet of your heart.
- 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all the heart.
- 4:4, 21** Let your heart retain His words.
- 5:12** Evil hearts despise reproof.
- 6:18; 12:20; 19:21** The heart devises wicked imaginations.
- 6:21; 7:3** The commandments are to be bound on (in) your heart.
- 7:10** A harlot with a subtle heart:
- 7:25** Not to let your heart decline (give in to) her ways:
- 8:5** To be of an understanding heart:
- 10:20** Heart of the wicked—of little worth.
- 10:8** Those wise in heart will receive the commandments.
- 11:20; 17:20** A froward heart.
- 12:20** Deceit in the heart:
- 12:12** Hope deferred (put off) makes the heart sick.
- 14:10** The heart knows bitterness.
- 14:13** The heart can be sorrowful even amid laughter.
- 14:14** A backslider in heart.
- 14:30** A sound heart—the life of the flesh.
- 14:33** Wisdom rests in the heart.
- 15:7** The heart of the foolish.
- 15:11** Hearts of the children.
- 15:13, 15** A merry heart & the countenance. (See also 17:22)
- 15:13** Sorrow of the heart.
- 15:28** The heart of the righteous.
- 15:30** Light of the eyes rejoices the heart.
- 16:1** Preparations of the heart.
- 16:5; 21:4** The proud in heart: (See also 24:12)
- 16:9** Man’s heart devises his way.
- 16:21** The wise in heart.
- 16:23** The heart of the wise.
- 17:3; 21:2; 24:12** The Lord tries the hearts. (also ponders the heart).
- 17:16** He has no heart to do it.
- 17:22** A merry heart—like a medicine.
- 18:2** The heart may discover itself.
- 18:12** Heart of man is haughty.
- 18:15** The heart of the prudent.
- 19:13** The heart can fret against the Lord.
- 19:21** Devices in a man’s heart.
- 20:5** Heart of a man like deep water.
- 20:9** “Make my heart clean.”
- 21:1** The king’s heart (See also 25:3).
- 22:15** Heart of a child (foolishness bound up in it).

22:17; 23:12 Apply your heart unto knowledge... to instruction.

23:7 As he thinks in his heart.

23:7 His heart is not with Me.

23:15 If your heart be wise.

23:15 My heart shall rejoice.

23:17 Let not your heart envy sinners.

23:19 Guide your heart.

23:26 “Give me your heart.” (See also Rom 12:1–2)

23:33 Your heart ...utter perverse things.

24:2 Their hearts study destruction (concentrates mainly on).

24:17 Let not your heart be glad when he stumbles.

15:20; 31:6 A heavy heart... heavy hearts.

26:25 Seven abominations in his heart.

27:29 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart.

27:11 Make my heart glad.

27:19 The heart of man to man.

28:14 Hardens his heart.

28:25 A proud heart stirs up strife.

31:6, 11 The heart of her husband.

The Lord in Proverbs

The following texts in the Book of Proverbs make reference to the Lord. “The Lord” can be found 84 times in Proverbs. The most common is “the fear of the Lord”—11 times. You can also find, “feareth the Lord.”

2:5, 17
 3:4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 19, 26, 32, 33
 5:21
 6:16
 8:13, 22, 35

9:10
 10:3, 22, 27, 29
 11:1
 14:2, 26, 27, 31 (His maker)
 15:3, 8, 9, 11, 16, 25, 26, 29, 33;
 16:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 20, 33
 15:5 (His maker), 15
 18:10, 22
 19:3, 14, 17, 21, 23;
 20:10, 23, 27
 21:1, 2, 3, 12, 30, 31
 22:2, 4, 12, 14, 19, 23
 23:17
 24:18
 25:2;
 26:10
 28:5, 25
 29:13, 25, 26
 30:5, 9
 31:30

Analysis in the Thompson Chain

Reference Bible

This author has found the Thompson Chain Reference Bible to be a great help in many Bible studies. But an examination of the analysis of Proverbs, on page 198 of the Help section, finds the analysis lacking in complete coverage of the Book of Proverbs. Only one key verse is listed. Going to the list of “Subjects Specially Discussed” you will find no reference to the commandments of God and no reference to sin and iniquity in general. Wisdom is not in their list of subjects discussed. The “heart” is also missing. You will not find any listing of references where the Lord is mentioned.

However, for whatever benefit may be rendered by its inclusion in this study, the list of subjects so given in the Thompson Chain Reference Bible is now given here:

Anger: 14:17, 29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11.

Benevolence: 3:9, 10; 11:24–26; 14:21; 19:17; 22:9.

Children, correction of: 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13, 14.

Fools: Slanderous, 10:18; Short-lived, 10:21; Mischief-makers, 10:23; Self-righteous, 12:15; Irritable, 12:16; Mock at sin, 14:19; Talk nonsense, 15:2; Insensible, 17:10; Dangerous, 17:12; Visionary, 17:24; Meddlesome, 20:3; Despise wisdom, 23:9; Stupid, 27:22; Self-confident, 14:16; 28:26; Garrulous, 29:11.

Friendship: 17:17; 18:24; 19:4; 27:10, 17.

Indolence: 6:6–11; 10:4, 5; 12:27; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9; 19:15, 24; 20:4, 13; 22:13; 24:30–34; 26:13–16.

Knowledge, Divine: 15:11; 21:2; 24:12.

Oppression: 14:31; 22:22; 28:16.

Pride: 6:17; 11:12; 13:10; 15:25; 16:18, 19; 18:12; 21:4, 24; 29:23; 30:13.

Prudence: 12:23; 13:16; 14:8, 15, 18; 15:5; 16:21; 18:15; 27:12.

Scorners: 3:34; 9:7; 14:6; 19:25; 24:9.

Strife: 3:30; 10:12; 15:18; 16:28; 17:1, 14, 19; 18:6, 19; 20:3; 22:10; 25:8; 30:33.

Temperance: 20:1; 21:17; 23:1–3, 20; 23:29–35; 25:16; 31:4–7.

The Tongue: 4:24; 10:11–32; 12:6, 18, 22; 13:3; 14:3; 15:1–7, 23; 16:13, 23, 27; 17:4; 18:7, 21; 19:1; 20:19; 21:23; 26:28; 30:32.

Unjust Gain: 10:2; 13:11; 21:6; 28:8.

Wealth: 10:2, 15; 11:4, 28; 13:7, 11; 15:6; 16:8; 18:11; 19:4; 27:24; 28:6, 22.

Women, evil: 2:16–19; 5:3–14, 20, 23; 6:24–35; 7:5–27; 9:13–18.

Women, good: 5:18, 19; 31:10–31.

Author's Marking Method Used for Study of Proverbs

The following color-coding system was used to help make one's Bible reflect an individual's study. It also makes it easier to, at a glance, to catch themes and words of special significance.

Gold: The Lord

Orange: Wisdom and wise

Green: The Law, commandments, the righteous, the upright. (Beginning with chapter 10, the part of each verse dealing with the just doing what was right in accordance with God's Law and will is also in green)

Red: All words or verses dealing with sin and iniquity (In all verses contrasting good and evil, the part dealing with sin and evil is red.)

Brown: Understanding

Purple: King or prince or throne

Yellow: Key verses

Dark orange & underlined: Covenant

Heavily underlined: All references to "my son" (also "O men" and "O ye children")

Circled: All references to "heart"

You may wish to develop your own marking method for study using some of these ideas. The important thing is that you study—not the method. A personally marked Bible will help you recalling your previous study each time you read your Bible. May the Eternal grant you wisdom as you study His Word.

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