



Proverbs – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
Proverbs	Ch. 22
☐ ch. 1 ☐ ch. 2 ☐ ch. 4 ☐ ch. 9 ☐ ch. 10 ☐ ch. 30 ☐ ch. 31	☐ What is a Proverb? ☐ Theological Themes

Study Guide for Proverbs

Chapter 1

- What do the first six verses tell us about the purpose of these proverbs? Describe the different kinds of understanding that we can gain. Describe the various kinds of results this will lead to. What are the benefits of these things for everyday life?
- What does the author say about the fear of the Lord? How is that related to the content of the prior six verses? What is this contrasted with? What difference does this make?
- What does the father want his son to do? Why? What does he want the son to avoid? Why? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What do the sinners try to entice the son to do? What reasons do they give? How do they think about what they are doing? How does the father counter those arguments? How is the father's opinion of what they want to do different than theirs? Which view is correct? Why?
- What does this chapter say wisdom is doing? Who is she speaking to? What does she say? What two options does wisdom speak about? What are the characteristics of each option? What is the result of each option? What does this tell us about wisdom in general? How should we respond?

Chapter 2

- What "if" conditions does the father tell the son in the first verses of this chapter? What would it look like if you did these kinds of things in your own life?
- What does this chapter say will happen if the son fulfills these "if" conditions? Is that a good thing? Why or why not?
- What reasons does this chapter give to back up and explain its assertions? What does this tell us about wisdom and its relation to God? Why is that important?
- What are the benefits of reason, as proclaimed in this chapter? What will it protect us from? Why is that a benefit? What is the alternative destiny it describes? How should we respond?

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Chapter 4

- What does the father command his sons to listen to? Why?
- What does this chapter say about the importance of wisdom? What evidence does it give? How should we respond?
- How does this chapter contrast wisdom with wickedness? What does this teach us about wisdom? What are the implications of this?
- How does this chapter teach us to protect wisdom and guard against falling away from what is right? What effort do we need to make for this to happen? How should we respond?

Chapter 9

- How does this chapter describe wisdom and what she has done? What invitation does she make? To whom? What instructions does she give? What are the results of this?
- How does this chapter describe the fear of the Lord? What are the rewards and warnings connected with the fear of the Lord? How is this related to wisdom? What difference does this make?
- How does this chapter describe folly and what she does? What invitation does she make? To whom? What instructions and temptations does she give? What are the results of this?
- How does this chapter contrast wisdom and folly and their two opposite invitations? Which one is better? Why? How is this related to the fear of the Lord?

Chapter 10

- This chapter begins the sections of (seemingly) unrelated proverbs.
- What kinds of topics are covered in these various proverbs? What does it say about each topic?
- What examples of parallelism can you see in these proverbs? How does the parallelism help you to understand the meaning of each proverb?
- Think through the principles given by these various proverbs? What insights can you gain from each of them? How are they confirmed by what you have observed in your own experience? How do they challenge you to think about the world in a way that is different from our surrounding culture's mindset? How can you apply the insights from these various proverbs in your own life?

Chapter 30

- How does Agur describe his own wisdom and knowledge? What does this demonstrate about the limitations of human understanding, compared with God's understanding? What is the point Agur was making? What difference does this make?
- What does Agur say about God's Word? How does that fit with what he previously said about his own understanding? What are the implications of this? How should we respond?
- What two things did Agur ask from God? Why? What was he trying to avoid? How should we respond?
- What does this chapter teach about speech and attitudes? How are they related? What is significant about this?

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- What is the point about the things that are never satisfied? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What is the point about the things that are beyond understanding? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What is the point about the things that the earth cannot bear? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What is the point about the things that are small but wise? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What is the point about the things that are stately/dignified in their walk? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What advice did Agur give to those who had thought or acted foolishly and/or evilly? Why? How should we respond?

Chapter 31

- What does Lemuel advise his son NOT to do? Why? What does he advise him to do instead? Why? How is that related to his role of responsibility and authority? How does that apply today?
- Describe the characteristics of the “wife of noble character.” What does she do? How does that affect her husband and children and those around her? What rewards does she experience from this? What do you think is the point of this description? How should we respond?
- How does this give a demonstration of wisdom and its fruits? How does this apply in terms of learning to live wisely ourselves? How does this apply in terms of choosing a spouse? Why is this significant?

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 22

What is a “Proverb”?

- How does the textbook define the term “proverb”? What kind(s) of topics do proverbs cover? What is the “unifying purpose” of the collections of proverbs? What is the implication of this for the content of the book of Proverbs? How does this help us understand this book?
- What two things does the textbook say that a proverb is NOT? What examples does it give for this? What difference does this make for the way we should read and apply this book?
- What does the textbook say that the proverbs ARE? What point does it make about the style of the proverbs? What are the implications of this for the way we should read this book? What difference does this make?

Theological Themes

- According to the textbook, how is the book of Proverbs connected to ancient Israelite education? How does this help us understand the content of this book? What difference does this make?
- What point does the textbook make about compartmentalizing? What does this tell us about the book of Proverbs and its purpose? What does this tell us about the worldview communicated in Proverbs? How is this related to the fear of the Lord? What are the implications of this? Should we try to imitate this mindset? Why or why not? If so, how?

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- What point does the textbook make about character and intellect? Do we have to choose between the two? Why or why not? How does this apply to relationship? How does this apply “retribution theology”? How should we respond?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter