

A scroll of aged, brown parchment with the text "Proverbs 1-9" and "Jan to Feb 2017" written on it. The scroll is unrolled, showing the texture and some wear of the parchment. The text is centered on the scroll.

Proverbs 1-9

Jan to Feb 2017

Proverbs

1. Authorship: Solomon (1 Kings 4:29-34) as the main writer (see 25:1), King Lemuel (or his mother), and others written from a father's approach to pass on wisdom to his children.
 - “Several voices (not Israelites) are heard here.” [a]
2. Date of writing: 970-700 B.C . from King Solomon (1:1) to Hezekiel (25:1). [b] We don't really know. [c]
3. Proverbs is a handbook of wisdom for the king's council in preparation of service to their country.
4. No two kinds of wisdom for the religious life and the secular world.

[a] Derek Kidner. *An Introduction to Wisdom Literature*; 18.

[b] NIV Study Bible on Proverbs

[c] *New Bible Commentary*: G.J. Wehan, J.A. Motyer, D. A. Carson, R.T France, 586.

Proverbs

1. A Distinctive voice: A father's instruction "my son" (Prov 1:8; 1:10; 1:15; 2:1; 4:1; 5:1; 6:1; 7:1), and a mother's teaching (1:8).
2. Wisdom is also based on "promise."
 - "Promise theology is at once and always a disclosure of the person, work, and plan of God ... to emphasize the *content* of the covenants_ ..." [d]
3. What is the difference between Eastern and Western social/familial authority structure?
 - Teach instructions vs. Set the example
 - Program-oriented vs. Relationship

Introduction: Wisdom and Folly

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 for **gaining wisdom** and **instruction**;
for understanding words of **insight**;
- 3 for receiving **instruction** in **prudent behavior**,
doing what is **right** and **just** and **fair**;
- 4 for giving prudence to those who are *simple*,
knowledge and **discretion** to the young—
- 5 *let the wise listen* and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
- 6 for understanding **proverbs** and **parables**,
the **sayings** and **riddles** of the wise.
- 7 ***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,***
but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Prov 1:1-7

Proverbs

Warning against invitation of sinful people 1:10-19

- Enticement: *“just for fun,” success at all costs*
- “wait for innocent blood,” “ambush,” v.16 “quick to shed blood.” v.11
- “swallow them alive” v.12
- “fill our houses with plunder”, “share the loot” v.13
- “my son, do not go along” v.15
- “These men lie in wait for their own blood.” v.18-19
- *... similar to neoliberal philosophies that draw out the sinful human nature of competition for selfish gains.*

Proverbs

Wisdom cries out 1:20-33

- Where does wisdom cry out? v.20-21
- Who are the simple? v.22
- What is the right response to wisdom's cry? v.23
- What are the consequences of not listening to Wisdom?
- Sinfulness is human nature 1:32,33 , but there is hope if we listen.

Proverbs

Trust in the Lord 3:1-18

- For long life & prosperity 3:1-2
- Love and Faithfulness as guiding light 3:3-4
- Trust in the Lord, lean on him as with complete hopelessness and helplessness 3:5-7
- For health & well-being 3:8
- The value of wisdom 3:13-18

Proverbs

Warning against adultery 5:1 – 7:27

1. 5:1-23

- 5:1-6 The picture of temptation: Sweet talk to the grave
- 5:8 Keep far away (flee youth lusts 2 Tim 2:22)
- 5:9 Your honor and dignity are at stake
- 5:15-19 Fidelity in love & marriage
- 5:21 your ways are in full view of the Lord

2. 6:24-29, read v.30-32, 34-35.

- Warning against coveting someone else's wife

3. 7:6-27

- The story of the simple and the seductress

Proverbs

The Woman Wisdom

1. Wisdom's Personified (8:1-36)
2. Wisdom prepares a feast (9:16)
3. Compare the story of the Woman Wisdom (9:1-9) and the Woman Folly (9:13-18)
 - Both are calling out ...
 - Wisdom prepare a feast, Folly has nothing to offer
 - Wisdom invites the simple, but not mockers (9:7-8)
 - Wisdom give food for life, Folly hides her dead in the basement

Proverbs

Wisdom points to the LORD ... Fount of every blessing:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge (relationship) of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

Proverbs 9:10-11