

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Practical, Daily Living for the Child of God

* The Proverbs are a collection of God-given wisdom. Solomon penned them, but it was God who implanted him with wisdom. I Kings 4:29-34 says: “And **God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much**, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men ... and his fame was in all nations round about. And **he spake three thousand proverbs**: and his songs were a thousand and five. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.”

Solomon wrote about his many proverbs, in Ecclesiastes 12:9-10, referring to himself as *the preacher*. “... and moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, **he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs**. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even **words of truth**.”

Kings (and at least one queen) traveled great distances to hear the wisdom that God had given to Solomon. We don't have to travel even one mile to hear Solomon's proverbs! We just need to pick up our Bibles, and read them!

People of our day read books and listen to the counsel of men and women who teach men's viewpoints. Their counsel often differs from the counsel God has given us in His Word.

Solomon's proverbs were not formed by men or by his own thoughts. They were given to him directly by God.

Proverbs 21:30 tells us: “There is **no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord**.”

The book of Psalms begins with these words: “Blessed is the man **that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly** ...”

Counsel from **the godly** is good! A godly counselor will base his counsel, not on the opinions of men, but on the Scriptures.

The counsel of man changes with shifting societies. Psalms 33:11 tells us, “The **counsel of the Lord standeth for ever**, the thoughts of his heart to **all generations**.”

The foundation for man's counsel is the lusts of man's heart. God said of His people, when they refused to listen to His counsel: “So I gave them up unto **their own hearts' lust**: and they walked in **their own counsels**.”

We can almost hear God sigh, as He continues to speak: “Oh that my people had **hearkened unto me**, and Israel had walked **in my ways!**” (See Psalms 81:12-13.)

Psalm 73:24 is David's prayer to God, and can be your prayer: “Thou shalt **guide me with thy counsel**, and afterward receive me to glory.”

In the thirty-one chapters of the book of Proverbs, we will find wisdom, understanding, and counsel, given to us by God.

If you are one who **needs** counsel (and we all do), take time to study this book.

If you are one who **gives** counsel to others, make sure your counsel never contradicts God's counsel.