



## The book of Proverbs

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

1. Proverbs are a collection of vigorous sayings which, by analogy or contrast, highlight important truths. Every nation has its proverbs. The present collection is essentially the work of Solomon; it is said of its author that he spoke 3000 sayings (1 Kings 4:32).
2. The idea of the fear of the Lord expresses reverence, submission, and fear at the same time. And the word science in the context of Proverbs is not a technical concept, but a knowledge of the word of God.
3. Among the virtues praised in this book are the pursuit of wisdom, filial piety, liberality, marital fidelity and honesty in human affairs. The list of vices enumerated and condemned includes gluttony, drunkenness, immorality, lying, sloth, quarreling, and keeping bad company, among others.
4. Most of the Proverbs were written by Solomon in the tenth century B.C., but some were taken from his other works and copied later (Pr. 25:1; cf. 1 Kgs. 4:32), and some were written by Agur (Pr. 30) and by King Lemuel (Pr. 31).
5. Wisdom in the biblical context refers to a practical dimension that requires the one who believes in God to put his words into practice.
6. Throughout the book of Proverbs, we find a constant dichotomy between wisdom and folly. If wisdom consists in following the word of God, which results in practicing love, justice, goodness and forgiveness, folly is the fact of opposing God.
7. In the book of Proverbs, the words “precepts”, “teaching”, “warnings” are synonymous with the Word of God.
8. Proverbs 8 is a representation of wisdom where the author, in his didactic approach, wants to teach the public its richness and its benefit to apply it.
9. The first nine chapters, which explain the purpose of the wisdom of Proverbs, are written like the advice of a father to a son. This fatherly voice says fifteen times, « my son ».
10. Most of the practical advice in Proverbs makes no mention of God, and its focus on success may therefore seem very secular. But if you take this book as a whole, it is clear that the lifestyle Proverbs teaches depends on a holy fear of God. (Prov. 1:7)
11. The rule is that pious, good moral, hardworking and wise people will reap many rewards. Indeed, those who learn the godly and practical wisdom of Proverbs not only sleep well,

but they succeed and can provide for their family and friends as well. The fools and mockers, although they appear to be successful, will suffer the consequences of their lifestyle.

12. The wise person is not perfect or accomplished. But he is always in a learning process. One of the characteristics of the wise is that he is a hard worker.
13. Proverbs candidly relates that the right path will not be chosen by many. It is easier to live carelessly than to live uprightly. But those who choose to live by these teachings will experience success, security, and most importantly, they will experience the presence of God.
14. Proverbs defines three main types of relationship which are: the relationship of the human being with God, his relationship with himself and his relationship with his fellow human beings.
15. Proverbs emphasizes the responsibility of parents to teach their children wisdom (the word of God) and urges children to follow the instruction of their parents.
16. Proverbs seems to be more concerned with success and prosperity than with God. Many of these proverbs can be used by those who do not have an intimate relationship with God. But, as a whole, one will eventually discover that its advices given for a life of wisdom cannot be separated from God.
17. Proverbs often speaks of life and death. It argues that the life of wisdom can make you live longer, while foolishness will cause an early death. You may be mistaken if you take this observation so literally, for many people who live in folly live long lives. But Proverbs' version of life and death goes beyond physical life.
18. Words have power. They can destroy lives. That's why they must be weighed carefully before they are spoken. Even the truth can harm. Yet it can also save someone from error. The book of Proverbs points out the dangers of gossip and the benefits of a fair rebuke to a friend. "The tongue has the power of life and death," says Proverbs 18:21. Proverbs teaches the art of speaking to give life. (Pr. 15:1)
19. Proverbs mocks the lazy man a little. It uses him to teach good lessons. It is easy to become like him because it does not take much effort. «A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest... ». Canceling plans, making excuses, sleeping...is a trap to avoid, as the consequences of such a life practice are poverty, frustration, broken relationships, etc. The sluggard desires the good things that come from work, but never gets them. (Pr. 21 :25; 24:30-34; 26:13-16)
20. Proverbs 22:6 is a famous text that stresses the importance of a good education in childhood to form the character of the adult. But you may meet people who choose to forget their education even though they were well raised. The book of Proverbs studies life realistically. The general rule is that good parents raise good children.

21. In modern French, fools are people without reason. But the word has another meaning in the Bible. Fools can have a high intelligence quotient. People may even admire their many accomplishments. Yet a wise person considers them a failure. One of the biggest insults in the Bible is “fool”. Someone becomes foolish by ignoring the wisdom God gives them, preferring to follow the crowd or their vain opinions.
22. The harshest warnings in Proverbs are not directed at the immoral, but at people who are likely to become foolish. If you develop such a character, no set of rules can keep you from harm. A wise person must learn to recognize a fool from afar and get out of his way.
23. « The one who loves well chastises as well» is certainly the most famous proverb inspired by the Bible. Proverbs indicates that punishment is an expression of love and says that parents who do not chastise their children run the risk of destroying them (Pr. 29:15). But this much-quoted maxim is only a small part of what Proverbs brings to the subject of child rearing.