

# PROVERBS: Introduction

The book of Proverbs is the definitive wisdom literature of the Bible. Intensely practical and full of wisdom about all areas of life—work, money, words, relationships—this book has the power to teach God’s people to live well.

Written largely by King Solomon in a time when wisdom was prized and sought in many world cultures, Proverbs gives us something unique: not just advice about how to live well, but how to live well as a person who belongs to God. Because, as the Proverbs will show us, there is no wisdom apart from God Himself.

The first nine chapters serve as a pep rally of sorts, calling us to a life of wisdom, and the rest of the book records proverbs grouped by author: Solomon, “the wise”, Agur, and Lemuel.

**Proverbs 1–9** – Call to Wisdom

**Proverbs 10–31** – Proverbs

The proverbs themselves are not arranged topically, so it can feel scattered as you read. It might help to take each proverb individually and slowly.

Remember these things as you read the book of Proverbs:

- Proverbs were written to be succinct and memorable, not to cover every possibility or provide every caveat. So read them remembering that they communicate **general truths and are not guarantees for all of life.**
- It can be very easy to read the instruction in a book like Proverbs and lose sight of the gospel. You will need to constantly reorient yourself, asking how each proverb directs you to think of **Jesus as the embodiment of wisdom itself.**