

CLASS NOTES -- PROVERBS

1A. Authorship -- several human sources were involved.

1B. Mostly Solomon himself. 1 Kings 4:32.

2B. Probably David and Bathsheba (although put in written form by Solomon). Prov. 1:8; 6:20. (Note -- it would be difficult for Solomon to say these things to his sons -- for many different "mothers" would be involved -- and many of the mothers were Gentiles and idol worshippers who would turn the "sons" away from the Lord, as they did Solomon himself. 1 Kings 11:1 - 8).

3B. Agur (chapter 30).

4B. Lemuel's mother (chapter 31). "Lemuel" means "devoted to the Lord" and was probably Bathsheba's "pet name" for Solomon (Suggested by J. Vernon McGee). If so, then this chapter is what Bathsheba taught Solomon (see suggested structure of 1:8 -- 9:18 at 3A, 1B, 2C). Too bad he did not take it to heart in his own life!

2A. Structure of 1:8 through 31:31 -- adapted from the Companion Bible. (1:1 - 7 is the introduction to the book).

A For Solomon -- **by** his father and mother (1:8 -- 9:18).

B By Solomon **for** all (10:1 -- 19:19).

C For Solomon (19:20 -- 24:34).

B' By Solomon **for** all (chapters 25, 26).

C' For Solomon (chapters 27 - 29).

B'' By Agur **for** all (chapter 30).

A' For Solomon **by** his mother (chapter 31).

3A. Further notes.

1B. Structure of 1:8 -- 9:18 (refer to NASB).

1C. It is suggested that when it says, "My **son**" it is Bathsheba speaking to Solomon, her **favorite** son (although she did have three others sons -- 1 Chron. 3:5). When it is "**sonS**" (plural) in view it is David speaking -- as he had **many** sons, among whom Solomon was **a** son (see 4:3). Perhaps they work together, speaking alternately, to teach the truths given. See, evidently, the mother speaking from 4:10 to 5:6, the father speaking in from 5:7 to 19, and the mother taking up the theme again at 5:20.

2C. The suggested structure of 1:8 -- 9:18 (*and chapter 31*).

A 1:8 -- 3:35 Mother speaking.

B 4:1 - 9 Father speaking

A' 4:10 -- 5:6 Mother

B' 5:7 - 19 Father

A'' 5:20 -- 7:23 Mother

B'' 7:24 -- 9:18 Father

(**A'''** Chapter 31 Mother)

2B. It is interesting that there are 31 chapters in Proverbs -- one for each day of the month. If one reads one chapter each day he will cover the book 12 times a year. This would be a wonderful source of practical wisdom: to be "always reading through Proverbs."

3B. A topical resume of Proverbs.

1C. The folly of adultery & warnings against evil women. 2:16 - 19; 5:3 - 14; 6:24 - 35; 7:6 - 27.

* Encouragement to faithfulness. 5:15 - 23.

* Description of the godly woman. Chapter 31.

2C. The value of wisdom. 2:2 - 8; 3:5 - 8, 13 - 18; 4:20 - 23; 8:1 - 36.

* Warnings against folly. 10:23; 12:15; 14:9, 16; 26:1 - 12; 27:22; 29:11. "A fool uttereth all his mind" (and it doesn't take long!)

3C. Concerning marriage & women. 11:22; 12:4; 15:16, 17; 18:22; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15, 16.

* Raising children. 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13, 14; 29:15, 17.

4C. Giving. 11:24 - 26; 13:7 (cp. Luke 6:34, 35); 19:17 (a loan to a man who is poor and cannot repay it is not a "bad loan" -- for the Lord is his "co-signer").

5C. Warnings against "vices" (as the Filipinos use the term).

1D. Pride. 11:2; 16:18; 25:27; 27:2; 28:25.

2D. The use of the tongue. 11:13; 12:18, 19; 13:3; 15:1, 2, 4, 23; 16:27, 28; 17:9, 28; 18:8, 21; 20:19; 21:23, 28 (after the false witness is gone, his story is passed on as gossip and the harm done goes on and on); 25:9 - 15; 26:19 - 28; 29:20.

3D. Anger. 16:32; 19:11, 19; 22:24, 25; 25:28; 27:4; 29:22.

4D. Laziness. 10:4, 5, 26; 12:27; 14:23; 19:15; 20:4, 13; 21:25, 26; 22:13; 24:30 -

34; 26:13 - 16.

5D. Drunkenness. 20:1; 23:21, 29 - 35.

6C. Special chapters.

1D. Chapter 26 -- the **FOOL**, the **LAZY**, and the **TALKER**.

2D. Chapter 30 -- the words of Agur.

3D. Chapter 31 -- the virtuous woman.

7C. Miscellaneous useful proverbs. 11:30; 14:12, 25, 29, 34; 15:32; 16:25, 32; 22:3; 25:25; 28:13; 29:25.

Notes from my study Bible:

11:7. All the plans and goals of the wicked have to do with this life -- so death puts a full end to them. Also, if he expected to "get to heaven somehow" in spite of his unbelief, his expectation perished with his death. As long as there was life there was hope that he would yet turn to Christ, but this hope perished when he died. For the believer, death ushers him into the presence of the Lord and his expectation and hope are fully realized!

11:26. The one who with-holds corn is the merchant or grower who is trying to force the price up so he can make a big profit at the expense of the poor.

15:11. God knows of the reality of hell -- therefore **HE** is concerned about men! This may be the thought in 2 Cor. 5:11. **WE** know what is ahead of the unsaved, whether they do or not, and thus we seek to persuade them to receive Christ.

17:14. "The beginning of strife is like letting out water: so quit before the quarrel breaks forth" -- Berkeley Bible. In a rice terrace, if a newly constructed dyke of loose earth develops a

serious leak the water begins to move toward and through the break (washing the loose dirt away) until it is impossible to stop it -- so it must be stopped **at once** when it **first starts!**

23:13, 14. The "juvenile delinquent" under the law was taken out and stoned to death (Deut. 21:18 - 21). If discipline was diligently applied (while he was young) the child would be spared this fate ("he shall not die ... deliver his soul from Sheol"). Such discipline today could save the child from prison later -- and possibly from death due to accident, disease, violence, or execution.

23:29 - 35. Results of drinking alcoholic beverages:--- Brings death (v. 32); -- Lowers moral standards (v. 33); -- Produces sickness (v. 34); -- Produces insensibility (dulls the mind -- v. 35-a); --- Is habit forming (v. 35-b).

24:11, 12. Here is a condemnation of those who refuse to "get involved" in protecting others who are in danger or trouble. Spiritually, it condemns a policy of non-involvement in missions, or personal testimony. Ignorance (or professed ignorance -- "we knew it not") is no excuse.

25:2. If the Lord gets as much joy out of hiding His precious truths in Scripture as we do in discovering them, He must have found great pleasure in directing his prophets as they wrote! In an "Easter egg hunt" the delight of the children in finding the eggs is sometimes surpassed by that of the adults in hiding them -- and in watching the eagerness of the children in their search.

27:23 - 27. Take care of your business & your business will take care of you. See 28:19.

29:12. That is, he will think they are all wicked -- **if he listens to and believes the lies.** So **IF** we believe all the rumors & gossip, we would think **none** of our fellow workers is trustworthy or faithful. Don't believe everyone.

30:11 - 14. Compare these last days of the Age of Grace -- **our** generation.

30:16. "Grave" here should be "Sheol" -- one body can fill a grave, but there is room to spare in Sheol.

31:3. "That which destroyeth kings" seems to be women (v. 3) and wine (vs. 4, 5). The first of the two was Solomon's own downfall.

31:10. The "virtuous woman" is more than one who is not guilty of sexual sins -- she is also filled with the many positive virtues listed in verses 11 through 27!

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