

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 281—Introduction & Theme)

Introduction: The key verse of Proverbs is found in 1:7: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. The statements in Proverbs about God establish the basis for this godly reverence for Him. In this lesson, we explore with Solomon and other wise men why God should be feared.

Lesson aim: To show why all men should reverence God.

Why men should fear God.

(All the verses in the study are from the book of Proverbs.)

1. What do these verses emphasize about God? (3:19; 20:12; 29:13)
2. Of what truth about God does Solomon remind us? (15:3)
3. What is “open before God”? (15:11) What is God said to do with the hearts of men? (17:3; 21:2)
4. Does God have a purpose for all things that are made? (16:4)
5. What role does God have in man’s life? (16:4, 9) Even when one makes decisions by some means of chance, who controls the outcome? (16:33)
6. Is it possible for any man to succeed in overturning God’s purpose? (19:21; 21:30)
7. Consequently, what advice does the wise man give? (16:3)
8. How does the wise man show God’s provision for man’s need? (15:29; 10:3)
9. What other role does God have in His relationship to man? (15:25)

The blessings of fearing the Lord

1. For what purpose were the proverbs designed? (1:1-6) What attitude is essential to knowledge of life? (1:7, 2:5; 9:10; 15:33)

2. How important is fearing God? (15:16)
3. What is the evidence that one truly fears the Lord? (14:2; 16:6)
4. What specific blessings come from fearing the Lord? (19:23; 10:27; 14:26; 30:29; 31:30)

Conclusion & warning:

1. What encouragement does the wise men give the reader? (23:17)
2. What warning is issued to those who reject God and His wisdom? (1:20-29)