

## **A Study of the Wisdom Literature**

### **(OT Survey Lesson 291—Wisdom about Speech)**

**Introduction:** No part of life requires more wisdom than our speech. Solomon offers many wise statements in helping us mature in this area.

**Lesson aim:** To learn to use wisdom in speaking to others.

#### **Beware of misuses of speech**

1. Against what is Solomon issuing a warning in these proverbs? (20:25; 25:14) What does he say we should do if we have spoken improperly? (6:1-5)
2. What warnings does Solomon issue about slandering others? (20:19; 10:18; 11:9; 30:10)
3. What warning is given about flattery? (29:5) What does Solomon say about lying lips? (12:22; 12:6; 26:28) Truthful lips? (12:19; 12:17)
4. Contrast the faithful witness with the false witness (14:5; 14:25; 19:5; 19:9; 21:28) What warnings are given about testimony improperly given? (19:28; 24:28)
5. What about wealth gained by lies? (21:6) What kind of person lies to others? (26:24-26) What does Solomon say about the one who lies and then later seeks to deny it? (26:18-19)
6. What are some of the consequences of words improperly spoken? (16:27-28,30; 17:4; 17:9)
7. How does Solomon reveal the ability of words to stir up wrath in others? (17:20; 25:23; 26:17; 26:20; 26:11; 26:22)
8. What is the point of these proverbs put in the form of similes? (26:23; 26:2)

## **Learning to keep quiet and to speak cautiously**

1. How does Solomon teach the importance of being a person of few words? (10:19; 11:12-13; 13:3; 29:20; 21:23)
2. What does a wise man do? (15:28; 17:27) What American proverb comes to mind after reading 17:28?
3. Where does one get the wisdom to know how to answer others? (16:1) Can "soft words" be powerful? (25:15) What is the point of the proverb in 24:26?

## **The value and blessings of wise speech**

1. How does Solomon communicate the value of wise speech? (10:20; 20:15)
2. Read these proverbs and make a list of the good things that come from the mouth of the righteous or wise man (10:11; 12:14; 10:31; 10:13-14; 14:3; 22:12; 10:21; 10:32; 13:14; 11:30; 13:2; 15:2; 15:7)
3. How is one regarded who uses speech to correct the erring? (25:12; 27:5; 28:23)
4. How did Solomon emphasize the importance of using tact when speaking to others? (15:26; 16:21,23-24)
5. Can words hurt? (12:18) What can the right words do for others? (12:25; 13:17; 15:4; 15:30)
6. To what did Solomon compare words fitly spoken? (25:11,13, 25)