

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 verses 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 Him. He is:

Creator of all

3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.

20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made both of them.

Watcher of men

15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

29:13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

Tester of hearts

15:11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!

17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests hearts.

21:2 Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

Ruler of our destiny

16:4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.

16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

21:30 There is no wisdom and no understanding And no counsel against the LORD.

19:21 Many are the plans in a man’s heart, But the counsel of the LORD, it will stand.

16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your plans will be established.

Provider of man’s needs

15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

10:3 The LORD will not allow the righteous to hunger, But He will thrust aside the craving of the wicked.

Judge of man

15:25 The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.

Blessings of fearing the Lord

1:1-7—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 115:33—The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.

2:5—Then you will discern the fear of the Lord, and then discover the knowledge of God.

14:2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, But he who is crooked in his ways despises Him.

15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, Than great treasure and turmoil with it.

16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.

19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

14:26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.

10:29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright, But ruin to the workers of iniquity.

31:30

Conclusion & warning:

23:17; 1:20-29