

**ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 3 | LESSON 3a**

**WISDOM LITERATURE – The Promise Pictured Through Israel’s Struggle**

**God is a PROMISE Caring God**

Through Israel’s journey, God pictures 1) His **DESIGN** and **DESIRE** to 2) **RESCUE** His people from sin and death through a future 2) **KING** who will 4) **RESTORE** them to Himself in the **LAND** 5) for their **JOY**.

**“Trust in the LORD | Fear the LORD”**  
**An Overview of Proverbs**  
**“The fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom”**




**Proverbs 3:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> **Trust in the LORD** with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes; **fear the LORD**, and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

	THE HEAD – To know that God is the true source of all wisdom and knowledge. Q – Do you believe what God says in His Word?
	THE HEART – To believe God loves you and has your best interests at heart. Q – Will you trust God’s love for you and do what he says even if you think you know better?
	THE HAND – To yield to God’s direction as it is laid out in his Word. Q – Will you choose to trust God’s Word?

**EMPHASIS**

A purpose statement can be found in Prov. 1:2-4:

<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,

<sup>3</sup> to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth

- In the PROVERBS, the FEAR of the LORD, is to TRUST in HIM, to have FAITH in HIM, to OBEY His Word [TORAH].

“The Fear of the Lord” runs through the entire book of Proverbs making it one of the main themes of the entire collection (1:7, 29; 2:5; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26, 27; 15:16, 33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17). “Fear” in this sense does not mean to “be afraid.” It means to honor or esteem. Having this attitude toward the Lord brings wisdom and good judgment. If we “fear” Him and look to Him for wisdom, He will direct our steps. Such a path doesn’t necessarily lead to a “good” life, but it does lead to a good God.

Notice how the PROVERBS reflect the PSALMS. Like Psalm 1, there is a picture of contrasts. The “good” life leads to LIFE. The “bad” life leads to DEATH. One follows YHWH and the other rejects His Word and Rule.

## LITERARY CONTEXT

“A proverb is a short, pithy saying that usually draws a comparison between two forms of behavior in order to impart moral or religious wisdom to its receiver.”<sup>1</sup>

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

“Scholars point to King Solomon as the author of Proverbs in the Bible. Solomon is Israel’s wisest king. We find in I Kings 4:32 that Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. We know from a previous chapter in I Kings 3 that Solomon had prayed to God for wisdom. He prayed for an understanding heart to judge the people.”<sup>2</sup>

However, a couple Proverbs were not written by King Solomon. Proverb 30 was written by Agur. Proverb 31 was written by “King Lemuel” but many believe this was just a pen-name for Solomon.

## BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Notice the occurrences of the Proverbs by the New Testament Authors.

Pr 3:11 – My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord or loathe His reproof,	Heb 12:5
Pr 3:34 – Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.	Jas 4:6; 1Pe 5:5
Pr 10:12 – Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.	Jas 5:20; 1Pe 4:8
Pr 11:31 – If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!	1Pe 4:18
Pr 22:8 – He who sows iniquity will reap vanity, And the rod of his fury will perish.	2Cor 9:7

Pr 24:12 – If you say, “See, we did not know this,” Does He not consider <i>it</i> who weighs the hearts? And does He not know <i>it</i> who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?	Matt 16:27; Rom 2:6
Pr 25:21 – If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;	Rom 12:20

## STRUCTURE<sup>3</sup>

- I. Wisdom and folly contrasted, **Chapters 1—9**
- II. Proverbs of Solomon, written and set in order by himself, **Chapters 10—24**
- III. Proverbs of Solomon, set in order by men of Hezekiah, **Chapters 25—29**
- IV. Oracle of Agur, unknown sage, **Chapter 30**
- V. Proverbs of a mother to Lemuel, **Chapter 31**

## JESUS IN THE TEXT

“The book of Proverbs is an outpouring of grace from God. Again and again, the author appeals to the reader as his dear “son” (Prov. 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1, 11, 21; 4:1, 10, 20; 5:1, 7, 20; 6:1, 3, 20; 7:1, 24; 19:27; 23:15, 19, 26; 24:13, 21; 27:11). This book breathes with the Spirit of adoption (Rom. 8:15). We may therefore study Proverbs not to earn a sonship still out of reach but to bear witness to a sonship already given.”<sup>4</sup>

“The rest of the Bible makes clear that Jesus is the one who perfectly embodies this unique wisdom. According to the Old Testament, the Messiah would be anointed with “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord” (Isa. 11:2). According to the New Testament, Jesus is God’s gift of wisdom to sinners (1 Cor. 1:30). Solomon was a genius, but Jesus was greater than Solomon (Matt. 12:42). He amazed people with his wisdom (Matt. 13:54). To this day, he counsels his church through his Word (Rev. 3:18). The wisdom of Jesus can be hard to accept, since it led not to popularity but to a cross (1 Cor. 1:18–25). But if we will humbly receive the divine wisdom hidden in Christ (Col. 2:2–3), the book of Proverbs will open up as a powerful word from our Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6).”<sup>5</sup>

## APPLICATION

- God must always be our first and foremost object of affection. He alone is to be trusted for the salvation of our souls.
- Only in Jesus can we be truly WISE.

## VISUALS

## MEMORY VERSE

Prov. 3:5-8

<sup>5</sup> **Trust in the LORD** with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes; **fear the LORD**, and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

## RESOURCES

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/oldtestament/section15/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-wrote-proverbs.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mcgee\\_j\\_vernon/notes-outlines/proverbs/proverbs-outline.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mcgee_j_vernon/notes-outlines/proverbs/proverbs-outline.cfm)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-gospel-in-proverbs/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-gospel-in-proverbs/>