

# BOOK OF PROVERBS - I

"What Is Wisdom?"

Proverbs 1:1-31

## I. SOLOMON'S REQUEST FOR WISDOM

- A. *"And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the Lord, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee."*
- B. *"Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?"*
- C. *"And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like' (II Chr. 1:6-12).*
- D. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally..." (Jas. 1:5).*

## II. THE PRECIOUSNESS OF WISDOM

- A. Prov. 3:13-17 - *"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."*
1. The only source of true happiness.
  2. Comes from God--yet man has to seek for it--it doesn't just fall on him.
- B. *"For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her."*
1. Money can't buy wisdom.
  2. Nothing else to compare.
- C. *"Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour."*
1. Not to seek after riches and health and long life for their own sake, but rather to seek after wisdom, then all these other things will be added to us.
    - a. May start out seeking wisdom and end up pursuing what she holds.
    - b. May start out seeking the Word of God and end up seeking prosperity, or physical healing, or some other tangible benefit of the Word.
    - c. Seek first the kingdom--these other things added.

### III. THE PERSON OF WISDOM

A. Wisdom is not a thing; but a person.

B. Sometime Proverbs will say, "get wisdom, get understanding"; other times will speak for itself--expressing itself, explaining how it functions, describing what it is looking for, stressing its results, promising what it will do for the one who possesses it.

C. Wisdom as the creator (Prov. 8:22-29) *"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When thee was no depths, I was brought forth; when thee were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandments: when he appointed the fountains of the earth."*

1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

2. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14).

3. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

4. Paul says Jesus has been made unto us wisdom (I Cor. 1:30).

### IV. WISDOM AS THE WORD

A. Wisdom is not only Jesus Christ, it is also His Word.

B. Jesus abides within, but no guarantee automatically manifest wisdom to handle every situation of life.

1. Study to show yourself approved.

2. As become diligent in the Word, transfer Word from your spirit to your mind.

3. Its the wisdom in your mind that helps you to handle the day-to-day activities of your life.

C. Main word for wisdom in book of Proverbs is "*chokmah*" which means to "pound something in."

1. Word must be pounded into mind by confession, study and meditation day and night.

2. Must seek after wisdom.

### V. TO KNOW WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION; TO PERCEIVE THE WORDS OF UNDERSTANDING

A. Distinction between knowledge, wisdom, and understanding

1. Knowledge

a. Taking in the Word of God

b. Accumulation of facts

2. Wisdom

a. Putting out Word of God

- b. Correct application of facts
  - 3. Understanding refers to the ability to arrange facts.
- B. Word translated "instruction" actually the Hebrew word for discipline.
  - 1. The discipline of putting the Word of God into your heart comes from renewing your mind to the Word of the Lord, from pounding it in day and night, from meditating on it until it permeates and saturates your entire being.
  - 2. Then everything you do will be successful.
- C. To perceive the words of understanding.
  - 1. Wisdom of God does not come through natural intellect.
  - 2. We perceive with our spirit.

#### VI. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE KEY TO WISDOM

- A. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- B. Giving honor and place to God in reverence
- C. Pr. 8:13 - *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way."*

#### VII. FRUIT OF FEARING THE LORD

- A. Source of inheritance. Ps. 25:12-14 - *"What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth."*
- B. Life
  - 1. *"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."*
  - 2. Pr. 14:27 - *"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."*
  - 3. Pr. 10:27 - *"The fear of the Lord prolongeth days."*
- C. Salvation
  - 1. Ps. 85:7 - *"His salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in the land."*
  - 2. Ps. 145:19 - *"He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will save them."*
- D. Deliverance - *"Angel of the Lord encamps about those that fear him and delivereth them" (Ps.34:7)*
- E. Healing - *"But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."*

#### VIII. WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPLE THING (PR. 4:1-13)

- A. Exalt her and she shall promote thee
- B. Shall bring to honor
- C. Crown of glory
- D. Year of life shall be many--she is thy life

E. Shall not stumble

IX. PROVERBS SOURCE FOR WISDOM IN PRACTICAL DETAILS OF DAILY LIFE

A. Wisdom is crying out

1. The Word of God is crying out...speaking to us every day concerning practical matters

a. We don't have to seek other sources--the Bible has proven itself

b. Every civilized nation has been built on moral code based on Bible

c. Men find success based on Biblical principles

d. Can't find secular help for spiritual problems

2. Problems of men are common through the ages

a. Strange women, strong drink, bad company

b. Pride and self-centeredness

c. Quick tempers; rash decisions

d. Evil communication

B. Proverbs are rules or standards to live by