

1. The “wisdom” shower of the Book of Proverbs is refreshing.
2. Old Testament Scriptures informed the hearts and minds of New Testament authors:
 - a. Proverbs 25:6, 7...Luke 14:7-11.”Do not exalt yourself...”
 - b. Proverbs 25: 21, 22...Romans 12:21...”...overcome evil with good.”
3. Men and women of faith are those whose lives are saturated with the Word of God.
 - a. Mary - her prayer after the angel’s visitation
 - b. Jesus - His responses to Satan during the temptation experience were all quotations from Deuteronomy.
 - c. Stephen - his defense was a recitation of Old Testament Scriptures.
 - d. Paul - when explaining God’s mysteries to the Christians in Rome
4. If we memorize Scripture - “apply our hearts to instruction and our ears to words of knowledge” - it will flow out of us.
5. In these 3 chapters, there are a number of topics that get attention:
 - a. Proper attitudes towards riches, power and evildoers
 - b. Advice about choosing good friends, doing justice and acquiring wisdom and knowledge
 - c. Godly parenting
 - d. Words about honesty, keeping confidences, use of our tongues
 - e. The ever-present theme of sexual purity
 - f. Industriousness - Holiness and industriousness are closely related
 - g. Drunkenness - “...will have a cup full of sorrow and woe...” and “...poverty...”
6. Familiar Proverbs:
 - a. The power of positive words:
 - *“A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”
 - *Through patience a ruler can be persuaded and a gentle tongue can break a bone.”
 - b. “Seldom set foot in your neighbor’s house. Too much of you and he will hate you.”
7. Proverbs 24: 11, 12 - Nazi Germany is a chilling example of what not following this Scripture can lead to...one of the exceptions to this was a man name Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He gave his life to “rescue those being led away to death...”

1. The wisdom in this book can keep us from making mistakes and direct us in our daily walk with Christ.

2. Five examples of this:

a. Proverbs 26:20: “Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.”

b. Proverbs 26:28: “A lying tongue hates those it hurts; the flattering mouth works ruin.”

c. Proverbs 27:2: “Let another praise you and not your own mouth; someone else and not your own lips.”

d. Proverbs 27:4: “Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?”

e. Proverbs 28:1: “The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”

3. The description of a fool:

Proverbs 26:4, 5 - We need to be awfully careful about how we talk to people who have no wisdom.

Proverbs 26 tells us that fools are lazy, untrustworthy, dangerous people, who make the same mistakes over and over again, and have lots of false pride.

Proverbs 27 adds that fools lack caution and judgment and do not learn, even when punished.

1. The 3 chapters read today are each written by different authors:
 - a. Proverbs 29 - Solomon
 - b. Proverbs 30 - Agur
 - c. Proverbs 31 - Lemuel
2. Warnings:
 - a. Proverbs 29:1: "A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed - without remedy." The picture is of a stubborn ox that does not want the yoke put on him.
 - b. Proverbs 29:6: "An evil man is snared by his own sin..."
 - c. Proverbs 29: 9: "Be careful of taking a foolish man to court; he will never let go of the matter if you do."
 - d. Proverbs 29:20 - perhaps the origin of "haste makes waste"
3. Proverbs 29:15, 17 - the discipline of children
 - a. Discipline is necessary - loving and consistent correction
 - b. Results:
 - *When they are old, they will not depart from the way in which they should walk. (Proverbs 22:6)
 - * Children will become a delight to your soul (Proverbs 29:17)
4. The sayings of Agur (chapter 30) are interesting for both their style and their content:
 - a. "Two things I ask of you..." - I only want to have enough.
 - b. "Three things that are never satisfied, four that never say 'enough' ..." - grave, barren womb, land and fire
 - c. "...three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand..." - the way of the eagle in the sky, snake on a rock, ship on high seas, man with a maiden
 - d. "Three things that make the earth to tremble, four under which it cannot bear up..."
servant who becomes a king, fool full of food, unloved woman who is married,
maidservant who displaces her mistress
 - e. "Four things on earth are small..." - ants, coneys, locusts, lizards
 - f. "There are three things that are stately in their stride, four that move with stately bearing..." lion, rooster, he-goat, king with his army around him
5. Proverbs 31 is an acrostic proverb - which means it is meant to be memorized. It celebrates the role of the wife and mother in a family. The Bible does not downplay women - it exalts them.

1. 1 Kings 5-7 is the parallel passage to 2 Chronicles 2:1-5:1

2. The activities of Solomon - his building accomplishments

a. The Temple

*It was originally David's idea, but he was a man of war and not allowed to build it.

*He wanted the one and only true God to have a magnificent place of worship.

*It was not the dwelling place of God - He cannot be contained in a building.

* Solomon built it using the instructions David left him.

*It was built with the cooperation of Hiram, King of Tyre.

*It was 2x bigger than the Tabernacle.

*There were 30,000 "conscripted" Israelite workers and 150,000 other workers.

*It lasted until Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it in about 589 BC.

*It took 7 ½ years to build.

*Its importance was underscored by its magnificence, not its size.

b. Solomon's palace

*It was larger than the Temple.

*It took longer to build (perhaps because it was not as urgent).

3. Bronze work and copper mining - Mines have been discovered that were in intense use during the time of Solomon.

4. The two pillars of bronze named Jakin and Boaz - "for in the strength of Jehovah shall the king rejoice."

5. "The bronze sea" was very large and probably the source of water for the basins described here.

6. The outside furnishings of the Temple were bronze; the inside ones were made of gold. Models cannot begin to help us in picture the Temple's magnificence.

1. 1 Kings 8 is the parallel passage to 2 Chronicles 5, 6 - The dedication of the Temple
 - a. The greatest event in the life of Solomon
 - b. One of the greatest events in the life of the nation of Israel
 - c. The high point of the whole period of the monarchy

2. The work began on the Temple in about 971 BC in the fourth year of Solomon's reign and was completed in the eighth year of his reign.

3. The whole nation was there at the dedication. The priests brought the tabernacle and its furnishings to the new site, but all the furnishings were replaced except for the Ark of the Covenant that contained the Ten Commandments.

4. When the Ark was installed in the Temple (carried by the long poles) the Shekinah glory of God filled the Temple in the form of a cloud, which all the people saw.

5. A fantastic celebration - Levitical singers, cymbals, harps, lyres, 120 trumpets

6. The centerpiece of the celebration is Solomon's prayer:
 - a. He talked about God's greatness and worshipped Him.
 - b. He described God's uniqueness and faithfulness.
 - c. He talked about God's infinity.
 - d. 8:27: "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less the Temple I have built?"
 - e. He described God's compassion and concern.
 - f. He turns to intercession.
 - g. 3 different words for prayer in verse 27:
 - 1) Prayer - a general term
 - 2) Plea, supplication - a cry for help
 - 3) Cry - a 'ringing cry'
 - h. Solomon saw prayer as the central part of the worship of God - the subject of his prayer here IS prayer. It "is going to be the vital ingredient that activates the promises of God."
 - i. Prayer is necessary because God has told us to pray and it is through the instrumentality of prayer that He does His mighty work in our lives.

7. The whole reason for the existence of the Temple is so that people can pray. Even when not present, they can look to the Temple and pray.
 - a. When an enemy has defeated them, the solution is to come to the Temple and pray.
 - b. Even if they are carried into captivity, they can look to the Temple and pray - Daniel did this while in captivity in Babylon many years later.