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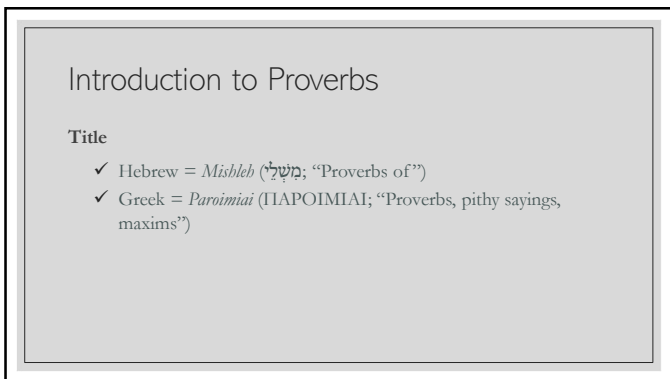
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Introduction to Proverbs

**WHO—Authorship**

- ✓ Solomon (1:1 – 29:27; ~93%)  
(25:1 – 29:27 transmitted by King Hezekiah and his men)
- ✓ Agur (30:1–33)
- ✓ Lemuel (31:1–31)

**WHO—Audience**

- ✓ The King’s son(s) (and, by extension, the united Kingdom of Israel)

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Introduction to Proverbs

**WHEN**

- ✓ Approximately 959–940 BC
- ✓ During the glory of Solomon’s reign at the height of Israel’s united kingdom
- ✓ Proverbs is not a narrative; there are no event dates. Rather, these are (mostly) timeless axioms written during Solomon’s reign.

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Introduction to Proverbs

**WHERE**

- ✓ Jerusalem
- ✓ Israel is united under one king in safety and abundance
- ✓ They have reached the zenith of their glory and exist as the most powerful and beautiful kingdom in all the earth
- ✓ The promises of God to Abraham that he will possess the land of his sojourning, will have innumerable descendants, and will be greatly blessed comes to fuller realization in Solomon’s kingdom than it does in any other time in biblical history (1 Kings 4:20)
- ✓ **Very important**—Solomon reigns as the *potential long-awaited Messiah* to usher in the Kingdom of God and invite all the world to the God of Israel.

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## Introduction to Proverbs

### WHY

To instruct Israel's future kings (and by implication, all Israelites and people of the earth) how to wisely apply the Law of Yahweh into the complexities of everyday life with a view toward life in the Kingdom of God, and thereby experience the full blessings of the Noahic Covenant, Abrahamic Covenant, Mosaic Covenant, and Davidic Covenant.

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## Introduction to Proverbs

### HOW—Terminology and Themes

- ✓ Wisdom (or Wise; 1:2, 5, 6, 7, 20; 2:2, 6, 10; 3:7, 13, 19, 35; 4:5, 7 (2x), 11; 5:1; 6:6; 7:4; 8:1, 11, 12, 33; 9:1, 9 (2x), 10, 12 (2x), etc.)
- ✓ Fear of Yahweh (1:7, 29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:2, 26, 27; 15:16, 33, etc.)
- ✓ (My) Son (1:8; 2:1; 3:11, 12, 21; 4:1, 3, 10, 20; 5:1, 7, 20; 6:3, 20; 7:1, 7; 7:24; 8:4, 32; 10:1 (2x), etc.)
- ✓ Righteous (or Righteousness; 1:3; 2:9, 20; 3:33; 4:18; 8:15, 16, 18, 20; 9:9; 10:2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 16, etc.)
- ✓ Wicked (or Wickedness, Guilt, Evil; 2:22; 3:33; 4:14, 17, 19; 5:22; 8:7; 9:7; 10:2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 16, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, etc.)
- ✓ Heart (2:2, 10; 3:1; 4:4, 21, 23; 5:12; 6:14, 18, 21, 25, 32; 7:3, 7, 10; 8:5; 9:4, 16; 10:8, 13, 20, 21; 11:12, 29, etc.)

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## Introduction to Proverbs

### HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Collection I: Beginner's Wisdom (1:1 – 9:18)
- ✓ Collection II: Intermediate Wisdom, Part 1 (10:1 – 22:16)
- ✓ Collection III: Intermediate Wisdom, Part 2 (22:17 – 24:22)
- ✓ Collection IV: Intermediate Wisdom, Part 3 (24:23–34)
- ✓ Collection V: Intermediate Wisdom, Part 4 (25:1 – 29:27)
- ✓ Collection VI: Advanced Wisdom, Part 1 (30:1–33)
- ✓ Collection VII: Advanced Wisdom, Part 2 (31:1–31)

The book is structured around introductory formulae that begin a collection of Proverbs, statements such as "These are the Proverbs of ..." (1:1; 10:1; 22:17; 24:23; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1)

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## Introduction to Proverbs

### HOW—Themes

- ✓ Directed toward the King first (represents the people)
- ✓ Horizontal Book
- ✓ Yet Vertical (Heart) is Key to Horizontal (i.e. Deuteronomy)
- ✓ Fear of the Lord is the key
- ✓ Life as you would typically expect (i.e. Kingdom of God)
- ✓ Yes, axiomatic, but stated like *promises* for the future kingdom
- ✓ Proverbs are discrete units (1 Kings 4:32; Eccl 12:9)
- ✓ Proverbs are also arranged (Eccl 12:9; cf. Prov 25:1)
- ✓ The Riddle of Proverbs—Solve the Puzzle (see 16:1–9)

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