



The Keys

Keys to Unlocking the Proverbs

1. Having the right *Spirit and Approach*
2. Standing on a *Biblical Foundation*
3. Understanding the *Purpose Statement*
4. Four *Key Words*



Proverbs Content and Structure

- Ch 1- 9 Proverbs of Solomon - My Son. Wisdom, 2 Women
- Ch 10-22:16 “Proverbs of Solomon” – Evil v Good, Fool v Wise
- Ch 22:17-24:34 “Words of the Wise”
- Ch25 –29 “Proverbs of Solomon” copied out by Hezekiah
- Ch30 Words of Agur Son of Jakeh
- Ch31:1-9 Words of King Lemuel
- Ch31:10-31 The virtuous woman




First Key

Spirit and Attitude

Key 1: My Son....

1:8,10,15 2:1 3:1,11,21 4:10,20 5:1,20 6:1,3,10 7:1 14:27 23:15,19,25 24:13,21 27:11 31:2



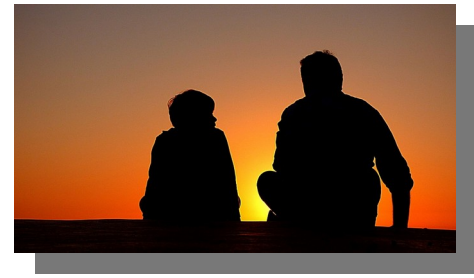
 **KEY CONCEPT:** “My Son” is a key repeated theme and makes the Proverbs a privileged listening in on the **essential instruction from the Father to the Son** and, **by extension to us all** as his begotten children.


“How would Christ as the Son understand this?” is a question we will constantly ask.
This gives us the spirit and mindset with which to engage with this book.

- The Book is rooted in the Davidic Covenant Statement of 2 Sam 7: 14 “I will be his Father and he shall be my Son”
- Col 1:12-19 – The Pre-eminence of the Son
- This is a Book about a RELATIONSHIP. The relationship in Matt 3:17, 17:5 & Col 1:12-19
- The term “Son” in Proverbs is to be understood to include all the Children of God Heb 12:5-7

Key 1: My Son ...Chastening and Correction

1:8,10,15 2:1 3:1,11,21 4:10,20 5:1,20 6:1,3,10 7:1 14:27 23:15,19,25 24:13,21 27:11 31:2



 **KEY CONCEPT:** The idea of “correction” “reproof” is a key theme in the book. It revolves around two terms:

H3256 -> H4148 Mosawr – Chastening/Instruction 35x occurrences

H3198 -> H8433 Tokechah – Correction/Reproof 26x occurrences

- The Book is rooted in the process of chastening/correction - Heb 12:5-7
- “Chastening” includes “correction” “reproof” “instruction” and is an expression of Love, not pleasant now but afterwards yields the “peacable fruit of righteousness”.

2Ti 3:16 **All Scripture** is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every **good** work. ESV

Key 1: My SonChastening and Correction

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth (Thought of) to be joyous, but grievous (sorrow –grief): nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12:12
Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;



Second Key

The Foundation

Knowledge of Good and Evil

1Ki 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that **I may discern (Understand) between good and bad (evil):** for who is able **to judge** this thy so great a people?

.....

1Ki 3:11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself **understanding to discern judgment;**

1Ki 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee **a wise and an understanding heart;**

Key 2: To Know Good and Evil....



' CONCEPT: Proverbs is founded in the theme of the KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil and it pervades the book.

- The theme begins with the Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil – and an illicit pursuit of “Wisdom” in Genesis 3. “Desired to make one wise”.
- Solomon requests knowledge and wisdom to “discern between Good and Evil” - the “Wisdom” to “judge his people”
- Isaiah – The Spirit of God to give K, U, W to “judge the poor with equity” and “the meek with uprightness” Is 11:1-10

| Good in the Proverbs 141x | Evil In the Proverbs 146x |
|---|---|
| Tobe (Good, Better 19x) H2896 62x | Rah H7451 68x (Evil, Wicked 7x,Mischief 9x) |
| Yashar H3477 25x Tzaddick H6662 54 x Righteous | Rahshaw H7563 (Wicked) 78x |



Third Key

The Purpose Statement

Ch 1:1-8 is the Purpose Statement for the Book

5 Statements of Purpose

Pro 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

Pro 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Pro 1:4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Pro 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Pro 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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The Purpose Statement is also in Chiastic Form

Pro 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon **the son** of David, king of Israel;

Pro 1:2 To know **wisdom and instruction**; to perceive the words of understanding; Pro 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Pro 1:4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man **knowledge** and discretion.

Pro 1:5 A **wise man** will hear, and will increase learning;

and a man **of understanding** shall attain unto wise counsels:

Pro 1:6 **To understand** a proverb, and the interpretation;

the words of **the wise**, and their dark sayings.

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the **beginning of knowledge**:

but fools despise **wisdom and instruction**.

Pro 1:8 **My son**, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:



Fourth Key

Four Root Verbs (Actions)

Ch 1:1-8 is the Purpose Statement for the Book

Founded in 4 key Root Verbs

Pro 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

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Pro 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

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Four key terms (Pro 1:2) (Pro 1:5) (Pro 1:6) (Pro 4:7) (Pro 7:4) (Pro 9:10)

Based on four root Verbs:

- Instruction – The process of Chastening (Heb 12:5-7)
- Knowledge – Knowing the Facts
- Understanding – Comprehension
- Wisdom – Applied in Practice

| Root Verb | Derivative | Derivative | |
|--|--|--|-----|
| YWDAH – To Know – 3045 35x | Daath – Knowledge – 1847 40x | 4093 – Intelligence | 75x |
| Bene – To Understand – 995 34x | Beenaw - Understanding - 998 14x | Tawben – Intelligence – 8394 19x | 67x |
| Chakam – To be Wise – 2449 13x | Chakmah – Wisdom – 2451 39x | 2450 – Chakam - Wise 46x 2451 – Chakmath – Wise (fem) | 98x |
| Yasar – To Chasten – 3256 5x (Instruction) | Moosawr - Chastening – 4148 30x (Correction) | | 35x |

Pro 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

K, U, W – is a Key Bible Trio

Exo 31:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exo 31:2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

Exo 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

Dan 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Dan 1:18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

Dan 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm.

Joseph (Gen 41:39) The Leaders (Deu 1:13) The Nation (Deu 4:6)

The Relationship of K U W to each other

| Knowledge | Understanding | Wisdom |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Information | Meaning | Applied |
| Facts | Principles | Exhortation |
| A Student | A Teacher | A Practitioner |
| Hear | Understand | Fruit |

“All Wisdom includes Knowledge and Understanding”

The Relationship of K U W to each other

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Start time} + \text{Distance/Speed} + \text{TS1} \\ & + \text{JDTS2} + \text{EMT3} + \text{B1} + \text{B2} + \text{NB} + \text{Lunch} \\ & + \text{CS1} + \text{CS2} = \text{Arrival time} \end{aligned}$$

The Greek and Hebrew terms for Understanding.....

Together

To Put/Send

G4920 – sun iēmi

From G4862 and ἵημι hiēmi (to send); **to put together**,
that is, (mentally) to comprehend

H995 - *bene*

A primitive root; **to separate** *mentally (or distinguish),*

Nehemiah



So they read
in the book
in the law of God
distinctly,
and gave the sense,
and caused them to understand
the reading.

Neh 8:8

“Parash”
To Separate

“Bene”
To Separate Mentally

Knowledge -> Understanding -> Wisdom



The Beginning
of Knowledge is.....

The Fear of Yahweh is the Beginning of Knowledge

A Key Theme in the Book: 1:7,29 2:5, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:16, 15:33, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4, 23:17

A universal idea Biblically: note its close connection to the themes of “Judgment” and “departing from Evil” – this is important to the Proverbs.

- Is 11:2-4 - A key Quality of the Spirit of Christ
- Job 28: 12, 28 - Ps 34:11 -14 Ecc 12:13-14
- Rev 15:3

Realising that Yahweh is essentially “Good” and that he will judge moral “Evil” and bring consequences is called “The Fear of Yahweh and this IS the beginning of “Knowledge” (of Good and Evil).

Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints.

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou only art holy*: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole of man.

Ecc 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

The Fear of Yahweh is the Beginning of Knowledge

A Key Theme in the Book: 1:7,29 2:5, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:16, 15:33, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4, 23:17

A universal idea Biblically: note its close connection to the themes of “Judgment” and “departing from Evil” – this is important to the Proverbs.

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Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of **the fear of the LORD**;

Isa 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding **in the fear of the LORD**: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isa 11:4 But with **righteousness** shall he judge the poor, and reprove with **equity** for the meek of the earth: Isa 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and **faithfulness** (Awman Deriv -to Divine TRUTH) the girdle of his reins.

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Ch 1:2-7 is the Foundation for the Whole Book and Expanded in Ch 2

Pro 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

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Pro 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Pro 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

Pro 2:3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

Pro 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

Pro 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Pro 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

Pro 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Pro 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Pro 2:9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Pro 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Pro 2:11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:



Pro 2:12-15 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the **man** that speaketh froward things;

- Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
- Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;
- Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

Pro 2:20 That thou mayest **walk in the way** of good, and **keep the paths** of the righteous.



Pro 2:16-19 To deliver thee from the **strange woman**, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;

- Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.
- For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.
- None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.



Pro 3:13 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth (this)wisdom, and the man *that* getteth (this) understanding.

Pro 3:14 For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Pro 3:15 She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Pro 3:16 Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour.

Pro 3:17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.

Pro 3:18 She *is* **a tree of life** to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.



Next Study:



Deliverance from the Evil Man



The Keys