



How to Study the Bible

HOW TO UNDERSTAND A PROVERB

Context

Old Testament

Books of Poetry

Proverbs

Proverbs Overview

PROVERBS

	Prologue to Wise Living The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. (1:7) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1–9	Principles for Wise Living The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, / And before honor comes humility. (15:33) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 10:1–31:9	Personification of Wise Living Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, / But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. (31:30) <i>CHAPTER</i> 31:10–31
Emphasis	Wisdom especially for youth	Wisdom for all	
Framework	Subjects and statements	People and problems	Counseling and correction
Style	A book filled with short statements that declare a profound truth providing wisdom for life		
Theme	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (9:10)		
Key Verse	9:10		
Christ in Proverbs	Wisdom is incarnate in Christ “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; Colossians 2:3).		

The Wisdom Equation



Knowledge
(Facts)



Understanding
(Arrange the Facts)



Wisdom
(Correct Application of the facts.)

Six Types of Proverbs

from
Bob Yandian Ministries

Synonymous

Antithetical

Synthetic

Integral

Parabolic

Comparative

Synonymous

Synonymous

Synonymous simply means that both lines are saying the same thing but in a little different way.

“The Generous soul will be made rich,
and he who waters will also be watered himself.”

Proverbs 11:25

Antithetical

The second type of proverb is called antithetical.

A thought is given in the first line,
and the negative result is given in the second line.

In other words, if you do this you'll be blessed,
but if you don't, this is what will happen to you.

So, the negative line really highlights the positive one.

“A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body;
but jealousy is like cancer in the bones.”

Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)

Synthetic

The third type of proverb is called Synthetic.

Each line teaches a different thought.

At first, it sounds like two lines saying something exactly the opposite, or saying two totally different things, but they do have something in common.

“Whoever hides hatred has lying lips,
and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

Proverbs 10:18

Integral

The fourth type of proverb is called Integral.

The second line completes the thought of the first line. In other words, it almost sounds like there is only one line: the whole thing flows.

“The law of the wise is a fountain of life,
to depart from the snares of death.”

Proverbs 13:14

Parabolic

The fifth type of proverb is called Parabolic.

The *first* line of the proverb illustrates the second.

The second line is the teaching, the first line is an analogy.

“As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout,
so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”

Proverbs 11:22

Comparative

The sixth type of proverb is called Comparative.

The first line expresses something better than the second.

The key word in a comparative proverb is the word better.

“Better is little with the fear of the Lord
than great treasure with trouble.”

Proverbs 15:16

Identify the Proverb

A wise son makes a glad father,
But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

Proverbs 10:1

It is God's privilege to conceal things
and the king's privilege to discover them.

Proverbs 25:2

Identify the Proverb

If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth,
How much more the ungodly and the sinner.

Proverbs 11:31

Like cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.

Proverbs 25:25

Identify the Proverb

Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18