

## Roadmap for the Proverbs

*WHAT WILL YOU SEE WHEN YOU READ THE PROVERBS...*

### THE BOOK OF PROVERBS...

**Section 1 – Author:** King Solomon (Proverbs 1:1 – 9:18)

**Purpose:** “Perhaps written for a generation that had become estranged from its cultural and religious roots, it sets out to inculcate human and religious values.”

**Section 2 – Author:** King Solomon (Proverbs 10:1 – 22:16)

**Purpose:** Suggests how to best live in this world. Addresses subjects such as: the tongue, social awareness, and a continued respect/awe for and of God’s mysterious presence in the world.

**Section 3 – Author:** “words of the wise” (Proverbs 22:17 – 24:22)

**Purpose:** Warnings, counsels, and appeals to the reader’s moral sense.

**Section 4 – Authors:** “these also are sayings of the wise” (Proverbs 24:23-34)

**Purpose:** Social awareness...practical aspects of justice...and a portrait of one who neglects his moral duties (24:30-34)

**Section 5 – Author:** “the proverbs of Solomon that the officials of King Hezekiah of Judah copied” (Proverbs 2:1-29:27)

**Purpose:** Deals with structure of society – government administration, social responsibility and human conduct.

#### 4 Appendices (Proverbs 30:1 – 31:31)

1. Essay on skepticism (Proverbs 30:1 -9)
2. The mysterious dimensions of life (Proverbs 30:10 – 33)
3. Manual for rulers – the queen mother’s teaching – moral rather than administrative (Proverbs 31:1-9)
4. Portrait of an ideal Woman (Proverbs 31:10 – 31)

Metzger, Bruce M. and Coogan, Michael D. eds. (“Proverbs, The Book of.” Dermot Cox, O.F.M. pgs. 625-626). Oxford Guide to the Bible. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

*Prepared by Anissa Otto Hamlin*

**The Proverbs are written in various forms such as:**

**Poetic parallelism:**

Synonymous parallelism (Prov. 1:8) Antithetic parallelism (Prov. 3:33) Synthetic parallelism (Prov. 3:12)

**Instructions** – directed to “my son” or “my sons” (Prov. 2:1-22)

**Wisdom speeches** (Prov.1:20-33) **Comparisons** (Prov. 26:3) **Numerical sayings** (Prov. 30:18)

**Admonitions** (where the mood is imperative) (Prov. 3:1b-2) **Prohibitions** (Prov. 1:15-16)

**Rhetorical Questions** (Prov. 6:27) **Calls to Attention** (Prov. 5:1)

**Allegories or extended metaphors** (Prov. 5:15-23) **Acrostic** (Prov. 31:10-31)

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