

Proverbs

Keys to Understanding

Keys to Understanding the Book of Proverbs

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Key # 4 Proverbs fills a gap between the “theory” of God’s law and “living” God’s law.

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The **LORD** talks about the following topics: God; justice; the heart; speech; people (in authority, married couples, children, neighbors, the vulnerable), the path of our life (instructions, plan, the effects); work; possessions (gaining, using, and losing); drug use; sex.

Keys to Understanding the Book of Proverbs

Key # 4 Proverbs fills a gap between the “theory” of God’s law and “living” God’s law.

Keys to Understanding the Book of Proverbs

Key # 3 Growing in wisdom is a process.

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Knowledge is the key concept of the
book of Proverbs.

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one
who understands obtain guidance,
to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
The fear of the **LORD** is the **beginning of knowledge**;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1: 1-7

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knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Knowledge of what?

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1. The **LORD'S** insight and understanding of people and situations.
2. The **LORD'S** way that He would think and act in those situations with those people.

If knowledge is the key concept,
than what is wisdom?

Biblical wisdom is the application of the LORD'S insight/understanding to a situation and the LORD'S way of acting/behaving in that situation.

To be wise
is to know how to skillfully apply the
LORD'S knowledge to a situation.

How do you grow in wisdom?

1. Correctly understand the situation and the people involved (**insight/understanding**).
2. Correctly apply God's way of acting to a situation (**prudence/discretion**).
3. Refine your knowledge and application (**instruction/learning**).

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

To know **wisdom** and **instruction**,
to **understand** words of **insight**,
to receive **instruction** in **wise dealing**,
in **righteousness**, **justice**, and **equity**;
to give **prudence** to the simple,
knowledge and **discretion** to the youth—
Let the wise hear and increase in **learning**,
and the one who understands obtain **guidance**,
to **understand** a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **knowledge**;
fools despise **wisdom** and **instruction**.

Proverbs 1: 1-7

Knowledge

Purpose

Instruction

Guidance

Learning

Understanding

Insight

Insight

Wise dealing

Prudence

Discretion

Action

Outcome

Wisdom

Righteousness, Justice, Equity

Wisdom at work in the life of Jesus.
Matthew 22:15-22

Pro 26:23 Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are fervent lips with an evil heart.

Pro 12:6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.

Pro 12:13 An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble.

Did Jesus have an advantage?

Luke 1:40 And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 1:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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Key # 3 Growing in wisdom is a process.

Key # 4 Proverbs fills a gap between the “theory” of God’s law and “living” God’s law.

Keys to Understanding the Book of Proverbs

Key # 2 Proverbs is a type of literature.

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Proverbs are not unique to the Bible.

What is unique about the Book of Proverbs is who's knowledge and insight we are accessing.

Contradiction or Not

Pro 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.

Vs.

Prov 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes.

Promise or Not

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Vs.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he
gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life.

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Keys to Understanding the Book of Proverbs

Key # 1 The fear of the **LORD** is the power source for wisdom.

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What is the fear of the Lord?

God loves us.

He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

He is the creator and sustainer of everything
that exists.

Isaiah 6:1-6

3 Critical Verses

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

Pro 8:13 The fear of the **LORD** is hatred of evil.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the **LORD** is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

The fear of the Lord is the power source for
wisdom.

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