

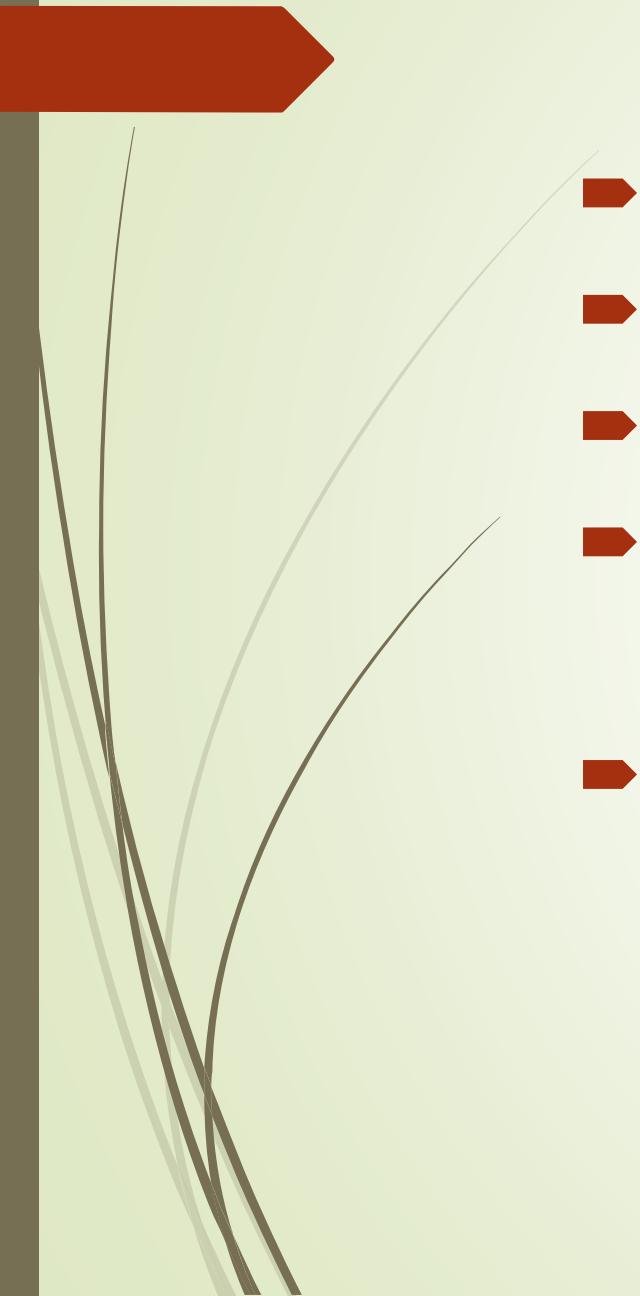
The Book of Proverbs

Navigating Life with Skill



Question of the Day:

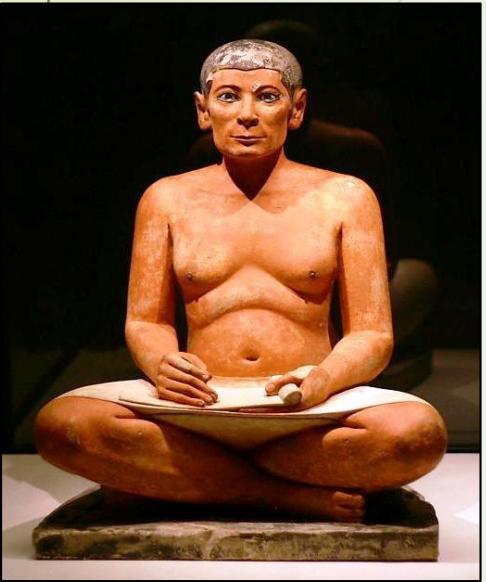
- ▶ How did you find what you needed at your college library?
- ▶ We are over-run with information via technology. But being wise is more than just having the knowledge of the world at your fingertips – it is knowing how to properly contextualize and use it!



- ▶ Background of the book of Proverbs
- ▶ What does it mean to be wise?
- ▶ Why should we try to be wise?
- ▶ How do we become wise?

- ▶ Not just a matter of conceptual knowledge – it is about application – Proverbs calls us to do something with our faith!

Proverbs: An Overview in 1 Slide



- ▶ Written by “wise men” (or women) aka sages who were responsible for giving the king council, later started formal schools
- ▶ Put together over a long period – 10th c. BCE to some point after 6th c. BCE
- ▶ Includes several different collections of sayings (editors)
- ▶ Part of wisdom literature genre – Ecclesiastes, Job, Wisdom of Ben Sirach
- ▶ Slightly different viewpoint than other OT books – knowledge of God comes from reason and observation
- ▶ Focus on wisdom as action rather than cognitive ideas
- ▶ Wisdom is personified as a female (causing all sorts of consternation for theologians)



What is “wisdom”?

- ▶ How do we know if someone is “wise”?
- ▶ Scenario 1: Tell someone or not?
- ▶ Wisdom is knowing the proper way to act in certain situations



What is “wisdom”?

- ▶ Scenario 2: Report it or not?
- ▶ Why do we value being wise?
- ▶ Not just pragmatism, moral instruction reflects God’s design



What is “wisdom”?

- ▶ What are the ingredients of being wise?
 - ▶ Relationship – Prov. 1:7
 - ▶ Experience – Prov. 2:1 - 2
 - ▶ In tune with God’s creation – Prov. 3:19
 - ▶ Teachable – 12:15
 - ▶ Community – 1:10 - 15

Proverbs 8:1 - 11

“It is Wisdom calling,
Understanding raising her voice.
She takes her stand at the topmost heights,
By the wayside, at the crossroads,
Near the gates at the city entrance;
At the entryways, she shouts,
‘O people, I call to you;
My cry is to all humanity.

O simple ones, learn shrewdness;
O dullards, instruct your minds.
Listen, for I speak noble things;
Uprightness comes from my lips;
My mouth utters truth;
Wickedness is abhorrent to my lips;
All my words are just,
None of them perverse or crooked;

All are straightforward to the intelligent man,
And right to those who have attained knowledge.
Accept my discipline rather than silver,
Knowledge rather than choice gold.’
For Wisdom is better than rubies;
No goods can equal her.”