

# Collections of Sayings in the Book of Proverbs

## Opening Speeches (12)

The opening speech is a prologue to the book

Speeches from a Father to Son(s) and from Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly

## Proverbs of Solomon (130)

Compiled by the men of Hezekiah

The value of the letters of Hezekiah's name in Hebrew is 130

## Proverbs of Solomon (375)

The value of the letters of Solomon's name in Hebrew is 375

## The Sayings of Agur

## The Sayings of King Lemuel

Which his mother taught him

Concluding with the acrostic poem of the "Wife of Noble Character"

## "Sayings of the Wise" (30)

## More "Sayings of the Wise" (5)

# Collections of Sayings in the Book of Proverbs

Opening Speeches (12)

1:1-9:18

Proverbs of Solomon (130)

25:1-29:27

Proverbs of Solomon (375)

10:1-22:16

The Sayings of Agur

30:1-33

“Sayings of the Wise” (30)

22:17-24:22

The Sayings of King Lemuel

31:1-31

More “Sayings of the Wise” (5)

24:23-34

# What is a proverb?

- A wise saying, often in the form of a couplet
- Proverbs are probabilities
- Proverbs are not promises
  - In other words, these need to be read differently than passages where God makes a promise, or where Jesus issues a command, etc.
  - The Book of Proverbs is 1 of several “views” on wisdom in the Old Testament scriptures
  - Proverbs views wisdom through most likely outcomes; Ecclesiastes and Job deal with ways wisdom can let us down or have exceptions

A person's hands are holding an open book, with the pages slightly curved. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the book is the title 'A Poem from Lady Wisdom' in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text 'Proverbs Chapter 8'.

# A Poem from Lady Wisdom

Proverbs Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: <sup>4</sup> “To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. <sup>5</sup> You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it. <sup>6</sup> Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. <sup>7</sup> My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.

## Proverbs 8

<sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. <sup>9</sup> To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge. <sup>10</sup> Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, <sup>11</sup> for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>12</sup> “I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. <sup>13</sup> To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

## Proverbs 8

<sup>14</sup> Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power.  
<sup>15</sup> By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; <sup>16</sup> by me  
princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth. <sup>17</sup> I love those who  
love me, and those who seek me find me. <sup>18</sup> With me are riches and  
honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. <sup>19</sup> My fruit is better than fine  
gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. <sup>20</sup> I walk in the way of  
righteousness, along the paths of justice, <sup>21</sup> bestowing a rich  
inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

## Proverbs 8

<sup>22</sup> “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; <sup>23</sup> I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. <sup>24</sup> When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; <sup>25</sup> before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, <sup>26</sup> before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth.

Proverbs 8



<sup>27</sup> I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. <sup>30</sup> Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

Proverbs 8

<sup>32</sup> “Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup> Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. <sup>34</sup> Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. <sup>35</sup> For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD. <sup>36</sup> But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 8

A person's hands are holding an open book, which is slightly angled. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the book is the title 'Contrasting Poems from Wisdom and Folly' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, in a smaller white font, is 'Proverbs Chapter 9'.

# Contrasting Poems from Wisdom and Folly

Proverbs Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars. <sup>2</sup> She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. <sup>3</sup> She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, <sup>4</sup> “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, <sup>5</sup> “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup> Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.” <sup>7</sup> Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.

## Proverbs 9

<sup>8</sup> Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you. <sup>9</sup> Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. <sup>11</sup> For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. <sup>12</sup> If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

## Proverbs 9

<sup>13</sup> Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. <sup>14</sup> She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, <sup>15</sup> calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way, <sup>16</sup> “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, <sup>17</sup> “Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!” <sup>18</sup> But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

## Proverbs 9

A person's hands are holding an open book, which is slightly curved. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the book is the title 'Jesus on Wisdom and Folly' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, the text 'Matthew Chapter 7' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# Jesus on Wisdom and Folly

Matthew Chapter 7

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Matthew 7



<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 7