

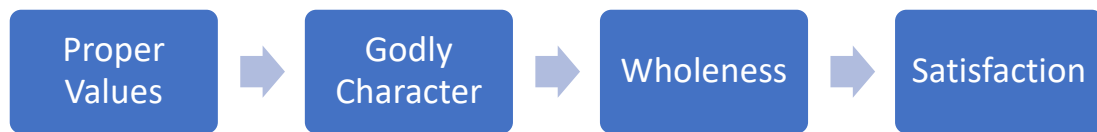
PROVERBS

HANDOUT

FOCUS	PURPOSE OF PROVERBS	PROVERBS TO YOUTH	PROVERBS OF SOLOMON	PROVERBS OF SOLOMON (HEZEKIAH)	WORDS OF AGUR	WORDS OF LEMUEL
REFERENCE	1:1 -----	1:8 -----	10:1 -----	25:1 -----	30:1 -----	31:1—31
DIVISION	PURPOSE AND THEME	FATHER'S EXHORTATIONS	FIRST COLLECTION OF SOLOMON	SECOND COLLECTION OF SOLOMON	NUMERICAL PROVERBS	VIRTUOUS WIFE
TOPIC	PROLOGUE	PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM			EPILOGUE	
	COMMENDATION OF WISDOM	COUNSEL OF WISDOM			COMPARISONS OF WISDOM	
LOCATION	JUDAH					
TIME	c. 950–450 B.C.					

Chart by Dean Niforatos

PROVERBS TEACHES THAT:



KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, & WISDOM

Each of these words is part of a process toward living a godly life.

- **Knowledge** = acquired information
- **Understanding** = comprehension of knowledge, often comprehended through discipline
- **Wisdom** = proper application of knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and **understanding** are to be received in a teachable, child-like fashion from a tender heart (Prov. 2:1-5; 4:1-4). **Wisdom** is demonstrated both by what is done and the way things are done – in humility, righteousness, sensitivity, and discretion.

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THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW DISPLAYED IN PROVERBS

Proverbs 10-31 must be understood in light of Proverbs 1-9, which lay out the main themes consistent with a biblical worldview: **THE BEGINNING AND END OF WISDOM IS TO FEAR GOD AND AVOID EVIL.** The world is a battleground between wisdom & folly, righteousness & wickedness, good & evil. Proverbs personifies this battle with Lady Wisdom and Harlot Folly. Both offer love and invite the simple. Wisdom invites to life and is available to all who will listen; Folly leads to death.

As creation is set forth in wise order, so the person who knows & fears God understands that every inch of life is created by God and belongs to Him. There is no split between faith & reason, sacred and secular. Experiences of God come only through experiences in God's world and experiences in the world point people to faith in God – if they will but listen and understand.

Therefore, the wise person fears God and also lives in harmony with God's created order. The sluggard must learn from the ant, because the ant's work is in tune with the order of the seasons.