

God and the Book of Proverbs

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 12, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020
Scripture Reader and Reading: Dominic Meyer – Ecclesiastes 12.13–14
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on the Bible

Prelude:

- I. Why do you turn to the Book of Proverbs?
 - A. I turn to it for wisdom,
 1. to learn more about myself and
 2. why people act the way that they do.
 - B. However, when you read it
 1. you also discover some things about God,
 2. after all His Spirit moved Solomon to give us the wisdom of God.
- II. Also, what is interesting about what I will show you tonight
 - A. is that we typically do not think of a proverb,
 1. whether from the Book of Proverbs in the Bible or
 2. some proverb of a nation or people,
 - B. as giving us insight into God, but
 1. as giving insight into ourselves and
 2. into other people.
 - a) However, we will see that Solomon gives us insight into God.
 - b) Why did Solomon does this in the Book of Proverbs?
 - (1) Sometimes he did it to explain something that he just said.
 - (2) Yet, if you think about what a proverb is,
 - (a) that will help you to see why
 - (b) Solomon gave us proverbs on God.
- III. A proverb is a short memorable wise saying.
 - A. It is easy to memorize.

B. Therefore, Solomon presented several

1. short,
2. memorable,
3. wise
 - a) sayings on God
 - b) that we can use as reminders.

Persuasion:

I. God's Omnipresence

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD,
And He ponders all his paths.
– Proverbs 5.21

The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
Keeping watch on the evil and the good.
– Proverbs 15.3

Hell and Destruction are before the LORD;
So how much more the hearts of the sons of men.
– Proverbs 15.11

A. What is God's omnipresence?

1. A preacher once asked me:
 - a) Is God present everywhere or
 - b) is everywhere present before Him?
2. How would you answer that question?

B. The way that I look at it is this way:

1. If we can go there,
2. God certainly can.

C. Solomon gave these three proverbs on God's omnipresence

1. that we might use them in our daily lives.

2. For example, the first one he gave that we might not commit adultery.

II. God's Omniscience

Deliver those who are drawn toward death,
And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.
If you say, "Surely we did not know this,"
Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it?
He who keeps your soul, does He not know it?
And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?
– Proverbs 24.11–12

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD,
Searching all the inner depths of his heart.
– Proverbs 20.27

A. Follow the way of wisdom and

B. God will know the way that you take.

1. He knows what we face daily.
2. He knows when we helped someone,
 - a) He knows when we did not help someone.
 - b) His knowledge is so awesome,
 - (1) He knows what is going on
 - (2) in the inner depths of the heart.

III. God's Benevolence

The LORD will destroy the house of the proud,
But He will establish the boundary of the widow.
– Proverbs 15.25

Do not remove the ancient landmark,
Nor enter the fields of the fatherless;
For their Redeemer is mighty;
He will plead their cause against you.
– Proverbs 23.10–11

The poor man and the oppressor have this in common:

The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.
– Proverbs 29.13

A. Do not think of the less fortunate as being less than you.

1. God knows them.
2. God benefits them just as He benefits you.

B. Truly,

1. all good gifts and
2. every perfect act of giving
 - a) comes from the Father of Lights.
 - b) Live your life with God's super benevolence in mind.

IV. God's Justice

The LORD is far from the wicked,
But He hears the prayer of the righteous.
– Proverbs 15.29

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,
But the LORD weighs the spirits.
– Proverbs 16.2

Honest weights and scales are the LORD'S;
All the weights in the bag are His work.
– Proverbs 16.11

The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,
But the LORD tests the hearts.
– Proverbs 17.3

Do not say, "I will recompense evil";
Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.
– Proverbs 20.22

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
But the LORD weighs the hearts.
– Proverbs 21.2

The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge,
But He overthrows the words of the faithless.
– Proverbs 22.12

The great God who formed everything
Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.
– Proverbs 26.10

A. Listen to instruction from the Book of Proverbs because

1. there is a God of justice and
2. He will make all things right.
 - a) If you cheat others,
 - b) it will catch up to you.
 - (1) If you treat others well,
 - (2) it will catch up to you.

B. Do not take vengeance into your own hands, but

1. remember these proverbs and
2. know that the Lord sees all and
 - a) will provide justice in your life.
 - b) You may not know when it will happen, but
 - (1) it will happen.
 - (2) Be patient and wait on Him.

V. God's Sovereignty

The preparations of the heart belong to man,
But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
– Proverbs 16.1

The LORD has made all for Himself,
Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.
– Proverbs 16.4

When a man's ways please the LORD,

He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
– Proverbs 16.7

A man's heart plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.
– Proverbs 16.9

The lot is cast into the lap,
But its every decision is from the LORD.
– Proverbs 16.33

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe.
– Proverbs 18.10

The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
But deliverance is of the LORD.
– Proverbs 21.31

A. We make choices but the Lord still directs our paths.

B. An incident in the life of Joseph illustrates these passages well:

15 Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" 16 So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." 17 And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

– Genesis 37.15–17

1. Who was this man?

2. We know nothing of him.

a) Yet, he played a crucial role in the life of Joseph,

b) which means he played a crucial part in fulfilling God's plan.

(1) Jacob made the decision to send out Joseph.

(2) This man made the decision to help Joseph.

- (a) It seemed like a normal incident in daily life, but
- (b) the Holy Spirit wanted it in Scripture for some reason.
 - i) Joseph had to end up in Egypt
 - ii) to save his family.
 - (1) This man sent Joseph to his brothers
 - (2) who would sell him into Egypt.

3. Why is that in the Bible?

- a) It shows the truth of these proverbs.
- b) Also, God made promises and this was part of filling those promises.

VI. God's Power

The hearing ear and the seeing eye,
The LORD has made them both.
– Proverbs 20.12

The great God who formed everything
Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.
– Proverbs 26.10

A. As you read the Proverbs,

- 1. keep in mind who put these proverbs in the Bible.
- 2. The Lord God wanted these wise sayings in here for a reason.

B. He knows how we survive and thrive, and

- 1. He knows what hurts us.
- 2. The wisdom in the Book of Proverbs comes from our Creator.
 - a) He is the same one who made food for your body.
 - b) He knows how to make your body healthy.
 - (1) He knows how to make your spirit healthy.
 - (2) Therefore, devote yourself to learning the wisdom of this Book.

VII. God's Wisdom

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;
By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.
– Proverbs 3.19–20

There is no wisdom or understanding
Or counsel against the LORD.
– Proverbs 21.30

A. When you read Proverbs 3,

1. you discover that Solomon wrote of the benefits of having wisdom,
2. especially at verse 13 where he begins to say that if you have wisdom,
 - a) you will be happy,
 - b) you will have understanding,
 - c) you will have proceeds better than silver and gold,
 - d) she will be more precious to you than rubies or any materialistic thing,
 - e) you will have a longer life, and
 - f) you will have a better quality of life.
 - (1) Then all of a sudden Solomon declared
 - (2) that the Lord used wisdom
 - (a) to found the earth,
 - (b) to establish the heavens, and
 - (c) to create the weather.
 - i) Then he goes back to urging us to acquire wisdom.
 - ii) Do you realize what Solomon told us?
 - (1) The same tool that the God of heaven used
 - (2) in making all of creation,

(a) He offers to you.

(b) You can have the wisdom of God.

B. In Proverbs 21,

1. Solomon announced the superiority of God's wisdom

2. by stating that there is no wisdom against the Lord.

a) History has demonstrated this over and over again.

VIII. God's Glory

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
– Proverbs 25.2

A. God's glory shows up in many ways, of course, but

B. here Proverbs reveals an unexpected way.

1. It is to His glory that He can conceal matters.

2. He knows everything.

a) Therefore He can conceal things.

b) We do not know everything.

(1) Therefore, we have to search.

(2) What God has revealed amazes us.

(a) What if He told us that which He has concealed?

(b) For example:

i) 2Co 12

ii) Rev 10

Exhortation:

I. This is why I urge you to read a chapter a day in the Book of Proverbs.

A. The more you get into the Book of Proverbs,

B. the more the Book of Proverbs will get into you, and

1. the more the Book of Proverbs gets into you,
 2. the more the knowledge of God will get into you.
 - a) The more the knowledge of God gets into you,
 - b) the more you will know God.
- II. Is that a bad thing or a good thing?
- A. I know your answer.