

Proverbs

WHAT'S THE POINT OF Proverbs?

Life is complex— play it smart.

WHAT'S THIS BOOK ABOUT? Wisdom based on trust in God.

WHO WROTE IT? Solomon and other wise men.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? Solomon wrote and compiled the majority of these proverbs during his reign in the 900s B.C. Advisers and scribes during the time of King Hezekiah added more sayings and probably arranged the book into its present form (25:1).

WHERE DOES THIS BOOK FIT? Most of the book of Proverbs was written by Solomon during the period of Israel's united kingdom.

THE BREAKDOWN

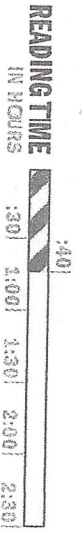
- Chapter's 1-9: The way of wisdom is the best way
- Chapter's 10-23: Collected proverbs of Solomon
- Chapter 24: Other wise sayings
- Chapter's 25-29: Other proverbs of Solomon
- Chapter 30: The sayings of Agur
- Chapter 31: The sayings of King Lemuel

KEY CONCEPTS

- Wisdom
- Discipline
- Fear of the Lord
- Fools

SCORECARD

Solomon: The writer of most of the book
Agur, King Lemuel: Two other authors named in the book



WORTH MEMORIZING

- 1:7 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
- 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding; Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
- 15:1 A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.
- 19:21 You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.
- 22:6 Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.
- 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

THE MASCULINE PERSPECTIVE

WISDOM. Proverbs is a handbook for men and for training boys to be men. It warns about sexual sin, drunkenness, greed, and power-grabbing. It shows the benefits of wisdom and points us to the source of that wisdom—God.



In life, skill is what distinguishes success from failure, victory from defeat, and excellence from mediocrity. And skill—or “wisdom,” as the Hebrew is translated—is the overarching theme in the book of Proverbs.

In biblical times, wisdom was often passed from person to person through the use of proverbs—pithy sayings that typically capitalized on a comparison or contrast from everyday life. The master at creating these short sayings was Solomon—he spoke 3,000 proverbs during his reign. His wisdom was a gift from God in answer to prayer, and his wisdom is encapsulated in his proverbs. The book of Proverbs, written primarily by Solomon, was designed to produce a nation of people who were skilled at living a life consistent with God's spiritual and natural laws.

No book in the Bible sets forth its purpose with greater clarity than Proverbs. The opening paragraph tells us these Proverbs were given to teach us wisdom and instruction, to enable us to perceive words of understanding, and to give prudence to the simple, and knowledge and discretion to the young.

As we read through Proverbs, especially with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, we will learn wisdom—the skill of living—when it comes to relationships, finances, emotions, attitudes, integrity, marriage, and disciplines in every area of life. As Proverbs 1:7 tells us: *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

BASIC SURVEY

PROVERBS

AUTHOR: Solomon, primarily (1:1), with sections attributed to “the wise” (22:17), Agur (30:1), and King Lemuel (31:1). Little is known of the latter two.

DATE: Solomon reigned approximately 970–930 BC. The scribes of King Hezekiah, who lived about two hundred years later, “copied out” the latter chapters of the book we have today (25:1).

IN TEN WORDS OR LESS

Pithy, memorable sayings encourage people to pursue wisdom.

DETAILS, PLEASE

Proverbs is simply a collection of practical tips for living. Mainly from the pen of King Solomon, the wisest human being ever (God said, in 1 Kings 3:12 NKJV, “I have given you a wise and understanding heart”), the Proverbs speak to issues like work, money, sex, temptation, drinking, laziness, discipline, and child rearing. Underlying each proverb is the truth that “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (1:7 KJV).

QUOTABLE

- > Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding (3:5 NASB).
- > Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise (6:6 KJV).
- > Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them (13:24 NIV).

UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL

The final chapter of Proverbs includes a long poem in praise of wives, rather unusual for that time and culture.

SO WHAT?

Wisdom, as Proverbs 4:7 (KJV) indicates, “is the principal thing . . . with all thy getting get understanding.” If you need help with that, just ask God (James 1:5).

READ PROVERBS 4 AND 15.

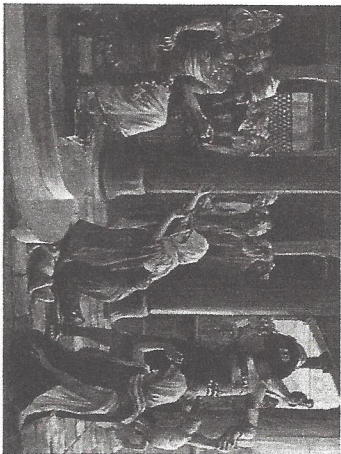
- One-Month Course: your next reading is on page 111. →
- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 107. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 107. →

HEART OF THE BOOK

SEEKING WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

When God asked Solomon what he desired more than anything else, Solomon asked for wisdom—so God granted his request and made him the wisest man who had ever lived. This wisdom is evident in the book of Proverbs (1 Kings 3:5–12; 4:29–34).

We, too, do well to recognize the importance of wisdom in our daily lives. Solomon repeatedly advises, “Get wisdom! Get understanding!” (Proverbs 4:5 NKJV). He emphasizes this point, saying, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.



Solomon demonstrated great wisdom and understanding. He is depicted here in *The Wisdom of Solomon* by James Tissot (1836–1902).

And in all your getting, get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7 NKJV). When we get wisdom, we do ourselves a great favor. “He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good” (Proverbs 19:8 NKJV).

How do we get wisdom? By listening closely to wise men and women, and learning from them. Also, one of the best things we can do to gain wisdom and understanding is to meditate daily on God’s Word. “If you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you . . . Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding . . . then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom” (Proverbs 2:1, 3, 5–6 NKJV). As the psalmist says, “I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation” (Psalm 119:99 NKJV).

In Proverbs chapters 1, 3, and 8, Wisdom is personified as a beautiful woman whom men are advised to desire more than any other treasure on earth.

READ PROVERBS 1 AND 3.

- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 111. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 108. →

CLOSER LOOK

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Wisdom is more than just amassing facts and figures. That's mere head knowledge. It's also more than discovering clever ways to apply knowledge to life situations. In its most basic form, true wisdom is grasping this one simple fact—that the Lord created the entire universe and is not only all-knowing but all-powerful. When we can say like Job, "I know that You can do everything" (Job 42:2 NKJV), we'll not only worship God, but fear (deeply respect and revere) Him.

This is why Solomon wrote, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7 NKJV). He also stated, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10 NKJV). God Almighty is the ultimate source of all wisdom and knowledge.

If we trust in our own intelligence, we may *think* that we're wise—and others may consider us wise—but we won't be. "When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2 NKJV).

Some Christians point out, however, that the Bible says that "God is love" and that "there is no fear in love. . . .

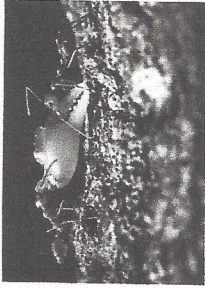
The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:8, 18 NIV). So they wonder why the Bible tells us to "fear" God. But this verse tells us that we are not to fear *people* because "the fear of man brings a snare" (Proverbs 29:25 NKJV). On the other hand, "the fear of the Lord is clean" (Psalm 19:9 NKJV). There's nothing negative about worshipping and fearing God.

READ PROVERBS 8-9.

● Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 111. →

HIDDEN TREASURE

HARD WORK VERSUS LAZINESS



Solomon emphasized the importance and value of hard work.

Solomon gave frank advice on the merits of hard work. He wrote, "Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich," and "Lazy people irritate their employers" (Proverbs 10:4, 26 NLT). He also wouldn't have had much sympathy for people lying around all day doing nothing, hoping to set themselves for life by buying the winning lottery ticket: "Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper" (Proverbs 13:4 NLT). Solomon urged people to learn from the hardworking ants: "Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise!" (Proverbs 6:6 NLT). The apostle Paul agreed, saying, "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV).

READ PROVERBS 6 AND 10.

HIDDEN TREASURE

AVOIDING FOOLISHNESS

Solomon constantly warned against engaging in foolish behavior. He particularly warned against having the mind-set of a fool. What is a fool? A fool is typically a proud, stubborn, loudmouthed person who thinks he's right and won't listen to reason. Solomon wrote, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 12:15 NKJV), and "The lazy man [*and the fool*] is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly" (Proverbs 26:16 NKJV). You simply can't talk sense to a foolish person, so the Bible advises: "Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words" (Proverbs 23:9 NKJV). Unfortunately, a truly foolish person can usually only learn from life's hard lessons.

READ PROVERBS 10 AND PSALMS 45-47.

HIDDEN TREASURE

SEEKING WISE COUNSEL

One of the wisest things that any of us can do is to have the humility to admit that we don't know everything—and to seek wise advice from mature brothers and sisters in the Lord. The Bible calls this “seeking counsel,” and Solomon wrote, “Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established” (Proverbs 15:22 NKJV). He also stated, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14 NKJV). Those who wish to succeed in life—and in business ventures—are wise to remember that “plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war” (Proverbs 20:18 NKJV). In fact, Solomon candidly stated, “He who heeds counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15 NKJV).

READ PROVERBS 12 AND 20.

HIDDEN TREASURE

WISE SPEECH

You can generally tell whether someone is wise or foolish by the way they speak, and what they say. Solomon said, “The mouth of fools poureth out foolishness” (Proverbs 15:2 KJV). Fools make little effort to control their tongues. Their pride compels them to boast and make rash accusations, and their anger causes them to speak hurtful words. A wise man, however, chooses his words carefully. “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (Proverbs 15:1 KJV). In the New Testament, Paul advises us to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15 NLT). We also must know when to be silent. James says, “If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless” (James 1:26 NLT).

READ PROVERBS 21-22.



The Bible instructs us to choose our words carefully and to control our tongues.

The Ultimate Wife

Proverbs 31

IF YOU'VE EVER TRIED TO IMAGINE the ultimate wife, your fantasy may have combined the physique of a Hollywood starlet, the wealth of a successful stockbroker, and the housekeeping and cooking skills of dear old Mom.

King Lemuel, on the other hand, wasn't prone to flights of fantasy. In this description of the ultimate wife, he paints a picture of a woman who excels at practical skills.

And surprisingly, his perfect wife is a strong, successful woman. Instead of focusing on superficial attractions that can fade over time, the writer concentrates on the unchanging, internal characteristics that make a woman virtuous and noble.

This ultimate wife is trustworthy. She helps her husband in what he does, and she enriches their married life.

She's a sharp businesswoman who works hard, knows a bargain when she sees one, and uses her many skills to make her family happy and healthy. She gets up early in the morning, works into the night, and feeds her family while negotiating complex real estate deals.

She cares for her family's physical needs, but she also cares about those outside her home, extending compassion to those less fortunate than she is.

And all the while, she has the internal character that her children and husband praise: strength, dignity, wisdom, and a sense of humor.

According to King Lemuel, the perfect wife isn't a showpiece fashion plate or a meek and timid servant. Instead, she's a strong, industrious woman who brings a touch of grace to all she does.

It's a Good Thing

Proverbs 18:22

SOLOMON SPENDS A LOT OF TIME warning us about the many serious problems men can experience when they hang around with the wrong kind of women. So it seems only fair that he discuss the other part of the equation as well: the joys and blessings that can come when a man marries the right woman.

In 16 simple words, the wise man spells out the earthly and spiritual benefits of marrying well: “The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the Lord.”

During certain periods in church history, marriage didn't get the credit it deserved. Some in the church stressed self-denial and celibacy over wedded bliss. Those stern believers thought it better to avoid all pleasure, particularly the pleasures of sexual union. For centuries, some Christians taught that the Genesis account of the Garden of Eden showed that women were the sole cause of human sin—and should therefore be avoided at all costs.

In recent years, Christians have worked overtime to set the record straight. Marriage not only breaks down the isolation and loneliness that can make life miserable; it brings a special kind of joy and fulfillment that isn't available in any other relationship.

Marriage brings a balance to life. As Solomon says, being married to the right wife is a very good thing. A healthy marriage—with all its ups and downs—is a blessing from the Lord.

Personal Gold

from KEN GIRE

CHIPPING AWAY AT THE OLD BLOCK

We're not sure what it means to be like Christ. We're not sure what it means to see with his eyes, to hear with his ears, to feel with his heart. I wonder myself sometimes. I wonder what it is like to will only one thing, not to have a distracted mind or a divided heart. To want only what the Father wants. To love only what the Father loves. To do only what I see the Father doing. To speak only what the Father has taught me. I wonder what it is like to empty myself the way Jesus did. To give myself the way he did. To sacrifice myself the way he did.

Until Christ returns to establish his kingdom on the earth, God is restoring his rule in this rebel world, a person at a time, a family at a time, a church at a time. For now, the rule of God rests on those who bear his image, those whose lives reflect his love, his wisdom, his understanding, his compassion, his forgiveness, his humility, his gentleness.

Of course, not all who bear Christ's name bear his image. There is a difference between being a Christian and being conformed to the image of Christ. Becoming a Christian happens when the stone, so to speak, is freed from the mountain. A number of things happen beforehand to prepare for that moment, such as the drilling of the holes and the hammering of the wedges, but eventually, one final fissure sets the stone free. It may be a shattering moment in which the final crack reverberates through the quarry. Or it may be a silent moment in which the final crack is so slight as to go unnoticed. Either way, there is a moment in time in which the stone is set free.

Free from the mountain, that is. But not from itself. Becoming conformed to the image of Christ is the process God uses to free the stone from the self. Paul describes the process in Romans 8:28-29:

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (NLT)

God is using the circumstances of our lives, *all* the circumstances of our lives, as tools. He goes about his work the same way Michelangelo went about his. Within the rough-hewn stone of the self is trapped the image of Christ. To release the image, he chips away everything that isn't Jesus.

Safety against Seduction

Proverbs 7

SOLOMON WAS A WISE MAN who knew more than most people about wily women. He spent much of Proverbs warning about immoral, adulterous women and telling how to avoid their tricks.

In this chapter, he paints a memorable picture of what happens when a young man "who lacked common sense" (Proverbs 7:7) wanders into the sights of a seductress who is hunting for a new victim to exploit. The scene resembles a nature film where the slow-moving ox is overtaken and brought down by a faster, more aggressive lion. Solomon even says the man fell for the woman "like an ox going to the slaughter" (7:22).

The fellow made a number of mistakes that led to his downfall. For one thing, he walked near the woman's house as the light of day was fading. People can sin in daylight or darkness, but sexual temptations often seem more potent under the cover of night.

The woman approached him and wrapped her arms around him as she purred her invitation. It's a spiel she had practiced many times. But to the ox-like man, her words seemed new and exciting. "He was like a bird flying into a snare," says Solomon (7:23).

This is not to say that all women are so aggressive; nor is it a suggestion that all women should be avoided. In fact, chapter 31 of Proverbs is devoted to a beautiful portrait of the ultimate wife. But while God created our desire for the opposite sex and meant it for good in the context of marriage, that desire is powerful and can be dangerous.

As this wise man tells us, it's up to men to figure out which woman would make the best lifetime wife, lover, mother, and friend. Those who don't know how to distinguish one from the other will be vulnerable to the wiles of seduction.

Finding the Right Wife

Proverbs 11:22; 21:19; 25:24

HOW DOES A MAN KNOW which woman might make the ideal partner? Solomon had wisdom to spare on this important topic. And even though he wrote his proverbs thousands of years ago, his advice is relevant today.

In Proverbs 11:22 he says, "A beautiful woman who lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout." The language is harsh, but the lesson is important. Physical beauty is wonderful, but outward appearances are often a poor guide to what a person is like on the inside. In this case, a lack of discretion (a term that can also be translated as "prudence," "good judgment," "practicality," or "decorum") makes a woman who is merely outwardly attractive seem piggyish.

In 21:19, Solomon talks about a "quarrelsome" and "complaining" wife. Psychiatry hasn't been able to tell us why some people are optimists while others are pessimists, but everyone can agree that life is happier when a partner is able to see the positive side of things rather than always focusing on the negative.

Proverbs 25:24, which combines aspects of the previous two proverbs, says: "It's better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a quarrelsome wife in a lovely home." In this case, an argumentative wife, even when offset by a beautiful house, makes life so miserable that it would be better to live alone.

Solomon isn't saying that men should divorce wives who have these characteristics. Instead, he is warning those who aren't yet married to think about long-term compatibility. When you live with the same woman for decades—which is what newly married people commit to—superficial attractions may prove insufficient in the long run.

Drinking

+ IT CAN LEAD YOU AWAY FROM GOD

What sorrow for those who get up early in the morning looking for a drink of alcohol and spend long evenings drinking wine to make themselves flaming drunk.

They furnish wine and lovely music at their grand parties—lyre and harp, tambourine and flute—

but they never think about the LORD or notice what he is doing. . . .

What sorrow for those who are heroes at drinking wine and boast about all the alcohol they can hold.

They take bribes to let the wicked go free, and they punish the innocent.

Therefore, just as fire licks up stubble and dry grass shrivels in the flame, so their roots will rot and their flowers wither.

For they have rejected the law of the LORD of Heaven's Armies; they have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

ISAIAH 5:12-13, 22-24

+ A BETTER CHOICE

Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. ROMANS 13:13-14

+ + +

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. EPHESIANS 5:18

+ IT CAN MAKE YOU STUPID

Do not carouse with drunkards or feast with gluttons for they are on their way to poverty, and too much sleep clothes them in rags. . . .

Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks.

Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down.

For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake, it stings like a viper.

You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things.

You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast.

And you will say, "They hit me, but I didn't feel it. I didn't even know it when they beat me up.

When will I wake up so I can look for another drink?"

PROVERBS 23:20-21, 29-35

Straight Talk about Adultery

Proverbs 5

TALK ABOUT BLUNT! This chapter definitely doesn't beat around the bush. The consequences of cheating on your wife are enough to scare any man: "You will lose your honor and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved. Strangers will consume your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor. In the end you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body" (Proverbs 5:9-11).

Maybe you know guys who have strayed, and none of this happened to them. Many people today think that marriages come and go, with little damage to show for it.

But behind closed doors, adultery causes tremendous damage to a relationship. The betrayal also filters down and hurts the children of that union.

The advice in this passage to the man tempted by a woman other than his wife is simple: "Stay away from her!" (5:8). We are given a way to escape: don't ignore it. This is clear advice on how to get out of a bad situation before it even starts.

Is it okay to have lunch with a female coworker? What about working together on a project past quitting time? Be honest as you evaluate what is going on in your mind and heart. If temptation lurks around the corner . . . run!

Instead, go flirt with your wife. That's exactly what verses 15-19 are describing—in fairly explicit language. When you're tempted by sex outside of marriage, remember that "the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes" (5:21).

KEY VERSE

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (1:7).

PROVERBS

According to
1 Kings 4:32,
Solomon
wrote over
3,000
proverbs, but
only around
800 are
recorded in
the book of
Proverbs.

DID YOU KNOW?

▶ This book had at least three authors, including Solomon, Agur and Lemuel.

COUNSELOR

Proverbs offers sound wisdom for all types of relationships, from dire warnings against adultery to the highest praise for men and women who wholeheartedly serve God.

KEY WORDS

Key Words/Phrases and the Number of Times They Appear

WISDOM = 52 times

KNOWLEDGE = 38 times

UNDERSTANDING = 25 times

BY THE NUMBERS

31
CHAPTERS

915
VERSES

14,208
WORDS

LIFE LESSONS: God is the ultimate source of all wisdom (3:19). Living foolishly will result in tragedy and regret (9:13–18).

LIFE LESSONS: Don't let others take advantage of you or convince you to sin (1:10–19). Greed destroys (15:27).

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW PROVERBS?

PROVERBS IN REVIEW

MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

1. What kind of treasures have no lasting value?

WHO SAID IT?

2. "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

WHO DUNNIT?

3. King Lemuel wrote the first part of Proverbs 31. Who does it say taught him what he says there?

MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

4. In Proverbs 19:5, Solomon specifically names something that will not go unpunished. What is it?

WHO SAID IT?

5. "Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed."

- A. Lemuel
- B. Solomon
- C. Agur
- D. David

MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

6. When Solomon said, "In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper," what was he talking about?

- A. The way of an adulteress
- B. Wine
- C. Folly
- D. A sluggard's ways

THEN VS. NOW

7. Proverbs 31:10–31 was originally written as an acrostic poem in the Hebrew language. Is it the same way in English translations?

MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

8. Agur wrote, "There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand." Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. The way of an eagle in the sky
- B. The way of a ship on the high seas
- C. The way of a man with a young woman
- D. The way of a seed in the ground

WHO SAID IT?

9. "Let's enjoy ourselves with love!"

MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

10. Who does Solomon describe as "swift to shed blood"?

- A. Sinful men
- B. The adulteress
- C. Those who favor folly
- D. One who devises wicked schemes

HOT SEAT

11. I wrote "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." Who am I?

MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

12. A godly woman considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants what?

- A. Garden
- B. Crop
- C. Vineyard
- D. Orchard

^a 4 The Hebrew word rendered *simple* in Proverbs denotes a person who is gullible, without moral direction and inclined to evil. ^b 6 Or *understanding a proverb, namely, a parable*, / *and the sayings of the wise, their riddles* ^c 7 The Hebrew words rendered *fool* in Proverbs, and often elsewhere in the Old Testament, denote a person who is morally deficient. ^d 21 Septuagint; Hebrew / *at noisy street corners*

ANSWERS:

1. Ill-gotten treasures (10:2) 2. Agur (30:4) 3. the mother (31:1) 4. a false witness 5. B (10:4) 11–11) 6. B (23:3)–32) 7. No, Proverbs 31:10–31 does not translate into the English language as an acrostic poem. 8. D (30:18–19) 9. the adulteress (1:10–15) (8) 10. A (1:10) (8) 11. King Lemuel (31:1) (8) 12. C (31:14)