

## THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

9/10 – Prov 17-18, 2 Cor 2  
9/11 – Prov 19-20, 2 Cor 3  
9/12 – Prov 21-22, 2 Cor 4  
9/13 – Prov 23-24, 2 Cor 5

9/14 – Prov 25-27, 2 Cor 6  
9/15 – Prov 28-29, 2 Cor 7  
9/16 – Prov 30-31, 2 Cor 8  
9/17 – Eccl 1-3, 2 Cor 9

\*\* Summaries/outlines from The Holy Bible, Contemporary English Version, ©1995 by the American Bible Society.

## PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs is a collection of sayings that were used in ancient Israel to teach God's people how to live right. For the most part, these sayings go back to Solomon, but others are traced back to Agur and King Lemuel.

Like the psalms, all the proverbs are written in poetic form. A typical proverb takes the form of a short verse in which the first half states the theme and the second half echoes it. What makes the Bible's proverbs so popular is that they make such powerful statements with very few words. This makes them easy to memorize and apply to daily life.

One of the main teachings in Proverbs is that all wisdom is a gift from God. This wisdom supplies practical advice for everyday living, in the home, in society, in politics, at school, and at work. The book of Proverbs also teaches the importance of fairness, humility, loyalty, and concern for the poor and needy.

Because most proverbs are so brief, and make their point in one verse, many are often not connected to those around them. In some parts of the book, however, a common theme can be found.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction: How Proverbs Can Be Used (1:1-7)
- II. Parental Advice on the Importance of Seeking Wisdom and Not Being Foolish (1:8-7:27)
- III. In Praise of Wisdom (8:1-35)
- IV. Wisdom's Feast (9:1-18)
- V. Solomon's Wise Sayings (10:1-24:34)
- VI. More of Solomon's Wise Sayings (25:1-29:27)
- VII. The Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
- VIII. What King Lemuel's Mother Taught Him (31:1-31)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

Prv17: A wise servant will rule over a shameful son. Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam. Even a fool seems wise if he keeps silent.

Prv18: A fool delights in his own opinions. The name of LORD is a strong tower. A gift opens the way. The tongue can bring life or death.

Prv19: Wealth makes friends. A false witness will not go unpunished. A good wife is from the LORD. Whoever helps the poor lends to the LORD.

Prv20: Wine is a mocker, beer a brawler. Even a child is known by his deeds. The LORD hates false weights. It is a snare to make rash vows.

Prv21: To do justice is better than sacrifice. Better to live on the roof than with a quarrelsome wife. No plans can avail against the LORD.

Prv22: A good name is better than riches. Train a child and he will not go astray. Incline your ear and apply your heart to my teaching.

Prv23: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Do not move a boundary marker. Buy the truth, and do not sell it. Do not linger long over wine.

Prv24: Do not envy the wicked. Wisdom is sweet to the soul. Fear the LORD and the king, my son. I saw thorns in the field of the sluggard.

Prv25: Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence. If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. To seek one's own glory is not glory.

Prv26: As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. Without gossip a quarrel dies down. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it.

Prv27: Faithful are the wounds of a friend. A loud blessing in the morning will be taken as a curse. A person is tested by being praised.

Prv28: Better to be poor and honest than crooked and rich. Whoever confesses sins will find mercy. Whoever trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Prv29: By justice a king builds up the land. Whether a fool rages or laughs, there is no peace. Correct your son and he will give you rest.

Prv30: Every word of God is pure. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Four things are never satisfied: Sheol, a barren womb, earth and fire.

Prv31: Speak up for the speechless. Who can find an excellent wife? She buys a field, she makes garments, she watches over her household.

## **ECCLESIASTES**

This book is a search for meaning in life. What can humans do to find satisfaction and happiness? What is worthwhile in life? The search begins with a gloomy outlook—life is boring and as senseless as chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes looks at one area of life after another, to see whether meaning and purpose for living can be found. The book decides that humans cannot understand the meaning of life, and that life is too short and unfair. This may seem depressing, but Ecclesiastes also shows that some things in life are better than others. For example, it is better to be wise than to be foolish. And God does intend for people to enjoy his gifts of work, food, drink, friendship, and marriage. And most important of all: *Respect and obey God! This is what life is all about. God will judge everything we do, even what is done in secret, whether good or bad. (12:13-14).*

### **OUTLINE**

- I. The Search for Meaning in Life (1:1-2:26)
- II. Everything Has Its Time (3:1-8)
- III. Life Isn't Always Fair, So Live Wisely (3:9-6:12)
- IV. No One Knows What the Future Will Bring (9:1-11:6)
- V. Respect and Obey God (11:7-12:14)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @bible summary)**

Ecc1: Everything is meaningless! There is nothing new under the sun. I applied my heart to know wisdom, but much wisdom brings much sorrow.

Ecc2: I built houses, gathered possessions and sought pleasure. It was meaningless! The wise die like the foolish. I despaired of my toil.

Ecc3: There is a time for everything: to live, to die, to mourn, to dance. It is the gift of God that man should find pleasure in his work.

## **2 CORINTHIANS**

In the beginning of this letter Paul answers the concerns of the Christians in Corinth who accused him of not living up to his promise to visit them. Paul had changed his mind for a good reason. He had stayed away from Corinth so that he would not seem to be too hard and demanding. He also wanted to see if they would follow his instructions about forgiving and comforting people who had sinned.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that God is generous and wants them to be just as generous in their giving to help God's people in Jerusalem and Judea.

Paul is a servant of God's new agreement. He is faithful in trying to bring people to God, even if it means terrible suffering for himself.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Paul Gives Thanks to God (1:1-11)
- II. The Work of an Apostle for God's People (1:12-2:17)
- III. Guided by the Love of Christ (3:1-7:16)
- IV. Gifts for the Poor (8:1-9:15)
- V. Paul is a True Apostle (10:1-13:10)
- VI. Final Greetings (13:11-13)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

2Cor2: I wrote to you as I did in much anguish. You should forgive the one who caused you pain. Through us God spreads the aroma of Christ.

2Cor3: God has made us ministers of a new covenant. When anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is lifted. We are being transformed into glory.

2Cor4: God has given us the light of the glory of Christ. We have this treasure in clay jars. Through affliction we look to what is eternal.

2Cor5: What is mortal will be clothed with life. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. We implore you, be reconciled to God!

2Cor6: Now is the day of salvation. We commend ourselves as servants. Do not be yoked with unbelievers. We are the temple of the living God.

2Cor7: I take great pride in you. I do not regret my letter, for godly grief produces repentance. Our boasts about you to Titus proved true.

2Cor8: The churches of Macedonia have given generously for the saints. See that you excel in this grace too. Titus was eager to go to you.

2Cor9: I boast to the Macedonians about the gift you promised. God loves a cheerful giver. Your generosity will overflow in thanksgivings.

#### **Getting to Know God Through His Book - 4 Questions - Ask...**

**Insight**—what does the passage say? Paraphrase the main point(s) and the commands to follow, promises to claim, examples to follow (or avoid), etc.

**Question**—what don't I understand? Need to know more about? How does this passage make me feel?

**Praise**—what does this passage teach me about God? Turn what the passage says into praise for the Lord's goodness, power, holiness, wisdom, etc.

**Apply**—what is God saying to me from this passage? Confess how you have not followed it. Pray, asking God to help you obey. Get quiet and ask God to speak to you.

**Journal**—write out your prayers, thoughts, responses to God and His Word

#### **HOW TO PRAY**

Scripture is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to and listening to God. Jesus gave us the model in the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6). Keep your relationship fresh with the Lord by both reading and praying - two way communication. Remember to look up like Jesus did when He prayed.

1. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name – focus on God, adore, praise, thank Him – long to see His glory and honor.
2. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – ask for what you know will please Him, pray back the Scripture – that is His will.
3. Give us this day our daily bread – ask for your needs and others to be met.
4. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us – ask for forgiveness, from God, and from others you may have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive and restore others too. Ask Him to get rid of bitterness and have love & compassion for those who have hurt you.
5. And lead us not into temptation – ask God to take over your day, protect you and others from evil.
6. For thine is the kingdom, power & glory – end by re-focusing on God, His kingdom, power, and glory!
7. Listen – ask God to speak to you by His Spirit – always test what you hear by His Word.
8. Pray the Blind Bartimaeus Prayer (Mark 10) – Tell God what you feel, what you want, and ask God what you should do to get what you want (if what you want is right).