

DUMB AND DUMBER: THIS IS YOUR WAY OUT WISDOM



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PROVERBS 1:1-7

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THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE.

Q: What is the book of Proverbs all about?

- Proverbs is chief among the Wisdom Literature in the Bible (primarily Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon).
- Purpose: Teach us the wisdom of God so that we might avoid foolish mistakes so that we can stay on mission for God.
- Extremely practical: “The Book of Proverbs is intended to do for the believer’s daily life what the Book of Psalms is intended to do for his devotional life.¹ While the psalms focus on the believer’s worship, Proverbs focuses on his walk.”²
- 31 chapters. One for each day of the month.
- General wisdom teachings.

Q: What is wisdom?

- Wisdom is seeing and living life from God’s perspective.
- Wisdom is the acquired skill of applying that knowledge rightly, or “skill in the art of godly living.”
- Wisdom is necessary for navigating the landmines of bad decisions in life.

Q: Why do we need wisdom?

A: Because we have an inclination toward folly.

Aspects of human nature:

- 1) We have Reason
- 2) We have Rebelled

Q: Why do we do dumb things?

A: The root is ultimately moral rather than intellectual.

The Apostle Paul: I don’t always do what I want... (Romans 7:25-35).

- 3) We need Redemption

1 Corinthians 3:18-21a

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” ²¹ So let no one boast in men.

Benefits of wisdom

- Enables us to have **discernment** for life – 1:1-3a
The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ² *To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,* ³ *to receive instruction in wise dealing,*
- Enables us to live with **integrity** and ethics – 1:3b
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- Enables us to avoid **landmine** mistakes – 1:4
to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—
- Enables us to **grow** intellectually – 1:5-6
Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ *to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.*
- Enables us to have a firm foundation – 1:7
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

¹ W. Graham Scroggie, *Analytical Old Testament* (London: Pickering & Inglis, 1970), 1:140–41, in J. E. Smith, “Proverbs,” *The Wisdom Literature and Psalms* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), in *Logos Library System*.

² Irving Jensen, *Jensen’s Old Testament Survey* (Chicago: Moody, 1978), 285, in J. E. Smith, “Proverbs,” *The Wisdom Literature and Psalms* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), in *Logos Library System*.