

Proverbs 1:1-5

(edited from JND “Practical Reflections on the Proverbs”)

The Book of Proverbs gives us the application of that wisdom which created the heavens and the earth to the details of life in this world of confusion and evil.

This thought brings out the immensity of grace unfolded here. God deigns to apply His wisdom to the circumstances of our practical life, and to show us, with His own intelligence, the consequences of all the ways in which man may walk. It is a great blessing to be provided for in the labyrinth of this world, in which a false step may lead to such bitter consequences, with a book that sets forth the path of prudence and of life; and that in connection with a wisdom which comes from God.

The Proverbs refer us directly to the government of God on the earth, more entirely, because they are less prophetic, than even the Psalms. They show us what the practical path of a man is here below, as guided by the moral intelligence which the fear of God and the divine Word will give him, what true wisdom will teach him.

The book shows that this wisdom is of God and cannot be really understood or applied without Him, and thus leads us on to Him, though obscurely, who is the wisdom of God and the power of God.

The body of the book consists of details of practice, of general principles and the formal characters of evil that are to be avoided. What is in contrast with wisdom is self-will. Hence the beginning or principle of wisdom in us is the fear of God.

However the repression of our will leads us necessarily to the will of another, and the only true right source of conduct is God, for it is evident He is sovereign and has a right to will. But He has formed relationships and created duties, and man has acquired the knowledge of right and wrong; but reference to God can alone keep this steady and clear. For first of all, the first of all duties is to Him, and looking to Him alone keeps the eye single and clear from self, and as to its other duties. For, besides will and lawlessness in itself, the existence of the spirit of independence and our separation thereby from God has given us necessarily the lusts of other things. We must have something: we have left God, and do not suffice for ourselves. Hence lusts of other things come in, of the flesh and of the mind. But an immense complicated system has grown up through this, and Satan's power—the world. Hence we need guidance and instruction through this, to know God's will in the midst of it, the application of wisdom to details.

For the Christian, following Christ, being an imitator of God, is the grand point; but he also has to be *“not as fools but as wise, understanding what the will of the Lord is.”* **Eph. 5:15**

Christianity goes higher than Proverbs, for it deals with motives and gives divine ones and in Proverbs experience, though of one judging according to the fear of God. Still such an experience is of great use.

There are **ten words** used in the introduction (**vss. 1-6**) which, inasmuch as most of them recur again and again in the course of the book, should be well weighed. None are synonyms used pedantically, and therefore idly; but as *“every word of God is pure,”* so these terms throughout are employed with admirable precision.

TEN important words, their meaning, lessons & examples

#	Verse - JND	Hebrew	Strong #	Meaning	Other places	O.T. Example	N.T. Example
1 2 3	"to know wisdom and instruction ; to discern the words of understanding "	chokmah	02451	Skillful , the ability to use knowledge rightly. (Occurs 37 times in Proverbs)	Daniel 1:4, 17, 20 Acts 25	DANIEL	PAUL
		muwcar	04148	Discipline , chasteneth, correction, to teach by discipline (Occurs 26 times in Proverbs)	Job 5:17; 36:10 Philemon	JOB	ONESIMUS
		biynah	0998	Discerning , circumspect (Occurs 14 times in Proverbs)	1 Chron. 22:12 Luke 10:39; Jn. 11:28-32	SOLOMON	MARY
4 5 6 7	"to receive the instruction of wisdom, righteousness and judgment , and equity "	sakal	07919	Instruction , to look at or upon and learn through unhappy experiences (Occurs 13 times in Proverbs)	1 Sam. 18:5, 14, 15, 30; Ps. 51; 32 Jn. 21:15-22	DAVID	PETER
		tsedeq	06664	The conduct of being righteous – righteousness (Occurs 8 times in Proverbs)	Deut. 1:16; 16:18, 20 Heb. 11:7,8 Luke 2:36-38	NOAH	ANNA
		mishpat	04941	wise decisions , act of deciding a case, "to try the things that differ" (Occurs 20 times in Proverbs)	Gen. 18:19, 25 Mt. 25:1-13	ABRAHAM	5 VIRGINS
		meysnar	04339	Moral integrity (Occurs 5 times in Proverbs)	Is. 26:7; 33:15; 45:19 Acts 6:3-5	ISAIAH	STEPHEN
8 9 10	"to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion "	ormah	06195	Shrewdness , craftiness (not always bad) "wise as serpents" (Occurs 3 times in Proverbs)	Joshua 9:4 Mt. 2:1-7	GIBEONITES	HEROD
		da`ath	01847	Information of a sound character (Occurs 39 times in Proverbs)	Exodus 31:3; 35:31 2 Tim. 3:14-17	MOSES	TIMOTHY
		m@zimmah	04209	Thoughtful , discrete (Occurs 8 times in Proverbs)	Prov. 2:11; 3:21; 5:2 Phi. 2:25-30	JOSEPH	EPAPHRODITUS

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." **James 1:5; 3:17**