




# The Book of Proverbs

Navigating Life with Skill

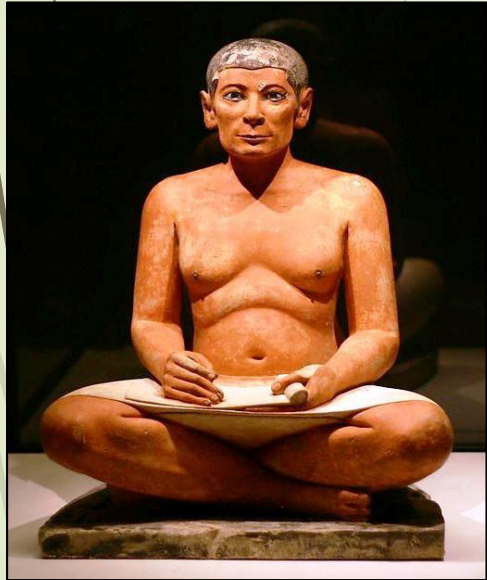


# Question of the Day:

- ▶ How did you find what you needed at your college library?
- ▶ We are over-run with information via technology. But being wise is more than just having the knowledge of the world at your fingertips – it is knowing how to properly contextualize and use it!

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- Background of the book of Proverbs
  - What does it mean to be wise?
  - Why should we try to be wise?
  - How do we become wise?
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- Not just a matter of conceptual knowledge – it is about application – Proverbs calls us to do something with our faith!

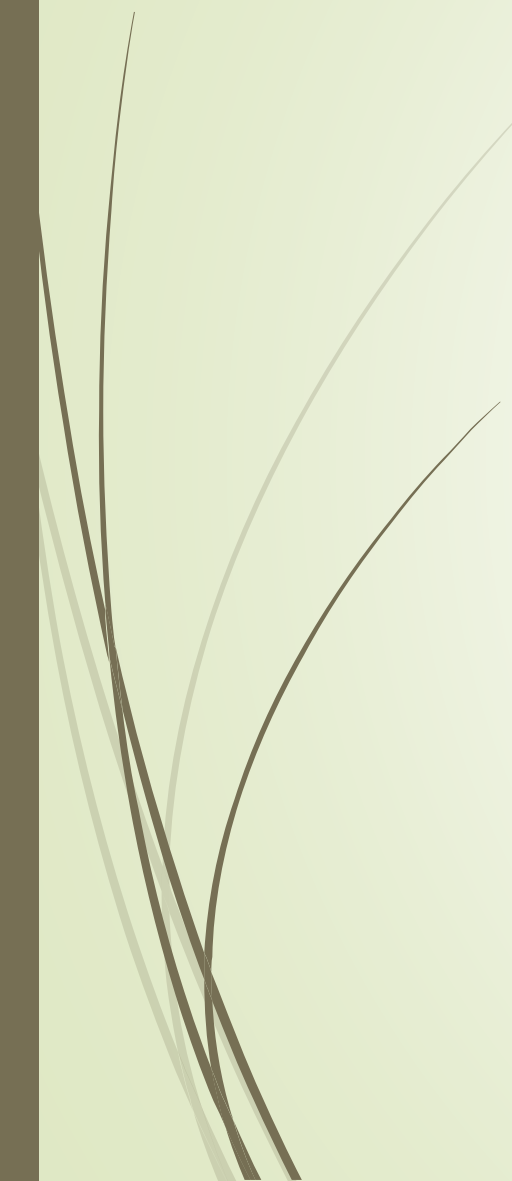
# Proverbs: An Overview in 1 Slide



- Written by “wise men” (or women) aka sages who were responsible for giving the king council, later started formal schools
- Put together over a long period – 10<sup>th</sup> c. BCE to some point after 6<sup>th</sup> c. BCE
- Includes several different collections of sayings (editors)
- Part of wisdom literature genre – Ecclesiastes, Job, Wisdom of Ben Sirach
- Slightly different viewpoint than other OT books – knowledge of God comes from reason and observation
- Focus on wisdom as action rather than cognitive ideas
- Wisdom is personified as a female (causing all sorts of consternation for theologians)



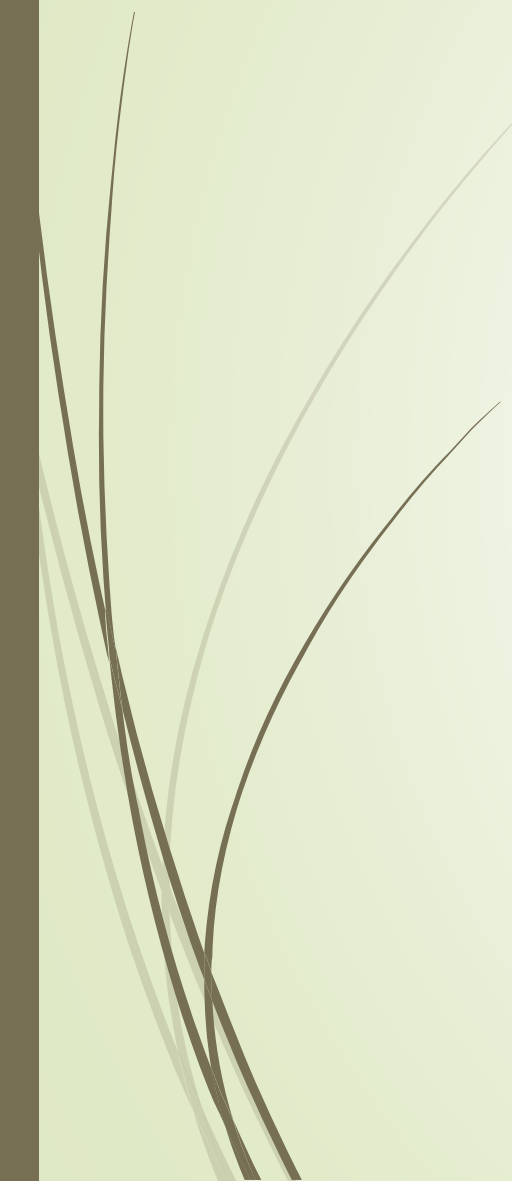
# What is “wisdom”?

- ▶ How do we know if someone is “wise”?
  - ▶ Scenario 1: Tell someone or not?
  - ▶ Wisdom is knowing the proper way to act in certain situations
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# What is “wisdom”?

- Scenario 2: Report it or not?
  - Why do we value being wise?
  - Not just pragmatism, moral instruction reflects God’s design
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# What is “wisdom”?

- What are the ingredients of being wise?
  - Relationship – Prov. 1:7
  - Experience – Prov. 2:1 - 2
  - In tune with God’s creation – Prov. 3:19
  - Teachable – 12:15
  - Community – 1:10 - 15



# Proverbs 8:1 - 11

“It is Wisdom calling,  
Understanding raising her  
voice.

She takes her stand at the  
topmost heights,

By the wayside, at the  
crossroads,

Near the gates at the city  
entrance;

At the entryways, she  
shouts,

‘O people, I call to you;  
My cry is to all humanity.

O simple ones, learn  
shrewdness;

O dullards, instruct your  
minds.

Listen, for I speak noble  
things;

Uprightness comes from  
my lips;

My mouth utters truth;

Wickedness is abhorrent  
to my lips;

All my words are just,

None of them perverse or  
crooked;

All are straightforward to  
the intelligent man,

And right to those who  
have attained  
knowledge.

Accept my discipline  
rather than silver,

Knowledge rather than  
choice gold.’

For Wisdom is better than  
rubies;

No goods can equal her.”