

## Questions On Introduction To Proverbs

1. Who was Solomon?
2. Solomon wrote much in the book of Proverbs about the value of wisdom. How did he obtain his wisdom? (see 1 Kings 3:9-12 & 4:29)
  - a. How wise was Solomon compared to other men? (1 Kgs 4:30-31)
  - b. How wise was Solomon compared to Jesus? (Matthew 12:42)
  - c. What else did God give to Solomon because he *did not* ask for them? (3:13)... But conditioned upon what? (v. 14)
  - d. 1 Kings 4:21-25 & 32 remind us of what other significant accomplishments of Solomon?
  - e. Jesus also mentioned Solomon in Matthew 6:29. For what purpose did He do so there? (*note: corroboration is a powerful evidence tool in defending Bible inspiration*)
  - f. What fact did Stephen mention about Solomon in Acts 7:47?
  - g. Sadly, what did Solomon do later in life? (see 1 Kings 11:1-10)
  - h. What did God take from Solomon as a result? (1 Kgs 11:11). How was it divided and to whom? (1 Kings 11:13 & 30-31)

3. “Proverbs” are *aphorisms* in that they are pithy, concise statements of some principle. They are *maxims* in that they state some known consequence. They are *similitudes* in that they make comparisons. They are *allegories* in that they sometimes employ figurative language and stories. They are *parables* in that they use some earthly illustration to make a deeper spiritual, ethical or moral point. The Hebrew word for proverb (malsal) is used in the following verses. Be prepared to explain how it is used in each instance:
- a. Ezekiel 18:2 says that false teachers had what proverb for suggesting that children inherited their fathers’ sins?
  - b. Deuteronomy 28:37 and 1 Kings 9:7 state that Israel would become a “proverb and a byword” as a result of God’s punishing them for sin. Why a “proverb?”
  - c. 1 Samuel 24:13 — What was the source of the maxim that “wickedness proceeds from the wicked”?
4. Disagreement exists over the nature of the consequences of actions discussed in the book — whether eternal or temporal. The safest approach is to respect the old adage of “never say never,” while at the same time acknowledging the fact that Solomon typically focuses upon the folly, physical and temporal consequences of sin over the spiritual and eternal consequences of sin. For example, what consequences of alcohol consumption are mentioned in 23:29, 35 and 31:4-5?
5. Proverbs uses all kinds of animals, plants, foods, weather conditions, construction materials and other common things to make its moral and ethical points. For example, one who meddles in another’s quarrel is like one who takes a \_\_\_\_\_ by the ears (26:17). A lazy man turns on his bed like a \_\_\_\_\_ turns on its hinges (26:14).