

PSALMS, PROVERBS AND PARABLES SERIES
GOOD NEWS CHURCH - SUNDAY 08/09/26

- Welcome to Good News Church, my name is Ray Souza and I am one the Pastors here in the Church. I hope you are enjoying this summer series on Psalms, Proverbs & Parables.
- We started this series in the beginning of June with Psalm 42, then we had House Church, then Drue preached on the Parable of the Good Father, followed by 2 messages on Proverbs and Providence, then we did the Parable of Sower, followed by another House Church, next Drue Preached on Psalm 78 and the Parables of the Bridesmaids (7). So today we will be back in the book Proverbs, also known as the Wisdom of Solomon, King David's Son. We will talk about Wisdom and the Fear for Lord.
- The book of Proverbs is a great book (My testimony). Tim Keller said that the Proverbs are "A Mini Guide to Life".
- Proverbs literally means "to be like" in Hebrew. They show what someone who loves God looks like. The word "proverb" typically refers to a short, clever saying that offers wisdom in some way. Most of those proverbs are found in the center section of the book (chapters 10-29). Chapters 1-9 and 30-31 are more elaborated poems all about wisdom.

- **Proverbs 1:1-6** who introduces Solomon's Wisdom:
- *¹ These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. ² Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. ³ Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. ⁴ These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. ⁵ Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance ⁶ by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles.*
- From the beginning, a great question someone may ask is how did Solomon become wise? Maybe it started by listening to the Prophet Nathan who spoke in his favor (Nathan reminded King David of his promise to place Solomon on the throne). But next, God himself appeared to Solomon in **2 Chronicles 1:7-12** and said: "*Ask for whatever you want me to give you*". Solomon responded: "*Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours? God said to Solomon that since he did not ask for wealth, honor, and power, but for*

wisdom and knowledge to govern his people over whom He made him king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given to you.” Remember **James 1:5** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” Solomon did just that and God gave it to him. (By the way, God also gave Solomon the wealth he had not asked for – lucky guy!)

- Solomon’s wisdom was well known to the ancient world. Everybody heard of the “Wisdom of Solomon”. One person in special was the Queen of Sheba (2 Chronicles 9), a ruler in the kingdom of Saba (or Sheba) in Southwestern Arabia. This Queen came from a far off and remote country – to hear the wisdom of Solomon. She heard an appealing rumor which sounded unbelievable to her, and she proceeded to make a personal investigation. She came to visit Solomon with a camel caravan bearing gold, jewels, spices and precious stones. She came to test Solomon’s wisdom by asking him hard questions and to solve a number of riddles. **2 Chronicles 9:2** says that “*Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for him to explain to her.*” When the Queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon, she was overwhelmed. She said to the King in V.5 – “*The report I heard in my own*

country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I didn’t believe what they said until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half the greatness of your wisdom was told me; you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on his throne as king to rule for the Lord your God. Because of the love of your God for Israel and his desire to uphold them forever, he has made you king over them, to maintain justice and righteousness.” V.22-23 says: “*King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.*”

- Wisdom, wisdom, wisdom! What a precious thing! How this world with its people needs wisdom! In this world we have an abundance of data and fast-paced communication, yet we often fall short of deep Godly wisdom.
- But where to find this wisdom, this knowledge and instruction? Where is its source?

- **Job 28:12-16** – *“But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man does not know its value, nor it is found in the land of the living. The deep says, it is not in me; and the sea says, it is not with me. It cannot be purchased for gold, nor can silver be weighed for its price.”* And Job continues, it cannot be valued in gold, in precious onyx of sapphire, crystals, coral or quartz, for the price of this wisdom is above rubies. **V.20** – *“From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?”* **V.21** – *It is hidden from the eyes of all living.* **V.23** – *God understands its way, and He knows its place.* **V.27** – *Then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.* **V.28** – *And to man He said, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.”*
- **Proverbs 1, V.7** is the very heart of this book of Proverbs: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, wisdom and instruction, but fools despise it”*. See, Solomon found his wisdom in the fear of the Lord! The Lord was/is its source!
- **Job 28:28** - *“Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.”*
- **Proverbs 9:10** – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*
- **Psalms 111:10** – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”*. And Because that is absolutely true, proverbs...
- **Proverbs 3:7-8** – *“Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones”*. What an amazing prescription!
- Do you want to be wise? Fear the Lord! Do you want to make a difference in this world? Fear the Lord.
- **Joshua said in 24:14** – *“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!”*
- **Psalms 34:9** – *“Oh, fear the LORD, you His Saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.”* The NIV – *“Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.”*
- The fear of Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the fear of the Lord is wisdom!
- Now the word fear, in Hebrew is yirah (yaw-ray), and it speaks of fear, reverence, honor, profound respect, awe, and tremble. In Greek, NT, *phobos*, which means a deep awe and

reverence, and that involves submission to his Lordship and to his commands.

- This fear of the Lord is produced in our soul by the Spirit through God's Word. The more you read God's Word and allow the Spirit to guide you through it, the more you will grow in the fear of the Lord, the more you grow in wisdom.
- And I am so glad this important definition is right in the beginning, from the start of the book of wisdom (Proverbs), to set the tone that our growing in wisdom is in the fear of the Lord and not necessarily in the accumulation of information.
- **Job 4:6** – *“Is not your reverence (fear of the Lord) your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope?”*
- But here is a great problem that hinders us from wisdom:
- **Job 15:4** – *“Have you no fear of God, no reverence for Him?”* My Portuguese version of this verse says: *“Are you turning in vain from your fear of the Lord? Are you diminishing in the devotion that is due to Him?”* God forbid!
- Maybe we were all there before knowing Jesus, before having a relationship with him. **Psalm 36:1** – *“I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

- Been there, done that! That life seems to be great, but it is indeed horrible, full of regrets! Being wise in my own eyes without the fear of the Lord.
- **Proverbs 1:29** – *“For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD.”*
- But now that is different or should be different for us as a new creation in Christ Jesus:
- **Psalm 86:11** – *“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.”*
- **Proverbs 14:26** – *“In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.”*
V.27 – *“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”*
- **2 Corinthians 5:11** – *“Since, then, we know what is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.”*
- **Practical examples of wisdom** – We all need wisdom daily; wisdom should be our greatest friend! At home, at work, at school, with the spouse, friends, bosses and co-workers, in life situations, difficulties, sickness, we all need wisdom and that comes from fearing the Lord. For giving him the place that is due to him in our lives as our creator, but also our savior/Lord. And that is Good News for us today!