

Proverbs Conclusion; March 3, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Intro & Review:

Proverbs are not promises but short pithy statements about how the world God made normally works. Written primarily by Solomon (with contributions from Agur and Lemuel), Proverbs contains 915 verses across 31 chapters in most English translations (e.g., NIV, ESV, LSB), blending poetic parallelism with concise, memorable insights. These proverbs reflect observations about human behavior, divine order, and the consequences of actions, typically expressed in a two-line structure contrasting wisdom with folly or righteousness with wickedness.

Themes and frequency: 915 verses total

I have listed eight themes in the book of proverbs:

- 1)The fear of the LORD (18x).
- 2) Wisdom (~100x) tied for 2nd
- 3)Women (~160x) 1st place but could be divided into subcategories
- 4) Righteousness and wickedness (>100x) tied for 2nd
- 5) The fool (~80x) and scoffer (14x) 3rd
- 6) The mouth, tongue, speech (~70x) 4th
- 7) Discipline and parenting (~50x) 5th
- 8) Work ethic (~40-50x) 6th

1. The fear of the LORD (TFOTL) -18 verses directly: 1:7, 1:29, 2:5, 3:7, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:2, 14:26, 14:27, 15:16, 15:33, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4, 23:17, 24:21, 31:30.

2. Wisdom: For precision, focusing on **explicit mentions** of "wisdom" or "wise," the count lands around **120-150 verses**. This aligns with:

- Strong's Concordance data (~90-100 uses of *chokhmah* and *chakham* combined).

- Thematic density in Proverbs' 915 verses, where wisdom is a keyword in ~13-16% of the text.

3. Women:

Personified Wisdom/Folly: ~60-65 verses (chapters 1-9).

Adulteress/Seductress: ~60 verses (chapters 2-7, 22-23, 30).

Wives: ~8-10 verses (chapters 10-31).

Mothers: ~10 verses (throughout).

Virtuous Woman: ~22 verses (chapter 31).

Total Distinct Verses: Adding these, we get 160-170 verses. Some overlap exists (e.g., 7:4-5 mentions both Wisdom and the adulteress), but most are distinct.

4. Righteous vs wicked

Approximately **100 to 120 proverbs** in the Book of Proverbs (LSB) relate to the mouth, speech, or tongue, based on direct references and thematic implications. This is about 11–13% of the book's 915 verses. For a precise count, a verse-by-verse tally would be needed, but this range reflects the text's strong emphasis on wise communication

5. The fool and scoffer

Fool: In Proverbs, "fool" translates several Hebrew words:

- *Kesiyi* (Strong's H3684): A dull, stubborn fool, appearing most frequently (~49 times in Proverbs).
- *'Eviyl* (Strong's H191): A perverse or morally deficient fool (~19 times).
- *Nabal* (Strong's H5036): A vile, senseless fool (~3 times).
- Derivatives like "foolish" (*sakal*, H5530, or related) also appear.

Total: Scholarly concordances (e.g., Strong's via Blue Letter Bible) tally around **70-75 mentions** of "fool" or "fools" and another **5-10** for "foolish," summing to approximately **80 mentions** of fool-related terms. This varies slightly by translation (e.g., NIV might use "foolish" more than ESV).

Scoffers: Translates *luts* (Strong's H3887), meaning a mocker or scorner, often paired with fools but distinct in its connotation of derision. **Frequency:** *Luts* (scoffer) appears **14 times** in Proverbs, per Strong's (e.g., 1:22, 9:7-8, 13:1, 14:6, 15:12, 19:25, 19:29, 20:1, 21:11, 21:24, 22:10, 24:9, 29:8). "Scoffers" (plural) adds a few instances within these.

6. The mouth, tongue, speech

7. Discipline or parenting

- "Son" (*ben*) appears ~70 times, but only ~25-30 are in direct parenting contexts (e.g., "my son").
- "Father" (*'ab*) appears ~50 times, with ~20-25 tied to parenting (often with "mother," *'em*, ~10 times).
- "Discipline" (*musar*) appears ~30 times, but only ~10 are parental (others are God's discipline or general).
- Scholarly Insight: Commentaries (e.g., *Proverbs* by Waltke) note parenting as a key theme, especially in chapters 1-7's father-son discourses and 10-31's proverbs, estimating 5-10% of the book (~45-90 verses). My count leans conservative.
- Adjustment: Excluding vague references (e.g., 11:16 on women unless parenting-specific), 45-55 holds.

Approximately 50 verses in Proverbs deal with parenting explicitly—covering instruction (~25), discipline (~10), outcomes (~12), and legacy (~3-5). This is ~5-6% of the 915 verses, fitting Proverbs' focus on familial wisdom transmission. For precision, a concordance could refine it (e.g., BibleGateway), but 50 is a solid estimate

8. Work ethic

Defining "Work Ethic" in Proverbs

- **Explicit Mentions:** Verses using words like "work" (*'asah*, Strong's H6213, or *ma'aseh*, H4639), "labor" (*'amal*, H5999), "diligent" (*charuts*, H2742), or "hand" (as in effort, *yad*, H3027).

Estimating the Frequency

- **Explicit Terms:**
 - "Diligent" (*charuts*) appears ~10 times (e.g., 10:4, 12:24, 13:4).
 - "Sluggard" (*'atse*) appears ~14 times (e.g., 6:6, 13:4, 20:4).
 - "Work" or "labor" (*'asah*, *'amal*) appears ~10-15 times in work-related contexts (e.g., 12:11, 14:23).

- "Hand" (effort) adds a few more (e.g., 10:4, 12:24).
- **Verses Involved:** Many of these terms appear in couplets contrasting diligence with laziness, so a single verse might use multiple terms (e.g., 10:4). Counting distinct verses:
 - Chapters 6-9 (anti-sloth ant passage, 6:6-11) contribute ~5-10 verses.
 - Chapters 10-31 (proverbs proper) feature work ethic in ~30-40 verses, often paired with outcomes (e.g., 10:4-5, 12:11-27, 13:4, 14:23).
- **Total Estimate:** Scholarly analyses (e.g., *The Book of Proverbs* by Bruce Waltke) suggest ~40-50 verses explicitly mention diligence, labor, or the sluggard. Adding implicit references (e.g., planning in 21:5, skill in 22:29), the count rises slightly.

Some of the most notable Proverbs:

28 Memorable Proverbs Verses (LSB)

1. Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and discipline."
2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in Yahweh with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your path"
3. Proverbs 4:7 - "The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, acquire understanding."
4. Proverbs 6:6 - "Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise."
5. Proverbs 6:32-33 "The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking a heart *of wisdom*; He who would destroy his soul does it. ³³ Wounds and disgrace he will find, And his reproach will not be blotted out.
6. Proverbs 8:11 - "For wisdom is better than pearls, And all desirable things cannot compare with her."
7. Proverbs 9:10 - "The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

8. Proverbs 10:1 - "A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother."
9. Proverbs 10:4 - "Poor is he who works with a slack hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich."
10. Proverbs 10:11 –“ The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, But the mouth of the wicked covers up violence.”
11. Proverbs 12:1 - "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is senseless."
12. Proverbs 13:24 –“ He who holds back his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”
13. Proverbs 13:20 - "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm."
14. Proverbs 14:1 - "The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish tears it down with her own hands."
15. Proverbs 14:23 - "In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty."
16. Proverbs 15:1 - "A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."
17. Proverbs 16:3 - "Commit your works to Yahweh, And your plans will be established."
18. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling."
19. Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity."
20. Proverbs 18:22 - "He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from Yahweh."
21. Proverbs 19:18 - "Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death."
22. Proverbs 20:1 - "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise."

23.Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it."

**24.Proverbs 27:15-16 –“ A constant dripping on a day of steady rain
And a contentious woman are alike;¹⁶ He who would restrain her restrains the
wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.**

25.Proverbs 27:17 - "Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another."

**26.Proverbs 28:13 - "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he
who confesses and forsakes them will receive compassion."**

27.Proverbs 31:3 – “Don’t give your strength to women...”

**28.Proverbs 31:30 - "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears
Yahweh, she shall be praised."**

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the wisdom it provides. Help us to be doers of the word not just hearers. For Christ and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.