

Introduction

- ▶ Author, King Solomon
- ▶ Date, 1047-930 BC
- ▶ Written during the kingdom era which was divided into 2 parts

The United Monarchy

- ▶ The capital was Jerusalem
 - ▶ Saul
 - ▶ David
 - ▶ Solomon

The Divided Monarchy

- ▶ The Southern Kingdom of Judah under Rehoboam (Solomon's son)
 - ▶ 2 tribes, Judah and Benjamin. Loyal to the house of David.
- ▶ The Northern tribes under the rule of Jeroboam
 - ▶ The Kingdom of Israel included Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasseh and Ephraim
 - ▶ Areas of worship were transferred from Jerusalem to Dan (to the North) and Bethel (to the South)

DUE TO SOLOMONS IDOLATRY THE KINGDOMS WERE DIVIDED

1 KINGS 11:11-13 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless, for the sake of your father David, I will not do it during your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

WISDOM WAS NOT FOLLOWED!

THE RELEVANCE OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

- ▶ It is a book of important sayings that “if applied” will bring wisdom to the life of the reader
- ▶ It has a 2-fold purpose:
 1. To give guidance for Godly living and instruction
 2. To develop discernment

Proverbs 1:20-33 (NKJV)

*Wisdom calls aloud outside;
She raises her voice in the open squares.
She cries out in the chief concourses,
At the openings of the gates in the city
She speaks her words:
“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
For scorners delight in their scorning,
And fools hate knowledge.
Turn at my rebuke;
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,
Because you disdained all my counsel,
And would have none of my rebuke,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes,
When your terror comes like a storm,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.
“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the Lord,
They would have none of my counsel*

And despised my every rebuke.

Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,

And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

For the turning away of the simple will slay them,

And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,

And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

WISDOM RAISES HER VOICE,

1, IN THE STREETS

2, IN THE SQUARE

3, IN THE ENTRANCE OF THE GATES

These areas were used for commerce, royal and civil declarations, public executions and prophetic declarations.

Matthew 7:13-14, Psalm 100:4, Revelation 21:12

RUTH 4:1-12

Wisdom cries out, she is not whispering, hiding or gossiping; she is shouting, declaring and prophesying!

Her voice is being heard, perceived and acted upon; or ignored, derided and hated

GOD IS CRYING OUT THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM

SOLOMON IS MAKING A STATEMENT OF INTENT

Matthew 23: Jesus cries out against the hypocrisy of the teachers and pharisees, giving wisdom to the people.

Luke 19:11-26: The parable of the 10 minas. Jesus gives wisdom about finances.

Philippians 3:18: Paul cries out with tears.

Acts 10: The angel of the Lord cries out to Cornelius and the message of wisdom towards the Gentiles is confirmed to Peter. (Verse 34, ...I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism).

Colossians 2:2-3 (NKJV)

That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Proverbs 1:22-23 (NKJV)

“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?

For scorners delight in their scorning,

And fools hate knowledge.

Turn at my rebuke;

Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;

I will make my words known to you.

Isaiah 11:1-2 (NKJV)

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,

And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The Spirit of counsel and might,

The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:6-9 (NKJV)

However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

WISDOM BRINGS GODS ENLIGHTENMENT INTO YOUR LIFE, BUT IT CAN COME AT A COST, HUMILITY AND CORRECTION.

1 Corinthians 5:5 (NKJV)

deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Proverbs 1:24-27 (NKJV)

*Because I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,
Because you despised all my counsel,
And would have none of my rebuke,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes,
When your terror comes like a storm,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.*

GOD IS YOUR FATHER BUT IS NOT YOUR SERVANT AND AS A FATHER, HE WILL BRING CORRECTION.

Proverbs 1:28-33 (NKJV)

*Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the Lord,
They would have none of my counsel
And despised my every rebuke.
Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,*

And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

For the turning away of the simple will slay them,

And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,

And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,

But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Romans 7:21-25 (NKJV)

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NKJV)

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

WHAT ARE YOU SOWING?

Proverbs 1:33 (NKJV)

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,

And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

PASS IT ON!