

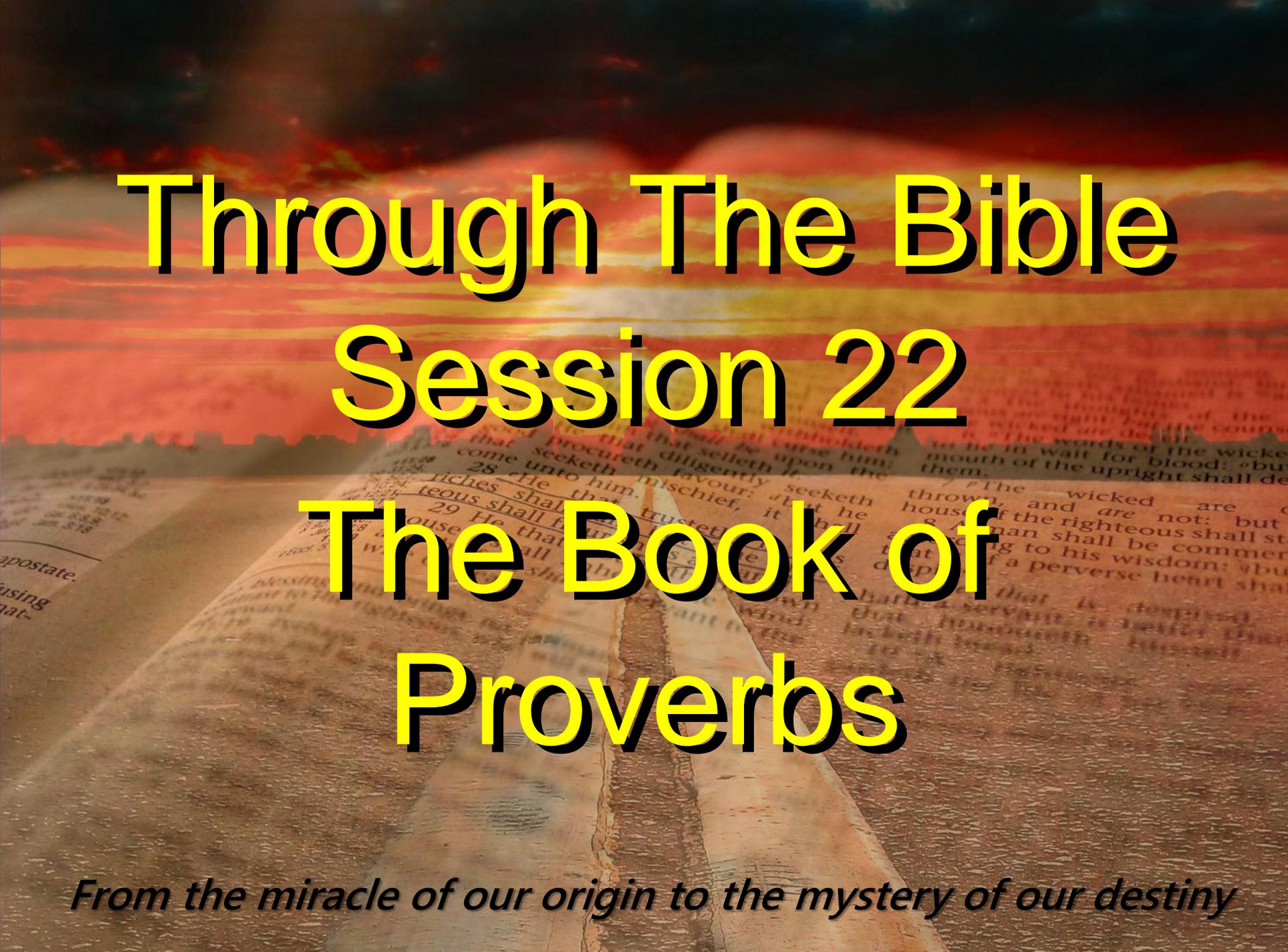
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**calvary**  
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*Simply teaching the Word simply*



# Through The Bible

## Session 22

# The Book of Proverbs

*From the miracle of our origin to the mystery of our destiny*

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king  
of Israel;*

*To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive  
the words of understanding;*

*To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice,  
and judgment, and equity;*

*To give subtilty to the simple, to the young  
man knowledge and discretion.*

**Proverbs 1:1-4**

*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

*To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their **dark sayings.***

**Proverbs 1:5,6**

# Ancient Wisdom

*I will open my mouth in a parable:  
I will utter dark sayings of old:  
which we have heard and known,  
and our fathers have told us.*

Psalm 78:2,3

- Dark sayings = the wisdom of old
  - The Evolutionary paradigm says we are improving
  - The Bible says we are degenerating

# Purpose of Proverbs

- For attaining wisdom and discipline
- For understanding words of insight
- For acquiring a disciplined and prudent life
- For giving prudence to the simple
- For understanding proverbs, parables, sayings and riddles of the wise.
- Why?
- Manufacturers instructions!
  - To live a blessed and God-honoring life

# God's Wisdom

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable  
for doctrine,  
for reproof,  
for correction,  
for instruction in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

God-breathed

# Authorship

## Solomon

- Wrote 3,000 proverbs 1 Kings 4:32
- Wisest person in history 1 Kings 4:29-44
- Time of writing was the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- Ch 25-29 written by Solomon but were compiled by men of Hezekiah Prov 25:1
  - c. 700 B.C.

# Old Testament

## Torah - 5

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

The Law

## Poetical Books - 5

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs

## Major Prophets - 5

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

## Historical - 12

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

In the land

Post Exile History

## Minor Prophets - 12

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

# God's 'How to' Series

- 'The Wisdom Literature'
  - *Job - How to suffer*
  - *Psalms - How to pray*
  - *Proverbs - How to act*
  - *Ecclesiastes - How to enjoy*
  - *Song of Solomon - How to love*

Oswald Chambers

# The Book of Proverbs

- Proverbs is God's book on "How to wise up and live"
  - Beyond keeping laws
  - Focuses on leading an aggressively dynamic life
  - Proper and improper attitudes, conduct, and characteristics are referred to in succinct, penetrating ways

# “Proverb”

- **Hebrew:** *mashal*
  - Proverb, parable; a comparison; aphorism; sentences of ethical wisdom, ethical maxims.
- “Short sentences from long experience”
  - Easy to remember
  - Condense much wisdom in a small space

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8

# Wisdom Literature

- Old Testament:
  - Proverbs
  - Ecclesiastes
  - Song of Songs
  - Job
  - Psalms 19, 37, 104, 107, 147, & 148
- For more on the nature of wisdom
  - O.T.: 2 Chronicles 1
  - N.T.: 1 Corinthians 1; James 3

# Wisdom

- What is wisdom?
  - The application of knowledge
- Two types:
  - The wisdom of this world 1 Cor. 2:1–8; James 3:13–16
  - The wisdom is from above James 3:17

# Wisdom

**15** This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

**16** For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

**17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

**James 3:15-17**

# חִכְמָה *Chokmah, Wisdom*

- It occurs 45 times in Proverbs:
  - Being knowledgeable, experienced, and efficient in their areas of expertise
- Wisdom in Proverbs includes
  - practical sagacity, mental acumen, and functional skill,
  - but it also includes moral, upright living which stems from a right relationship to the LORD.

# חִכְמָה *Chokmah, Wisdom*

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”  
*Proverbs 9:10*
  - makes the Hebrew concept of wisdom unique.  
*Cf. 14:16, “1:7; 15:33; Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10*
- To be wise in the Biblical sense one must begin with a proper relationship to God.

**17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

**18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

**19** For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

1 Corinthians 1:17-24

**20** Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

**21** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

**22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

**23** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

**24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:17-24

# Contradictions

“Look before you leap”

“He who hesitates is lost.”

“A man gets no more than he pays for”

“The best things in life are free.”

“Leave well enough alone”

“Progress never stands still.”

“Many hands make light work”

“Too many cooks spoil the broth.”

“A rolling stone gathers no moss”

“A setting hen does not get fat.”

# Wisdom

- Godly wisdom is described as:
  - Eternal Pro 8:22–26
  - The Creator of all things Pro 8:27–29
  - The Beloved of God Pro 8:30–31
- To yield your life to Christ and obey Him is true wisdom John 1:1–2; Col. 1:15–19

# Wisdom

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

# Hebrew Poetry

Our poetry is arranged around the parallelism of rhythm & rhyme

Hebrew poetry is arranged around the parallelism of ideas:

1. Synonymous Parallelism
2. Antithetic (Contrast) Parallelism
3. Synthetic Parallelism

# Parallelism of Ideas

## 1. Synonymous Parallelism

The second clause restates  
what is given in the first clause:



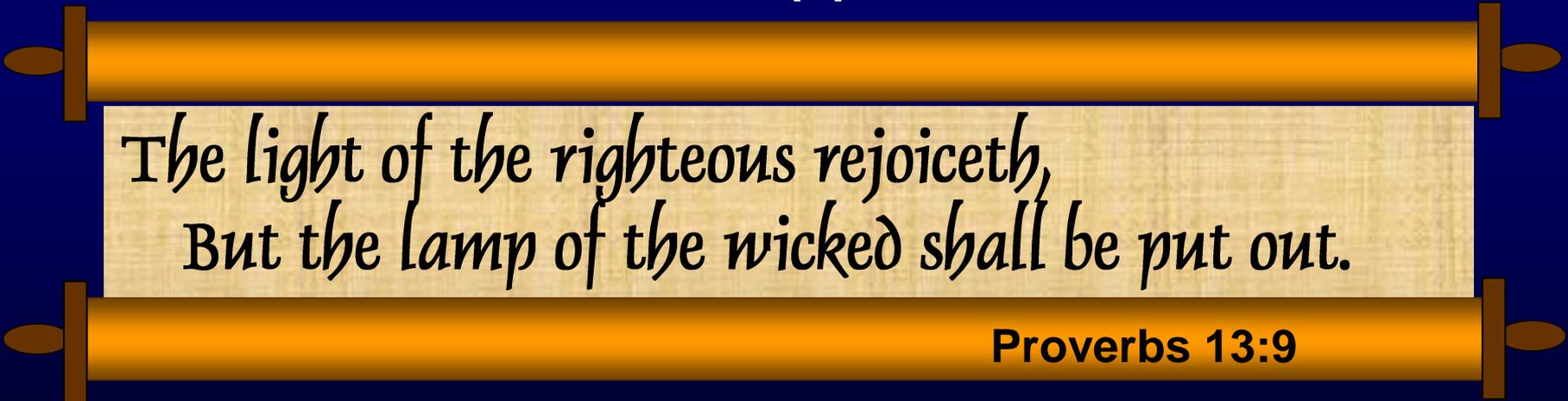
*Judgments are prepared for scorers,  
And stripes for the back of fools*

Proverbs 19:29

# Parallelism of Ideas

## 2. Antithetic (Contrast) Parallelism

A truth, which is stated in the first clause, is made stronger in the second clause by contrast with an opposite truth:



*The light of the righteous rejoiceth,  
But the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*

**Proverbs 13:9**

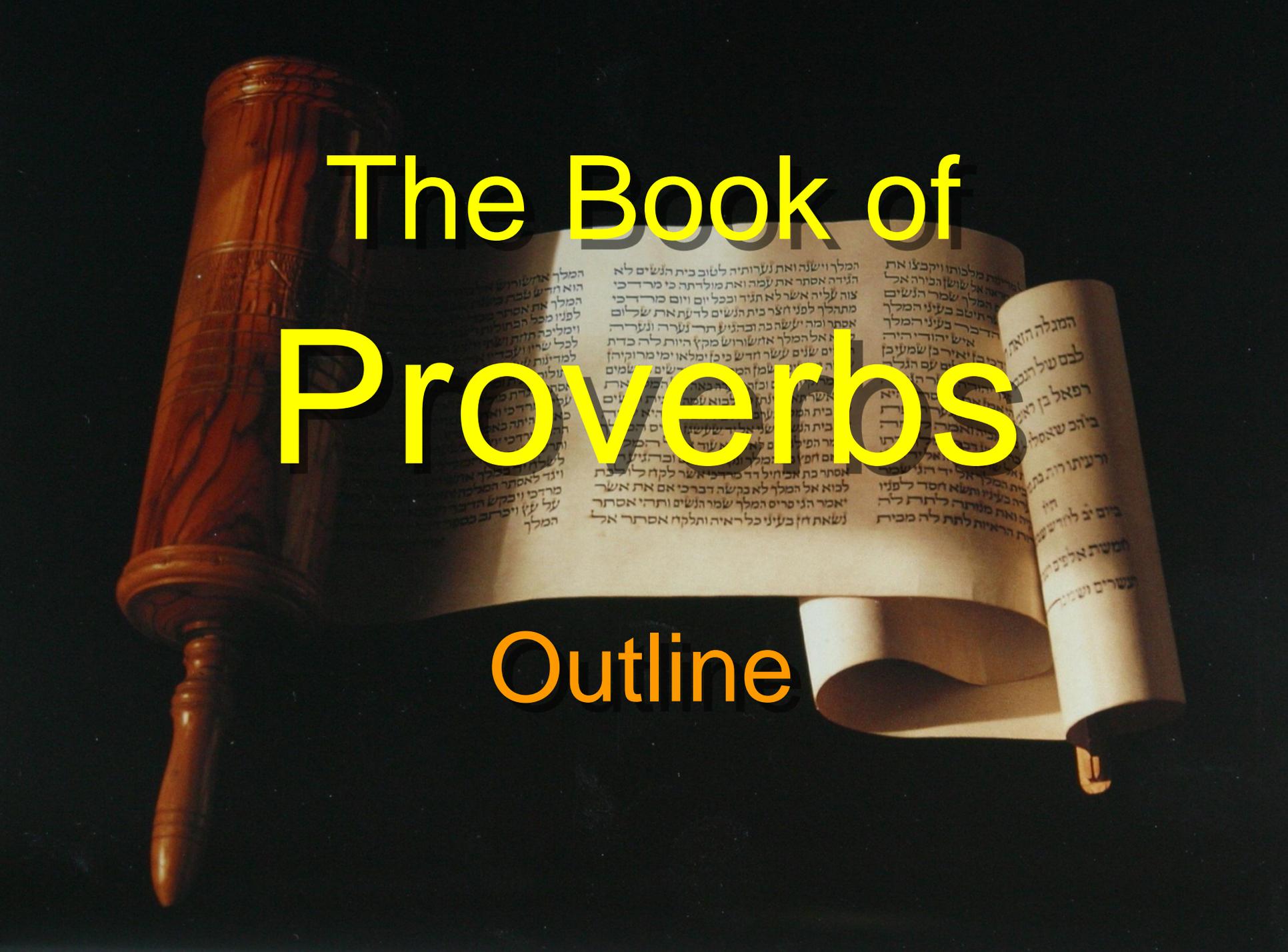
# Parallelism of Ideas

## 3. Synthetic Parallelism

The second clause develops the thought of the first:

*The terror of a king is as the roaring of a lion;  
He that provoketh him to anger sinneth  
against his own life.*

Proverbs 20:2

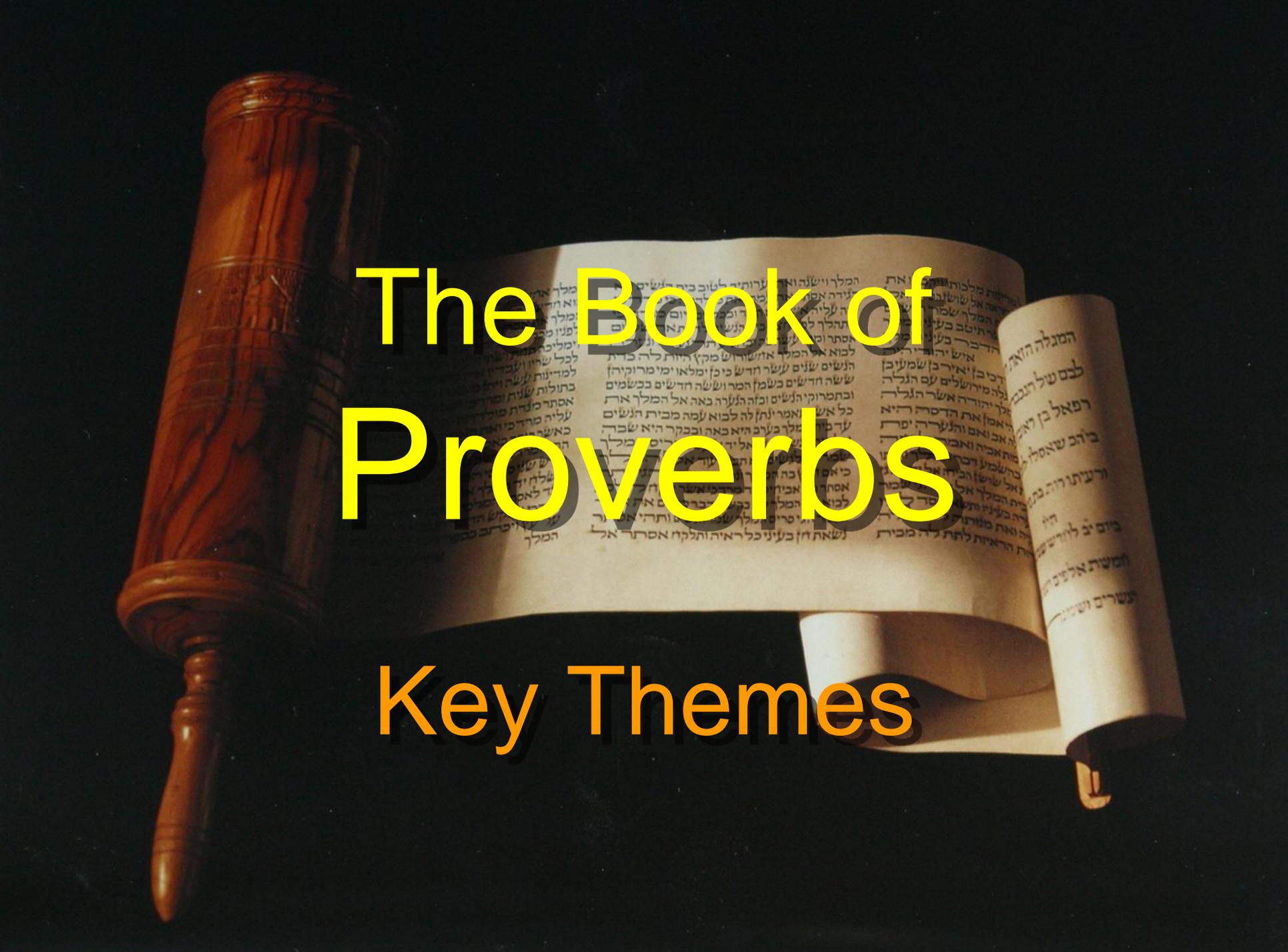


# The Book of Proverbs

## Outline

# Outline of the Book of Proverbs

- Wisdom and Folly Contrasted 1–9
- Proverbs of Solomon 10–24  
*(Written and set in order by himself)*
- Proverbs of Solomon 25–29  
*(Set in order by men of Hezekiah)*
- Oracle of Agur 30
- Proverbs of Lemuel's Mother 31



# The Book of Proverbs

## Key Themes

# The Main Characters

- Three classes of people who desperately need wisdom: Pro 1:22
  - The Scorer
  - The Fool
  - The Simple
- This will be contrasted with:
  - The Wise

# The Scorners

- Scorners mock at God's wisdom
  - because it is too high for them Pro 14:6
  - but they will not admit it because they know everything Pro 21:24
- The Hebrew word for “scorner” literally means “to make a mouth”; and we can easily picture them sneering and curling up their lips in scorn.
- They never profit from rebuke Pro 9:7–8; 13:1  
and, as a result,
- they will one day be judged Pro 19:29

# The Fool

- The person who is dense, sluggish, careless, and self-satisfied
  - Nabal (“fool”) is a good example  
1 Sam. 25
- The Fool
  - hates instruction  
Pro 1:7, 22
  - is self-confident  
Pro 12:15
  - talks without thinking  
Pro 29:11
  - mocks at sin  
Pro 14:9

# The Simple

- The Simple are those who believe everything and everybody and lack discernment Pro 14:15
- They are easily led astray by others and lack understanding Pro 7:7
- They cannot see ahead and, as a result, repeatedly walk into trouble. Pro 22:3

# The Wise

- Listen to instruction Pro 1:5
- Obey what they hear Pro 10:8
- Store up what they learn Pro 10:14
- Win others to the Lord Pro 11:30
- Flee from sin Pro 14:16
- Watch their tongue Pro 16:23
- Are diligent in their daily work Pro 10:5

# Wisdom & Folly

- 3 calls from Wisdom and 3 from Folly”
    - Wisdom calls us to God and life
    - Folly calls us to sin and judgment
  - **Wisdom’s 1<sup>st</sup> Call: Salvation** 1:20–33
    - was to the Scorer, the Fool, and the Simple
  - **Wisdom’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Call: Wealth** 8
    - was only to the Fool and the Simple
  - **Wisdom’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Call: Life** 9
    - is only to the Simple
- 
- ```
graph TD; A((Simple)) --> B((Simple)); B --> C((Simple));
```

# Wisdom & Folly

- 3 calls from Wisdom and 3 from Folly”
  - Wisdom calls us to God and life
  - Folly calls us to sin and judgment
- Folly’s 1<sup>st</sup> call: to Condemnation 5
- Folly’s 2<sup>nd</sup> call: to Poverty 6
- Folly’s 3<sup>rd</sup> call: to Death 7

# The Results

- The Scorer

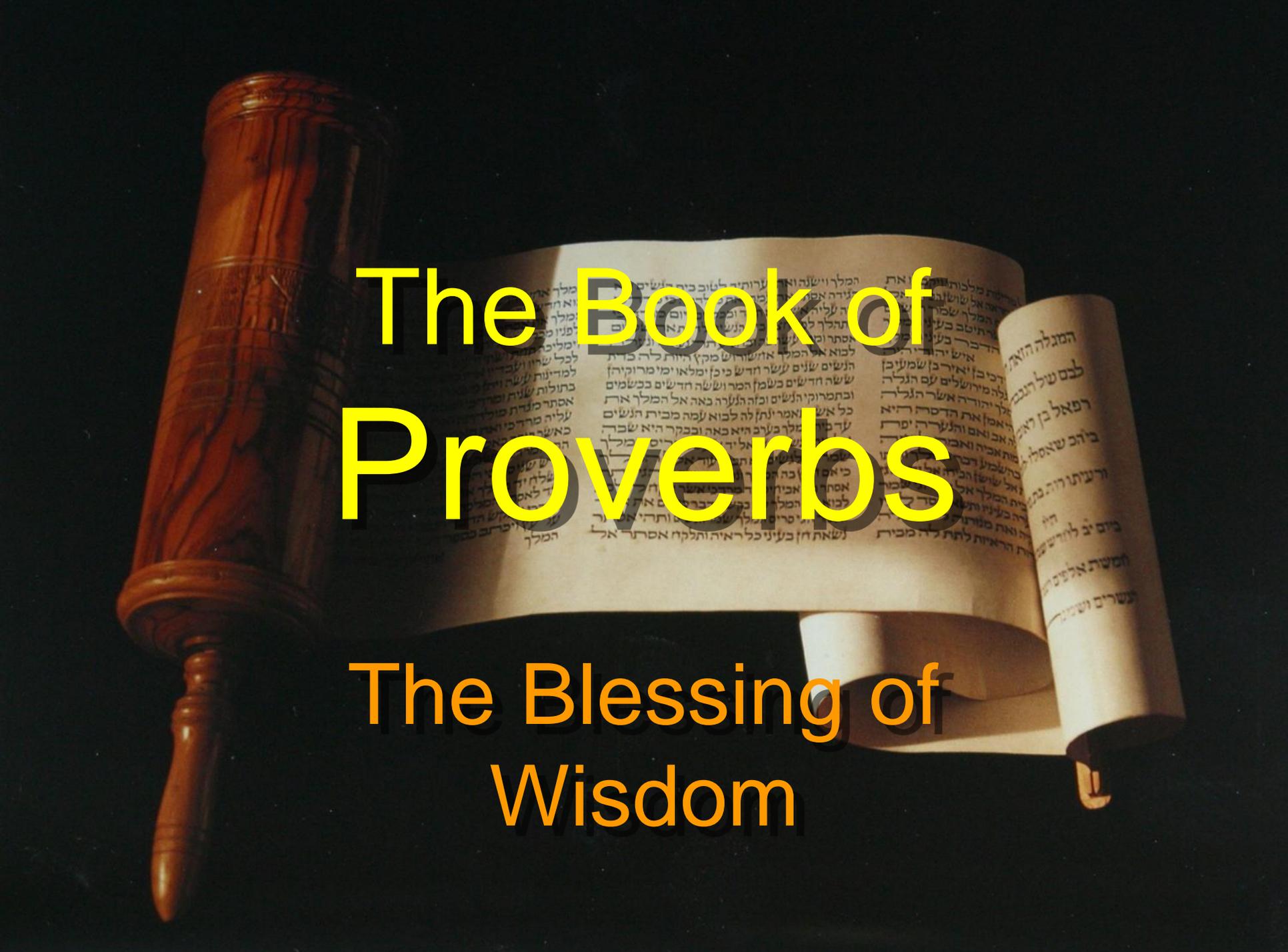
- rejected Wisdom and met destruction 1:24–27
- listened to Folly and received destruction 6:32

- The Fool

- rejected Wisdom and was led to death 8:36
- he listened to Folly and received death 5:22,23

- The Simple

- rejected Wisdom and went to hell 9:18
- he listened to Folly and ended up in hell 7:27



# The Book of Proverbs

The Blessing of  
Wisdom

# Wisdom Personified

- “Wisdom cries without; **she utters her voice** in the streets” v20
- *“Wisdom is here personified, i.e., represented as a person. But this personification presupposes, that to the poet wisdom is more than a property and quality of human subjectivity: she is to him as a divine power, existing independently, to submit to which is the happiness of men, and to reject which is their destruction”*  
Keil & Delitzsch
- Wisdom is not a product of human imagination, but Divine decree

# Wisdom Personified

- She is more precious than rubies 3:15
- She is a tree of life 3:18
- She shall preserve thee 4:6
- She shall keep thee 4:6
- She shall promote thee 4:8
- She shall bring thee to honour 4:8
- She shall deliver thee 4:9
- She is thy life! 4:13

# The Path of Wisdom

## Chapter 2

- Wisdom *protects* our paths 2:8

## Chapter 3

- Wisdom *directs* our paths 3:5–6

## Chapter 4

- Wisdom *perfects* our paths 4:18

# The Path of Wisdom

- *We cannot avoid decisions*
  - “Decision determines destiny.”
  - We choose either the path of Wisdom or the path of Folly; we cannot postpone this decision or avoid it.
  - To choose one is to reject the other; to reject one is to choose the other.
  - Here is the personal challenge to each of us!

# The Path of Wisdom

- *We cannot avoid decisions*
- *Sin is always alluring*
  - Folly does everything it can to make sin attractive
  - It never reveals its true nature; It never tells people its house is the way to hell
  - The only way to detect Folly is to walk with Wisdom Prov. 2:10–22
  - Those who walk with Wisdom, obeying the Word of God, will not easily be tricked by Folly

# The Path of Wisdom

- *We cannot avoid decisions*
- *Sin is always alluring*
- *It takes time for judgment to fall*
  - The simple, the fool, and the scorner all thought they “had it made” when they rejected Wisdom, because nothing disastrous immediately happened.
  - But judgment eventually caught up with them.  
“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”

Gal. 6:7

# The Path of Wisdom

- *We cannot avoid decisions*
- *Sin is always alluring*
- *It takes time for judgment to fall*
- *Satan appeals to the flesh*
  - The “wicked woman” (or “strange woman”) is appealing to the young man’s appetites. She tells him he can use his body as he pleases and not suffer for it.
  - Sexual sin leads to tragic results, both in body and soul.

# The Path of Wisdom

- *We cannot avoid decisions*
- *Sin is always alluring*
- *It takes time for judgment to fall*
- *Satan appeals to the flesh*
- *God continues to call*
  - So long as people will hear, God's Spirit continues to call. But when sinners refuse to obey, their ears become deaf to the Word of God. Beware!
  - "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" **Heb. 3:7ff**

Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put  
forth her voice?

She standeth in the top of high places, by the  
way in the places of the paths.

She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city,  
at the coming in at the doors.

Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the  
sons of man.

O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools,  
be ye of an understanding heart.

Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and  
the opening of my lips *shall be* right things.

For my mouth shall speak truth; and  
wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

All the words of my mouth *are* in  
righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or  
perverse in them.

They *are* all plain to him that understandeth,  
and right to them that find knowledge.

Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching  
daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my  
doors.

For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall  
obtain favour of the LORD.

But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his  
own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Proverbs 8:34-36

# The Heart of the Issue

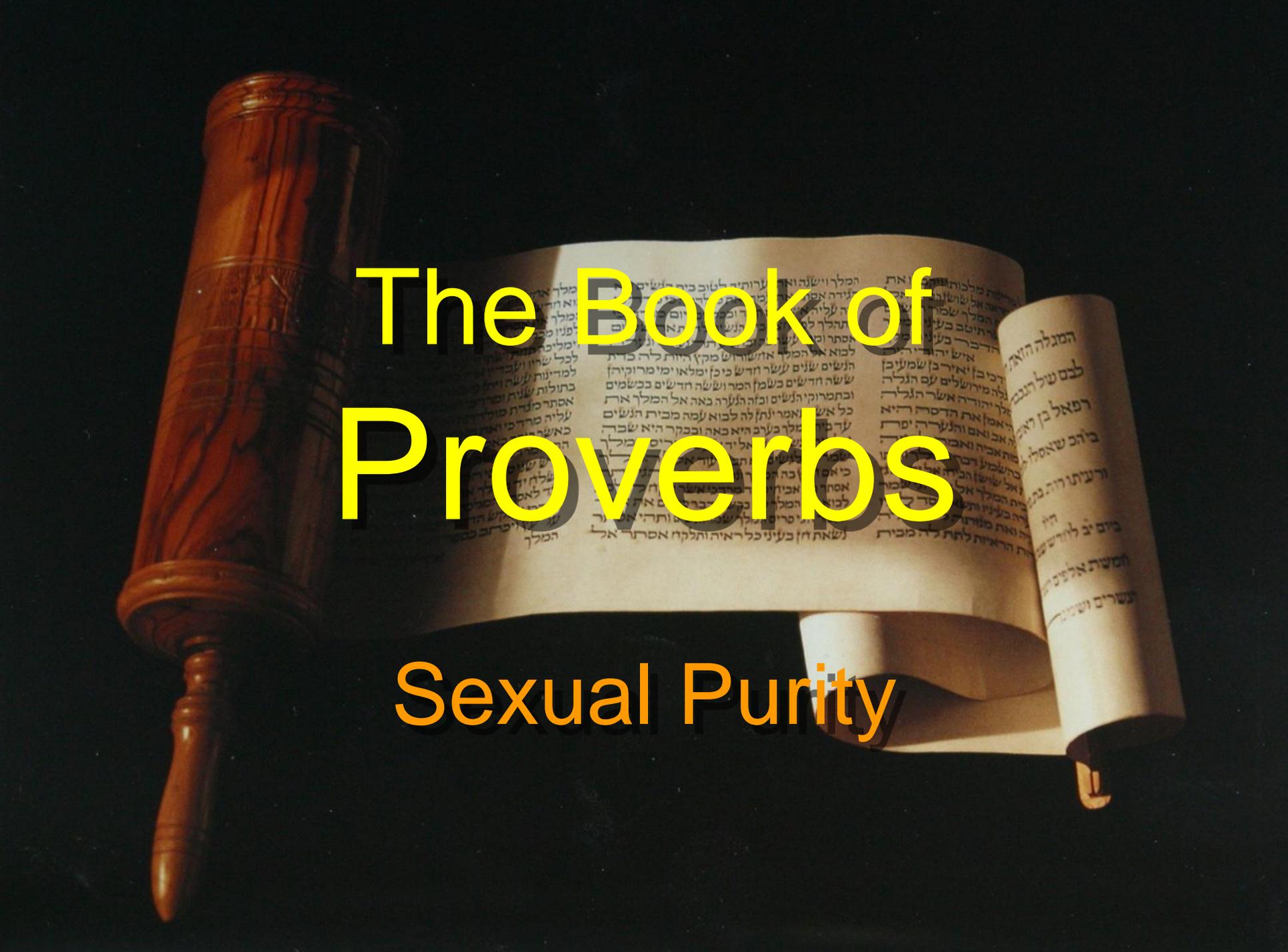
- What is your most important stewardship?
  - Your career?
  - Your family?
  - Your spouse?
  - *Your Heart!*

# The Heart of the Issue

*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it  
are the issues of life.*

Proverbs 4:23

- We comprise of:
  - *Body* – the physical container
  - *Soul* – the real us (heart + mind)
  - *Spirit* – our God-consciousness



# The Book of Proverbs

Sexual Purity

# Thou shall not commit adultery

Exodus 20:14

- Connotatively includes the sexual sins prohibited elsewhere in Scripture  
*Lev. 18; Rom. 1:18–32; 1 Cor. 6:9–20; Eph. 5:1–14*
- Our Lord spoke of “fornications” (plural)  
*Matthew 15:19*
- The Council at Jerusalem mentioned “fornication,” and included the sexual sins condemned by the Law of Moses  
*Acts 15:20; Lev. 18*
- The words “adultery” and “fornication” are ***inclusive*** of the various forms of sexual sins

# Sexual Sin Will Disappoint

## Proverbs 5

Verses:

- The experience goes  
– from sweetness to bitterness

1–6

The Book of Proverbs emphasizes  
the importance of *looking ahead*  
*to see where your actions will lead you*

Cf. 5:11; 14:12–14; 16:25; 19:20; 20:21;  
23:17–18, 32; 24:14, 20; 25:8

# Sexual Sin Will Disappoint

## Proverbs 5

Verses:

- The experience goes
  - from sweetness to bitterness 1–6
  - from gain to loss 7–14

Temptation always includes hopeful promises; otherwise, people wouldn't take the devil's bait. *Sin is the most expensive thing in the world.*

# Sexual Sin Will Disappoint

## Proverbs 5

Verses:

- The experience goes
  - from sweetness to bitterness
  - from gain to loss
  - from purity to pollution

1–6

7–14

15–20

Sex within marriage is a beautiful river that brings life and refreshment, but sex outside marriage is a sewer that defiles everything it touches.

1 Cor 7:1-5

Eph 5:22,23

# Sexual Sin Will Disappoint

## Proverbs 5

Verses:

- The experience goes
  - from sweetness to bitterness 1–6
  - from gain to loss 7–14
  - from purity to pollution 15–20
  - from freedom to bondage 21–23

The kind of bondage which can't easily be broken

John 8:34; Rom. 6:16

# Sexual Sin results in Losses

## Proverbs 6

Verses:

- They lose the Word of God 20–24
- They lose wealth 25–26
- They lose enjoyment 27–31
- They lose their good sense 32
- They lose their peace 33–35

# The Path to Destruction

## Proverbs 7

Verses:

- He tempts himself

6–9

He's out at night (“walking in darkness”)

Cf. John 3:19–21; 1 John 1:5–7

# The Path to Destruction

## Proverbs 7

Verses:

- He tempts himself 6–9
- He is tempted by the woman 10–20

# The Path to Destruction

## Proverbs 7

Verses:

- He tempts himself 6–9
- He is tempted by the woman 10–20
- He tempts the Lord 21–27

We tempt God when we deliberately disobey Him and put ourselves into situations so difficult that only God can deliver us.

Ex. 17:1–7; Num. 14:22; Deut. 6:16;  
Ps. 78:18, 56; 1 Cor. 10:9

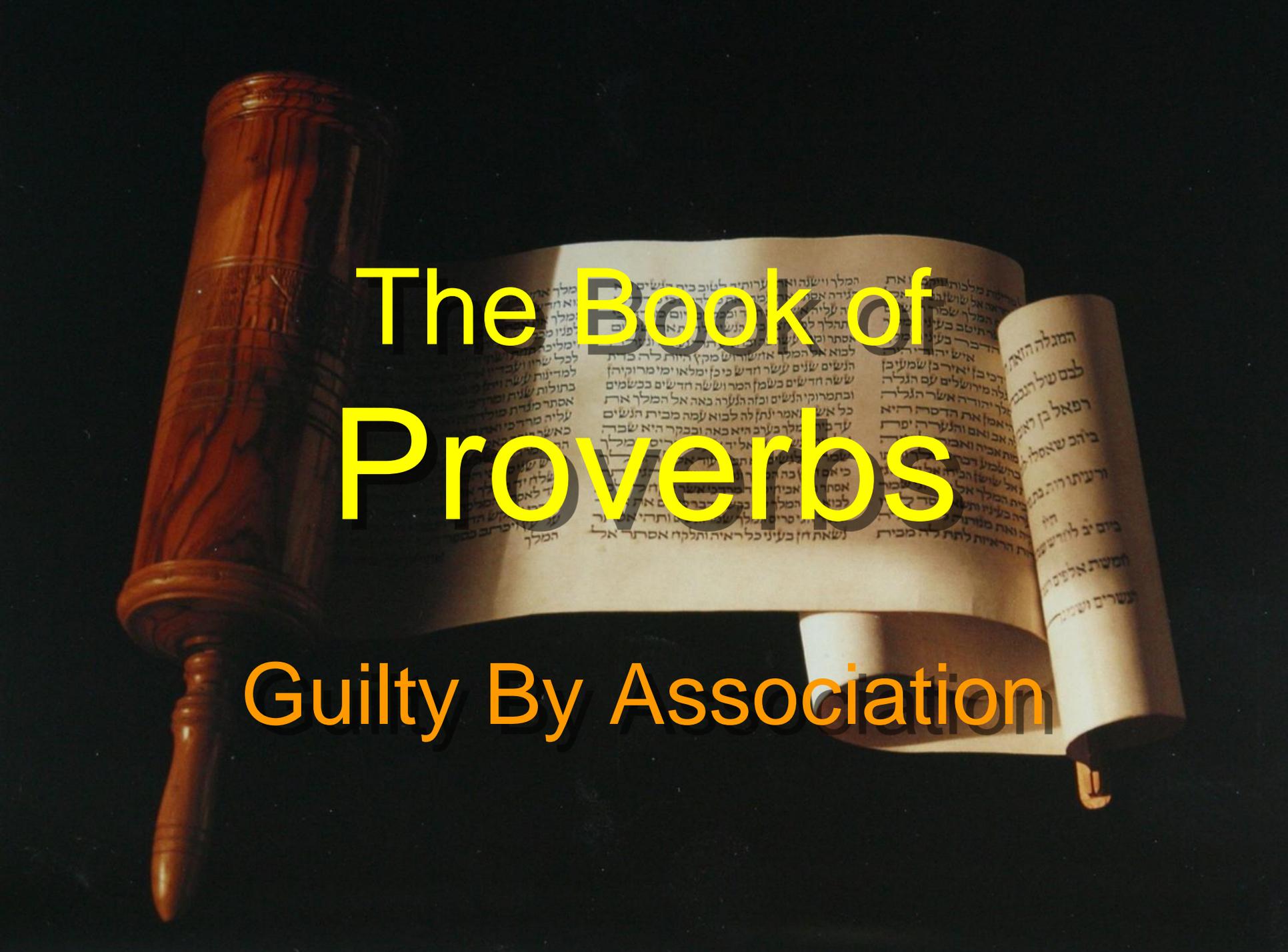
# The Path to Destruction

## Proverbs 7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption

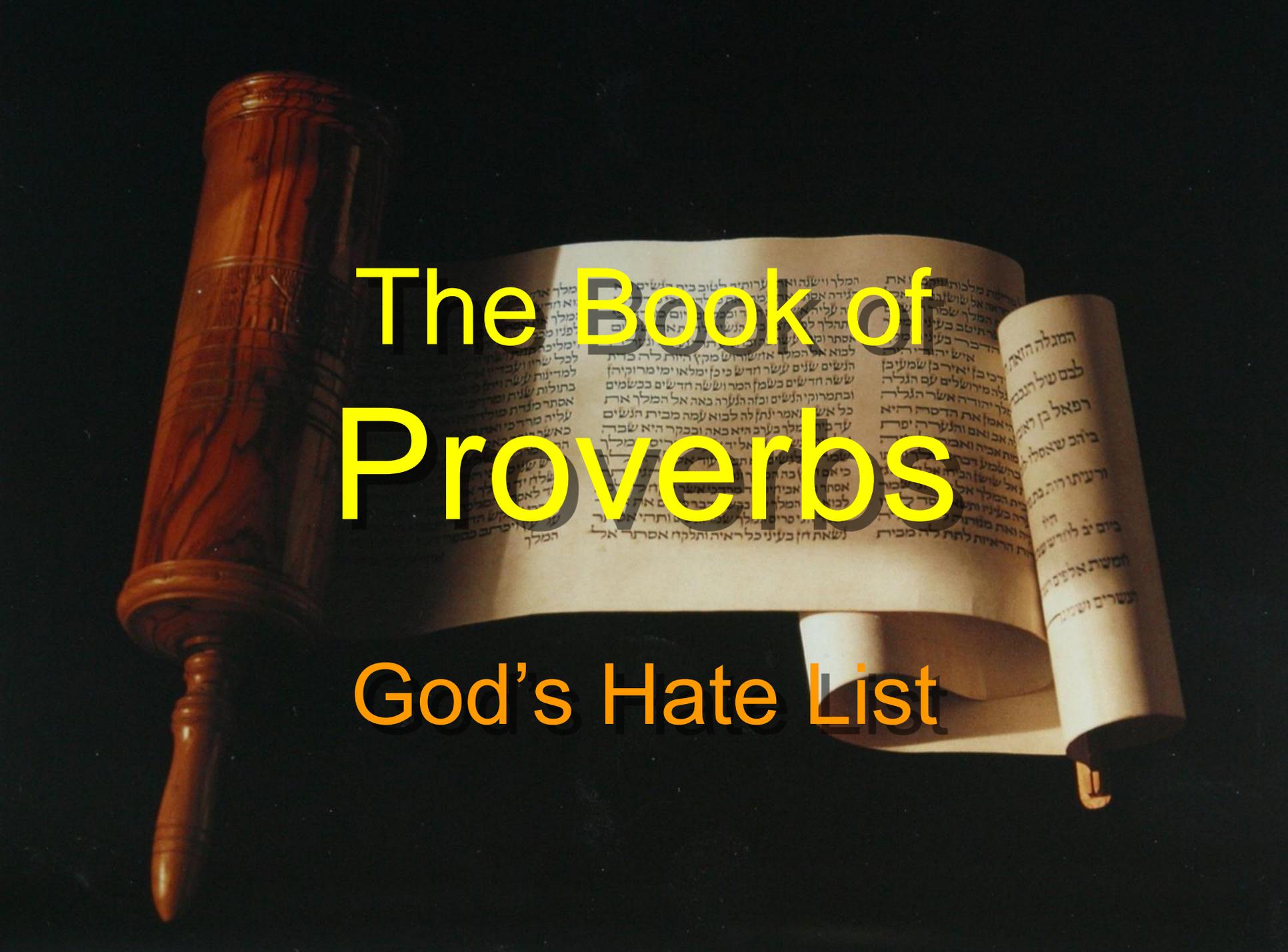
**Galatians 6:7-8**



# The Book of Proverbs

Guilty By Association

My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou  
hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,  
Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth,  
thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.  
Do this now, my son, deliver thyself, when  
thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go,  
humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.  
Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to  
thine eyelids.



# The Book of Proverbs

God's Hate List

These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea,  
seven *are* an abomination unto him:

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that  
shed innocent blood,

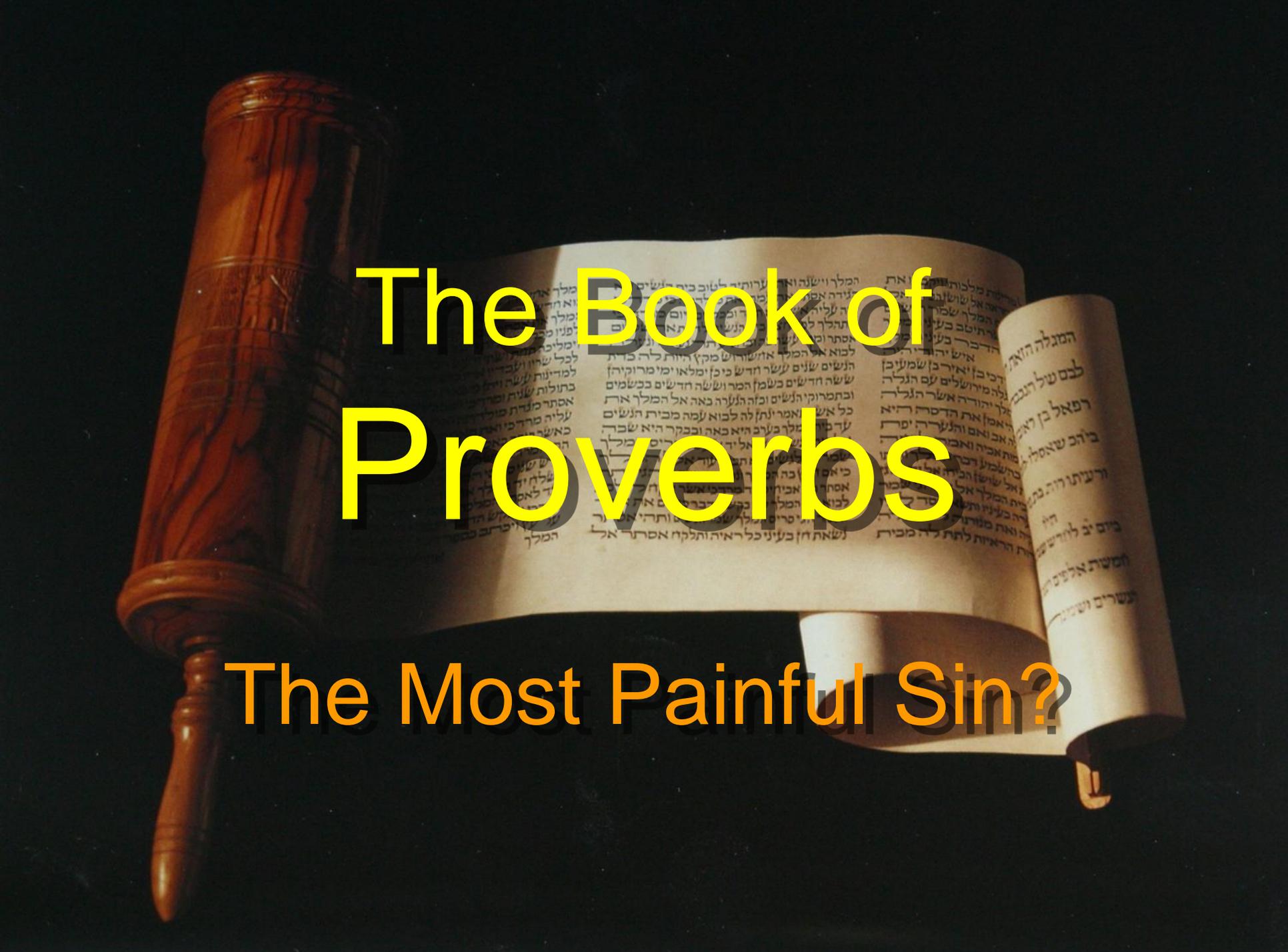
An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,  
feet that be swift in running to mischief,

A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that  
soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

# God Hates?!

- A time to love, and a time to hate ....  
Eccl. 3:8
- Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth  
Deut. 16:22
- Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness ....  
Psalm 45:7
- But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate  
Rev. 2:6



# The Book of Proverbs

The Most Painful Sin?

# Gossip

- Gossip is a form of betrayal!
- Gossip is probably accountable for more personal pain and suffering than most of us have any appreciation of.
- Common, casual, yet hurtful beyond our imagining.
- Quietly, behind the flurry of daily priorities,
  - its venom does its silent work,
  - undermining confidences,
  - betraying relationships,
  - spreading unseen injustices...

# Gossip

- It is disturbing to note how many of us have been injured—deeply—by gossip and by those who accept, without checking, negative or derogatory innuendos whispered behind our backs.
- What an opportunity!
  - To display loyalty, love, and, by assuming the most charitable construction, *in advance*, demonstrate the foundation of a relationship!

- The tongue is a ready and willing instrument to talk about our neighbor behind his back

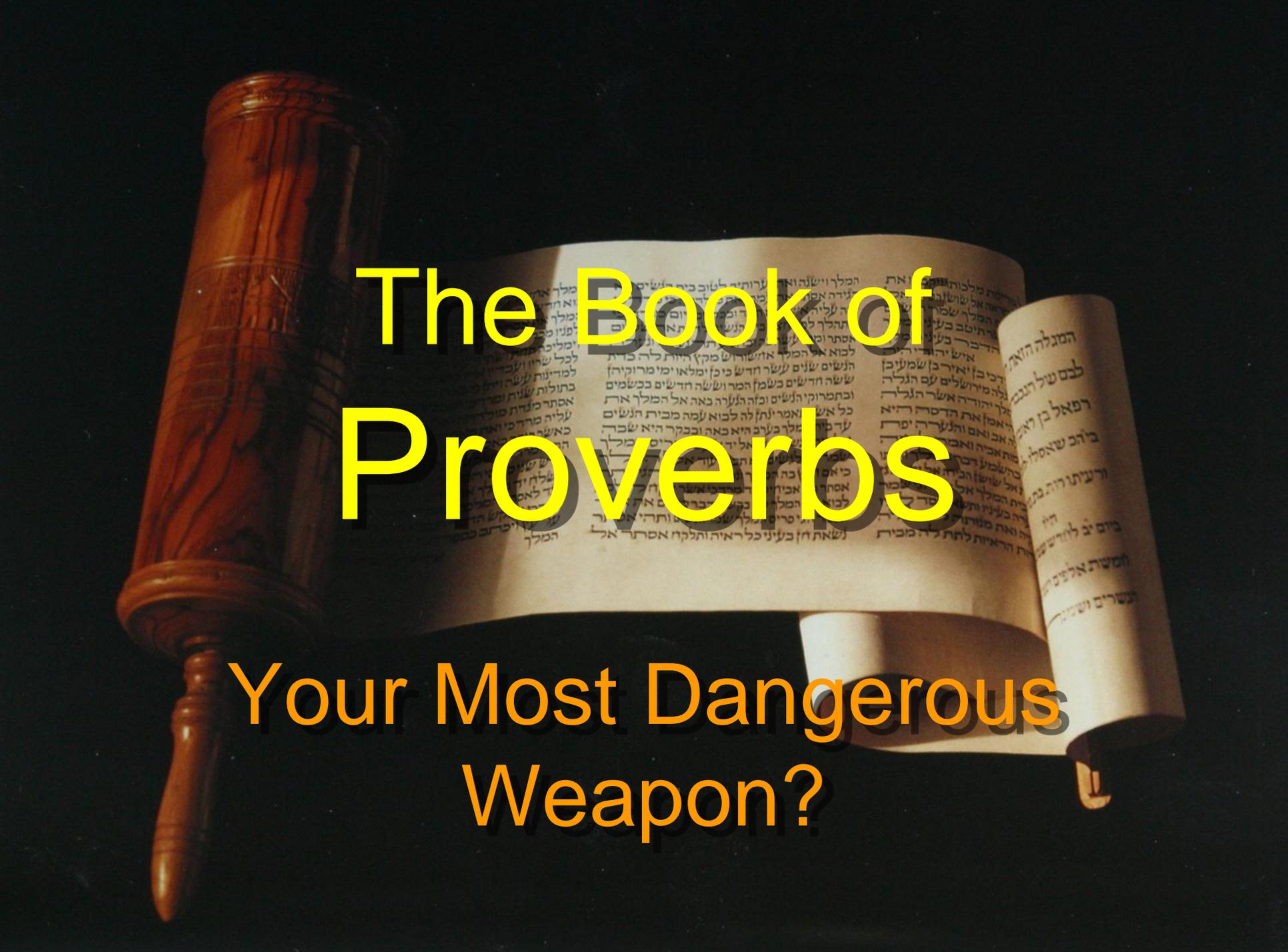
Rom 1:30; 2 Cor 12:20; James 4:11

*For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:*

2 Corinthians 12:20

# What is a True Friend?

- One who doesn't require explanations
- One who gives the benefit of the doubt
- One who is loyal and shuns any form of betrayal...



# The Book of Proverbs

Your Most Dangerous  
Weapon?

# The Tongue

- When used for good, the tongue is like
  - valuable silver 10:20
  - a beautiful and fruitful tree of life 15:4;  
Cf. 12:14 ; 18:20
  - a refreshing well of water 18:4; 10:11
  - a healthy dose of medicine 12:18  
Cf. James 3

# The Tongue

- The tongue should be used for right purposes:
  - bringing peace 15:1, 26
  - giving wise reproof to the erring 25:12; 28:23
  - delivering lost souls from death 11:9; 14:3–5, 25; 12:6
  - teaching people the things of the Lord 15:7; 16:21, 23; 20:15
  - carrying the good news of the Gospel 25:25

# The Tongue

- In contrast, the tongue can be used for:
  - Talebearing 18:8
  - Lying 12:17–22
  - Talking Too Much 12:13; 18:6–7
  - Talking Too Soon 18:13, 17
  - Flattering 26:28
  - Quarreling 12:16, 18

# Talebearing

18:8

- Moses warned about this sin      Lev. 19:16  
Cf. 11:13
  - Management by hearsay?      Matt. 18:15–18
- Stay away from the talebearer      20:19
  - a kindler of fires      26:20
  - a destroyer of friendships      17:9

# Talebearing

18:8

- Words can be as deadly as weapons:  
Solomon compares deceitful words to  
3 different weapons: 25:18
  - A maul (battle-ax) that crushes at close range
  - A sword that cuts
  - An arrow that pierces and can be shot from a distance

# Lying

12:17–22

God hates a lying tongue 6:16–17

A lying tongue is only covering up sin in the heart 10:18

– It is deceit in the heart that makes a statement a lie. 12:20

– The Bible tests and reveals the intents of the heart Heb. 4:12

Lies are like cutting swords, but the truth is like a healing medicine 12:18

The truth is eternal, but lies will be revealed and the liars judged 12:19;  
Cf. Ps. 52:4,5

# Lying

12:17–22

The truth will deliver souls, but lies only lead to  
bondage and shame 14:25

Liars enjoy listening to liars 17:4

– The heart controls the ear as well as the lips.

But all liars will be punished 19:5, 9  
and when they “eat their own words,” it will  
be like gravel 20:17

Hell is waiting for the one who “loves and  
practices a lie” Rev 22:15

# Talking Too Much

12:13; 18:6–7

- The fool talks too much and talks his way right into trouble: His mouth becomes a trap, and he himself is snared by it. 6:1–5
  - “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,” 10:19
  - A loose tongue = poverty and foolishness 14:23  
(many people would rather talk than work) 15:2
  - A controlled tongue means a safe life 13:3
  - The person of few words is regarded as a person of knowledge 17:27,28

# Talking Too Soon

18:13, 17

- “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak,”  
James 1:19
- “Restrain the lips” until you really have something to say  
10:19
- A godly person will study to answer, but a fool will open his mouth and pour out foolishness  
15:28
- Pray: “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips”  
Ps. 141:3; Cf. Ps. 39:1

# Talking Too Soon

18:13, 17

- God wants us to search out each matter carefully and then give fair judgment **25:2**
  - We are not to agree with the “first cause” that we hear but to seek to understand both sides of a matter **18:17**
- Potiphar did not listen to Joseph’s side of the story and committed a great crime because of it **Gen 39:19**
- David jumped to conclusions about innocent Mephibosheth **2 Sam. 16:1–4; 19:24–30**

# Flattery

26:28

- Flattery is insincere praise given by one who has selfish motives.
  - Flattery is a dangerous net spread before an innocent man's feet. 29:5
  - “A flattering mouth works ruin” 26:28
  - The flatterer's mouth is an open sepulchre Ps. 5:9
- We are warned not to meddle with people given to flattery 20:19

# Flattery

26:28

- Satan used a form of flattery to tempt Eve: “You will be like God.” Gen 3:5
- The evil woman uses flattery to tempt the young man 5:3; 7:5, 21
- “The rich has many friends” mainly because they want to flatter him and get something out of him 14:20; 19:4,6

# Flattery

- Honest rebuke is better than flattery

28:23

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy (like Judas) are deceitful.”

27:6

- Honest praise in the Christian life:

1 Thes 5:12,13

– is like a refiner’s furnace

Prov. 27:21

- Some Christians are so carnal they cannot take praise; it goes to their heads
- Or it can reveal envy: they cannot stand to see another praised

# Quarreling

12:16, 18

- Anger:
    - There is a righteous anger Eph 4:26
    - Unrighteous anger, displays of temper 29:22
  - An angry person keeps adding fuel to the fire 26:21
  - The best way to stop an argument is with soft words 15:1–2
    - this is the best way to “break the bones” 25:15
  - Being able to control one’s temper is the same as ruling an army or an empire 16:32
- Cf. 14:17, 29; 17:14

# Right Use of Words

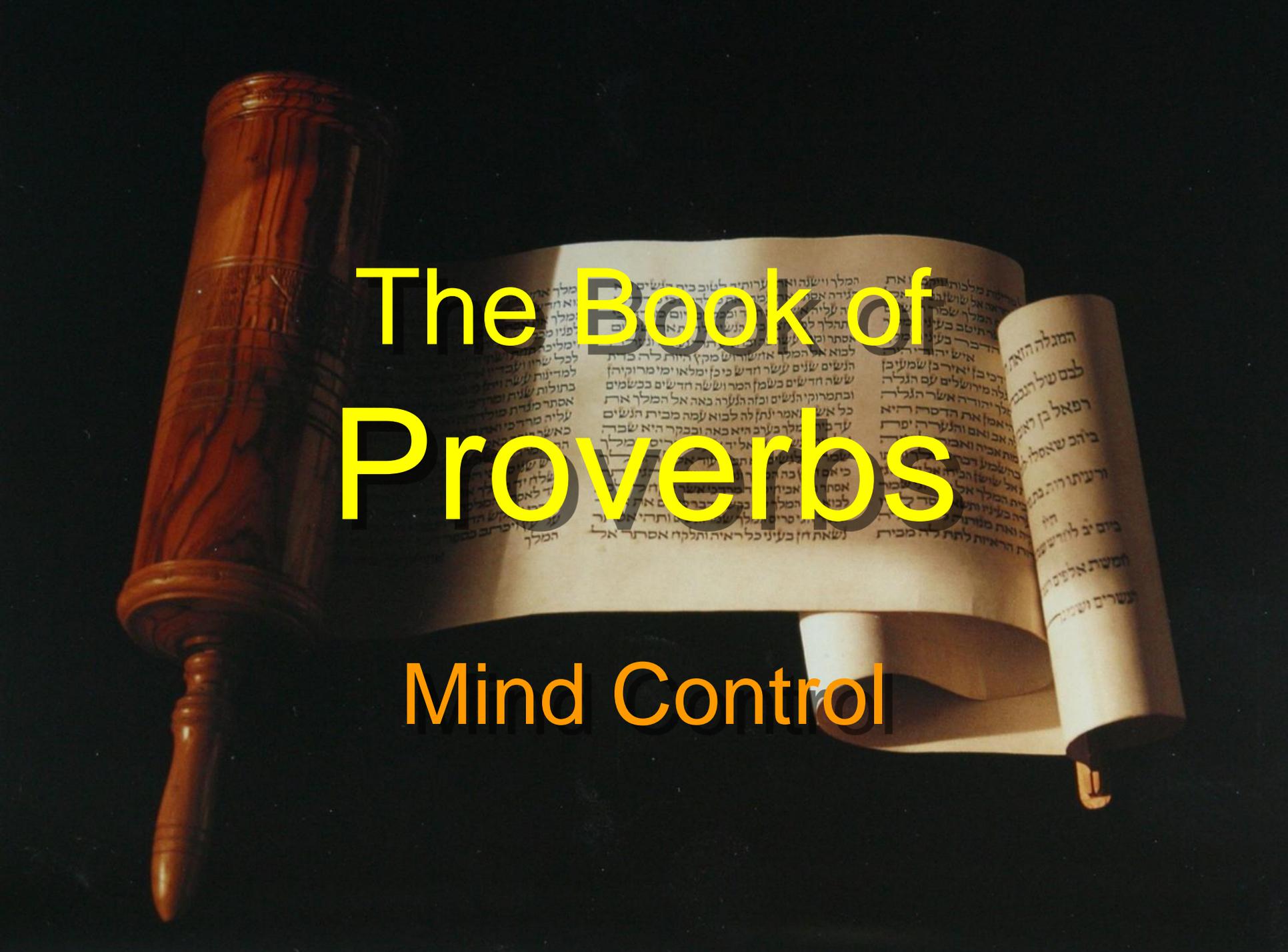
- Words that help and encourage
  - 10:11, 20, 21; 12:14, 18; 15:4; 18:4, 20,21
- Words that express wisdom
  - 10:13, 31; 14:3; 15:2,7; 16:10,21,23; 20:15
- Words that are few
  - 10:19, 11:12, 13:3, 17:27
- Words that are fitting (kind, pleasant, appropriate)
  - 10:32; 12:25; 15:1, 4, 23; 16:24; 25:11,15
- Words that are true
  - 12:17, 19, 22; 14:5,25
- Words that are carefully chosen
  - 13:3,15: 28; 16:23; 21:23

# Wrong Use of Words

- Lying
  - 6:16,17; 10:18; 12:19,22; 17:4,7; 19:5,22; 21:6; 26:28
- Slandering
  - 10:18; 30:10
- Gossiping
  - 11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20, 22
- Constant Talking
  - 10:8, 10, 19; 17:28; 18:2; 10:19
- False Witnessing
  - 12:17; 14:5, 35; 19:5, 28; 21:28; 25:18
- Mocking
  - 12:1; 14:6; 15:12; 17:5; 19:29; 21:11; 22:10; 24:9; 30:17

# Wrong Use of Words

- Harsh Talking (perverse, evil, sly words)
  - 10:31,32; 12:18; 13:3; 14:3; 15:1,28; 17:4; 19:1,28
- Boasting
  - 17:17; 20:14; 25:14; 27:1,2
- Quarreling
  - 13:10; 15:18; 17:14,19; 19:13; 20:3; 21:9, 19; 22:10; 25:24; 19:17, 20, 21; 27:15
- Deceiving
  - 7:19, 20; 12:2; 15:4; 25:23
- Flattering
  - 26:28; 28:23; 29:5
- Ignorant or Foolish Words
  - 14:7; 15:2, 7-14; 18:6, 7



# The Book of Proverbs

Mind Control

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and  
whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Proverbs 20:1

יַיִן *yayin*, most common word for wine, usually  
referred to fermented grape juice;

תִּירוֹשׁ *tirosh* fresh grape juice;

שֵׁכָר *shekar* (“strong drink” in the KJV)

referred to drinks made from barley, dates, or  
pomegranates

# Intoxication

- Was forbidden for
  - priests                      Lev. 10:9
  - Nazirites                    Num. 6:1-3
  - Others                        Isa. 5:11
- Other passages that condemn drunkenness      Pro 23:20-21, 29-35; 31:4-5

# Our Standard

<sup>22</sup> Abstain from **all appearance** of evil.

<sup>23</sup> And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly

**1 Thessalonians 5:22-23**

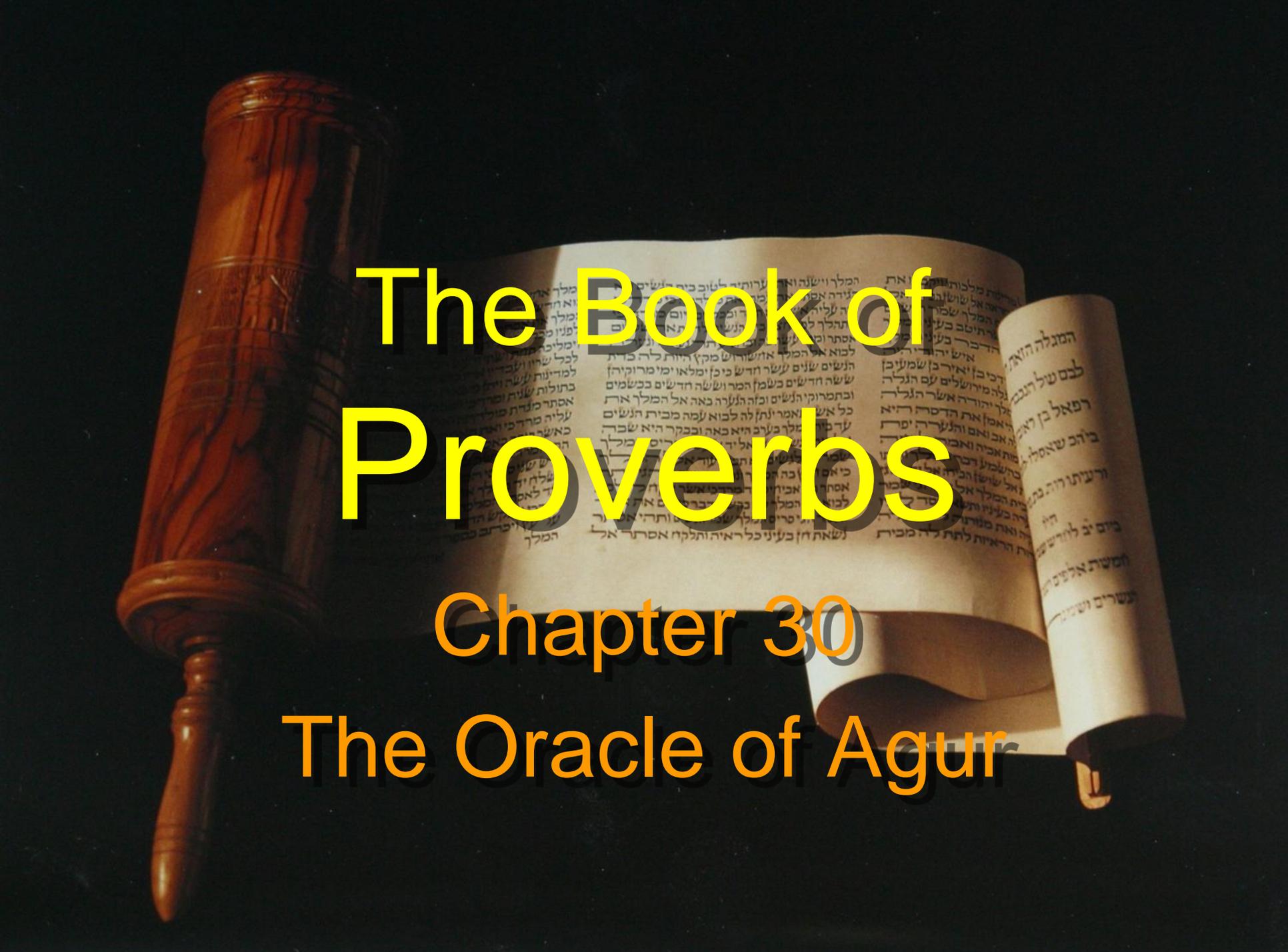
- Are you set apart?
- How would the world interpret your conduct?

<sup>17</sup> And **whatsoever ye do** in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,

**Colossians 3:17**

# Outline of the Book of Proverbs

- Wisdom and Folly Contrasted 1–9
- Proverbs of Solomon 10–24  
*(Written and set in order by himself)*
- Proverbs of Solomon 25–29  
*(Set in order by men of Hezekiah)*
- Oracle of Agur 30
- Proverbs of Lemuel's Mother 31



# The Book of Proverbs

## Chapter 30

## The Oracle of Agur

# The Oracle of Agur

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:  
the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

**Proverbs 30:1**

- Agur = ‘to collect’ viz. ‘the collector’
  - A title (like in Ecclesiastes ‘the preacher’)
  - May refer to Solomon (Rashi / Jerome et al)
- Solomon had several names:
  - Jedidiah ‘beloved of Jehovah’ given by Nathan
    - 2 Samuel 12:25

# The Oracle of Agur

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:  
the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

**Proverbs 30:1**

- Jakeh = 'carefully religious' 'obedient' 'pious'
- Jakeh = David
- The words of the 'Son of David'

# הַמַּשָּׂא נְאֻם הַגִּבֹּר

“Even the prophecy the man spake”(?)

הַמַּשָּׂא *ha massa* the burden, prophecy

נְאֻם *ne'um* oracle

הַגִּבֹּר *ha-gebber* the mighty

*“the mighty oracle prophesied...”*

## יְתִיאל Ithiel

- “God comes, arrives, is with me;”
- equivalent to Immanuel, “God with us.”

Isaiah 7:14; 8:8

## יְתִיֵּאל Ithiel

- “God comes, arrives, is with me;”
- equivalent to Immanuel, “God with us.”  
Isaiah 7:14; 8:8

## אֲכָל Ucal

- a verb: *‘ukhal*, to be consumed

## יְתִיאלִ Ithiel

- “God comes, arrives, is with me;”
  - equivalent to Immanuel, “God with us.”
- Isaiah 7:14; 8:8

## אֲכָלִי Ucal

- a verb: *‘ukhal*, to be consumed
- “God arrives to be consumed” (?)

דְּבַרֵי אֶגֶר בְּרִיקָה הַמְּשֵׂא נָאם  
הַגִּבֹּר לְאֵיתִיאל לְאֵיתִיאל וְאָכַל:

*“The words gathered of  
the wise son of the pious father,  
the prophecy of the mighty oracle:  
that El (God) arrives to be consumed.”*

Surely I *am* more brutish than any man,  
and have not the understanding of a man.  
I neither learned wisdom, nor have the  
knowledge of the holy.

Proverbs 30:2-3

בֶּעַר *Carnal, natural*

אִישׁ *Ish, Mankind*

אָדָם *Adam*

Surely I *am* more brutish than *any* man,  
and have not the understanding of a man.  
I neither learned wisdom, **nor** have the  
knowledge of the holy.

Proverbs 30:2,3

**No negative in the Hebrew**

*“I was not taught wisdom, and  
I have knowledge of the Holies”*

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or  
descended?

Hosea 5:15

Who hath gathered the wind in his fists?

Psalms 135:7

Who hath bound the waters in a garment?

Psalms 104:6

Who hath established all the ends of the earth?

Psalms 72:8

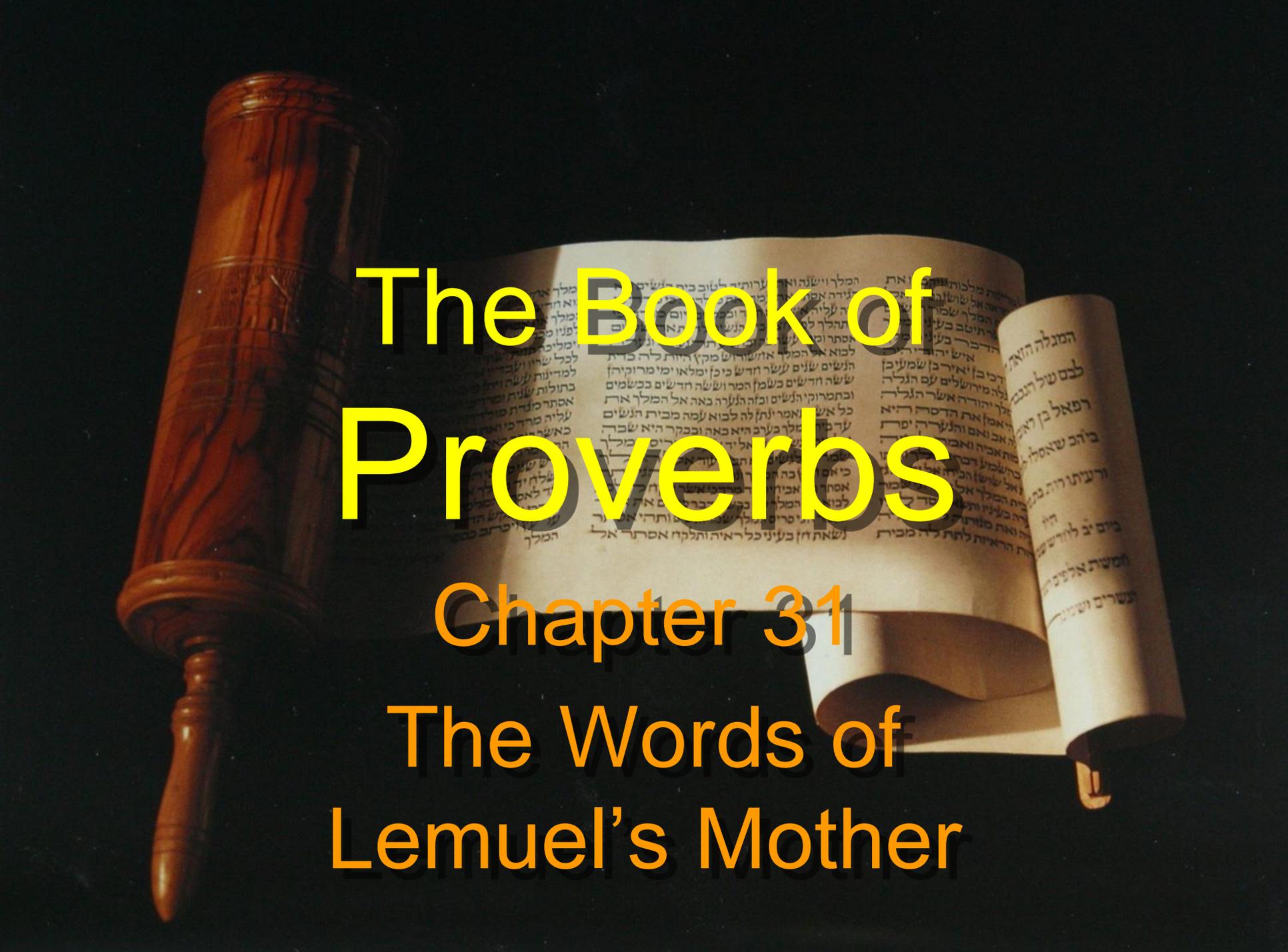
What is his name, and what is his son's name,  
if thou canst tell?

Psalms 110:1

Proverbs 30:4

# Outline of the Book of Proverbs

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# The Book of Proverbs

## Chapter 31

### The Words of Lemuel's Mother

# The Words of Lemuel's Mother

*The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.*

**Proverbs 31:1**

- Lemuel = 'devoted to the LORD'
  - Bathsheba's name for Solomon?
  - A description of the kind of woman every mother hopes for her son! (Acrostic from vs10-31)
    - Wise / good / industrious / not lazy / shrewd / kind / good mother / virtuous / inwardly beautiful
  - She fears the LORD!

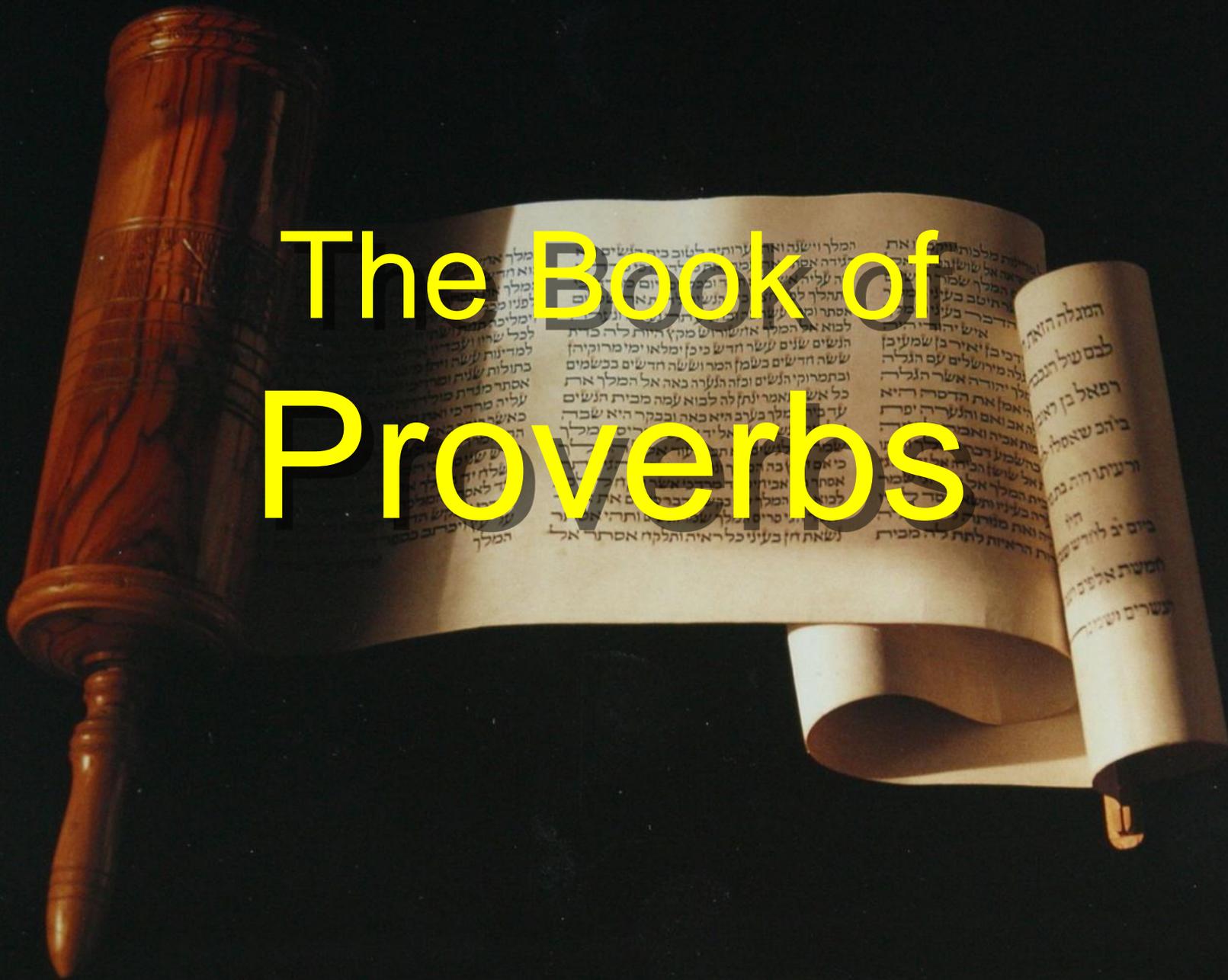
# The Ideal Help-Meet

- “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband” Prov 12:4
- “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord” Prov 18:22
- “A prudent wife is from the Lord” Prov 19:14

# The (less than) Ideal Help-Meet

- It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house 21:9
- It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman 21:19
- It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house 25:24
- the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping 19:13

# The Book of Proverbs



# Personal Proverbs Log

- Month #1
  - AM: Read the chapter for that date (1-31)
  - PM: Record the verse that proved to be the most relevant for that day.
- Month #2
  - Do the same
- Personal Discovery:
  - The most relevant may have been tailored to *your* specific day!



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