Old Testament Survey - Proverbs

Author: Solomon & others. (1:1; 10:1; 25:1 - cf. 1 Kings 4:32 - he spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs - about 200 in Proverbs & Ecclesiastes). No Biblical identification of either Augur or Lemuel.

Date: 971 - c.700 (Solomon’s proverbs were written by 931 B.C. and Hezekiah made his collection of them about 230 years later)

Theme: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom”

Wisdom: Practical righteousness before God in every area of life.

A proverb is a succinct statement of observed general truth, a maxim

Outline:
I. Proverbs’ Purpose. (1:1-7)
II. Proverbs of Solomon to his sons. (1:8 - ch.9)
III. Proverbs of Solomon. (10 -24)
IV. Proverbs of Solomon transcribed under Hezekiah. (25-29)
V. Proverbs of Agur & Lemuel. (30-31:9)
VI. Proverbs’ Woman. (31:10-31)

Key Chapters & Verses
1:1-6 The Purpose of Proverbs - to know wisdom and instruction (skill & discipline)
1:7 - The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom & instruction
3 - The pursuit and precepts of wisdom.
3:3-8 Trust in the LORD and not in yourself.
5:15-23 A Father’s warning to be satisfied with your own wife.
6:16-19 Seven abominations the LORD hates.
9:10 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy one is understanding.”
10:18-20 Warnings on the tongue (speech) - “lying lips, slander, many words.”
15:1 - “A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”
16:18,19 - Pride before destruction, haughty vs. humble spirit.
19:17- He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD,”
20:1 - “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.”
22:6 - Training a child in his “way.”
25:21,22 Love your enemies.
27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”
31:10-31 - The Characteristics of a Worthy Woman
Detailed Outline of Proverbs

I. Proverbs’ Purpose. (1:1-7)

II. Proverbs of Solomon to his sons. (1:8 - ch.9)
   A. Obey Parents  1:8-9
   B. Avoid Sinners  1:10-19
   C. Seek Wisdom  1:20-2:22
   D. Wisdom’s Rewards  3:1-26
   E. Be Kind  3:27-35
   F. A Father’s Instruction  4:1-13
   G. Avoid the Wicked  4:14-22
   H. Guard Your Heart  4:23-27
   I. Avoid the Adulteress  5:1-14
   J. Be Faithful  5:15-23
   K. Avoid Surety  6:1-5
   L. Be Diligent  6:6-19
   M. Avoid Adultery  6:20-7:27
   N. Wisdom’s Call  8:1-9:12
   O. Foolish Woman  9:13-18

III. Proverbs of Solomon.  (10 - 24)
   B. Encouragement for Godly Living 16:1-22:16
   C. Miscellaneous Situations 22:17-ch. 24 (Proverbs of the wise)
IV. Proverbs of Solomon transcribed under Hezekiah. (25-29)
A. Regulations for Relationships with Others  25:1-26:28
   1. Relationships with Kings 25:1-7
   2. Relationships with Neighbors 25:8-20
   5. Relationships with Fools 26:1-12
   6. Relationships with Sluggards 26:13-16
   7. Relationships with Gossips 26:17-28
B. Regulations for Various Activities  27:1-29:27

V. Proverbs of Agur & Lemuel. (30-31:9)

VI. Proverbs’ Woman. (31:10-31)

   Valuable -10  Strong -17  Dignified -25
   Trustworthy -11  Attentive -18  Wise -26
   Continually Good - 12  Hard Worker -19  Watchful -27
   Industrious -13  Compassionate -20  Honored -28
   Prudent -14  Elegant -22  Respected -29
   Diligent -15  Admirable -23  Godly -30
   Entrepreneurial - 16  Capitalist -24  Acclaimed -31

Some Favorite & Often Used Proverbs

2, 5, 6:20-  13:20  16:18  21:9  24:30-34
young men  14:1  17:28  21:23  25:11-12
3:11-12  14:16  18:10  22:7  26:12
11:2  15:22  20:1  23:10-14  28:1
12:19, 22  16:9  21:1  24:3-6  29:15