

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY



Biblical Wisdom

The Purpose of Proverbs

Proverbs 1:2–7 (NLT)

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. ⁷ Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Solomon's Words to His Children

Proverbs 4:1–4 (NLT)

¹ My children, listen when your father corrects you. Pay attention and learn good judgment, ² for I am giving you good guidance. Don't turn away from my instructions. ³ For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved as my mother's only child. ⁴ **My father taught me**, "Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live.

David's Words to His Children

Psalm 34:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the LORD.

Solomon's Response in His Sleep

1 Kings 3:5, 9, 15 (NIV)

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

1 Kings 4:29–30, 34 (NIV)

²⁹ God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ He was wiser than anyone else...

³⁴ From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

How We Acquire Wisdom

Proverbs 2:1–5 (NLT)

¹ My child, **listen** to what I say, and treasure my commands.

² **Tune your ears** to wisdom and **concentrate on understanding**.

³ **Cry out** for insight and ask for understanding.

⁴ **Search** for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. ⁵ Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.

The Benefits of Wisdom

Proverbs 2:6–11 (NLT)

⁶ For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come **knowledge and understanding**. ⁷ He grants a **treasure of common sense** to the honest. He is a **shield** to those who walk with integrity. ⁸ He **guards** the paths of the just and **protects** those who are faithful to him. ⁹ Then you will **understand** what is **right, just, and fair**, and you will find the **right way** to go. ¹⁰ For wisdom will **enter your heart**, and knowledge will fill you with **joy**. ¹¹ **Wise choices** will watch over you. Understanding will keep you **safe**.

First Impressions - Not Always The Truth

Proverbs 18:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.

Proverbs 18:17 (MSG)

¹⁷ The first speech in a court case is always convincing—until the cross-examination starts!

The 12 Spies' Instructions

Numbers 13:17–20 (JPS)

¹⁷ And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them: 'Get you up here into the South, and go up into the mountains; ¹⁸ and see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they are strong or weak, whether they are few or many; ¹⁹ and what the land is that they dwell in, whether it is good or bad; and what cities they are that they dwell in, whether in camps, or in strongholds; ²⁰ and what the land is, whether it is fat or lean, whether there is wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land.' — Now the time was the time of the first-ripe grapes.—

Report On The Exploration

Numbers 13:26–27 (NIV)

²⁶ They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and **to the whole assembly** and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.

BUT.....

Numbers 13:28–29 (NIV)

²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

So..... Truth or Caution

Numbers 13:30–32 (NIV)

³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

1 Kings 17:12–14 (NLT)

¹² But **she said**, “I swear by the LORD your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.”

¹³ But **Elijah said** to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!”

What does it mean to fear the Lord?

Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)

⁷ Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

James 1:5 (NIV)

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.

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A person with a backpack stands on a mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys.

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