

# THE TWO PATHS IN PROVERBS

## Lesson 1: An Introduction and Two Invitations Proverbs 1:1-33

- I. **Introduction:** The prologue introduces us to the subject, author, and purpose of the Book of Proverbs (cp. 1 Kings 4:29-34) – 1:1-7.
  - A. A proverb (Hebrew mashal) is a statement that reveals a basic reality about life.
  - B. Most of Proverbs was written by King Solomon (cp. 1 Kings 4:29-34).
  - C. The Book of Proverbs provides a comprehensive education about wisdom (Hebrew hokmah) or how to live life skillfully in all of its many dimensions (cp. Exodus 28:3).
  - D. The starting point of wisdom is having a relationship of reverential awe toward the Lord, which functions like a yoke to develop our character and train us in the skill of managing our lives – 1:7.
  
- II. **Folly's private enticement:** We're advised to resist the pack's alluring invitation to join them on the path of folly – 1:8-19.

**Note:** The context of Proverbs 1-9 is of wise parents advising their inexperienced son to choose the path of wisdom and reject the path of folly.

  - A. The School of Wisdom cultivates appealing and honorable character – 1:8-9.
  - B. We're warned to resist the pack's alluring invitation to gain superiority, quick money, and membership in a gang – 1:10-14.
  - C. We're informed that the path of folly has an inherent trap that causes the undoing of its patrons – 1:15-19.
  
- III. **Wisdom's public invitation:** Wisdom's invitation is open to everyone, but when those who reject her begin to eat the fruit of their foolishness, she appears distant and aloof – 1:20-33.
  - A. Wisdom's invitation is open and available to one and all – 1:20-23.
  - B. When those who reject wisdom begin to experience the consequences of embracing folly, she appears cruel and aloof – 1:24-33.