

**Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)**  
***Sharing and Responding to Wisdom***  
***Good and Evil***

**Readings: Proverbs**

By topic:

- Sharing and Responding to Wisdom:
- Advice and Rebuke – 3:1-2; 9:7-9; 10:8; 12:15; 13:1; 13:13; 15:31; 17:10; 19:16, 20, 25, 27; 23:9; 25:12; 27:5-6; 29:1
- Value of Advisors – 11:14; 15:22; 20:18; 24:5-6
- Discipline – 3:11-12; 10:17; 12:1; 13:18; 13:24; 15:5, 10, 12, 32; 19:18; 20:30; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17, 19, 21
- Lawkeeping – 28:4, 7, 9; 29:18
- Repentance – 14:9; 28:13
- Good and evil:
- Righteousness and wickedness – 10:6-7, 16, 28-30; 11:5-10, 18-20; 11:23; 12:2-3, 5-8, 12, 21, 28; 13:9, 21, 25; 14:11, 19, 34, 15:6, 9; 20:7; 21:18; 24:15-16; 28:12, 28; 29:2, 16, 27
- Integrity and perversion – 10:9; 13:6, 15:26; 21:8; 24:8-9; 28:18; 29:10
- Appropriate consequences – 3:33-35; 10:3, 22, 24-25; 11:21, 27, 30-31; 14:14, 22; 16:7; 17:13; 18:3; 19:29; 21:12, 16, 21; 22:8; 26:1, 3, 17

**Reflections:**

- In this first section it focuses the teaching on truly seeking and desiring other's insights and teachings. It challenges us to speak the truth to each other. In Christ we find a higher form of teaching. Paul describes it as speaking the truth in love. What we see over and over again

is that the Old Testament possesses the seed as imperfect and flawed as it is. In Christ we find the full expression of God's approach to life and living in love.

- There are references throughout the proverbs of corporal punishment which reflects the time period and the Law. We see again that as much wisdom as Solomon possessed, we find that Christ's way is far higher. All forms of physical harm are rejected by Jesus.
- There are some great insights for leaders throughout Proverbs. "For waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers." Any major project or initiative requires the best thinking of your best people.
- The next section focuses on the value of discipline. Again we see a focus on corporal punishment. What we note again is that in the Old Testament we are learning all about what doesn't work. There is good wisdom here [e.g. "Train a child in the way he should go (train a child according to how they are wired, adapt to the child's approach to life) and when they are old they will not depart from it (in other words, your teaching will stick if it is translated into an experience that works with the child's personality)] but there is also a great deal of focus on using external means of punishment. This outside-in approach to change simply does not work. Jesus' inside-out approach will completely supplant this and will reveal to us God's ultimate way of changing the human heart.
- We should notice how little of an emphasis there is on the law in Proverbs. Although it is mentioned it is far from the center piece of the wisdom.
- Finally a lengthy section on good and evil, integrity and consequences. In all of this we must remember that this is the world of law, judgment and punishment. Christ will bring mercy, grace and freedom. There is human wisdom in what is written in these proverbs but God will reveal a higher wisdom in Christ. Proverbs 3:35 hints at this when it says, "He (God) gives grace to the humble." This will be fully revealed in Christ.