

Proverbs Study Guide #3  
Proverbs 1:1

### **The Lives And Sons Of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Saul, David, Solomon and God**

Thus far we have considered the Law of Moses, the ten commandments, and their content as the basis for the book of Proverbs. The commandments reflect how God is and whom God is. In their entirety they deeply consider God, man, crucial issues of man's human living, and the relationship of God with man and of man-to-man. The detailed expression of human living expressed in Proverbs is in light of these crucial items according to the experience of Solomon and others.

We have also considered the importance of the person Solomon, and his source in David. In spite of David's human weaknesses, his heart was for God. David's heart matched God's heart, and God's reaction was to promise David a kingdom without end. Because of this, the stream of God's passion passed through David and his descendants until Christ descended from his lineage and was called the Son of David, and the "One greater than Solomon...". As the heart of David was to build the temple, Solomon built it, and the heart of Christ was to build the church, the real temple of God.

Moses through the Law provided a place to stand, Solomon through Proverbs a place to walk and David through the temple a place to live.

In this study now we will consider a broader scope of fathers and sons. Although Solomon the man of peace, the man of wisdom, proceeded from David the man of war, the one known as allowing devastating human moral failures in his life as the king, there is value in visiting this relationship and this dynamic in the setting of others in the Bible. In order to gain perspective, then, we will visit this father-son, this David-Solomon life in view of several key men of the Bible representing hundreds of years of history.

It is with ease we may judge a situation or people too narrowly, based only on immediate experiences or impressions. For example(s), one's experience on the job short-term may give a skewed view of what the job or the company is really like, for better or for worse. To know a person from any certain foreign country may make it easy to assume that that is what people from that country are actually like, for better or for worse. To know someone's child make give the impression the family is like that, for better or for worse. With a broader view, we may learn something that will help us generally, lest we be too conclusive too quickly on single events or single cases. God's view is broad with a life-long perspective and hope for His believers and sons. Had God rejected David in his failure as did some, we would have missed Solomon, the wisdom of God.

Although many men and women and families might be assessed in both the Old Testament and in the New Testament, we will visit just a few. For example, what about Adam and his sons? Is there any evidence suggesting why his son would be a murderer and his next two sons pleasing to God? What about Noah and his wife, whose sons with their wives all entered the ark, all the children and their spouses partaking of the obedience of their father?

What about the idol-worshipping Abraham who was sought out by God? What about his son Isaac who had everything and yet stood in the ways of his believing father? What about Isaac's son Jacob, so twisted in his thinking as a spoiled child and yet becoming the epitome of a God-seeker, and of transformation whose end was so precious that the reader's heart melts at his words? What about Jacob's son Joseph, who had every apparent reason to be bitter and vengeful, and yet not one adverse word or one hint of improper behavior in his whole life is noted; and who named his first son "Manasseh", meaning "forgiveness", or "causing forgetfulness"; and his second son Ephraim, meaning "fruitfulness"?

Many others we must visit, as tokens of the whole, including God and the sons of God. May we seek the Lord much and learn well, lest the Bible, and specifically Proverbs, just be a collection of interesting thoughts and sayings.

The Lives and sons of...

I. Adam (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 21-23; 5:1-2; Luke 3:38; I Corinthians. 15:22, 45)

A. Cain (Genesis 4:1,2,5-8, 16)

B. Abel/Seth (Genesis 4:3, 4, 25-26)

II. Noah (Genesis 6:5-10; 7:13, 16, 18; 9:1, 8, 18, 19)

A. Shem (and Japheth) (Genesis 9:23, 26)

B. Ham Genesis (9:19-22, 26)

III. Abraham (Genesis 12:1; 15:2, 6; 17:5, 8, 19; 18:2-15; 25:1ff; 25:9)

A. Ishmael (Genesis 16:11-12; 17:26; 25:13ff)

B. Isaac (Genesis 21:2, 3, 12; 22:2)

IV. Isaac (Genesis 21, 22; 25:21, 23; 35:1-15, 19, 20, 29)

A. Esau (Genesis 25:21, 23, 26; 27:41; 28:9)

B. Jacob (Genesis 25:23, 23; 27:19; 28:2, 7; 29:31; 30:1)

V. Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22; 29:31; 30:1, 2)

A. Leah's sons (Genesis 35:22-23)

B. Rachel's sons (Genesis 35:24; 37:3)

VI. Joseph (Genesis 30:24, 25; Gen. 37-50)

A. Manasseh (Genesis 41:51; 48:1-20)

B. Ephraim (Genesis 41:52; 48:1-20)

VII. Moses (Exodus 2:21-22; 18:1-12; I Chronicles 23:14-15)

A. (Joshua, spiritual son; similar to Timothy, spiritual son of Paul)

VIII. Saul (I Sam. 9:27; 10:1, 6, 9, 10, 16-27; 13:13-15; 15:1, 11, 22, 23, 28, 35; II Sam. 1:1-27)

A. Jonathan (I Samuel 19:4; 20:3, 17; II Samuel 1:1-27)

B. Memphibosheth (grandson, "utterance of Baal") ( II Sam. 4:4; II Sam. 19:24; 21:7)

C. Michal (daughter of Saul) (I Samuel 18:20; 19:11-17; II Samuel 6:16; 21:8-9)

IX. David (II Samuel 5:9-12; I Chronicles 21:1-19; 23:1)

A. Absalom (II Samuel 13-18; 18:33; 19:1-11)

B. Adonijah (II Samuel 3:4, #4 son; I Kings 1:46-53; 2:12-29)

C. Solomon (#10 son) (II Samuel 5:13-16; 12:24; I Kings 2:1-12; Matthew 12:42)

X. Solomon (I Kings 3:5; 9:2; I Kings 8; 11:1-13; Proverbs 1:1; Matthew 1:6-7)

A. Rehoboam (I Kings 11:43; 12:20)

B. (Jeroboam, king of Israel, not a son) I Kings 14:6-11)

XI. God (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1)

A. Israel, son of God (Exodus 4:22)

B. Jesus, only begotten Son (John 3:16)

C. Jesus, the firstborn of many brothers (Rom. 8:29, 16; Heb. 1:5)

D. Believers (Rom. 8:16; Heb. 2:12; I John 3:1-2)

1. How do you feel about studying Solomon's immediate family, ancestors and descendants as we consider Proverbs?

2. What are some notable things in the precedents and descendants, in their families, in their sons and daughters, in their living within their current culture?

3. What are some things that Solomon did? that David did? If you look at just one or two things, is that fair to the man? Could a too-quick judgment give a wrong picture of him? Of his place with God? Of his place in the works of God? Of his ability to teach you something? (I Corinthians 10:1-12)

4. Consider how you see yourself, how you see your parents, family, other believers. Do you see or know or assume something about them that gives you a narrow impression? Can you find Solomon in your heart and home and church and work? Could this cause a loss or a gain to you, to them, to the church? If so, what is God's view and what are remedies and strengthenings?

5. Try to memorize at least one verse in this study that touches you. Try to pray with and over it and let the Lord breathe His thoughts and words and voice into you through the week.

6. If you categorize someone, what is the possibility you can see their whole life blessing from God's point of view for, to, and in the church? Do you need to do like Joseph in this study and name your offspring Manasseh, i.e. "forgiveness", "causing forgetfulness"?

7. If David's heart was just for God's heart, and God's heart is to have a dwelling place, and Solomon with his father's heart built the temple, what message does that send to you, to me, to other believers? Does this give hope in our failures and sins? Can you do something about this?

