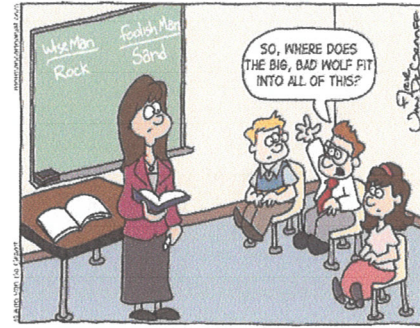


"I'd like a million dollars worth of wisdom, please.
Can you just bill me?"

Proverbs



Proverbs 1, the opening chapter of the book of Proverbs, emphasizes the importance of wisdom and understanding, encouraging readers to seek knowledge and instruction, and warns against the allure of foolishness and sin, stating that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

The Purpose of the Book: a collection of wise sayings intended to impart wisdom, discipline, understanding, and justice.

Seeking Wisdom: Proverbs 1:2-6 emphasizes the value of seeking wisdom and understanding, encouraging readers to learn from the wise and to grasp the meaning of proverbs and riddles.

The Fear of the Lord: Verse 7 introduces a foundational concept: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge," contrasting this with the foolish who despise wisdom and instruction.

Warning against Sin: Proverbs 1:8-19 warned against the enticements of sinners and the allure of foolish ways, emphasizing the dangers of associating with those who lead a life of sin and rebellion.

Wisdom's Call: Verses 20-33 depict wisdom as a personified figure calling out to the simple, the scornful, and the foolish, urging them to heed her warnings and embrace wisdom before it's too late.

Consequences of Wisdom and Foolishness: The chapter highlights the positive outcomes of pursuing wisdom and the negative consequences of rejecting it, emphasizing that those who embrace wisdom will find prosperity and joy, while those who reject it will face suffering and destruction.

Purpose:

1. To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight.
2. To receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity.
3. To give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth.
4. Increase in learning and those who understand obtain guidance.
5. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
6. Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
7. Hear your father's instruction and forsake not your mother's teaching.
8. If sinners entice you, do not consent.
9. The they say "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood, let us ambush the innocent without reason, like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit.
10. We shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder, throw in your lot among us.
11. We will all have one purse.
12. Do not walk in the way with them, hold back your foot from their paths, for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.
13. In vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, but these men lie in wait for their own blood. They set an ambush for their own lives.
14. It takes away the life of a possessor.
15. Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice, at the head of the noisy streets she cries out at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.
16. How long will you remain simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?
17. If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make my words known to you.
18. Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched and my hand and no one has heeded. Because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof.

19. I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.
20. They will call upon me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.
21. For the simple are killed by their turning away and the complacency of fools destroys them, but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease without dread of disaster.