

READ Proverbs 1:1-7

What – The Proverbs are the “wisest” of what the Bible calls, “The Wisdom Literature”. While much of the Bible is in narrative form, the books of wisdom (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs) are a collection of songs, prayers and wise saying that the Jewish community had collected over thousands of years. In the title line of the Proverbs we see that Solomon, Son of David had collected the verses that he recorded as the Proverbs. When Solomon was King of Israel, the nation grew to its greatest size and wealth. What made the nation special was its geographical location. Israel was on the trade route between the two superpowers of the day, Babylon and Egypt. Because of this Israel was VERY powerful and for a short time became a world crossroads for culture, finance, and technology. It was during this time that Solomon was asking God for wisdom and collecting all that God sent his way from around the world.

Why – The important thing about this scripture is that it reveals God’s plan for us and for His Word, especially the Wisdom Literature. God desires that we attain wisdom and discipline. These things come from Him, which is why He is collecting these proverbs. His desire is that we understand what goes on around us from His perspective and that we learn, grow, and have a positive affect on the world and the people in our circle of influence. God does not just record these sayings for His glory; His goal is to aid His creation.

WOW – The WOW here is our response. God says, “I want to help you,” but He also reminds us verse 7 what is required of us if we want to have the full life God has planned for us. “Fear of the Lord” and a desire for “discipline” will lead us to know the secrets of God. This scripture is repeated often in many ways in the New Testament. Paul’s well-known exhortation in Romans 12:1 to offer ourselves as “living sacrifices” is a prime example. The beginning of Proverbs is a call to sacrifice. Don’t put yourself first, put God’s will first (Fear of the Lord) and be willing to work at it (discipline) if that is what it takes. If we are willing to do that, God’s blessings of understanding, wisdom, guidance, and success will follow as we experience His plan for us. That is different from the wisdom of the world, but it is the essence of Gods wisdom for us His people.