



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Proverbs 1-24

Week 23

Daily Reading Plan:

- ___ Prov.1-4
- ___ Prov.5-8
- ___ Prov.9-12
- ___ Prov.13-16
- ___ Prov.17-20
- ___ Prov.21-24
- ___ REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

1 Kings 5-9
2 Chron. 2-8
Ps.134,136,146-150

MEMORY VERSE:

**Trust in the Lord
with all your heart
and lean not on your
own understanding;
in all your ways
acknowledge him,
and he will make your
paths straight.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

PROVERBS

There may not be any stupid questions, but there is an overabundance of stupid answers. It's not always easy to sort out the stupid or deceptive answers from the true. Things can sound really good and make a lot of sense to us without actually being true and right. In fact, God reminds us in Isaiah 55:8 that He doesn't think the same as we do. He's not going to change His mind about what is true, so if we want to think right we have to be able to change our views to line up with His. We want to have the mind of Christ. We want to think like He does. We want to have a Biblical view of the world in which to deal with our experiences instead of letting our experiences determine our view of the world. That's tough. Very few, if any of us enter adulthood without having some ideas that need unlearned.

**There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.**

Proverbs 14:12

Those ideas of how the world works determine much of how we live and who we are. Not only do we have to know what is right, but we have to see it as important to do what is right even when we don't feel like it. We need core values that we can hold fast to even when everyone around us tries to drag us away. We need to understand who we are in God's eyes and who He created us to be. We need to be so secure in that identity that we will not be blown and tossed by waves of overwhelming doubt. All that wisdom put into practice makes us women of character. That is what Proverbs helps us with. It is Solomon's God given wisdom made very practical for us.

Proverbs aren't really promises, but more the way things will generally work if we follow them. It's a view of how the world works that is more reliable than some of the ideas we have been taught along the way. They are brief and easy to remember. They are straightforward statements that don't require a lot of reasoning and interpretation. We can take them at face value and immediately put them to work in every aspect of our lives if we so choose.

WISE OR FOOLISH?

List some of the major themes in the first 24 chapters of Proverbs:

Proverbs describes a fool as the person who hates or ignores God and His instructions for us. How would you describe a person who is wise? _____

Name a person you know that you consider to be wise: _____

“Let your eyes look straight ahead,
fix your gaze directly before you.
Make level paths for your feet
and take only ways that are firm.
Do not swerve to the right or the
left;
keep your foot from evil.”
Proverbs 4:25-27

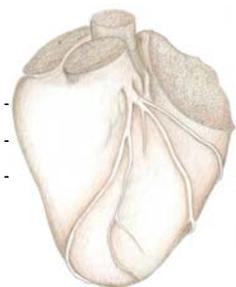


What are some ways that you are tempted to swerve from the firm and level path? _____

How do you keep your eyes looking straight ahead? _____

GUARD YOUR HEART Prov. 4:23

How is your heart the wellspring of life? _____



How should we guard our hearts? _____

When should we guard our hearts? _____

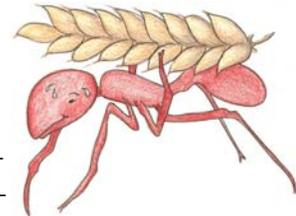
WORK Prov. 6:6-12

We are told in 1 Kings that Solomon was a keen student of nature. We see evidence of that in his use of what he has observed in the plant and animal kingdoms.

In what ways are we encouraged to be like the ant? _____

What is the cost of a little slumber? _____

What is your attitude toward your work? _____



AUTHOR OF PROVERBS

According to Prov. 1:1, these are the proverbs of Solomon (some of the 3,000 referred to in 1 Kings 4:32-34?), but 25:1 indicates that it was not completed or maybe compiled until the reign of King Hezekiah some 200 years later (Richards 337). Halfway through chapter 22, more proverbs are introduced as “sayings of the wise”. Its really not very clear which were written by Solomon and which were just collected wise sayings like the little book I write things down in. The difference is that whoever held the pen, these are considered the inspired words of God.

SEVEN DETESTABLE THINGS

Prov. 6:16-19

Something that is detestable is disgusting and repulsive. In China my parents were served sea slugs at a fancy banquet where everyone politely waited for them to take the first bite. I don't know about you, but the idea of biting into anything that carries the name “slug” sounds pretty detestable.

What seven things does God find detestable?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

The KJV uses the word abomination for these. What should our feelings toward them be? _____

THE TONGUE

Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent,
and discerning if he holds his tongue.
Proverbs 17:28

What does Proverbs have to say about the power of our words?

15:23 _____
16:24 _____
17:9 _____

MONEY

Women are known for their poor spending habits. Do you think that stereotype is justified? _____

What do these verses from Proverbs have to say about money?

11:24-26 _____
17:23 _____
19:17 _____
21:13 _____
21:23 _____
22:7 _____

In what area do you have the most trouble with money? _____

MARRIAGE

What does chapter 21 have to say about living with a quarrelsome wife? _____

In what ways do we tend to be quarrelsome? _____

A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.
Proverbs 12:4

How would you describe a "prudent" wife (19:14)? _____

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

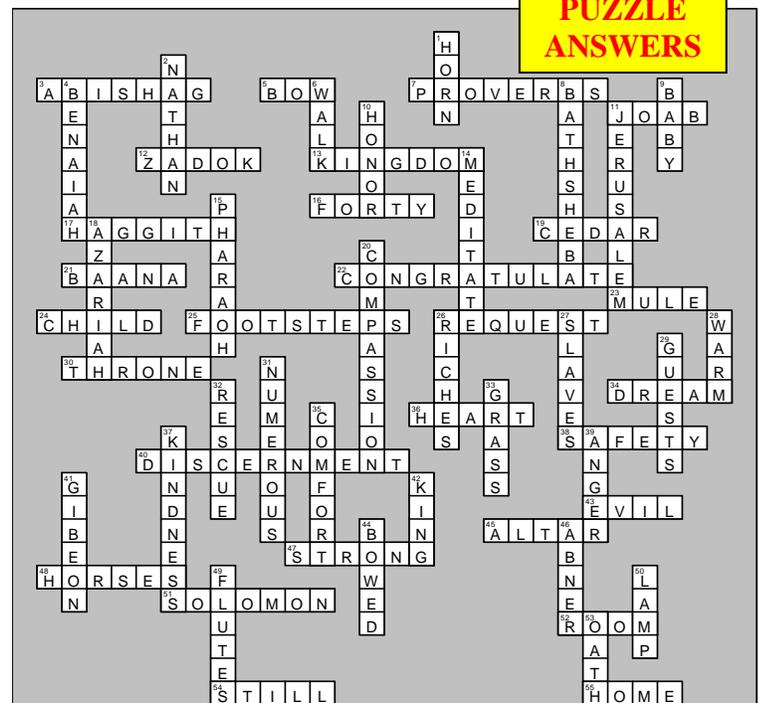
AUTHOR OF PROVERBS p.2
Richards, Lawrence O.. Bible Teacher's Commentary.
Colorado Springs: Cook Communications Ministries, 1987.

MARRIAGE p.3
Meyers, Rick. e-Sword. 17 May 2007 <http://www.e-sword.net>.

**WEEK 22
PUZZLE
ANSWERS**

HOW HIGH IS OUR GATE?

Proverbs 17:19 says that "He who loves to quarrel loves sin; he who builds a high gate invites destruction." Sometimes I think that as Christians we set such lofty standards and build gates so high that few dare make the leap. In the name of righteous living we give the air of being unapproachable. From the safe confines of our church we can condemn those "out there" who will not or cannot conform to our set of beliefs. If we aren't careful we **can** love sin in others of course, because in contrast we can look more holy. It can become more important to be different than to be loving. How can we find the right balance? _____



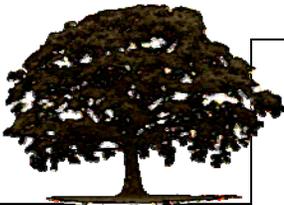
PUZZLE CLUES

Across

2. betrays a confidence 11:13
4. the way of the wicked 4:19
6. turned away by a gentle answer 15:1
10. thoughts that are pleasing to God 15:26
11. to love this is to love sin 17:19
12. what the simple inherit 14:18
13. their course is guarded 2:8
15. a mother's is not to be forsaken 6:20
18. some paths are 2:15
19. not a fitting way to live for a fool 19:10
20. what the name of the wicked will do 10:7
22. the Lord's are everywhere 15:3
25. those who hate correction 12:1
28. face of the adulteress 7:13
29. to attain wisdom and _____ 1:2
32. where wisdom will enter 2:10
33. comes to those who search for it 11:27
34. what the sluggard gets 13:4
36. Solomon's 1:1
38. breeds quarrels 13:10
39. rush into sin 1:16
41. not to be withheld 3:27
42. for those who listen 1:33
44. keep corrupt talk away from them 4:24
46. apply your heart to it 23:12
51. an evil man is bent on 17:11
54. a noble wife is her husband's 12:4
55. a kindhearted one gains respect 11:16
56. an adulterer's is never wiped away 6:33
59. mouth of a villain 6:12
61. examined by God 5:21
64. the mouth of the righteous 10:11
65. number of things detestable to God 6:16
66. fear of the Lord is the beginning of this 1:7
67. the way of the Lord 10:29

Down

1. for those who promote peace 12:20
3. comes like a bandit 6:11
4. follows pride 11:2
5. makes a fool seem wise 17:28
7. established through righteousness 16:12
8. knowledge is better than it 8:10
9. overlooked by a prudent man 12:16
14. does not listen to rebuke 13:1
16. pleasant words are this sweet 16:24
17. a good one is more desirable than riches 22:1
21. held in store for the upright 2:7
23. not good without knowledge 19:2
24. don't be in your own eyes 3:7
26. "_____ a child int he way he should go" 22:6
27. should listen to your father's 1:8
30. given to the humble 3:34
31. this kind of heart weighs a man down 12:25
32. sweet to the taste 24:13
33. rots the bones 14:30
35. do not _____ my teaching 3:1
37. determined by the Lord 16:9
39. spreads slander 10:18
40. won by good understanding 13:15
43. ignored 1:25
45. gained by paying attention 4:1
47. known by his actions 20:11
48. brings a profit 14:23
49. consider its ways for wisdom 6:6
50. fix yours directly before you 4:25
52. turned to wisdom 2:2
53. a cheerful one comes from a happy heart 15:13
55. despised by fools 1:7
57. when you run you will not _____ 4:12
58. weighed by the Lord 16:2
60. has the power of life and death 18:21
62. listened to by the wise 12:15
63. comes after humility 15:33



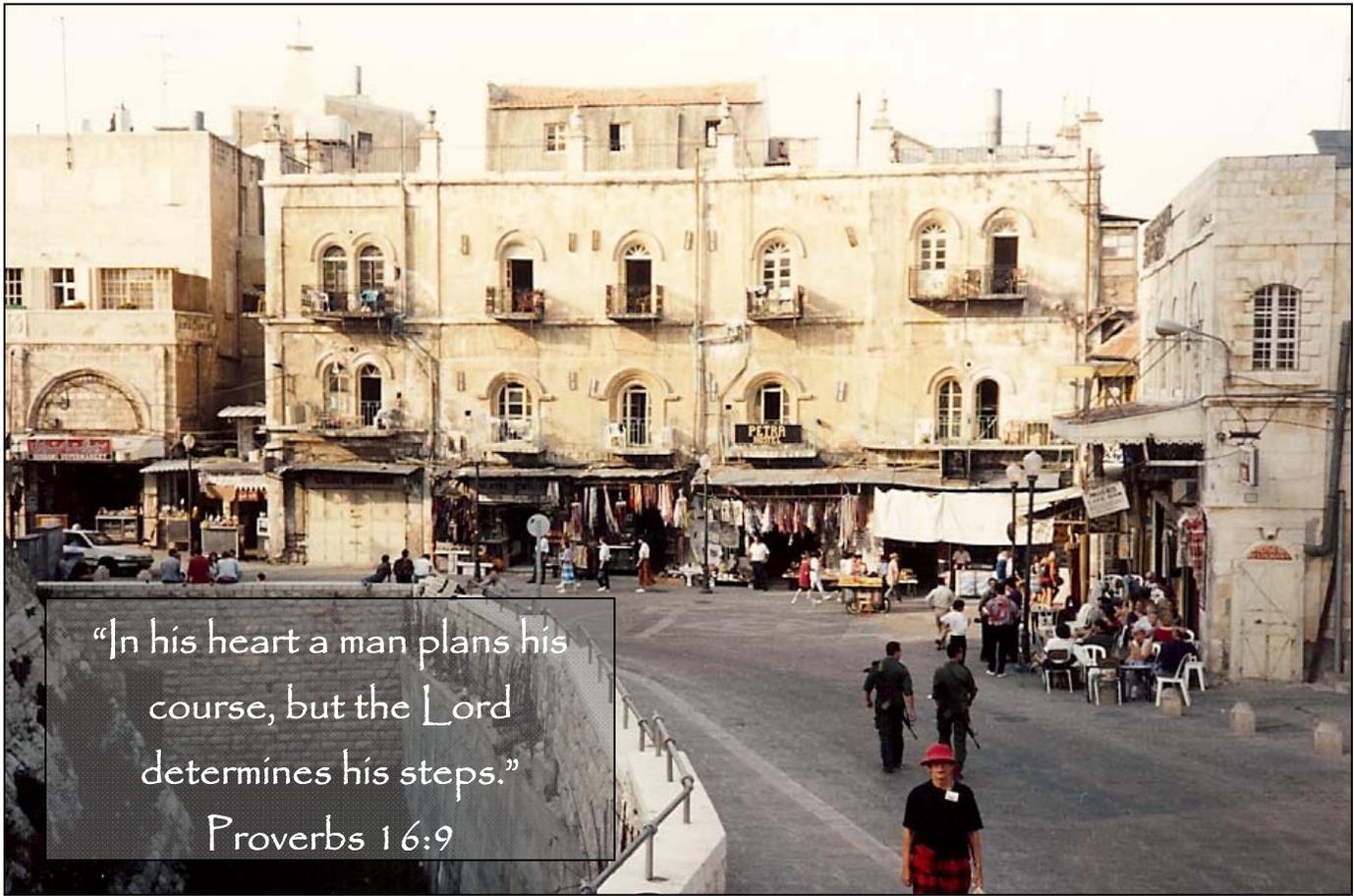
For comments or questions,
contact me at
victoryrd@hotmail.com
or for more studies visit
www.downvictoryrd.com

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
Proverbs 1:7



PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 23



“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”
Proverbs 16:9

OUR SOVEREIGN LORD

Have you ever looked back at the events of your life and marveled at the way God has woven them all together to bring them to where you are now? So many things seem like haphazard interruptions or detours at the time, but then later you find that they had a purpose in placing you exactly where you needed to be for God’s future use.

When we moved into our big old dilapidated farmhouse, our plan was to make a wise financial move. God’s plan was to put us in a home large enough to accommodate the children that He sent our way. We carefully plan our future, but it is the Lord who controls our steps. We can trust that every move we make happens only by God’s permission. As we yield our plans to Him, we understand that they may not turn out at all as we had imagined, for we serve a God who gives us even more than we could imagine to ask for.

Looking back over your own life, what are some steps that you can now see were determined by God?

How did you feel about them at the time? _____

In what ways do you think He may be determining your steps today? _____
