1 Kings 3:4-9 (ESV) ⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

1 Kings 3:12 (ESV) behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

Matthew 12:42 (ESV) The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Proverbs is one of 5 books that make up the "wisdom, or poetical, literature" section of the Old Testament. The five books are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

1. The Meaning of Wisdom

The Hebrew word translated wisdom (ḥokmâ, hok-mah) means skilled, intelligent, or understanding how to use knowledge or information.

Proverbs 8:11 (ESV) for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

2. The Benefits of Wisdom

- Wisdom protects against deception.

Proverbs 2:9-15 (ESV) ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; ¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ¹¹ discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, ¹² delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, ¹³ who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, ¹⁴ who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, ¹⁵ men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

- Wisdom produces a healthy life.

Proverbs 3:16 (ESV) Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

- Wisdom promotes financial success.

Proverbs 17:16 (ESV) Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense?

Proverbs 17:16 (NIV) Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?
• Wisdom paves the way to peace.

Proverbs 3:17 (ESV) Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

James 3:17 (ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

• Wisdom provides real joy.

Proverbs 3:13 (ESV) Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,

James 1:17 (ESV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

3. How to Gain Wisdom

• Acquire reverence for God.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

• Ask God.

Proverbs 2:6 (ESV) For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

James 1:5 (ESV) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

• Apply God's Word.

Proverbs 17:24 (ESV) The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.