Interesting Facts About Proverbs

MEANING: “Comparison, similar, parallel.”

AUTHOR: The principle author is Solomon.
• Agur wrote chapter 30.
• Lemuel wrote chapter 31 about the worthy woman.

TIME WRITTEN:
• Solomon’s proverbs were written by 931 B.C.
• The proverbs in chapters 25-29 were collected by Hezekiah about 230 years later. Hezekiah reigned from 715 B.C. to 686 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:
• 20th Book in the Bible
• 20th Book in the Old Testament
• 3rd of 5 Poetical books (Job - Song of Solomon)
• 46 Books to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 31
VERSES: 915
WORDS: 15,043

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PROVERBS:
■ Concerning the proverbs of Solomon:
• According to 1 Kings 4:32, Solomon spoke:
  - 3,000 proverbs.
  - 1,005 songs.
• Only about 800 of Solomon’s proverbs are included in this Book of Proverbs.
• Therefore, 2,300 of his proverbs are not contained in the Book of Proverbs.
■ There is no Biblical information about Agur or Lemuel.
■ Solomon’s great wisdom was well known during his day.
• In 1 Kings 3:9-12, Solomon asked for wisdom and it was granted.
• 1 Kings 10:24 - “Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.”

■ The key word in Proverbs is “wisdom,” meaning “the ability to live skillfully.”
• “Wisdom” means skill.
• “Instruction” means discipline.

■ Proverbs provides detailed instructions for His people to deal successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life.
• How to relate to God.
• How to relate to neighbors.
• How to relate to parents.
• How to relate to government.
• How to relate to children.

■ The Book of Proverbs is designed to:
• Prevent ungodly life-styles.
• Remedy ungodly life-styles.

■ Included in Proverbs is instruction regarding:
• Wisdom and folly
• Righteousness and wickedness
• The tongue and speech
• Pride and humility
• Justice and vengeance
• The family
• Laziness and work
• Poverty and wealth
• Friends and neighbors
• Love and lust
• Anger and strife
• Masters and servants
• Life and death
• Drunkenness

■ Proverbs 31 includes an acrostic of 22 verses (the first letter of each follows the complete Hebrew alphabet) portraying the virtuous woman.