



Texting with Solomon

—Life Hacks Week 1—

Proverbs 1:1–7 (NIV)

I. _____ (s) of the Texts

1:1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

Pin #1, _____: Wisdom Literature, Proverbs

- Wisdom Literature in the Bible: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
- While this wisdom ultimately comes from God (2:6), the generation of this material also involved learning from day-to-day life itself by observation and experience in the community (24:30-32).
- A proverb is “A short sentence of wisdom” (W. Mieder, *Proverbs*, 18-40); “short sentences drawn from long experience” (M. Cervantes, *Don Quixote*).
 - Proverbs proper are typically found in Proverbs chapters 10–31. Chapters 1–9 consist of longer lectures.
 - A proverb typically has: Shortness, Imagery, and Parallelism (Waltke, *Proverbs*, 38)
- Proverbs are principles designed to motivate positive behaviors, not promises, and thus are not always true in every circumstance (see 26:4-5). Rather, they “are true only if stated at the right time and in the right circumstance” (Longman, *Proverbs*, 31).

Pin #2, _____: Solomon and other Sages

- While the whole work is attributed to King Solomon (1:1), other contributors are also named (22:17; 30:1; 31:1; 25:1).
- We thus have a diverse collection from various wise sages of Israel.

II. _____ of the Texts

² for gaining wisdom and instruction;

for understanding words of insight;

³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;

⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—

⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—

⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

Pin #3, _____ of _____:

- Usage outside Proverbs suggests a meaning of “masterful understanding,” “skill,” or “expertise” (Exod 7:11; 28:3; 31:6; Isa 3:3; 10:13; Ecc 4:13; Jer 50:35; 1 Kings 5:7 [Waltke, “Fundamentals” 3.260]).
- Yet in Proverbs usage suggests more specifically “social skill” or “masterful understanding of social relationships” (e.g., 12:18). This involves “the skill of relating to God and to all kinds of people in order to enjoy an abundant life and to avoid death” (Waltke, 3.260).
- While the term “wisdom” is itself neutral about right and wrong (Exod 7:11), this is not so in Proverbs, where the term takes on a strong ethical sense (see 1:3). The usage of words like “righteousness,” “justice,” and “equity,” in Proverbs makes this clear (Waltke, 3.261).
- Our working definition of wisdom: **Being** _____
(**Especially in** _____ **and** _____).

Pin #4, _____:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • The Young | • The Simple |
| • Young Men | • The Wise |
| • (Rich Young Men) | • The Fool |
| • (Young Women) | • (All God’s People) |

III. Required _____ to “_____” the Texts

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pin #5, _____ of _____:

- “Fear” here has a meaning that “goes from what might be called ‘respect’ or ‘awe’ to ‘utter terror.’ Indisputable, however, is the basic premise that to fear Yahweh is to stand in a subservient position to him, to acknowledge one’s dependence upon him” (Longman, 101).
- “Fearing God” in this sense is at some level parallel to “Loving God” (Deut 6:2, 5). “Fearing God” is also a NT concept (1 Pet 1:15-17)
- In terms of being good at life, “the fear of God is so valued because it motivates right behavior even when socially enforced sanctions do not exist or cannot be effective” (Fox, *Proverbs*, 70).

The Bottom Line Unlocked

_____ to _____ at _____
...by _____ to _____ through _____.
...by seeking _____ from _____.

Summer Suggestion: either read one chapter a day (the chapter that corresponds to each day of the month: on June 11 read chapter 11) or memorize one verse a week and reflect on it every day that week (this week’s suggestion: Prov 1:7).