



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

BIBLICAL NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

1 Kings 1–9 • 2 Chronicles 1–8 • Proverbs • Song of Solomon

and

The Principle of Obedience

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OVERVIEW

The Principle of Obedience is the sixth of the Seven Spiritual Principles, which is God's plan to reward our lives. Isaiah 1:19 says:

“If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land.”

Solomon enjoyed the good of the land. We see this in the beginning of 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Therefore, we will discuss the first nine chapters of 1 Kings and first eight chapters of 2 Chronicles which covers Solomon's inauguration and his fame; and the glory he brought to Israel. Israel was at peace and prospered during Solomon's reign. We will also cover the Book of Proverbs, which Solomon is the major author, and the Song of Solomon. We will use Solomon as our biblical character to talk about the **Principle of Obedience** because during the beginning of Solomon's reign, he was obedient to Yahweh. So, God said to Solomon in I Kings 3:5 and 2 Chronicles 1:7, *‘Ask what I shall give you.’* God bestowed upon Solomon, not only wisdom to rule the people of Israel, but riches, honor and fame.

The Principle of Obedience is a righteousness-building principle—the position one holds with God in relationship to his/her obedience. In essence, obedience puts one in right standing with God—gives rights and privileges.

Solomon started off following the paradigm/pattern of the **Principle of Obedience**. He was in right standing with God; therefore, God rewarded him above any king. He was and still is known as the wisest human being ever on earth, with the exception of Jesus Christ. Therefore, he lived in the blessed state. He was truly under the continuous flow with God and all his needs were met.

When one obeys God's Word, the covenant promises of God are activated NOW in this lifetime.

Notes on 2 Chronicles 1–8

The Book of 2 Chronicles can be divided into two parts:

1. The reign of Solomon — Chapters 1–9
2. The reign of the Kings of Judah — Chapters 10–36

The Book of 2 Chronicles really teaches that when God’s people disobey Him, He will withdraw His blessings; however, when we trust and obey Him, He will reward us. It clearly demonstrates the **Principle of Obedience**.

The Book starts off with Solomon worshiping Yahweh which I believe is key to his success as King. Now, because Solomon had a heart for the Lord and desired to rule justly, the Lord appears to Solomon and tells him to ask whatever he desires. Because Solomon asks for wisdom to rule the people justly, Yahweh bestows riches, honor, glory, and fame. After Solomon receives wisdom and wealth, he builds a magnificent temple for Yahweh. The Ark is installed, and the Temple is dedicated to Yahweh in chapters five through seven.

In the dedication ceremony, Solomon actually gives a sermon, and in his sermon he offers up a powerful prayer to the Lord, Chapter 6:12–40. The prayer was so powerful that fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices and the Shekinah glory showed up and the priest could not minister because the glory of the Lord filled the temple. All the people bowed down and began to worship the Lord—saying *“For He is good; for His mercy endures forever.”* What a “Holy-filled” service. The Nation as a whole celebrated the Feast of Tabernacle for fourteen days. Afterward the Lord confirms the Covenant by appearing to Solomon a second time and the well-known Scripture 2 Chronicles 7:14 is recorded:

“If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

God also warns Solomon what would happen if His people were disobedient. After 20 years Solomon has accomplished the following:

1. The Temple is built
2. His palace is constructed
3. His territory is enlarged
4. He has acquired fame for his wisdom
5. He has established a powerful economic operation bringing gold from the land of Edom.

Notes of 1 Kings 1–9

1 Kings 1–9 parallels 2 Chronicles to the end of Solomon’s reign. However, there are a few specific details that we learn from the Book of 1 Kings that we don’t see in 2 Chronicles.

In 1 Kings Chapter 1, we see the kingdom wasn’t peaceful passed down to Solomon. Adonijah conspired to have himself anointed as king by eliciting Joab, David’s commander and Abiathar, the priest. He didn’t invite Nathan, the prophet or Zadok, the priest. However, because of Nathan’s, the prophet, wise counsel to Bathsheba, David was informed and he hastily moved forward to have them anoint Solomon as king and for Solomon to ride on his mule.

Next, David gives Solomon a charge and Solomon carries out the charge. Adonijah, Joab and Shimei are excused. And Abiathar is removed from being priest ... this fulfilled the prophecy that was spoken in Samuel that the priesthood would be removed from Eli's lineage—and it was.

First Kings states in Chapter 3:3, “that Solomon loved the Lord.” And the Lord appeared to Solomon and as recorded in 2 Chronicles 1:7 asked Solomon what he desired. Solomon desired wisdom and it was granted to him, along with riches, honor, glory, and fame.

First Kings also gives us specific details when the Temple was actually completed (I Kings 5:38)—which was in seven years. After completing the Temple, Solomon built a palace for himself which took 13 years to build.

First Kings can be divided into two parts also:

1. The United Kingdom — Chapters 1–11
2. The Divided Kingdom — Chapters 12–22

First Kings clearly emphasizes that the welfare of Israel depends upon the faithfulness of the people and their kings to the covenant of God. From a historical standpoint, it gives an account of the reigns of Solomon to Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, and to Ahaziah, the king of Israel. And from a theological perspective it provides a prophetic evaluation of the spiritual and moral cause that led to the political and economic demise of the two kingdoms; because after Solomon's death the kingdom was divided.

The Book is not a biography of the kings' lives, but the lives of the kings are used to teach a lesson: the observance of God's law produces blessings, but apostasy is rewarded with judgment. In essence, 1 Kings really demonstrates also the **Principle of Obedience, which is God's plan to reward our lives.**

Solomon in the beginning of his reign really operated in the **Principle of Obedience**; he showed us how to put our faith into action by embracing “Wisdom”. So, let's examine the Book of Proverbs which he is the main author.

Notes on Book of Proverbs

What is a proverb?

A proverb is “a short pithy saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice.”

A proverb is a timeless truth in the form of a simple illustration that exposes a fundamental reality of life. Proverbs are practical (not theoretical), easy to memorize, and applicable to real life situations.

A working definition the Holy Spirit gave me:

Proverbs are divine instructions or guidelines (for one to obey) to help you experience and/or receive the promises of God. The Book of Proverbs shows us how to walk in the Principle of Obedience.

Proverbs are indeed the inspired Word of God and if we obey these divine instructions we will receive the benefits—be rewarded. Our lives will glorify our heavenly Father ... we will be like stars shining out brightly in the crooked and perverse generation/world holding out the Word of life.

So, when reading Proverbs, there are some things I believe that will help us in our application:

First, make sure the interpretation of any Proverb is accurate, before moving to application. In other words, if we don't get the interpretation right, we cannot expect the application to be accurate.

Second, we need to remember that Proverbs are divinely inspired "wisdom sayings," not merely suggestions ... honey to do list.

Third, Proverbs help us to make godly choices in life. I believe it would help us if we would ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Is this wisdom or is this folly?
2. Is this good or is this evil?
3. Will this lead to life or death?

The wisdom taught in Proverbs is God-centered, and it teaches us how to walk in the principles of obedience and authority which go hand in hand. In other words, when someone fears the Lord, and obey the instructions found in the Book of Proverbs, one has the assurance that following these precepts will give one the very best opportunity to experience life at its best ... living obediently in God's wisdom, is really true LIFE.

One will be operating in the **Principle of Obedience** and will be rewarded because God's wisdom found in the Book of Proverbs is trustworthy. He stands behind each of them and bestows their benefits upon the one who diligently lives out His wisdom.

The Book of Proverbs can be divided into three parts:

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|--|---|----------------|
| 1. Wisdom for the Youth | — | Chapters 1–9 |
| 2. Wisdom Contrasting the Godly and Wicked | — | Chapters 10–15 |
| 3. Wisdom Counseling and "Wise Sayings" | — | Chapters 16–31 |

Purpose and Theme of the Book of Proverbs are found in Chapter 1 verses 1–7.

READ

¹ *The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;*

² *To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;*

³ *To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;*

⁴ *To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

⁵ *A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

⁶ *To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

⁷ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (KJV)*

In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon begins by explaining the purpose of these “sayings of wisdom.” They are intended to give the attentive reader **wisdom, instruction, and understanding.**

What is wisdom?

Wisdom according to the dictionary is the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise.

However, one should know the difference between **wisdom** and **knowledge**. One may have knowledge without wisdom because knowledge is the collection of facts; whereas, wisdom is the right use of what we know for daily living. In essence, knowledge is the information one has learned, while wisdom is the ability to use that knowledge in a profound/wise way. So, knowledge is a part and wisdom is the whole. Wisdom goes beyond learning facts and includes making sense of those facts.

Example: Knowledge can tell one how financial systems work; whereas, **wisdom** enables one to manage a budget properly.

It is true with the use of the internet, we are living in an “age of information/knowledge”, but we certainly are not living in an age of wisdom. There is a tremendous lack of “common sense and good judgment.”

In order to receive the instruction of wisdom, we should view the Book of Proverbs like a school of wisdom; therefore, we should read one everyday—there are 31 proverbs, one for every day of the month—so they will get in our hearts. And if we come with open hearts and minds, receiving its teaching, it will show as justice, judgment, and equity flowing from our lives. In essence we will walk in righteousness.

REMEMBER THE PRINCIPLE OF OBEDIENCE IS A RIGHTEOUSNESS-BUILDING PRINCIPLE.

Another, purpose of the Book of Proverbs is to give prudence to the simple. I have said many times that one can be the most “simple person”, but if that person would read a proverb every day, he or she would become “wise.” The **simple** one is a person uneducated in the affairs of life and needs instruction. The wisdom found in the Book of Proverbs will educate the young,

inexperienced person on how and what to do in life ... in order to have a successful Christian life that glorifies God. It will give the young man and woman knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 14:15 says, “*The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his step.*” The simple person is naïve/gullible. One (the Simple) must learn how to choose **Wisdom over Folly, Good over Evil, Life over Death.**

However, the Book of Proverbs is not only for the simple and inexperienced, even a wise man ... a man of understanding can find help and guidance to solve difficult problems. In essence, if one will only hear, he/she can attain wise counsel.

Also, the Book emphasizes listening to others; so that we might learn from them and apply the combined knowledge of those who have gone before us—such as parents and elders—to the unique circumstances of our own lives. Wisdom then involves appropriating a measure of humility, first before God and then before others.

Everyone can grow by its teachings. Discerning people can obtain guidance from this Book; so that they might continue in the right way ... continue on the path of righteousness.

THEME:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom/knowledge.

The Book of Proverbs focuses on practical life wisdom more than theological ideas. Yet, it is founded on a vital theological principle – that true knowledge and wisdom flow from the fear of the Lord.

WHAT DOES “THE FEAR OF THE LORD” MEAN TO YOU?

We should know that the **fear of the Lord** is not a cowering, begging fear. It is the proper reverence that one owes to the Creator, Jehovah Elohim, and we, as the Redeemed, owe to the Redeemer. The fear of the Lord refers to our viewing Him with the respect He deserves. It means living our lives in light of what we know of Him, holding Him in the highest esteem, and depending on Him with humble trust.

As Kidner says, “A worshipping submission to the God of the covenant.”

And I love the way Waltke describes “The fear of the Lord”:

“What the alphabet is to reading, notes to reading music, and numbers to mathematics, the fear of the Lord is to attaining the revealed knowledge of this Book.”

Let’s ponder those thoughts.

Since we don’t have time to cover the Book of Proverbs, chapter by chapter, we will focus on some key chapters ... Proverbs, chapters 4 and 8 respectively.

Now let's read Proverbs 4:20–27 from the Jubilee translation.

²⁰ *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my words.*

²¹ *Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.*

²² *For they are life unto those that find them and medicine to all their flesh.*

²³ *Above all else, guard thy heart; for out of it flows the issues of life.*

²⁴ *Put away from thee the perversion of the mouth, and the deviation of the lips put far from thee.*

²⁵ *Let thine eyes look upon that which is right, and let thine eyelids straighten thy path before thee.*

²⁶ *Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.*

²⁷ *Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil.*

It tells us how to walk in good health; for God's Word is medicine to our flesh. When we are faced with health challenges, we should read healing Scriptures and meditate on them ... get them in our hearts. Meditating on God's Word will enable us to walk in good health; to actually experience 3 John 2:

² *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

Proverbs Chapter 8

We have Wisdom (our Redeemer) speaking to us ... calling out to all, the simple and foolish v. 5. No one is left out. In the first eleven verses, Wisdom is appealing to the sons of men to hear Her voice...to hear truth.

Choose Wisdom (Jesus) over riches; for if you choose Wisdom, riches will be bestowed upon you, like Yahweh bestowed riches upon Solomon because he chose ... desired Wisdom.

I see the first eleven verses as a CALL TO SALVATION!

Once you have received Wisdom, Jesus ... You are now in Christ Jesus, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Read verses 12–21:

¹² I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

¹⁴ Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

¹⁵ By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

¹⁶ By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

¹⁷ I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

¹⁸ Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

¹⁹ My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

²⁰ I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

²¹ That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

Because Wisdom dwell with prudence, it will give one a good head to make wise decisions, v.12. And if you fear the Lord, you will have a good heart to hate evil which is sin because it displeases God and is destructive to the soul of man. It has been said, “Wherever there is an awe of God there is a dread of sin.” Particularly the sins of pride and arrogance. These are two common and dangerous sins.

According to v. 14–16, Wisdom has great influence over the affairs of our public life, especially in the governing of our communities and nation, as well as the world; for we truly are a “global society.” We all need godly wisdom, especially those in authority are in need of wisdom and strength, as well as counsel and courage, to carry out their duties/responsibilities faithfully; so that they may be blessings to the people they have authority over. And therefore, Wisdom says, *By me kings (those in authority) reign.*

We need to understand that civil government is a divine institution set up by God to ensure orderly and peaceable communities, and nations (Romans 13). Those in authority must realize that they rule/reign by God and should therefore, rule/reign for Him in a godly manner ... knowing that their abilities and skills are a gift from God and it is by His Grace. They are not to lord over those they have been entrusted with.

The Christian faith should be the very strength and support of civil government because it should teach believers their duties and responsibilities; so civil authorities can govern more easily. Also, the Christian faith should teach civil leaders their duties; so they can decree justice, while they rule in the fear of the Lord.

AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY ... OUR LEADERS!

READ verses 22–31

²² *The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.*

²³ *I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.*

²⁴ *When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.*

²⁵ *Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:*

²⁶ *While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.*

²⁷ *When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:*

²⁸ *When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:*

²⁹ *When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:*

³⁰ *Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;*

³¹ *Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.*

Here we have Wisdom speaking—our Redeemer, which really verifies what John said in John 1:1–4:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² The same was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

Jesus was there when the world—universe was created. He is the master craftsman; for truly all things were made by Him and nothing was made without Him. Solomon was given the wisdom to pen these inspired words about the Son of God in verses 22–30:

v. 22 — *Whom the Lord possessed*

v. 23 — *Who was set up*

v. 24–25 — *Who was brought forth*

Wisdom, the Son of God, is one with the Father and of the same essence, and yet a person of Himself; for He is the perfect imprint and very image of God's nature according to Hebrews 1:3.

These verses tell about His eternity; He was begotten of the Father, for *the Lord possessed him*, as his own beloved Son. The Word was eternal, and had a being before the world, before the beginning of time; and therefore it must follow that it was from eternity.

Solomon's great variety of expressions in Proverbs 22–31 points clearly to the Son of God who not only had a being before the world, but He was present, not as a spectator, but as the architect, when the world was made. Scriptures (Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2) tell us, "*By Him God made the worlds.*"

- On the first day of the creation, in the very beginning of time, God said, *Let there be light*, and with a word produced it, this eternal Wisdom was that almighty Word (Jesus): *Then I was there, when he prepared the heavens.*
- Then, on the second day, He, Wisdom, the Word stretched out the firmament, the vast expanse, and *set that as a compass upon the face of the depth* (v. 27) and surrounded it on all sides with that canopy, that curtain.
- On the third day, when the *waters above the heavens*, were gathered together by *establishing the clouds above*, and those under the heavens by *strengthening the fountains of the deep*, *When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:* Wisdom was there beside Him as a master and director of the work, v. 30.

So, how able, how appropriate, for the Son of God who was the Master Craftsman ... Creator of the world, to be the Savior of the world.

Read v. 32–36:

³² *Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.*

³³ *Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.*

³⁴ *Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.*

³⁵ *For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.*

³⁶ *But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.*

These verses exhort us to hear and obey the voice of Wisdom, ... walk in the **Principle of Obedience**.

V. 33. "*Hear instruction and be wise*; let's heed to instructions to make us wise in ordering our conversation because " **What we know is known in vain if it does not make us wise.**

Wisdom gives an assurance of blessings to all those that hearken to Wisdom. They are blessed.

V. 35 “*Whoso finds me finds life*”, for he shall *obtain favor of the Lord*, and *in his favor is life*. Christ is Wisdom, and he that finds Christ *finds life*; for Christ is life to all believers. *He that has the Son of God has life*, eternal life (Zoe). However, we must remember, we can’t obtain God’s favor, unless we find Christ and be found in him.

Isaiah says in 1:19, “If we are obedient and willing, we will eat the good of the land.”

Notes on the Book of the Song of Solomon

The Book of the Song of Solomon is a love song written by Solomon. It offers a proper perspective of human love and avoids the extreme of lust. It provides a guide to a pure sexual relationship between husband and wife. One may view it as an endorsement by God of marital love in all its physical and emotional beauty. It expresses the relationship between a man and a young woman who are deeply in love with each other. Therefore, I believe the central theme can be expressed in the Song of Solomon in verses 2:7; 3:5; and 8:4:

“Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”

THEME: “Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires”

The Book can be divided into two parts:

1. The Beginning of Love — Chapters 1–5:1
 - a. Courtship
 - b. Wedding
2. The Broadening of Love — Chapters 5:2–8

Some commentators see this Book’s primary purpose is to present God’s love to His espoused bride, Israel and/or Christ’s love for the Church, His Bride. Therefore, the Song is presented as an allegory. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful love song which we can learn much from as it relates to marital relationship between a husband and wife.

Practical Application (Proverbs 8:32–36)

- A. Humble yourself
- B. Hearken to the Voice of Wisdom
- C. Hate evil (sin)

PRAYER

FATHER, I PRAY that we are not only hearers of Your Word; but doers of the Word. That we are obedient and willing; for Your Word says, if we are willing and obedient, we shall eat the good of the land, in Jesus’ Name, I pray. Amen.