



## STRUCTURAL INSIGHTS: PROVERBS 1:20-33



- 20** Wisdom calls aloud outside;  
She raises her voice in the open squares.
- 21** She cries out in the chief concourses,  
At the openings of the gates in the city
- She speaks her words:
- 22** "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?  
For scorers delight in their scorning,  
And fools hate knowledge.
- 23** Turn at my rebuke;  
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;  
I will make my words known to you.
- 24** Because I have called and you refused,  
I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,
- 25** Because you disdained all my counsel,  
And would have none of my rebuke,
- 26** I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when your terror comes,
- 27** When your terror comes like a storm,  
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,  
When distress and anguish come upon you.
- 28** "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;  
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.
- 29** Because they hated knowledge  
And did not choose the fear of the LORD,  
**30** They would have none of my counsel  
And despised my every rebuke.
- 31** Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,  
And be filled to the full with their own fancies.
- 32** For the turning away of the simple will slay them,  
And the complacency of fools will destroy them;
- 33** But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,  
And will be secure, without fear of evil."

## THEMATIC STRUCTURE

**Proverbs 1:20-21:** Wisdom Speaks

**Proverbs 1:22:** Wisdom Reveals the Problem

**Proverbs 1:23:** Wisdom Calls for Repentance and Promises Blessings

**Proverbs 1:24-25:** Wisdom is Silenced

**Proverbs 1:26-32:** Wisdom Reveals the Penalty

**Proverbs 1:33:** Wisdom Calls for Repentance and Promises Blessings

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- A** Introduction: Wisdom pleads for all to listen (**1:20-21**)
  - B** Wisdom reveals the problem (**1:22**)
    - C** Wisdom call for repentance and promises blessings (**1:23**)
    - D** Wisdom rejected on the front end (**1:24-25**)
    - E** Wisdom justly mocks (**1:26-27**)
    - D'** Wisdom rejection on the backend (**1:28-30**)
    - C'** Wisdom was rejected and promises judgment (**1:31**)
  - B'** Wisdom reveals the consequences (**1:32**)
  - A'** Conclusion: Wisdom reveals few will hear (**1:33**)
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- I. Do you have eyes to see and ears to hear? (Proverbs 1:20-32)
  - a. Wisdom: Available Everywhere (Proverbs 1:20-21)
  - b. Wisdom: Addresses Everyone (Proverbs 1:22)
  - c. Wisdom: Award Ensured (Proverbs 1:23)
- II. What happens when you "refuse the rebuke"? (Proverbs 1:24-32)
  - a. Fools rejects Wisdom (Proverbs 1:24-25)
  - b. Wisdom rejects Fools (Proverbs 1:26-27)
- III. What will be your end? (Proverbs 1:31-33)
  - a. Rebellion (Proverbs 1:31)
  - b. Ruin (Proverbs 1:32)
  - c. Repentance (Proverbs 1:33)

[SLIDE] **BACKGROUND... "LET ME INTRODUCE"**

[SLIDE] **LADY WISDOM:** Who is she? Where is She? What does she have to say? She appears throughout the Book of Proverbs and Job.

Pr 2:4

Pr 3:13–20

Pr 4:6–9

Pr 6:22–23 'They' should be translated as 'she'

Pr 7:4

Pr 8:1–36

Pr 9:1–12

Job 28:12–28 "its" – should be translated as "her" (Job 28:13)

[SLIDE] Wisdom is not the person of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is never referenced as female. However, this is literary device used by the author to get our attention.

- **Jn 1:32** And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and **He** remained upon Him.
- **Jn 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He** may abide with you forever— **Jn 14:17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you.
- **Jn 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He** will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
- **Jn 15:26** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He** will testify of Me.
- **Jn 16:8** And when **He** has come, **He** will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
- **Jn 16:13** However, when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He** will guide you into all truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own *authority*, but whatever **He** hears **He** will speak; and **He** will tell you things to come. **Jn 16:14** **He** will glorify Me, for **He** will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

[SLIDE] Wisdom's worth is far above rubies as is the virtuous wife

- **Job 28:18** No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.
- **Pr 31:10** Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies.

[SLIDE] Beware of Wisdom's Counterfeits:

- [SLIDE] The world's "Lady Justice" rooted in Roman's "Justitia," the goddess of justice.
- [SLIDE] The ancient Greeks "Sophia."
- [SLIDE] Others: gurus, sage, maharishi, spiritual guides, etc.
  - **Question:** Can you discern "Lady Wisdom" from "Mistress Folly"?

[SLIDE] **Personification:** to attribute human traits and qualities to that which is not human.

[SLIDE]

- Solomon is taking an abstract idea, wisdom, and personifying it, so his son can understand it more practically. This is to help one cultivate a love for wisdom and will be useful when the parents are not around!
- Solomon reveals more insight into the sinners mentioned in Proverbs 1:8-19.
- **Contrast:** Sinners scheme in secret vs. wisdom shouts in public

## EXPLANATION

I. [SLIDE]"Do you have eyes to see & ears to hear?" (Proverbs 1:20-23)

- **Ac 28:25** So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, **26** saying, '*Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; **27** For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."* ' **28** "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!" (**See also:** Je 5:21, Eze 12:2, Mt 13:15)

a. [SLIDE] Wisdom: Available Everywhere (Proverbs 1:20-21)

**Pr 1:20** Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. **21** She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:

[SLIDE] **Question:** Can you hear the voice of wisdom above the voices of the world!

i. [SLIDE] Wisdom's Various Voices

- **Calls Aloud (Taron-nah):** She is shouting to anyone who would listen.
- **Raises her voice (Ti-tten):** "speaks up to be heard above others"
- **Cries out (Ti-qra):** Proclaim with great urgency
- **Speaks her words (To-mer):** declare with clarity

ii. [SLIDE] Wisdom's Various Venues

- **Outside:** Public vs. Private
- **Open Squares:** Open Street vs. Hidden Alley
- **Chief Concourses:** Busy Intersection vs. Quiet Corner
- **Opening of the gates in the City:** First vs. Last vs. Lady's Folly's House / Adulterer's Home

**Gates:**

[SLIDE] Illustration: Gates to Babylon

- **Dt 16:18** "You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.
- **Ru 4:11** And all the people who *were* at the gate, and the elders, said, "*We are* witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.
  - [SLIDE] **QUOTE:** "Truth seeks not corners, nor is virtue ashamed of itself" – Matthew Henry

b. Wisdom: Addresses Everyone (Proverbs 1:22)

[SLIDE] **Pr 1:22** "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.

- [SLIDE] 3 Hearts Hardened Against Wisdom
  - i. [SLIDE] *Simple Ones / Naïve Ones* → love being simpleminded | err out of ignorance of the implications of truth
    - Love = crush, enamored, attraction to newness, flirting
  - ii. [SLIDE] *Scorners* → delight themselves in scorning | err by refusing to learn truth and mock truth
    - Delight = lust, fleshly pleasure, covet
  - iii. [SLIDE] *Fools* → hate knowledge | err by rebelling against truth
    - Hate: unloved, despise, disgust, detest
- c. [SLIDE] Wisdom: Award Ensured (Proverbs 1:23)

[SLIDE] **Pr 1:23** Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

- i. [SLIDE] Two Responses (Turn at my rebuke)
  - **(You) Turn:** turn back, repent
  - **(Wisdom) Rebuke:** This is chastening for disobedience.
- [SLIDE] **Question:** What does "turning" look like?
  - [SLIDE] **Is 1:18** "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. **19** If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; **20** But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
  - [SLIDE] **Is 55:1** "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. **2** Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. **3** Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.

ii. [SLIDE] Two Promises

- I will pour/gush out my spirit on you
- I will make my words known to you.
- **Jn 3:5** Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (cleansing) and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [Regeneration]

• [SLIDE] Contrast:

**1 Co 2:14** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

[SLIDE] **Question:** How do you handle wisdom's rebuke as a believer?

- **2 Co 7:8** For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. **9** Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. **10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.** **11** For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication!* In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

II. [SLIDE] What happens when you "refuse the rebuke"? (Pr 1:24-32)

- [SLIDE] **NOTE:** Four-Fold Progression of Rejection
  - i. Fools reject Wisdom (Proverbs 1:24-25)
    - Because I have called (same word as cried out)
- → ① you refused /resist
  - I stretched out my hand (offer to personally help)
- → ② no one regarded /not listen

- all my counsel (God's will, advice, wisdom)
- → ③ Because You disdained / no serious thought
  - of my rebuke (chastening)
- → ④ And you would have none / not consent
  - [SLIDE] Pharaoh of the Exodus
  - Pharaoh hardens his own heart: 11X
    - a. Exodus 7:13, 7:14, 7:22, 7:23, 8:11, 8:15, 8:28, 9:7, 9:34, 9:35, 13:15.
  - Yahweh hardens Pharaoh's heart: 11X
    - a. Exodus 4:21, 7:3, 9:12, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:4, 14:5, 14:8, 14:17
- [SLIDE] **Implication:** Although this text is primarily focus on the unbeliever, a believer can harden their heart as well:
  - **2 Pe 1:5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, **6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **7** to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; **11** for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### Solution/Application

- **1 Th 5:19** Do not **quench** the Spirit.
- **Eph 4:30** And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



- [SLIDE] **Question:** Are you hardening your heart toward God because of sin or unjust suffering? - Beware!
- [SLIDE] **Question:** Do you know the signs of an approaching storm?

A. [SLIDE] Wisdom rejects Fools (Proverbs 1:26-28)

i. Crisis

- I will also laugh at your calamity / disaster
- I will mock (deride) when your terror (worst fear) comes
- Dread comes like a storm (wind storm)
- Calamity comes like a whirlwind (severest windstorm)
- When distress (emotional pain) and anguish (physical hardship) come upon you.

[SLIDE]: **Ps 2:1** Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? **2** The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, **3** "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." **4** He who sits in the heavens shall **laugh**; The LORD shall **hold (mock) them in derision**.

[SLIDE] **Ga 6:7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

ii. [SLIDE] Cries (Proverbs 1:28)

- "Then they will call (shout) on me
  - a. but I will not answer
- They will seek (search) me diligently
  - a. but they will not find me

[SLIDE] **Mt 24:38** For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

B. [SLIDE] Cause (Proverbs 1:29-30)

- b. Because they hated (scorn) knowledge
- c. And did not choose (prefer) the fear of the Lord.
- d. They would have none (would not yield) of my counsel
- e. *And* they despised (disrespected and despised) my every rebuke

- [SLIDE] Illustration: Hearing Aid

III. [SLIDE] What will be your end? (Proverbs 1:31-33)

- a. *Rebellion*: "So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices.
- b. *Ruin*: "For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them.
- c. *Repentance*: "But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

[SLIDE] **Final Thoughts**

**Heb 12:3** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. **5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;* **6** *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.*" **7** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. **11** **Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

**Jesus: 1 Co 1:30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—