

## EXPLANATION

Two Primary Paths For Finding and Acquiring Wisdom (Proverbs 3:11-20)

I. Chastening (Proverbs 3:11-12): Painful Path

II. Chasing (Proverbs 3:13-20): Passionate Path

I. Chastening (Proverbs 3:11-12): Painful Path

**Pr 3:11** My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;  
**12** For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

**NOTE:** This kind of correction is primarily for sin. However, trials and unjust suffering is another means to grow you and give you wisdom.

- **1 Pe 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Key Words:

- **Despise:** refuse, reject, spurn, scorn, feelings of great displeasure (mind)
- **Chastening:** words of correction, reprimand, punishment
- **Detest:** fear, dread, feel disgust (feelings)
- **Correction (tokahat):** strong disapproval, reprimand, punishment
- **Corrects (yakah):** disciplines, punishes
- **Delights:** accepts, enjoys, loves

**Proverbial Principle "Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child":** God will discipline His children for sin. The range of meaning in the terms reveals that chastening can range from a tender correction to a terrible consequence. However, you must not miss the motive—love!

**NOTE:** The exact expression, "spare the rod, spoil the child," comes from a satirical poem in 1663 by Samuel Butler that corrupts the expression. However, before Butler, in the late 1300's William Langland conveyed the original idea. "Whoso spareth the spryng spilleth hise children" which he referenced from Proverbs 13:24.

- **Pr 13:24** He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
- **Pr 22:15** Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.
- **Pr 19:18** Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.
- **Three Stages of Parenting:** (Control, Correct, Counsel/Coach)

OT Example:

- **Wilderness: Dt 8:5** You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you.
- **Eliphaz: Job 5:17** "Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.
- **Solomon: Pr 13:24** He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
- **Solomon: 2 Sa 7:12** "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. **15** But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16** And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' "
- **David: Ps 103:10** He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- **Jeremiah: Je 10:24** O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

NT Insights:

- **Jesus: Jn 15:2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
- **Paul: Eph 6:4** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- **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: Re 3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

**Question:** Looking back, what would you change in your parenting approach?

**Question:** Do you believe suffering is purposeful and beneficial?

- **Ps 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
- **Ps 103:13** As a father pities *his* children, *So* the LORD pities those who fear Him.
- **Mal 3:17** "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."
- **Heb 5:8** though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

**Application:** Ways to Gain Wisdom

- Chastening
  - Chastening for Sin (Proverbs 3:11-12)
  - Admonitions of Others (Romans 15:14, Matthew 7:1-5, Hebrew 10:25, Matthew 18:15-20, 2 Timothy 4:2)
- Chasing
  - Word of God (Hebrews 4:11-13)
  - Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Romans 8:25-30)
  - Godly Disciplines (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 2 Timothy 2:3-5)
  - Unjust Suffering (Job 1-42)
  - Persecution for Obedience (2 Timothy 3:12)
- **Summary: Mt 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and **follow Me**. **25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. **26** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

**Principle:** No Pain, No Gain

Key Passage for Repentance:

**Ps 32:** A Psalm of David. A Contemplation. **1** Blessed *is he whose* transgression is forgiven, *Whose sin is covered*. **2** Blessed *is the man* to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit. **3** When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah **6** For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. **7** You *are* my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah **8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. **9** Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *Which* have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. **10** Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. **11** Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!

Some of the Ways Proverbs Persuades and So Should you!

- 1) Encourage them to read God's Word (Proverbs 1:7)
- 2) Warn them of the consequences of sin (Proverbs 1:15-19)
- 3) Challenge them to examine their ways (Proverbs 1:20-33)
- 4) Teach them to value God and His wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-20)
- 5) Repeat essential truths but with variety in examples (Proverbs 5-6)
- 6) Reveals the principles and promises of God's Wisdom (Proverbs 8)
- 7) Teach them how to listen, discern (Proverbs 1:33, 2:2, 4:20, etc.)

## II. Chasing (Proverbs 3:13-20): Passionate Path

**Pr 3:13** Happy (Blessed) *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding;

Key Words:

- **Happy (asare):** blessed, godly joy
- **Finds:** discover, reach for, experience, and obtain
- **Gains:** receives, benefits
- **Wisdom (hokma):** This is knowledge from God. He is the source of all wisdom. It is an attribute of God.
- **Understanding (tebuna):** logic, aptitude, intelligence, thinking Biblically

**Proverbial Principle "Eureka!":** Wisdom is found in God alone, and therefore, it is a gift since no man can acquire this wisdom apart from a relationship with God.

**Happy/Blessed:** There are eight uses of 'blessed' in the book of Proverbs. They are the 'Beatitudes of Proverbs.'

- I. Finding and Gaining Wisdom (Proverbs 3:13)
- II. Listening and Obeying Wisdom (Proverbs 8:32)
- III. Watching and Waiting for Wisdom (Proverbs 8:34)
- IV. Being Merciful to the Poor (Proverbs 14:21)
- V. Trusting in the Lord (Proverbs 16:20)
- VI. Walking with Integrity (Proverbs 20:7)
- VII. Revering God in all Matters (Proverbs 28:14)
- VIII. Keeping God's Word (Proverbs 29:18)

**NOTE:** There are significant beatitudes in the book of Psalms, Gospels, and Revelation.

Matthew

**5:3** Poor in spirit → Inherit the kingdom

**5:4** Mourners → Comforted

**5:5** Meek → inherit the earth

**5:6** Hungry & thirsty for righteousness → be filled

**5:7** Merciful → receive mercy

**5:8** Pure → see God

**5:9** Peacemakers → called sons of God

**5:10** Persecuted → inherit the kingdom of heaven

**Summary: 5:11–12** Persecuted → Reward

Revelation:

**1:3** Reads & hears the Prophecy

**14:13** Martyrdom

**16:15** Ready and Waiting

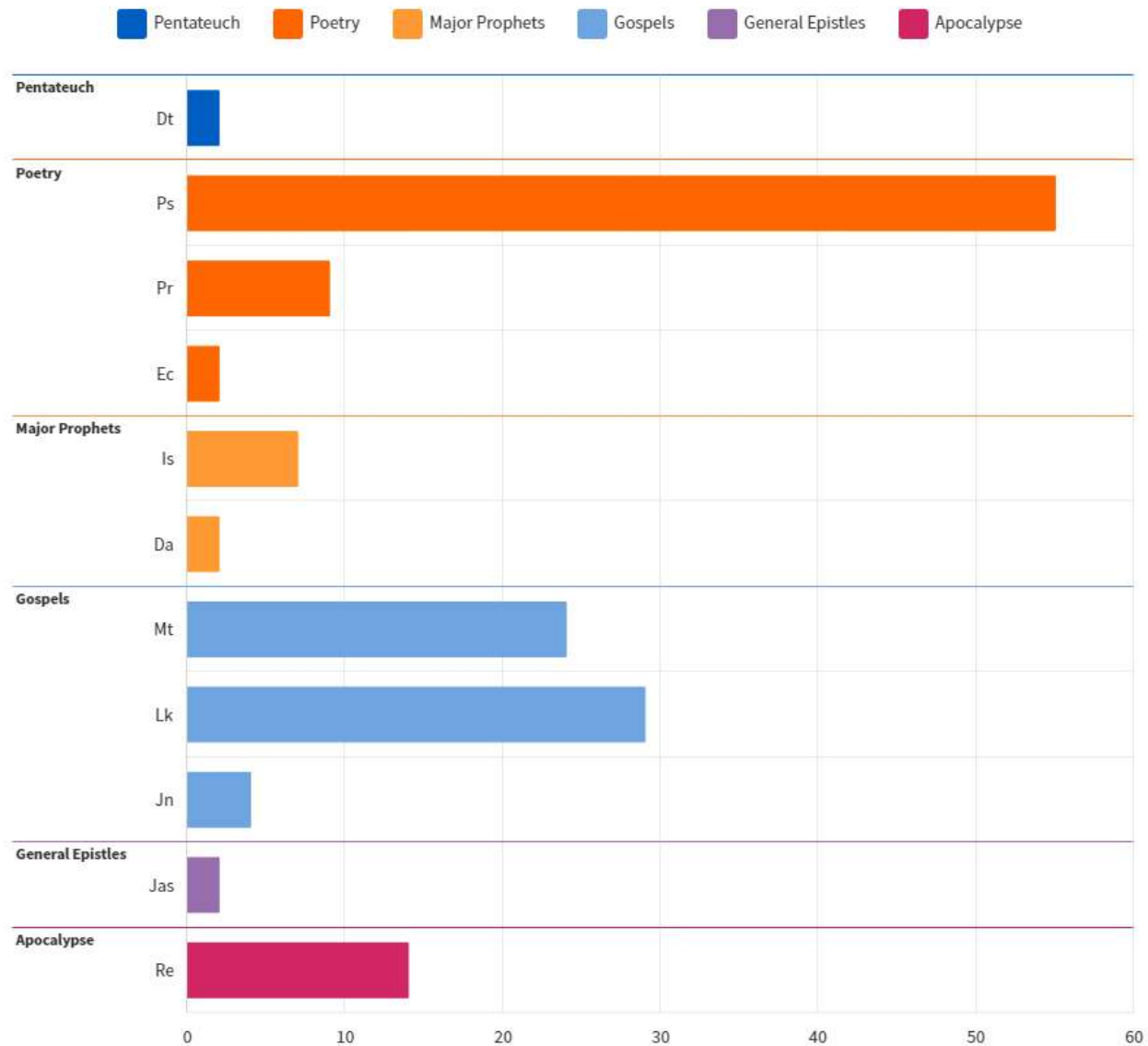
**19:9** Wedding Supper

**20:6** 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection

**22:7** Obeys the Prophecy

**Summary: 22:14** Obey and Enter Heaven

## "BLESSED..." BEATITUDES IN THE BIBLE



### OT Insights

- Ps 1:1** Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3** He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. **4** The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away. **5** Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. **6** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

### NT Insights

- **Jas 1:12** Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
- **Jas 1:25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
- **1 Pe 3:14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*"
- **1 Pe 4:14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

**Question:** Do you see the connection between being "blessed" and faith (relationship) and wisdom (truth applied)?

**Implication:** Genuine faith always results in love for God, obedience to His Word, and love for others.

**Question:** How do you want to be blessed? (Solomon - 1 Kings 3:5–15, Spiritual Adulterers - James 4:1–6, Sinners vs. Saved - Psalm 66:16–20)

- **Faith: Heb 11:6** But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- **Obedience: Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
- **Wisdom: 1 Co 3:5** Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. **7** So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. **8** Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. **9** For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. **10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. **11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone's work



which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. **16** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? **17** If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

- **Reward: 2 Co 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. **11** Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

I. Four Meditations Regarding Wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-20)

- **Pr 3:13** Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding;
- **Pr 8:35** For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD;
- **Pr 18:22** *He who* finds a wife finds a good *thing*, And obtains favor from the LORD.
- **Pr 31:10** Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies.

**Key Idea:** No Happiness without Holiness.

**Key Idea: 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—

A. Consider the Pursuit of Material Possessions (Proverbs 3:13-15)

**Pr 3:14** For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. **15** She *is* more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

Keywords:

- **Proceeds** (Sahar) = Profits (Identical word in Hebrew) from transactions
- **Gain** (Tebuah) = Harvest, Yield, Crops
- **Precious** (Yaqar) = rare and valuable
- **Rubies:** Two different Underlying Hebrew Words
  - **Red Coral** (Peniyyim) – **Proverbs 3:15**, Job 28:18, Proverbs 8:11, Proverbs 20:15, Proverbs 31:10, Lamentations 4:7
  - **Red Stone** (Kadkod) – Isaiah 54:12, Ezekiel 27:16
- **Desire** – the wish for costly, pleasurable treasures
- **Do not Compare** – not the same, not equivalent

Explanation:

- **Wisdom (better than gaining)** silver, gold, rubies, "all the things you may desire"
  - Wisdom's is the better investment, enriching you more than interest and dividends!
  - **Quote:** Wisdom makes you a richer man than money ever will.<sup>1</sup>
  - **Pr 4:5** Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. **6** Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. **7** Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

**Question:** Where did Solomon get this perspective?

- **1 Ki 3:9** Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" **10** The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. **11** Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, **12** behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. **13** And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.
- **1 Ki 10:27** The king made silver *as common* in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which *are* in the lowland.
- **Ec 7:12** For wisdom *is* a defense *as* money *is* a defense, But the excellence of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.

**Bottom Line:** Let's not forget that Solomon was a rich man who had everything, and his conclusion was wisdom is far superior to riches.

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<sup>1</sup> Derek Kidner, *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 17, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1964), 62.

**Question:** Does it seem like Solomon and other biblical authors often affirm the priority and superiority of wisdom to wealth?

**Answer:** Yes! The first time Solomon mentioned this connection he challenged his son to seek wisdom like you are seeking for silver and treasures. But now he says wisdom is better than silver, gold, and rubies.

- **Pr 2:2** So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding; **3** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding; **4** If you seek her as silver, *And* search for her as *for* hidden treasures; **5** Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, *And* find the knowledge of God.
- **Pr 8:10** Receive my instruction, and not silver, *And* knowledge rather than choice gold; **11** For wisdom *is* better than rubies, *And* all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.
- **Pr 8:17** I love those who love me, *And* those who seek me diligently will find me. **18** Riches and honor *are* with me, *Enduring* riches and righteousness. **19** My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold, *And* my revenue than choice silver.
- **Pr 16:16** How much better to get wisdom than gold! *And* to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
- **Job 28:18** No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, *For* the price of wisdom *is* above rubies. **19** The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, *Nor* can it be valued in pure gold. **20** "From where then does wisdom come? *And* where *is* the place of understanding?"
- Warning:
  - **Eze 28:4** With your (Prince of Tyre) wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, *And* gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; **5** By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, *And* your heart is lifted up because of your riches),"

**Question:** Consider your decisions in using your time, talent, and treasure; what percentage is devoted to the pursuit of knowing and applying God's word?

- Remember! Wisdom is learning, knowing, and applying God's Word in all situations.