

Weekly Scripture and Sermon Study: History & Context Guide  
Proverbs 3:21-25

History, Culture, & Context

The Book of Proverbs is a part of Biblical wisdom literature in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). These books are: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Book of Wisdom, Book of Sirach (which is a part of the Apocrypha).

The word *Proverb* refers to a short saying that provides us with knowledge and wisdom for life. In the Book of Proverbs, as we see in the introductory chapter, the word wisdom is from the Hebrew word *Khokhmah*, which is applied knowledge and skill. It is a set of practical skills to live well in God's creation.



In this section of Proverbs, we are reading about the idea of wisdom and that it will preserve your life (v. 22). The author of Proverbs, most of which is attributed to King Solomon, employs the metaphor of walking to convey that the use of wisdom will prevent us from "stumbling". To be successful in life we must use wisdom. Verses 21-25 read:

“My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight,  
preserve sound judgment and discretion;  
they will be life for you,  
an ornament to grace your neck.  
Then you will go on your way in safety,  
and your foot will not stumble.  
When you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.  
Have no fear of sudden disaster  
or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked...”

Questions to Consider

1. What makes the Book of Proverbs unique in how it teaches wisdom?
2. What is the value of wisdom in our lives?