



The book of Proverbs

DESCRIPTIVE SHEET

Author

The book of Proverbs belongs to the category of the books known as poetic in the biblical canon. This book is most often attributed to King Solomon, son of David. However, as the text indicates, several authors contributed to its writing. In addition to Solomon, we have Agur (Proverbs 30:1), King Lemuel (Proverbs 31). In fact, it should be noted that Solomon wrote most of the proverbs. This is probably why he is often referred to when the book of Proverbs is discussed.

Date of writing

Most of the proverbs are believed to have been written in the period of the 10th century BC. However, between 715 and 686 B.C., during the reign of King Hezekiah, people in the kingdom compiled and edited the proverbs of King Solomon (Proverbs 25:1).

Central theme and target audience

It must be said that this book is more practical than theological. A proverb is a statement that relates general truths. While it is true that they state theological truths about God, they nevertheless focus on human behavior, in that they invite people to walk according to God's wisdom. Proverbs are condensed teachings that will make the wise wiser and the one who follows these teachings to become wise. And wisdom in the context of proverbs is always defined as the fear of God. It is a fact that these proverbs were written in a Jewish context. However, the teachings they offer are relevant to the behavior of all human beings.

Outline of the book

1. Prologue (Pr. 1 :1 – 7)
2. Words of wisdom for young people (Pr. 1:8 – 9:18)
3. Proverbs for all (Pr.10 :1 – 29 :27)
4. Proverbs of Agur and Lemuel (Pr.30:1 – 31:31)