

# PROVERBS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

20

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

31

TYPE

WISDOM/POETRY



## OVERVIEW

Primarily written by Solomon, Proverbs speaks truth about life, human nature, and consequences of righteous and wicked behavior. Unlike the Book of Psalms which was compiled chronologically, Proverbs is compiled by format and theme.



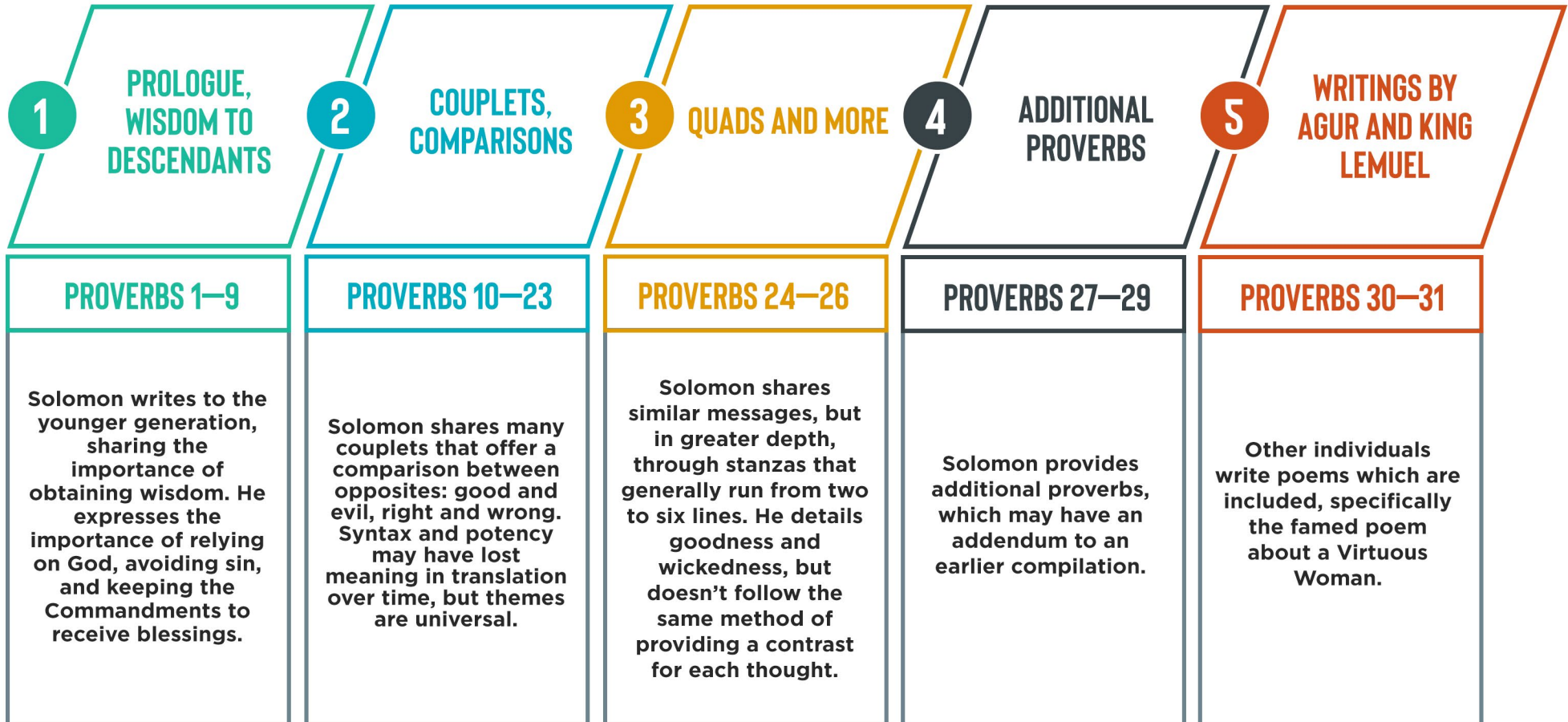
**WRITTEN**  
970–675 BC



**TIME PERIOD COVERED**  
Like Psalms, Proverbs was compiled over centuries, meant to be timeless.



**AUTHOR**  
Solomon, with other contributors



# SOLOMON

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Proverbs, Song of Songs (Song of Solomon), Ecclesiastes**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Poetry; his three books are third, fourth, and fifth in the Bible books of Poetry. (Job is first, and Psalms is second.)**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**King Solomon reigned from 971 to 931 BC, and all three books are thought to have been written during his reign.**



#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

King Solomon was the 10th son of King David and the third king of Israel. He was the second son of Bathsheba, who was married to King David after a scandal involving the king that left her first husband Uriah dead. King Solomon built the first temple, which was destroyed some 500 years later during the Babylonian invasion.

He was considered the wisest man in the world and one of the most prosperous.



#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

All Solomon's works were likely to have been written from his palace. After Moses wrote the entire Pentateuch while in the dusty desert, this would serve as a sign of God's ability to deliver people according to his word.



#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Solomon was the third and final king of what is called ancient Israel. Under the reign of Solomon's heir, his son Rehoboam, the kingdom unhappily split into two kingdoms over tax issues. The Kingdom of Israel, or the northern kingdom, split off, taking most people from 10 tribes. The southern part, containing Jerusalem, became the Kingdom of Judah or the southern kingdom, housing most people from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

Hence, Solomon wrote in the quiet before the storm. His wisdom, which make Proverbs and Ecclesiastes famous, is untested by great trial and tribulation. However, both books are among the most popular in the Bible, even today, after many tumultuous periods in western civilization.