

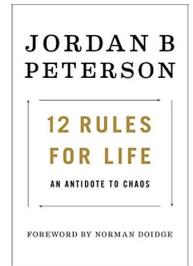
"Ordinary Advice for Extraordinary Times"

1. Do you want to be wise?

Trinity Church Adelaide - May 2020

1. Introducing the series

Jordan Peterson, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*



The Book of Proverbs: wonderfully memorable, and incredibly confusing ...

2. How to read the Book of Proverbs

i. Remember the structure of the book

The Structure of the Book of Proverbs		
Chapters	Section	Talk Topics
1:1-7	Introduction	1. Do you want to be wise?
1:8-9:18	Instruction	2. Choose wisdom not folly
10:1-31:9	Sayings	3. Ethics by soundbites
		4. The ant and the sluggard
		5. What can we learn from worldly wisdom?
31:10-31	Conclusion	6. The (impossibly) perfect wife

ii. Remember the purpose of the book (1:1-7)

Prov 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

- 2 for gaining wisdom and instruction;
for understanding words of insight;
- 3 for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;
- 4 for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—
- 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
- 6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

v1 a specific author, time and place

1 Ki 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. 30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. 32 He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. 33 He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. 34 From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

vv2-6 a specific purpose

- the big idea:
- increasing knowledge => change in behaviour => forging of character

v7 a specific starting point

i. where our quest begins: "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"

- knowledge => response
- theism vs deism
- "Lord" vs "LORD"

ii. a warning about our journey: "but fools despise wisdom and instruction"

3. Making the most of this series

"While the Law is dominated by commands and prohibitions ("you shall not ...") and the prophets thunder at the people "thus says the Lord", there is in wisdom books like Proverbs a concern with those everyday details which are too small to be trapped in the mesh of the Law or attacked by the broadsides of the prophets." (Lindsay Wilson, *Proverbs*, p.24)

=> if you're not a believer

Mt 12:42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

=> if you are a believer

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

<p>For discussion/reflection: how do you feel about studying Proverbs? What are you excited about? What are you anxious about? What might motivate you to read it faithfully during this series?</p>
