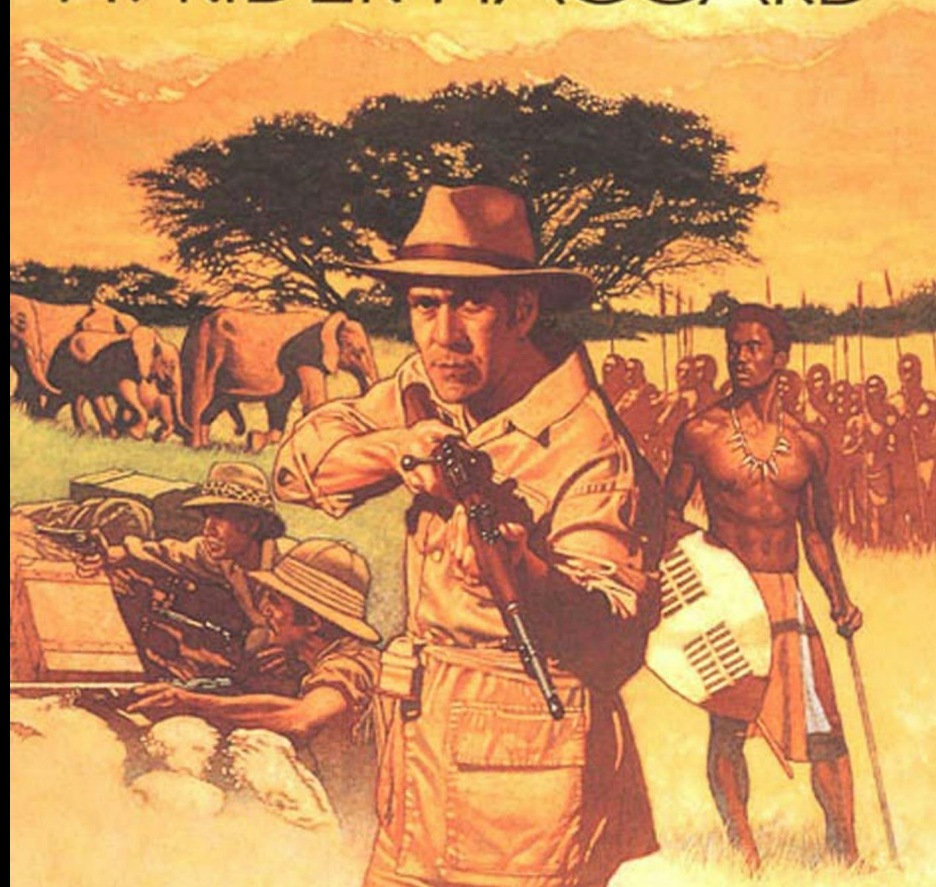


How to Make Life Work



WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

H. RIDER HAGGARD



King Solomon's Mines

COMPLETE
AND
UNABRIDGED

The search for the greatest treasure in Africa!

Proverbs 2:1-9 (NIV)

My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
² turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
³ indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,



Proverbs 2:1-9 (NIV)

⁴ and if you look for it as for silver

and search for it as for hidden treasure,

⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord

and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom;

from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.



Proverbs 2:1-9 (NIV)

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

⁸ for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

⁹ Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.



Outline

1. The search for wisdom
2. The source of wisdom
3. The value of wisdom



1. The search for wisdom (vv. 1-5)

→ *If you want to gain wisdom, you must search for it earnestly.*



1. The search for wisdom

Application

- Be willing to learn and grow (vv. 1-2)



1. The search for wisdom

Application

- Be willing to learn and grow (vv. 1-2)
- Ask for help from God and others (v. 3)



1. The search for wisdom

Application

- Be willing to learn and grow (vv. 1-2)
- Ask for help from God and others (v. 3)
- Prioritize the pursuit of wisdom by giving it time and effort (v. 4)





I have often wished that there were some way to bring modern Christians into a deeper spiritual life painlessly by short easy lessons; but such wishes are vain. No shortcut exists! . . . It is well that we accept the hard truth now: *the man who would know God must give time to Him!* He must count no time wasted which is spent in the cultivation of His acquaintance. He must give himself to meditation and prayer hours on end. So did the saints of old, the glorious company of the apostles, the goodly fellowship of the prophets and the believing members of the holy Church in all generations.



And so must we if we would follow in their train! May not the inadequacy of much of our spiritual experience be traced back to our habit of skipping through the corridors of the kingdom like little children through the marketplace, chattering about everything but pausing to learn the true value of nothing?

—A. W. Tozer

2. The source of wisdom (vv. 5-6)

→ *To gain wisdom, you must look to its source: God and his word.*



Proverbs 2:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.



TYNDALE OLD TESTAMENT
COMMENTARIES

TOTC

PROVERBS



DEREK KIDNER

“The search [for wisdom], strenuous as it must be, is not unguided. Its starting-point is revelation – specific (*words*) and practical (*commandments*); its method is not one of free speculation, but of treasuring and exploring received teachings. . . and its goal, far from being academic, is spiritual: *the fear of the Lord*. . . . *the knowledge of God* (v. 5). With these two phrases verse 5 encompasses the two classic Old Testament terms for true religion – the poles of awe and intimacy.”

2. The source of wisdom

Application

- The starting point: God's revelation in Scripture

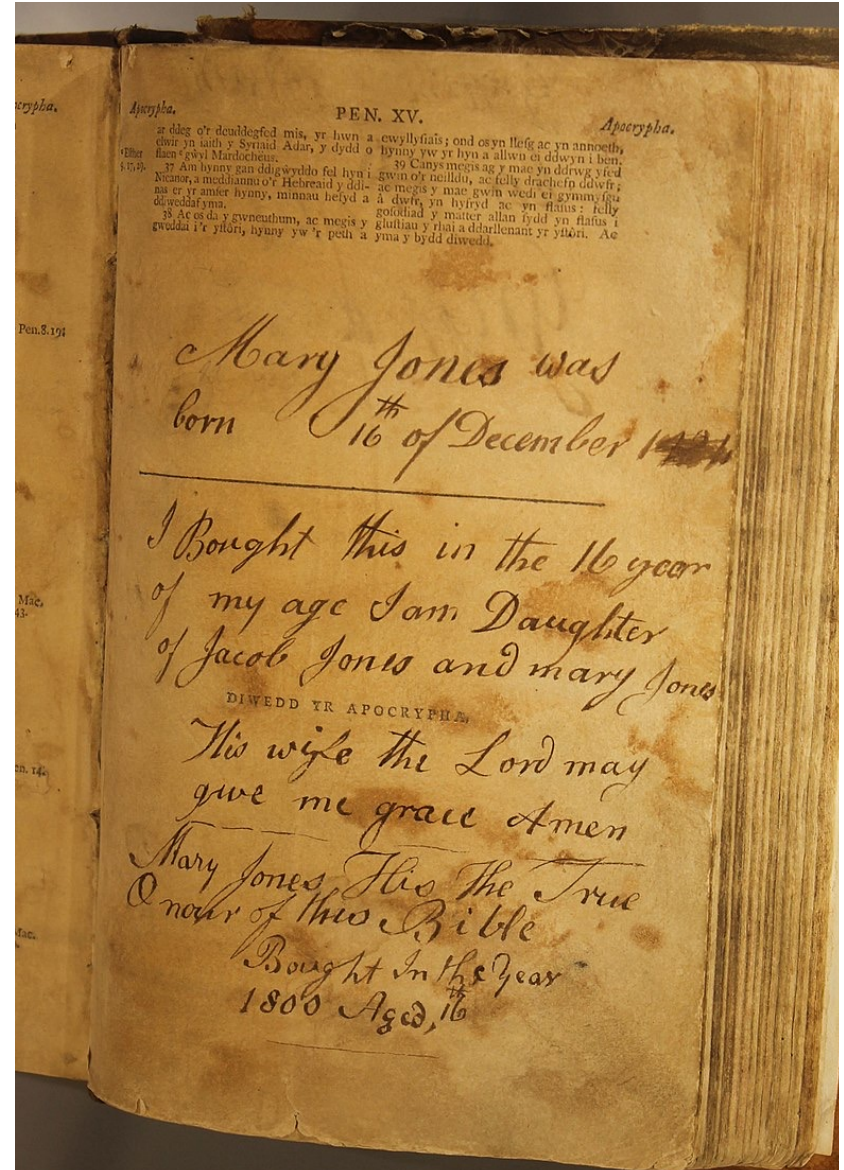


2. The source of wisdom

Application

- The starting point: God's revelation in Scripture
- The method: "treasuring and exploring"





2. The source of wisdom

Application

- The starting point: God's revelation in Scripture
- The method: "treasuring and exploring"

The SOAP method of journaling:

Scripture

Observations

Application

Prayers



2. The source of wisdom

Application

- The starting point: God's revelation in Scripture
- The method: "treasuring and exploring"
- The goal: awe and intimacy with God



3. The value of wisdom (vv. 7-22)

→ *The value of wisdom is seen in how it protects us from the way of evil and leads us to the path of life.*



Proverbs 2:7-22

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

⁸ for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

⁹ Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.

¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.



Proverbs 2:7-22

¹¹ Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

¹² Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse,

¹³ who have left the straight paths
to walk in dark ways,

¹⁴ who delight in doing wrong
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,

¹⁵ whose paths are crooked
and who are devious in their ways.



Proverbs 2:7-22

¹⁶ Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman,
from the wayward woman with her seductive words,

¹⁷ who has left the partner of her youth
and ignored the covenant she made before God.

¹⁸ Surely her house leads down to death
and her paths to the spirits of the dead.

¹⁹ None who go to her return
or attain the paths of life.



Proverbs 2:7-22

²⁰ Thus you will walk in the ways of the good
and keep to the paths of the righteous.

²¹ For the upright will live in the land,
and the blameless will remain in it;

²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the unfaithful will be torn from it.



Ways / Paths in Proverbs 2

Good

The way of his saints (8b)

Straight paths (13a)

Paths of life (19b)

The way of the good (20a)

The paths of the righteous (20b)

Bad

The ways of evil (12a)

Crooked paths (15a)

Paths that lead to death (18b)

Dark ways (13b)

Devious ways (15b)



3. The value of wisdom

Application

- Choose wisdom because it can guard you from personal and moral ruin.



3. The value of wisdom

Application

- Choose wisdom because it can guard you from personal and moral ruin.
 - Example 1: Marriage & Sexuality



3. The value of wisdom

Application

- Choose wisdom because it can guard you from personal and moral ruin.
 - Example 1: Marriage & Sexuality
 - Example 2: Friendship



3. The value of wisdom

Application

- Choose wisdom because it can guard you from personal and moral ruin.
- Heed wisdom because it can rescue you from spiritual and eternal ruin.





3. The value of wisdom

Application

- Choose wisdom because it can guard you from personal and moral ruin.
- Heed wisdom because it can rescue you from spiritual and eternal ruin.



Summary

1. The search for wisdom
2. The source of wisdom
3. The value of wisdom

