

An aerial photograph of a coastline, likely a fjord or a similar body of water. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, contrasting sharply with the brown, rocky land. The land is rugged and appears to be covered in sparse vegetation or is bare rock. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding land. The overall scene is serene and natural.

SPRING 2022
PROVERBS

PROVERBS

SPRING 2022

<i>WEEK OF</i>	<i>STUDY</i>	<i>OPTIONAL READING</i>
Jan. 23	Intro Night (not printed in packet)	
Jan. 30	Survey (begin packet)	
Feb. 6	Proverbs 1:1-7	Prov. 3; 10; 11
Feb. 13	Proverbs 1:8-33	Prov. 12; 13, 14
Feb. 20	Proverbs 2:1-22	Prov. 15; 16; 17
Feb. 27	<i>Fellowship Night</i>	
Mar. 6	Proverbs 4:1-19	Prov. 4:20-27; 19
Mar. 13	Proverbs 6:1-19	Prov. 20; 21; 22
Mar. 20	Proverbs 7	Prov. 5; 6:20-35
Mar. 27	Proverbs 8	Prov. 25; 26
Apr. 3	Proverbs 9	Prov. 27; 28
Apr. 10	Proverbs 30	Prov. 29
Apr. 17	Proverbs 31:10-31	Prov. 31:1-9
Apr. 24	Recap / Synthesis	
May 1	<i>Fellowship Night</i>	

For the purposes of our study, we will discuss the introductory chapters (1-9) since they lend themselves more naturally to inductive study. These sections are intended to communicate the biblical worldview regarding wisdom and to commend the pursuit of wisdom as necessary for living a godly life. We will also study chapters 30 and 31. Taken together, these 10 studies should serve as a foundation and introduction into the wisdom of the Proverbs.

The study calendar also provides additional, optional reading each week from the "wise sayings" passages of Proverbs (chapters 10-29). We encourage you read these passages throughout your study so you can both learn the value of wisdom (chapters 1-9 and 30-31) and see how the author applies Godly wisdom to every-day circumstances (chapters 11-29). By doing both, you will have completed studying the entire book of Proverbs by the end of the semester. The additional reading will not be printed in the study for each week, but you should feel free to make notes and incorporate ideas from the wise sayings into your study and discussions.

BIBLE STUDY METHODS

This packet is designed to help us learn methods that will aid in our study of the Bible. These methods fit under three fundamental skills: observe, interpret, and apply. Hopefully as you practice these methods, your time studying the Bible will become more worshipful and meaningful. Listed below are the methods and purpose of each box to guide you in your weekly study.

Pray and Reflect (How will I understand?):

Before each Bible study, our process should always start in prayer. We are utterly dependent upon God to reveal His will to us. Without God working in our hearts and minds as we study, the Bible becomes mere knowledge. The Holy Spirit is needed in order to turn knowledge into wisdom.

Observations & Key Themes (What do I see?):

Before we can interpret the meaning of a passage, it's important that we first make observations in the verses we're reading. Take note of the grammatical, literary, and cultural elements of the passage. This involves considering key words, verbs, and connecting words, as well as the who, what, when, why, and how's of the passage.

What are the main literary elements of the passage (key words, repeated words, connecting words)? What are some of the key themes of the passage (central truth of the passage, one sentence summaries)? How should I interpret this passage?

Context (What's the big idea?):

This involves grasping the big picture of the passage before diving into interpretation of individual verses. This entails reading the whole section, chapter, or book of whatever you're studying in order to understand the author's flow of thought, as well as overall idea. What happened right before, or right after the verses you are studying?

Interpret (What does it mean?):

After careful observation we can start trying to interpret what a certain verse or passage means. Our goal should be to determine what the author was saying to the original audience. We do this by using the context, defining key words, studying cross-references, comparing multiple translations, and wrestling with the text individually as well as communally. Commentaries such as The New Illustrated Bible Commentary or many others can be helpful, as well as websites like biblestudytools.com in order to study the original languages for deeper understanding.

BIBLE STUDY METHODS CONTINUED

Application (How does it work? How does this apply to my life?):

Application is the last and most important step in Bible study. After we've established what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience, we can apply these truths to our own lives. Through prayer and reflection, think through key principles learned in the passage you've studied. Ask yourself questions such as:

- *Is there something to worship or thank God for?*
- *Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?*
- *Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?*
- *Is there something I need to pray for specifically this week? Is there any relationship I need to work on?*
- *What exactly will I do differently this week to apply this principle to my life? Whom, other than the Lord, will I ask to help me follow through with this application?*

Summary/Additional Attributes:

Summarizing the passage in your own words is helpful for our understanding of the passage. Do your best to summarize the overall theme of the passage into one or two sentences. List additional attributes of God observed in the passage(s). How do all of the attributes relate to each other in this passage?

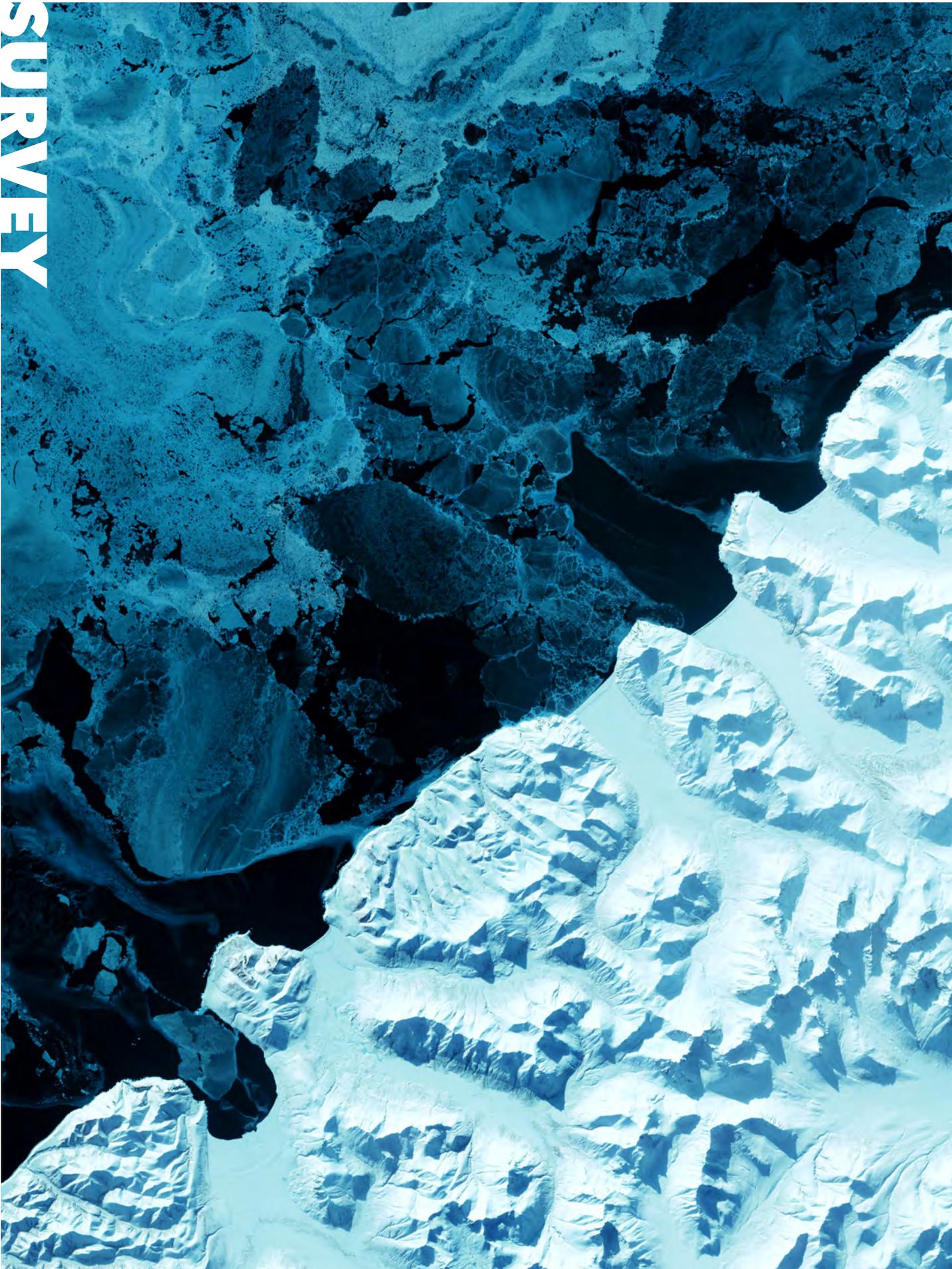
Memory Verse:

One of the best ways to enhance our worship/prayer life is to store God's word in our minds. Scripture memory is also a great tactic God has given us to combat sin and temptation. Choose a verse from the passage you are studying that God has placed on your heart to memorize.

Praise and Prayer:

Just as it is important to start each Bible study with prayer, it is also fitting and wise to end each study in prayer and praise. Praise God for what He reveals to you through scripture as well as life in general. Also, list any prayer requests you may have whether it relates to the study or not.

SURVEY



SURVEY: WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

PART I. Thought Experiment

Discuss:

What do you need most? Answer honestly! Imagine a friend or coworker is asking. What do you feel like you need most in your life right now?

Many of you us would probably answer something like: "I need a boyfriend or girlfriend" Or, "I need to get some more sleep," Or, "I could use a little spending money."

Whether its relationship, sleep or money, what we're asking for is a change in circumstances. That's really what most of our needs amount to... "I need to lose a little weight...I hope he likes me back...I hope I make the team." In other words, "If this could just change, then I would be a happy and fulfilled person."

Deep down in our hearts we all tend to believe this principle: If my circumstances are good—if I'm healthy, wealthy, and well-liked—I would be complete. That's why we complain about our circumstances when they're not ideal.

And yet, we can put this principle to the test. If it really is true that more talent, money, more fame, and more "more" makes you happy, then we would expect to find the happiest, most fulfilled people on the planet living in places like Hollywood or Washington DC... But, the epic woe and unhappiness of the most famous, most wealthy, most influential people in the world is legendary!

The truth is that no change in circumstances can really give you what you want... And besides, we all know that the circumstances of life are things that we can't control!

More money, more notoriety, more influence—may improve our quality of life. And yes, they might make us feel better about ourselves. But, it won't last... Besides, if you're not careful, you might end up losing it all anyway.

What we need most in life is not a change in circumstances... But rather, the ability to flourish and succeed regardless of circumstances.

What we need most is wisdom.... Not more money, not more acceptance, not more influence, not the newest piece of technology, not a girlfriend or boyfriend... What we need is the ability and skill of navigating through our lives and through the world well.

Discuss:

What is wisdom? Do you think there's a difference between the way the world defines wisdom and how God defines wisdom?

What is a time or situation in your life where you struggled because of a lack of wisdom? How could wisdom have changed the outcome?

PART II. Introduction to Proverbs

Now that you've completed the discussion and thought experiment, carefully read the following information on the book of Proverbs. Make notes and write down questions, then discuss them with your group. Be sure to refer back to this information throughout your study.

Overview:

The book of Proverbs stands with Job and Ecclesiastes (some might also include Psalms and the Song of Solomon) as an example of ancient Hebrew wisdom literature. Its contents include descriptions and exhortations of the value of wisdom for godly living as well as a myriad of pithy and insightful wise sayings or "proverbs" relating to a variety of subjects. Many ancient Near Eastern cultures maintained and cultivated their own wisdom writings. Though, the book of Proverbs is unique in that, along with intelligence and insight, it encourages the reader to develop moral character which arises from a right relationship with God.

Author:

The superscription in 1:1 points to King Solomon (reigned c. 971 BC-931 BC) as the primary author and inspiration for the content of the book of Proverbs. 1 Kings 4:29-34 confirms his interest in wise sayings where it says, "...God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt... He also spoke 3,000 proverbs..." This does not mean that Solomon personally authored every word of Proverbs since other authors are clearly mentioned. Also, portions of the book would have been included after Solomon's death (see "Hezekiah" in Prov. 25:1). However, it is appropriate to attribute the book to Solomon since he is unique in Scripture as the founder of the ancient Hebrew wisdom tradition.

My Notes:

Main Theme:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" Prov. 1:7. This phrase is the central axiom of Proverbs appearing eleven times throughout the book. According to Solomon, one cannot gain knowledge or insight into spiritual matters unless he begin with a reverence for God's authority in all matters and a healthy fear of his judgement.

Purpose:

The fivefold purpose of the book is spelled out in the introduction in v. 2-6. (a) "to know wisdom and instruction," (b) "to discern the sayings of understanding," (c) "to receive instruction in wise behavior," (d) "to give prudence to the naive," and (e) "to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles."

The book is to be employed by parents and teachers to train young people in practical wisdom by challenging and thought-provoking sayings. The authors recognized that each new generation possesses energy, talent, drive and intelligence, but naturally lacks the wisdom to apply their energy, talent, drive, and intelligence skillfully. Thus, the book was written to aid in the development of those who would one day hold positions of responsibility and leadership. In other words, it is written by influencers to future people of influence, or from those who've been there, to those who are going there.

Structure:

The basic structure of the book of Proverbs is:

1:1-7 - Theme and purpose of the book

1:8-9:18 - Various speeches from Solomon on the value of wisdom

10:1-22:16 - The Proverbs of Solomon

22:17-24:34 - Sayings of the Wise

25-29 The Proverbs of Solomon (collected by Hezekiah's men)

30 - The Words of Agur

31:1-9 - The Words of King Lemuel

31:10-31 - The Woman who fears the LORD

My Notes:

What is a Proverb?

The word "proverb" translates the Hebrew word *māšāl* which probably means "a comparison." A proverb, then, is a short, clever saying that makes a comparison or examines a universal experience. In the Bible, proverbs often use poetic literary features such as parallelism, metaphor, or repetition to impart wisdom or illuminate a given principle. In the book of Proverbs, these sayings appear in chapters 10-30.

Unlike in modern western cultures where "newer" often means "better," the idea behind Proverbs is that we should trust--not in what's new--but in what is tried and true. In other words, these sayings are the accumulated insight of God's people passed down for generations because they've proven reliable over and over again.

Yet, book of Proverbs can be difficult for modern, western readers to study for a few reasons:

Firstly, though book as a whole speaks to a myriad of topics and situations at length, a given chapter rarely focuses on a particular theme and the contents appear random or loosely related. For this reason, readers much engage with Proverbs using a different paradigm. To the ancient Hebrews, the book of Proverbs served as a reference to be meditated on continuously. The more we practice meditating on the Proverbs, the more we come to understand that their organization is not random but rather an invitation to practice applying the principles of Godly wisdom to a variety of situations at once just as one might do on any given day.

Secondly, the book can be challenging if we assume a proverb equal a promise. In other words, if believe that by obeying the proverbs will automatically provide a blessing and benefit, we will be disappointed and frustrated. The book of Proverbs deals in probabilities not promises. Part of learning wisdom is

My Notes:

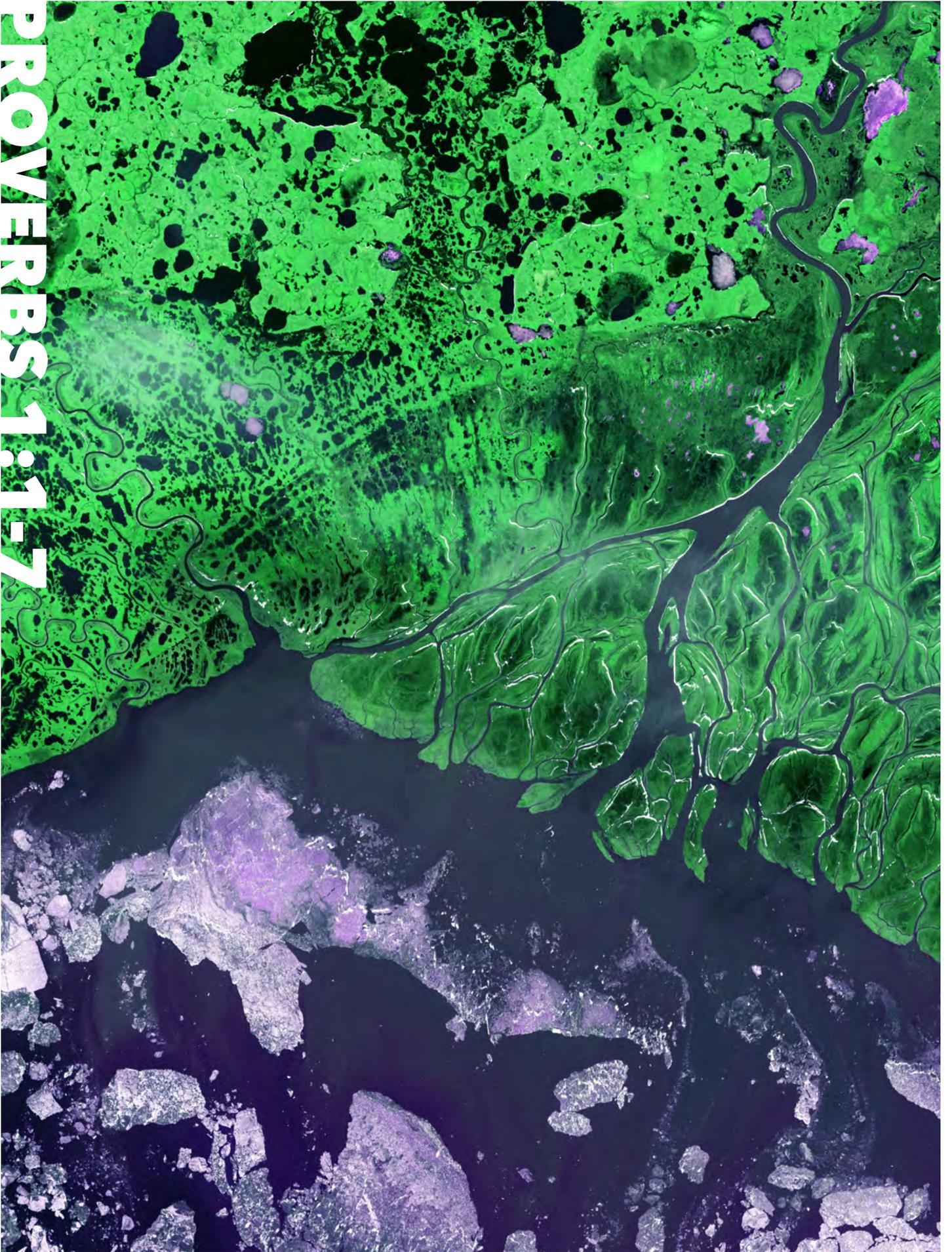
understanding that life doesn't always work according to simple formulas. The maxims of Proverbs must be considered alongside the message of Ecclesiastes and Job which explore the complexities and disappointments of life in a fallen world.

What is Wisdom?

Wisdom (*hokmâ*) - First and foremost, wisdom is an attribute of God and the means by which God created the universe. In Proverbs wisdom is a foundational principle, an unseen creative energy, a force of goodness and beauty that God has carefully and thoughtfully woven into the fabric of creation. Yet, though wisdom is mysterious, the authors of Proverbs claim that God's wisdom is perceptible and accessible to humans who humble themselves to seek it from its divine source. The Hebrew word for wisdom *hokma* is closely related to the idea of "skillfulness." The word first appears in the Scriptures in describing a talented craftsman or stone mason. It is also used of those who are skilled at business, of those who are good at leading people, and even of those who are skilled at making music. Unlike the common western definition of wisdom which overemphasizes knowledge, the Bible defines wisdom as cultivating talents and understanding to create, produce, and build. Thus, Proverbs is an invitation to learn the "skill of living" in God's world.

Fear of the LORD (*yir'at YHWH*) - In Proverbs "wisdom" is inseparable from the concept of the "fear of the LORD." This fear is born of a sincere reverence for God and is defined by a posture of humility which recognizes God's authority and power as the Righteous Judge who holds humans accountable for their actions. Thus, "the fear of the Lord" does not encourage timidity but rather motivates the believer towards gaining wisdom as a prerequisite for righteous living.

My Notes:



PROVERBS 1:1-7

PROVERBS 1:1-7 | AN INTRODUCTION TO WISDOM

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

2 To know wisdom and instruction,
To discern the sayings of understanding,

3 To receive instruction in wise behavior,
Righteousness, justice and equity;

4 To give prudence to the naive,
To the youth knowledge and discretion,

5 A wise man will hear and increase in
learning,
And a man of understanding will acquire wise
counsel,

6 To understand a proverb and a figure,
The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of
knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

STEP 1. OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What questions do you have? What's interesting? Difficult? Serious? Funny? Are there any key words? Look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember and discuss with your group.

STEP 2. INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

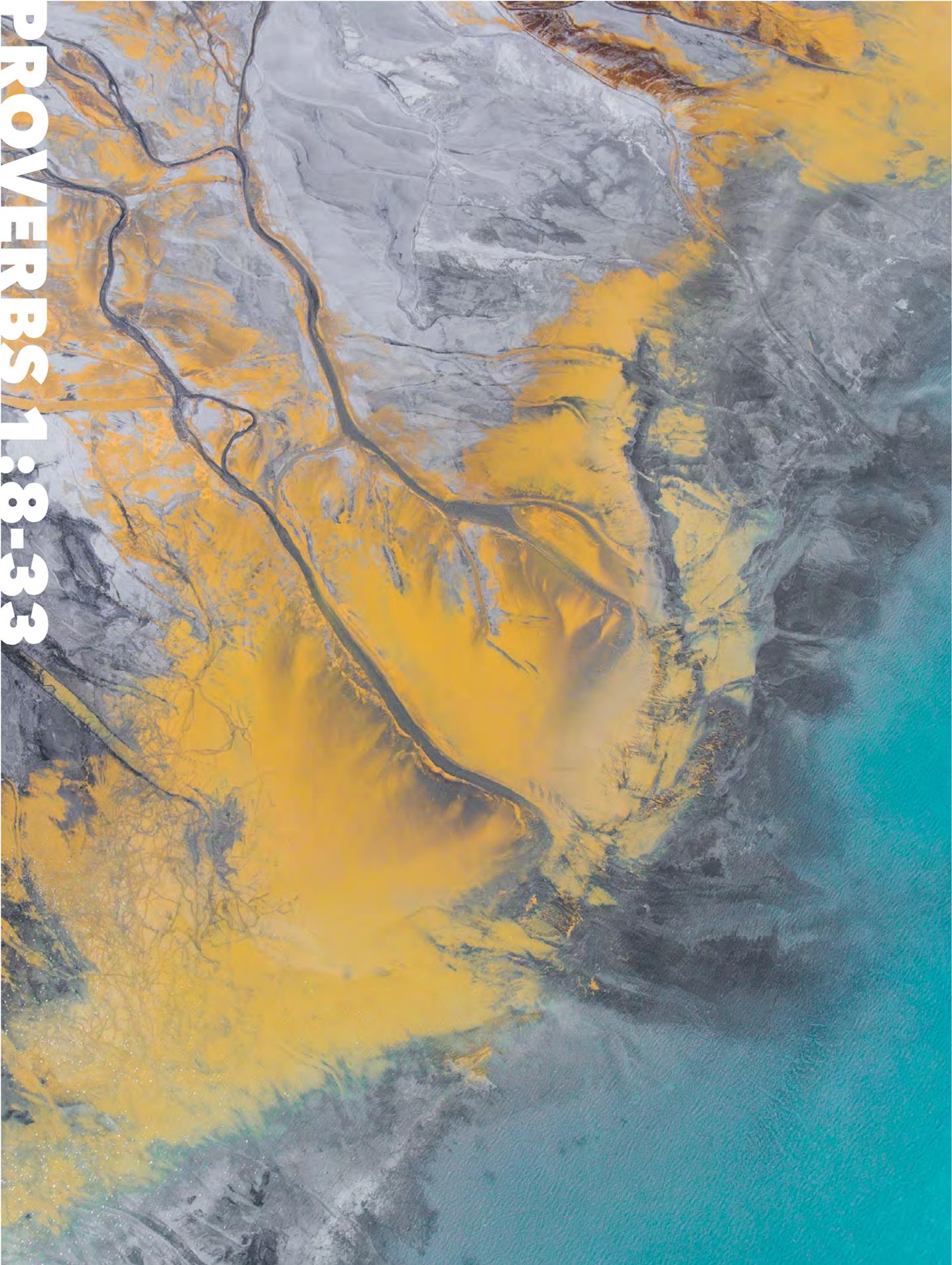
STEP 3. APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? / WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn? How can you apply what you learned today or tomorrow? What do you want to remember from this passage?

MEMORY VERSE:

ADDITIONAL NOTES; NOTES ON OPTIONAL READING:

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS



PROVERBS 1:8-33

PROVERBS 1:8-33 - WARNING AGAINST TEMPTATION (8-19); THE CALL OF WISDOM (20-33)

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction
And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head
And ornaments about your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you,
Do not consent.

11 If they say, "Come with us,
Let us lie in wait for blood,
Let us ambush the innocent without cause;

12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol,
Even whole, as those who go down to the pit;

13 We will find all kinds of precious wealth,
We will fill our houses with spoil;

14 Throw in your lot with us,
We shall all have one purse,"

15 My son, do not walk in the way with them.
Keep your feet from their path,

16 For their feet run to evil
And they hasten to shed blood.

17 Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net
In the sight of any bird;

18 But they lie in wait for their own blood;
They ambush their own lives.

19 So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence;
It takes away the life of its possessors.

20 Wisdom shouts in the street,
She lifts her voice in the square;

21 At the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings:

22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?
And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing
And fools hate knowledge?"

23 "Turn to my reproof,
Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words known to you.

24 "Because I called and you refused,
I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;

25 And you neglected all my counsel
And did not want my reproof;

26 I will also laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your dread comes,

27 When your dread comes like a storm
And your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.

28 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,

29 Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the Lord.

30 "They would not accept my counsel,
They spurned all my reproof.

31 "So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way
And be satiated with their own devices.

32 "For the waywardness of the naive will kill them,
And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

33 "But he who listens to me shall live securely
And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

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MEMORY VERSE:

ADDITIONAL NOTES; NOTES ON OPTIONAL READING:

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

PROVERBS 2:1-22



PROVERBS 2:1-22 - GET WISDOM AT ALL COSTS

1 My son, if you will receive my words
And treasure my commandments within you,

2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart to understanding;

3 For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding;

4 If you seek her as silver
And search for her as for hidden treasures;

5 Then you will discern the fear of the Lord
And discover the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and
understanding.

7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

8 Guarding the paths of justice,
And He preserves the way of His godly ones.

9 Then you will discern righteousness and
justice
And equity and every good course.

10 For wisdom will enter your heart
And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

11 Discretion will guard you,
Understanding will watch over you,

12 To deliver you from the way of evil,
From the man who speaks perverse things;

13 From those who leave the paths of
uprightness
To walk in the ways of darkness;

14 Who delight in doing evil
And rejoice in the perversity of evil;

15 Whose paths are crooked,
And who are devious in their ways;

16 To deliver you from the strange woman,
From the adulteress who flatters with her
words;

17 That leaves the companion of her youth
And forgets the covenant of her God;

18 For her house sinks down to death
And her tracks lead to the dead;

19 None who go to her return again,
Nor do they reach the paths of life.

20 So you will walk in the way of good men
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 treacherous will be uprooted from it.

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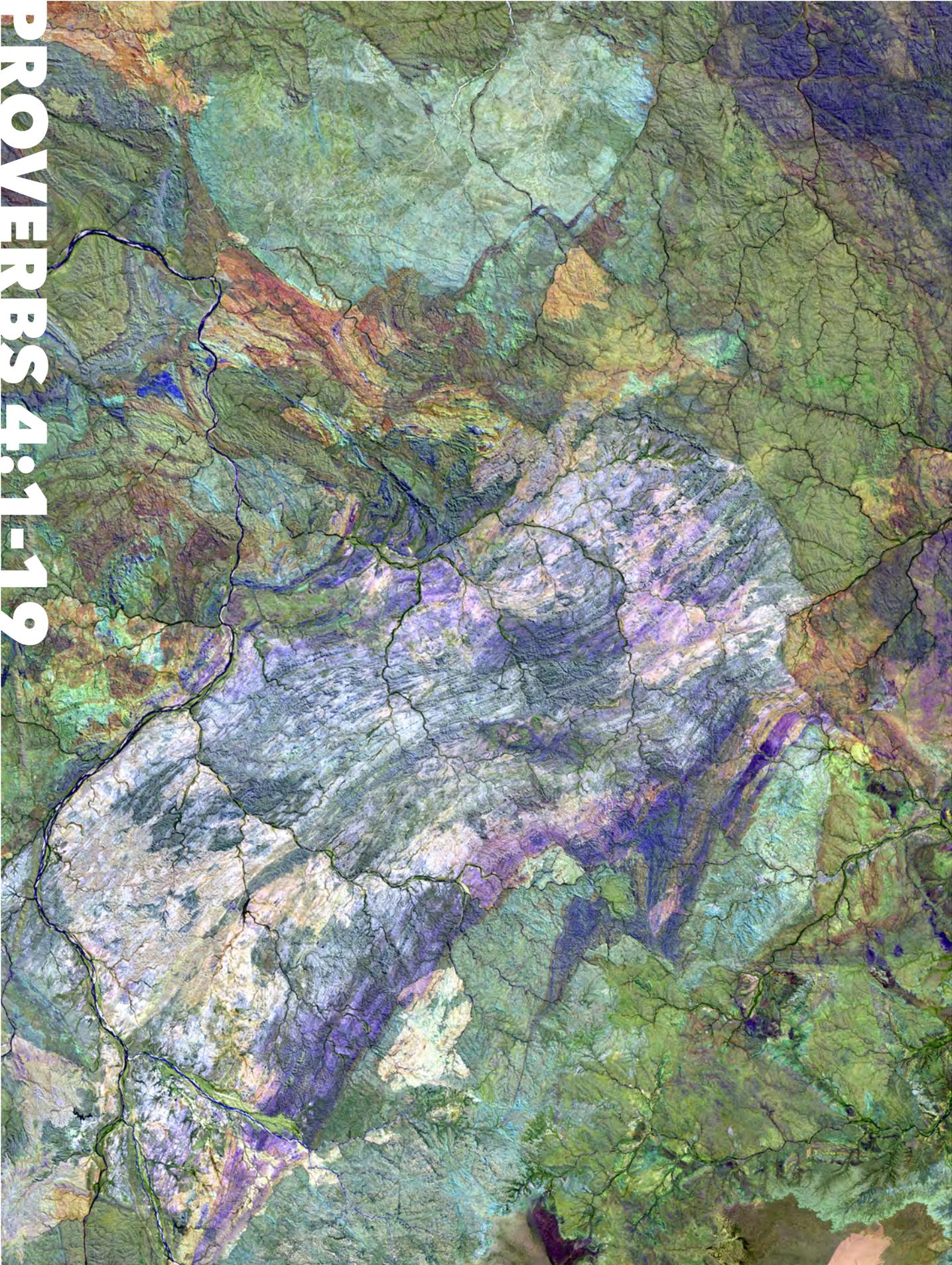
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PROVERBS 4:1-19

PROVERBS 4:1-19 - THE TRADITION OF WISDOM (1-9) TWO PATHS (10-19)

1 Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father,
And give attention that you may gain
understanding,

2 For I give you sound teaching;
Do not abandon my instruction.

3 When I was a son to my father,
Tender and the only son in the sight of my
mother,

4 Then he taught me and said to me,
"Let your heart hold fast my words;
Keep my commandments and live;

5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!
Do not forget nor turn away from the words of
my mouth.

6 "Do not forsake her, and she will guard you;
Love her, and she will watch over you.

7 "The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire
wisdom;
And with all your acquiring, get understanding.

8 "Prize her, and she will exalt you;
She will honor you if you embrace her.

9 "She will place on your head a garland of
grace;
She will present you with a crown of beauty."

10 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings
And the years of your life will be many.

11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom;
I have led you in upright paths.

12 When you walk, your steps will not be
impeded;
And if you run, you will not stumble.

13 Take hold of instruction; do not let go.
Guard her, for she is your life.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked
And do not proceed in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, do not pass by it;
Turn away from it and pass on.

16 For they cannot sleep unless they do evil;
And they are robbed of sleep unless they make
someone stumble.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness
And drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the righteous is like the light
of dawn,
That shines brighter and brighter until the full
day.

19 The way of the wicked is like darkness;
They do not know over what they stumble.

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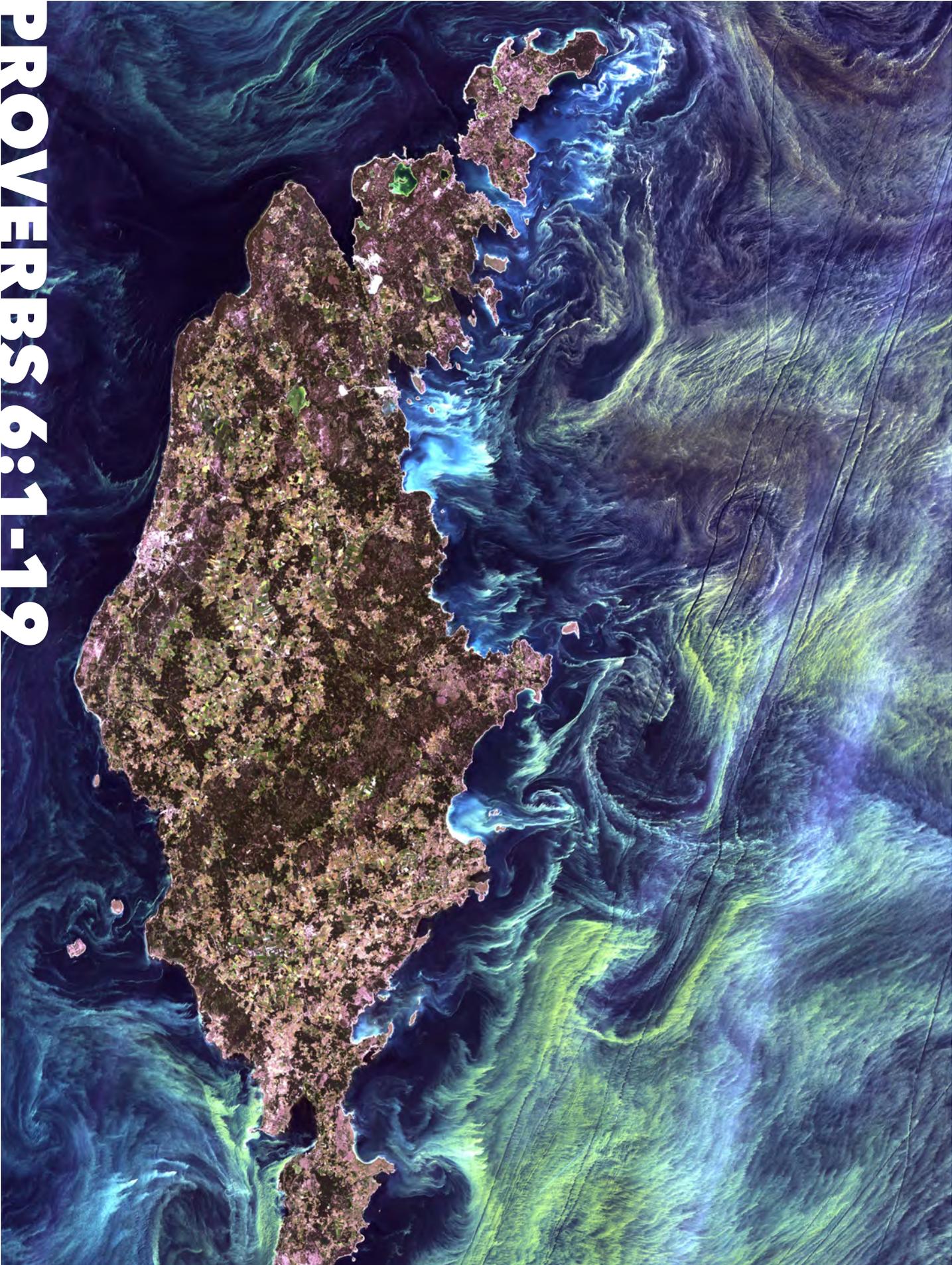
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PROVERBS 6:1-19

PROVERBS 6:1-19 - PRACTICAL WARNINGS

1 My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor,
Have given a pledge for a stranger,

2 If you have been snared with the words of your mouth,
Have been caught with the words of your mouth,

3 Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself;
Since you have come into the hand of your neighbor,
Go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor.

4 Give no sleep to your eyes,
Nor slumber to your eyelids;

5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hunter's hand
And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, O sluggard,
Observe her ways and be wise,

7 Which, having no chief,
Officer or ruler,

8 Prepares her food in the summer
And gathers her provision in the harvest.

9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?

10 "A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest"-

11 Your poverty will come in like a vagabond
And your need like an armed man.

12 A worthless person, a wicked man,
Is the one who walks with a perverse mouth,

13 Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet,
Who points with his fingers;

14 Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil,
Who spreads strife.

15 Therefore his calamity will come suddenly;
Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.

16 There are six things which the Lord hates,
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,

19 A false witness who utters lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.

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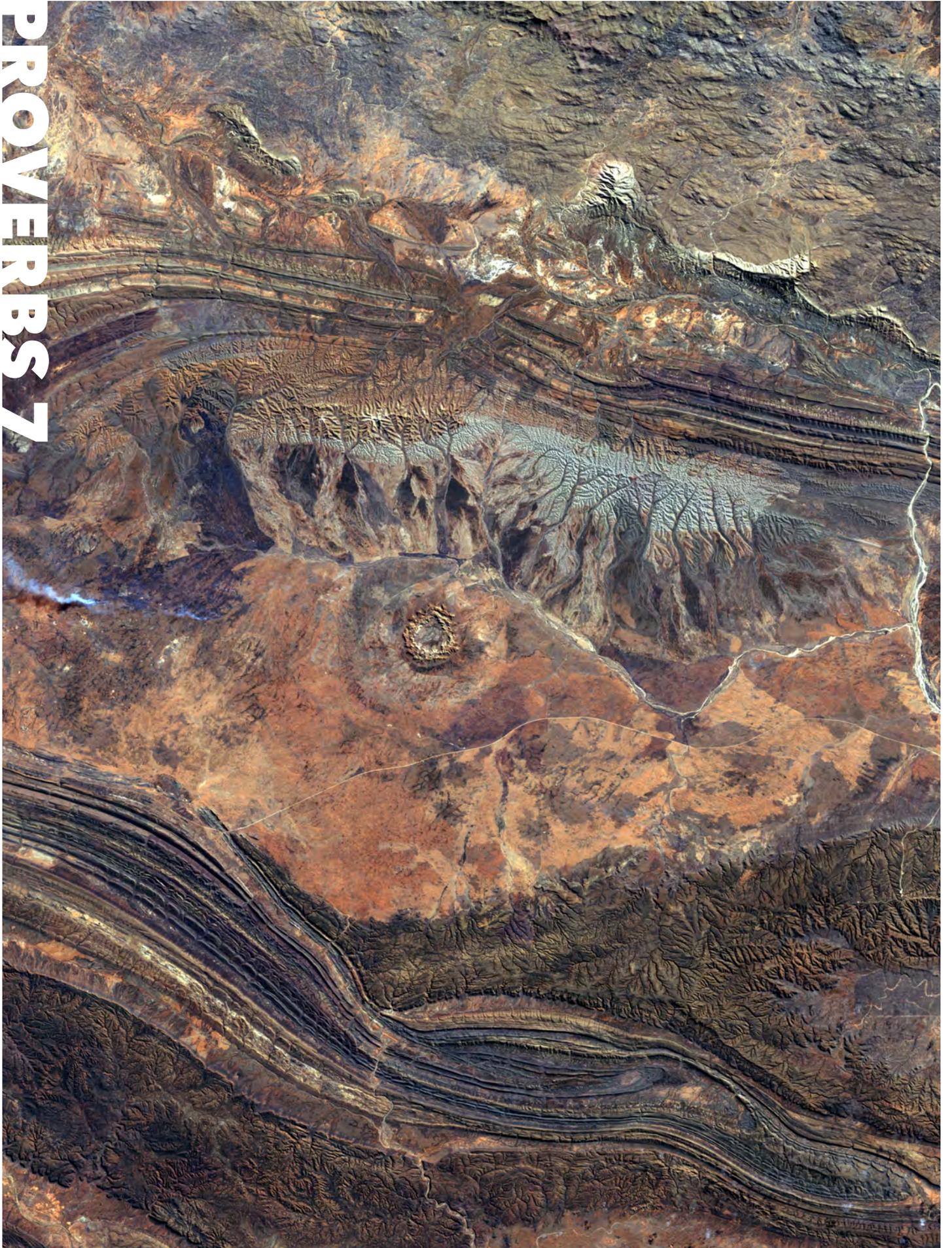
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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS



PROVERBS 7

PROVERBS 7 - WARNING AGAINST SENSUALITY

1 My son, keep my words
And treasure my commandments within you.

2 Keep my commandments and live,
And my teaching as the apple of your eye.

3 Bind them on your fingers;
Write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
And call understanding your intimate friend;

5 That they may keep you from an adulteress,
From the foreigner who flatters with her words.

6 For at the window of my house
I looked out through my lattice,

7 And I saw among the naive,
And discerned among the youths
A young man lacking sense,

8 Passing through the street near her corner;
And he takes the way to her house,

9 In the twilight, in the evening,
In the middle of the night and in the darkness.

10 And behold, a woman comes to meet him,
Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.

11 She is boisterous and rebellious,
Her feet do not remain at home;

12 She is now in the streets, now in the
squares,
And lurks by every corner.

13 So she seizes him and kisses him
And with a brazen face she says to him:

14 "I was due to offer peace offerings;
Today I have paid my vows.

15 "Therefore I have come out to meet you,
To seek your presence earnestly, and I have
found you.

16 "I have spread my couch with coverings,
With colored linens of Egypt.

17 "I have sprinkled my bed
With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.

18 "Come, let us drink our fill of love until
morning;
Let us delight ourselves with caresses.

19 "For my husband is not at home,
He has gone on a long journey;

20 He has taken a bag of money with him,
At the full moon he will come home."

21 With her many persuasions she entices him;
With her flattering lips she seduces him.

22 Suddenly he follows her
As an ox goes to the slaughter,
Or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool,

23 Until an arrow pierces through his liver;
As a bird hastens to the snare,
So he does not know that it will cost him his
life.

24 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me,
And pay attention to the words of my mouth.

25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,
Do not stray into her paths.

26 For many are the victims she has cast down,
And numerous are all her slain.

27 Her house is the way to Sheol,
Descending to the chambers of death.

STEP 1. OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What questions do you have? What's interesting? Difficult? Serious? Funny? Are there any key words? Look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember and discuss with your group.

STEP 2. INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate? Share your thoughts with your group. Be sure to listen and learn from their thoughts too.

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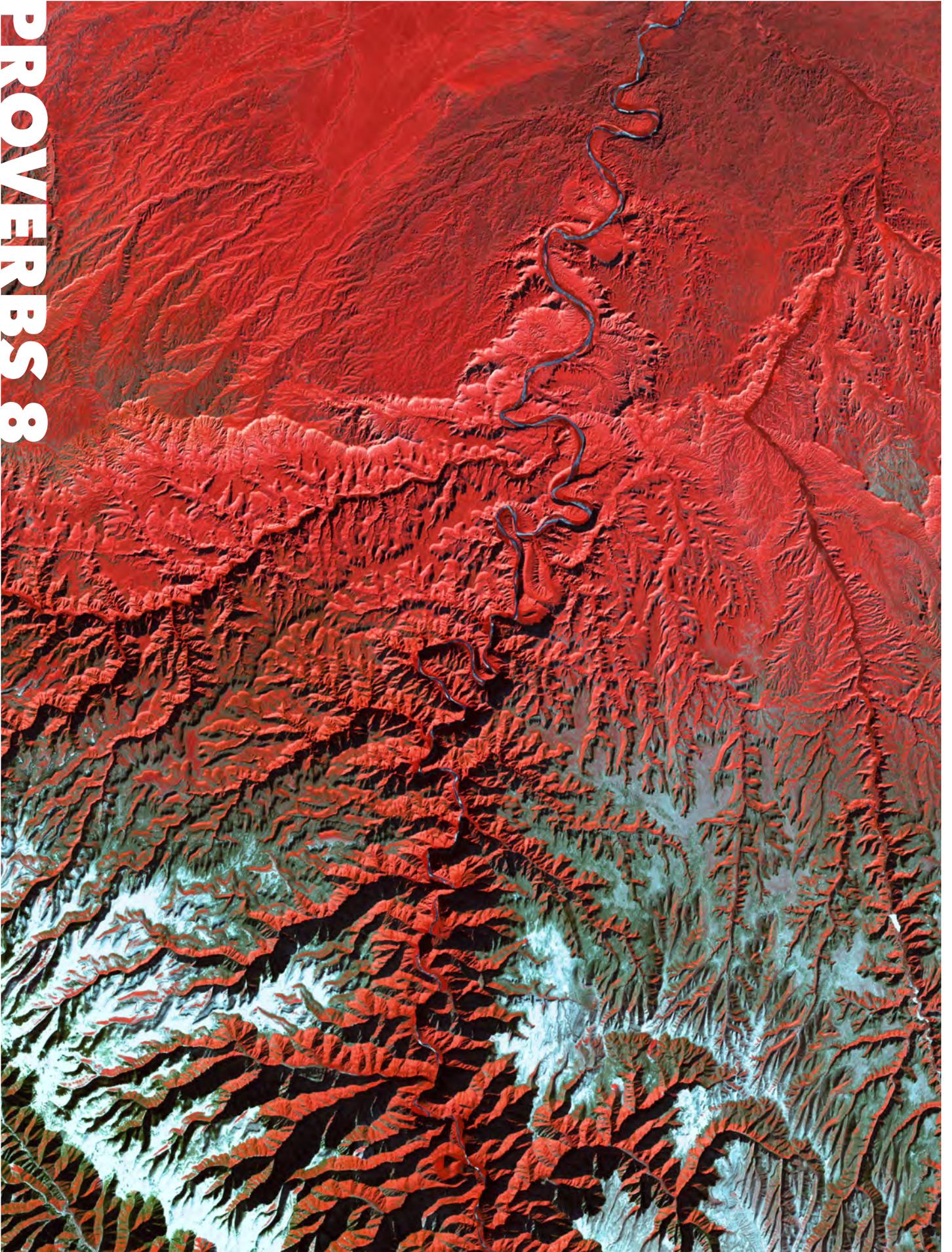
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MEMORY VERSE:

ADDITIONAL NOTES; NOTES ON OPTIONAL READING:

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

PROVERBS 8



PROVERBS 8 - LADY WISDOM CALLS OUT

1 Does not wisdom call,
And understanding lift up her voice?

2 On top of the heights beside the way,
Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

3 Beside the gates, at the opening to the city,
At the entrance of the doors, she cries out:

4 "To you, O men, I call,
And my voice is to the sons of men.

5 "O naive ones, understand prudence;
And, O fools, understand wisdom.

6 "Listen, for I will speak noble things;
And the opening of my lips will reveal right things.

7 "For my mouth will utter truth;
And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 "All the utterances of my mouth are in
righteousness;
There is nothing crooked or perverted in them.

9 "They are all straightforward to him who
understands,
And right to those who find knowledge.

10 "Take my instruction and not silver,
And knowledge rather than choicest gold.

11 "For wisdom is better than jewels;
And all desirable things cannot compare with her.

12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And I find knowledge and discretion.

13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverted mouth, I hate.

14 "Counsel is mine and sound wisdom;
I am understanding, power is mine.

15 "By me kings reign,
And rulers decree justice.

16 "By me princes rule, and nobles,
All who judge rightly.

17 "I love those who love me;
And those who diligently seek me will find me.

18 "Riches and honor are with me,
Enduring wealth and righteousness.

19 "My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold,
And my yield better than choicest silver.

20 "I walk in the way of righteousness,
In the midst of the paths of justice,

21 To endow those who love me with wealth,
That I may fill their treasuries.

22 "The Lord possessed me at the beginning of
His way,
Before His works of old.

23 "From everlasting I was established,
From the beginning, from the earliest times of
the earth.

24 "When there were no depths I was brought
forth,
When there were no springs abounding with
water.

25 "Before the mountains were settled,
Before the hills I was brought forth;

26 While He had not yet made the earth and the
fields,
Nor the first dust of the world.

27 "When He established the heavens, I was
there,
When He inscribed a circle on the face of the
deep,

28 When He made firm the skies above,
When the springs of the deep became fixed,

29 When He set for the sea its boundary
So that the water would not transgress His
command,
When He marked out the foundations of the
earth;

30 Then I was beside Him, as a master workman;
And I was daily His delight,
Rejoicing always before Him,

31 Rejoicing in the world, His earth,
And having my delight in the sons of men.

32 "Now therefore, O sons, listen to me,
For blessed are they who keep my ways.

33 "Heed instruction and be wise,
And do not neglect it.

34 "Blessed is the man who listens to me,
Watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts.

35 "For he who finds me finds life
And obtains favor from the Lord.

36 "But he who sins against me injures himself;
All those who hate me love death."

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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS



PROVERBS 9

PROVERBS 9 - LADY WISDOM AND LADY FOLLY

1 Wisdom has built her house,
She has hewn out her seven pillars;

2 She has prepared her food, she has mixed
her wine;
She has also set her table;

3 She has sent out her maidens, she calls
From the tops of the heights of the city:

4 "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!"
To him who lacks understanding she says,

5 "Come, eat of my food
And drink of the wine I have mixed.

6 "Forsake your folly and live,
And proceed in the way of understanding."

7 He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for
himself,
And he who reproves a wicked man gets
insults for himself.

8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you,
Reprove a wise man and he will love you.

9 Give instruction to a wise man and he will be
still wiser,
Teach a righteous man and he will increase his
learning.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of
wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is
understanding.

11 For by me your days will be multiplied,
And years of life will be added to you.

12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,
And if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

13 The woman of folly is boisterous,
She is naive and knows nothing.

14 She sits at the doorway of her house,
On a seat by the high places of the city,

15 Calling to those who pass by,
Who are making their paths straight:

16 "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here,"
And to him who lacks understanding she says,

17 "Stolen water is sweet;
And bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

18 But he does not know that the dead are
there,
That her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

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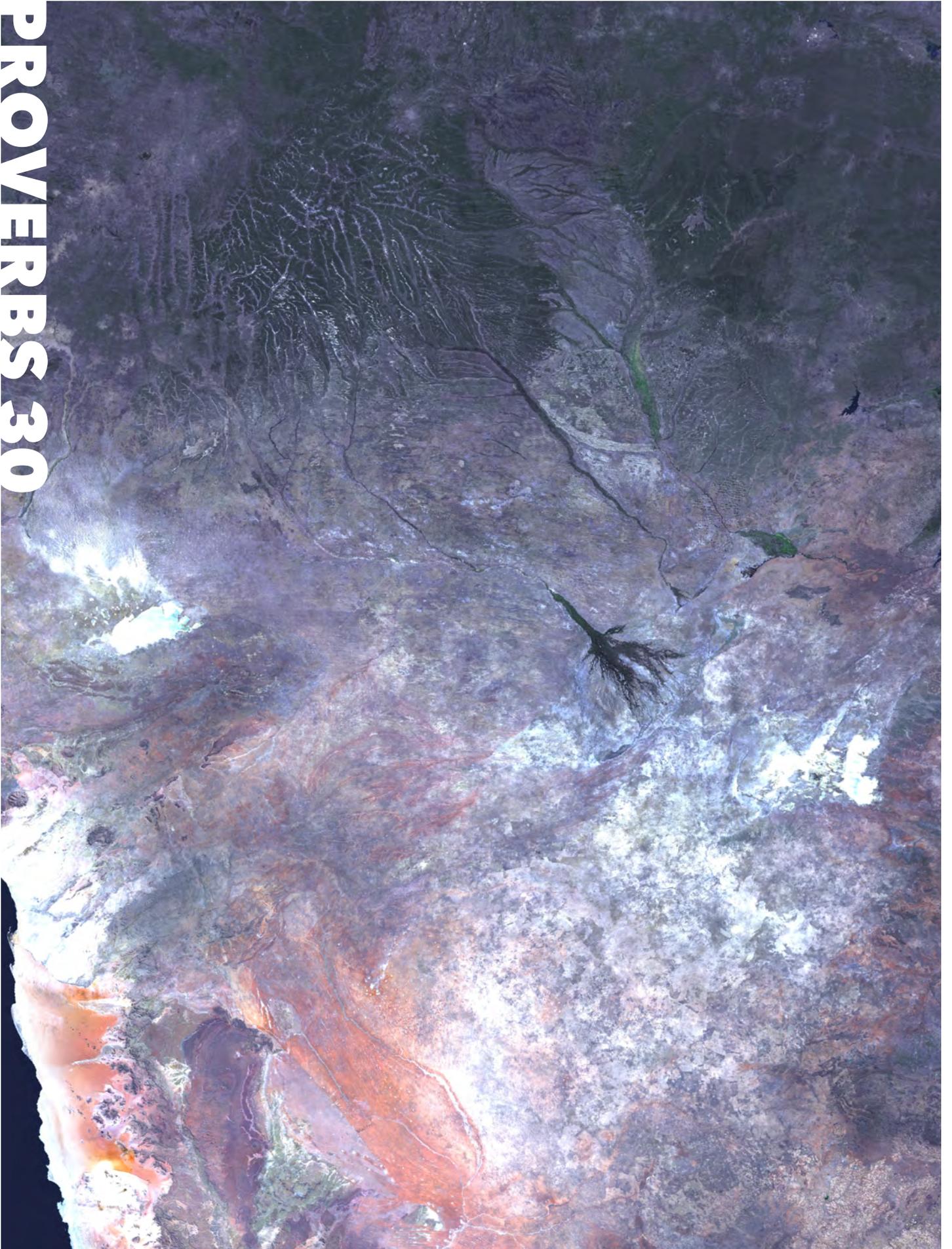
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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

PROVERBS 30



PROVERBS 30 - THE SAYINGS OF AGUR

1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle.
The man declares to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

2 Surely I am more stupid than any man,
And I do not have the understanding of a man.

3 Neither have I learned wisdom,
Nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.

4 Who has ascended into heaven and
descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has wrapped the waters in His garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is His name or His son's name?
Surely you know!

5 Every word of God is tested;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

6 Do not add to His words
Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a
liar.

7 Two things I asked of You,
Do not refuse me before I die:

8 Keep deception and lies far from me,
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with the food that is my portion,

9 That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who
is the Lord?"
Or that I not be in want and steal,
And profane the name of my God.

10 Do not slander a slave to his master,
Or he will curse you and you will be found guilty.

11 There is a kind of man who curses his father
And does not bless his mother.

12 There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes,
Yet is not washed from his filthiness.

13 There is a kind-oh how lofty are his eyes!
And his eyelids are raised in arrogance.

14 There is a kind of man whose teeth are like
swords
And his jaw teeth like knives,
To devour the afflicted from the earth
And the needy from among men.

15 The leech has two daughters,
"Give," "Give."
There are three things that will not be satisfied,
Four that will not say, "Enough":

16 Sheol, and the barren womb,
Earth that is never satisfied with water,
And fire that never says, "Enough."

17 The eye that mocks a father
And scorns a mother,
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,
And the young eagles will eat it.

18 There are three things which are too
wonderful for me,
Four which I do not understand:

19 The way of an eagle in the sky,
The way of a serpent on a rock,
The way of a ship in the middle of the sea,
And the way of a man with a maid.

20 This is the way of an adulterous woman:
She eats and wipes her mouth,
And says, "I have done no wrong."

21 Under three things the earth quakes,
And under four, it cannot bear up:

22 Under a slave when he becomes king,
And a fool when he is satisfied with food,

23 Under an unloved woman when she gets a
husband,
And a maidservant when she supplants her
mistress.

24 Four things are small on the earth,
But they are exceedingly wise:

25 The ants are not a strong people,
But they prepare their food in the summer;

26 The shepherds are not mighty people,
Yet they make their houses in the rocks;

27 The locusts have no king,
Yet all of them go out in ranks;

28 The lizard you may grasp with the hands,
Yet it is in kings' palaces.

29 There are three things which are stately in
their march,
Even four which are stately when they walk:

30 The lion which is mighty among beasts
And does not retreat before any,

31 The strutting rooster, the male goat also,
And a king when his army is with him.

32 If you have been foolish in exalting yourself
Or if you have plotted evil, put your hand on
your mouth.

33 For the churning of milk produces butter,
And pressing the nose brings forth blood;
So the churning of anger produces strife.

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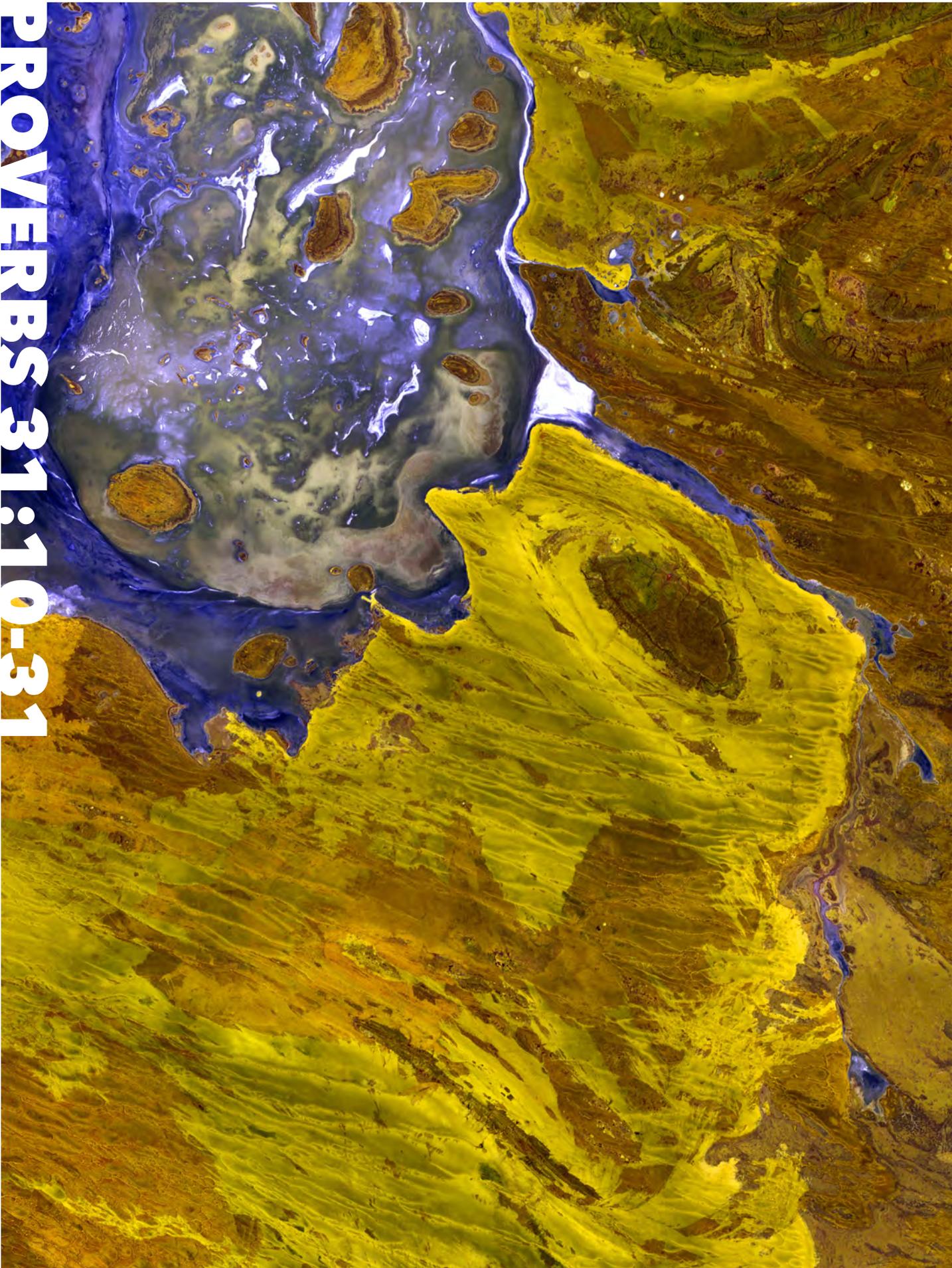
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MEMORY VERSE:

ADDITIONAL NOTES; NOTES ON OPTIONAL READING:

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS



PROVERBS 31:10-31

PROVERBS 31 - THE WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD

10 An excellent wife, who can find?
For her worth is far above jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
And he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.

13 She looks for wool and flax
And works with her hands in delight.

14 She is like merchant ships;
She brings her food from afar.

15 She rises also while it is still night
And gives food to her household
And portions to her maidens.

16 She considers a field and buys it;
From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17 She girds herself with strength
And makes her arms strong.

18 She senses that her gain is good;
Her lamp does not go out at night.

19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hands grasp the spindle.

20 She extends her hand to the poor,
And she stretches out her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her
household,
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She makes coverings for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them,
And supplies belts to the tradesmen.

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she smiles at the future.

26 She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27 She looks well to the ways of her
household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children rise up and bless her;
Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:

29 "Many daughters have done nobly,
But you excel them all."

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be
praised.

31 Give her the product of her hands,
And let her works praise her in the gates.

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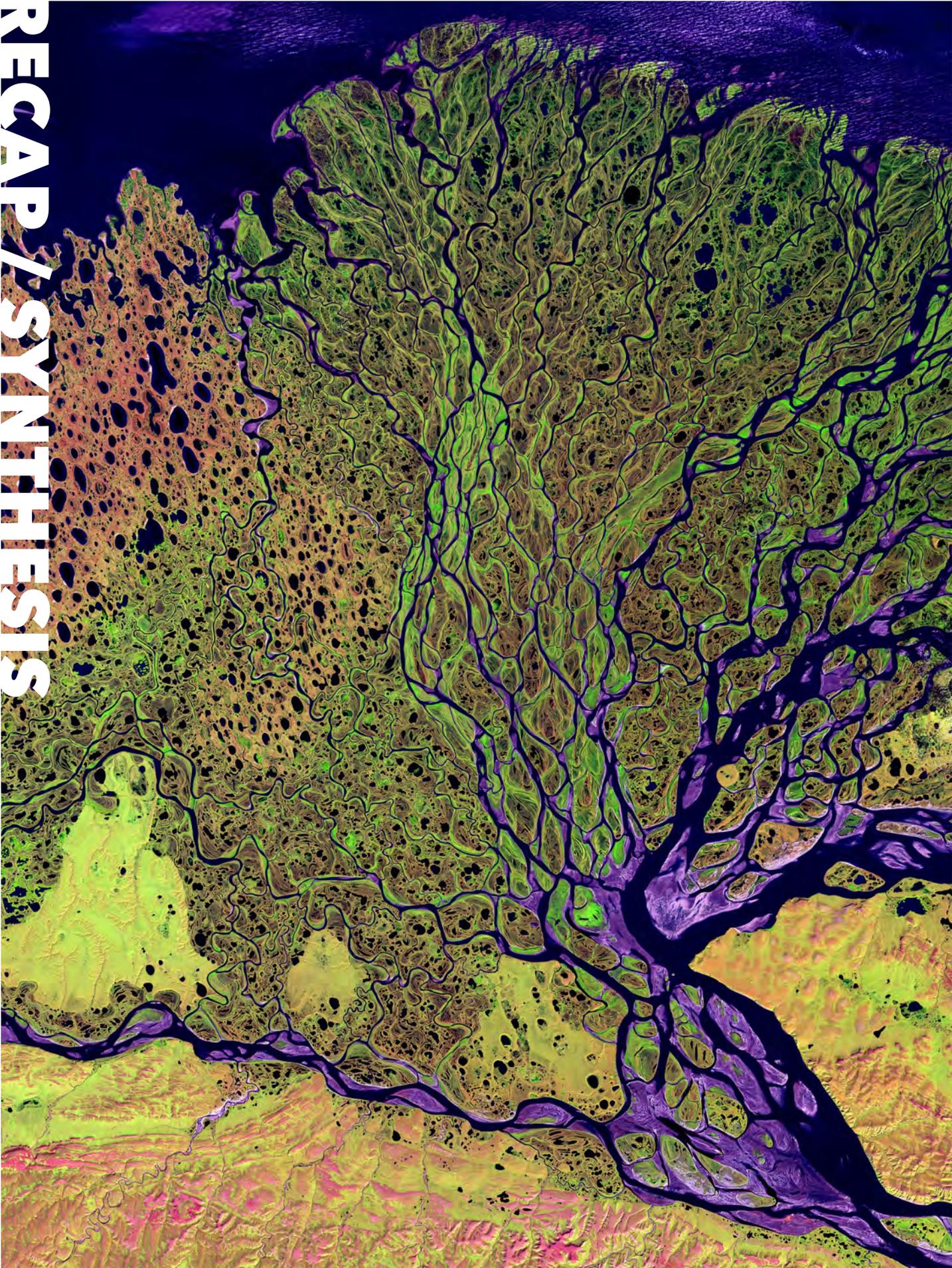
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RECAP / SYNTHESIS



SYNTHESIS: HOW DOES IT ALL FIT TOGETHER?

Our final goal after these past few months digging into the wisdom of Proverbs is to reflect on what we've learned. Go back and review each lesson paying attention to key truths learned and application principles.

Theological Truths Learned:

Life Lessons Learned:

Record Applications to Continue Practicing:

Lastly, prayerfully choose key application principles learned from the Psalms that you feel led to continue practicing. Think about areas of your life where growth is needed, and think of 2 or 3 specific, measurable, and achievable goals. Record the chapter and verse in the Psalms that represented this principle. Compose a specific plan of action in order to apply these principles in your life.

Application Principle 1

Application Principle 2

Application Principle 3

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS