

The Jewish Bible

Law of Moses

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Prophets

Early

Joshua
Judges/Ruth
Samuel
Kings

Later

Isaiah
Jeremiah/Lamentations
Ezekiel
Minor Prophets

Writings

Psalms
Proverbs
Job
Song of Solomon
Ecclesiastes
Esther
Daniel
Ezra/Nehemiah
Chronicles

The Christian Old Testament

Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Wisdom and Psalms

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Prophets

Major

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Psalms and Wisdom Literature

1. Two styles poetry and prose
2. Two types of literature:
 - Psalms – adoration of God
 - Wisdom Literature – interpretation of life
 - Selected Psalms
 - Job
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Solomon
3. Distinct from other O.T. books – history ignored
4. Problematic
 - Solomon – a role model of wisdom?
 - Too optimistic
 - Too pessimistic
 - Enigmatic – puzzling
5. Timeless messages
 - Job – the problem of suffering for the Godly.
 - Proverbs – the contest between wisdom and folly
 - Ecclesiastes – the futility of life
 - Song of Solomon – the joy of communion with God
6. A Christian message
 - Fear God and be wise
 - Faith, hope and love

Proverbs

1. Author

Solomon – wise men – Agur – Lemuel (mother)

2. Basic Structure

Song of Wisdom – Proverbs 1-9

Proverbs (Wisdom) – Proverbs 10-31

3. Seven Sections

Collection 1 – Preamble and Prologue (1-9)

Collection 2 – Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)

Collection 3 – 30 Sayings of the Wise (22:17-24:22)

Collection 4 – More Sayings of the Wise (24:23-34)

Collection 5 – Proverbs of Solomon

collected in Hezekiah's days (25-29)

Collection 6 – Words of Agur (30)

Collection 7 – Words of King Lemuel

and his mother (31)

4. Format

A father addresses his son about the issues of life

The mother's role

Lady wisdom v. the harlot

5. Message: Fear God and be wise

Preamble and Prologue

Proverbs 1-9

1. Preamble – purpose and presupposition
Proverbs 1:1-7

2. Ten messages to his son
 - Lesson 1 – Proverbs 1:8-19
 - Lesson 2 – Proverbs 2:1-22
 - Lesson 3 – Proverbs 3:1-10
 - Lesson 4 – Proverbs 3:11-35
 - Lesson 5 – Proverbs 4:1-9
 - Lesson 6 – Proverbs 4:10-19
 - Lesson 7 – Proverbs 4:20-27
 - Lesson 8 – Proverbs 5:1-23
 - Proverbs 6:1-19 (appendix to Lesson 8)
 - Lesson 9 – Proverbs 6:20-35
 - Lesson 10 – Proverbs 7:1-27

3. Two messages from Wisdom
 - Message 1 – Proverbs 1:20-33 – Wisdom’s warning
 - Message 2 – Proverbs 8:1-36 – Wisdom’s invitation

4. Rival invitations from Wisdom and Folly
Proverbs 9:1-18

Preamble – Proverbs 1:1-7

1. Author – Solomon, son of David (Proverbs 1:1)
Temporal wisdom v. Spiritual wisdom

2. Purpose (Proverbs 1:2-3)
Wisdom – knowledge to discern rightly
Instruction – process whereby wisdom is acquired
Wisdom is moral – righteousness, justice, equity

3. Recipients (Proverbs 1:4-6)
The simple
Gullible, naive, unformed youth
Lack knowledge and discretion
The wise
Already wise
Needs more wisdom

4. The essential foundation (Proverbs 1:7)
The fear of the LORD
Fear of the LORD v. fear of God
Fear = Trust (Proverbs 29:25)
Knowledge/wisdom (Proverbs 9:10)
Fools have no fear of God – despise wisdom
(Psalm 36:1; Romans. 3:18)
Wise have the fear of God – gain wisdom

First message to his son – Proverbs 1:8-19

1. Listen to your father and mother (Proverbs 1:8-9)
Instruction and teaching
An ornament of grace
2. A dangerous enticement (Proverbs 1:10-14)
Murder
Material prosperity
Companionship
3. A father's warning (Proverbs 1:15-19)
Stay out of their way!
A self-destructive way

Wisdom's message – Proverbs 1:20-33

1. The call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:20-21)
Wisdom is the Word of God – the Truth
A public call
2. Three categories of the wicked (Proverbs 1:22)
Simple – gullible; unformed
Fools – content with error
Scoffers – hostile to the Truth
3. The content of the call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:23)
Repentance
Regeneration
4. The consequences of rejection (Proverbs 1:24-32)
Rejection by Wisdom
No hope in calamity and terror
No relief from distress and anguish
The root cause
Hated knowledge (of truth)
No fear of the LORD
The final result
The fruit of their own way
Death to the simple and the fools
5. The ornament of grace (Proverbs 1:33)
To those who hear
Security and peace

FEAR GOD AND BE WISE AND LIVE