

Wisdom Literature

- ▶ Job, Psalms*, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
 - ▶ How to live wisely
 - in a corrupt world
 - in a hostile world
 - in the fear of the LORD
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Themes in Proverbs

- ▶ 2 ways
 - foolish or wise
 - wicked or righteous
 - life or death
- ▶ 3 fools
 - The simple – naive, gullible, unformed
 - The fool – knows and is satisfied
 - The mocker/scoffer – hostile to wisdom
- ▶ 2 voices
 - The harlot – wickedness
 - Wisdom
- ▶ 1 desired outcome
 - wisdom and instruction – moral living
for the simple and the wise
- ▶ 1 foundation
 - The fear of the LORD
Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10;
Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13

Proverbs – Outline

Basic Structure

Song of Wisdom – Proverbs 1-9

Proverbs (Wisdom) – Proverbs 10-31

Seven Collections (Waltke)

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)

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 – An issue of life and death

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 – An urgent call to live

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

Lesson 2: The Blessedness of Wisdom

Proverbs 2-3

- ▶ Message 2: Proverbs 2
 - Seek wisdom and avoid evil
- ▶ Message 3: Proverbs 3:1-10
 - The blessedness of wisdom
- ▶ Message 4: Proverbs 3:11-35
 - The blessedness of discipline

Message 2: Proverbs 2

Seek wisdom and avoid evil

- ▶ A single sentence
- ▶ Symmetrical sections – 4 verses, 4 verses and 3 verses
 - Part 1 – development of son's character
ALEPH
 - Part 2 – deliverance or protection from evil
LAMEDH
- ▶ Part 1 – Proverbs 2:1-11
 - The son's duty (2:1-4)
 - The LORD'S provision (2:5-8)
 - The blessing of wisdom (2:9-11)
- ▶ Part 2 – Proverbs 2:12-22
 - Deliverance from the wicked man (2:12-15)
 - Deliverance from the forbidden woman (2:16-19)
 - The blessing of wisdom (2:20-22)

Message 3: Proverbs 3:1-10

The blessedness of wisdom

- ▶ Part 1 – Proverbs 3:1-4
 - Keeping commandments — longevity and peace
 - Mercy and faithfulness — favor with God and man
- ▶ Part 2 – Proverbs 3:5-10
 - Trust in the LORD . . . straight paths
 - Fear the LORD . . . physical healing
 - Honor the LORD . . . material prosperity
- ▶ True or false?
 - Blessing is essential to wisdom
 - The righteous do not always prosper
 - Proverbs 10:2; 16:8, 19; 19:1; 22:1; 28:6
 - What should we expect?

Message 4: Proverbs 3:11-35

The blessedness of discipline

- ▶ The blessing of discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12)
 - Do not despise or weary of the LORD'S discipline
 - Job 5:17
 - Proverbs 12:1; 15:10, 31-33
 - Hebrews 12:5-11
 - MUSAR – Instruction, chastisement, discipline, reproof
 - Education, not punishment
 - Instruction is blessing deferred
- ▶ The blessedness of wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-24)
 - Wisdom brings blessing to man (Proverbs 3:13-19)
 - Wisdom made and sustains the world (3:19-20)
 - The son must not lose sight of these truths (3:21-24)
- ▶ The duties of wisdom (Proverbs 3:25-32)
 - Do not fear the ruin of the wicked
 - Do not withhold good
 - Do not delay good
 - Do not plan evil against your neighbor
 - Do not contend with a man for no reason
 - Do not envy the man of violence
- ▶ The honor of instruction (Proverbs 3:33-35)
 - The LORD'S curse is upon the wicked.
 - The LORD blesses and honors the upright

Solomon's messages to his son

Proverbs 1-9

- ▶ Message 1: Proverbs 1:8-19
 - An issue of life and death
- ◆ Wisdom's First Call: Proverbs 1:20-33
 - An urgent call to live
- ▶ Message 2: Proverbs 2
 - Seek wisdom and avoid evil
- ▶ Message 3: Proverbs 3:1-10
 - The blessedness of wisdom
- ▶ Message 4: Proverbs 3:11-35
 - The blessedness of discipline