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

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 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)
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