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)
Preamble and Prologue
Proverbs 1-9

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

2. Ten messages to his son
   Message 1 – Proverbs 1:8-19 – An issue of life and death
   Message 2 – Proverbs 2:1-22 – The protection of wisdom
   Message 3 – Proverbs 3:1-10 – The blessings of wisdom
   Message 4 – Proverbs 3:11-35 – The blessing of discipline
   Message 5 – Proverbs 4:1-9
   Message 6 – Proverbs 4:10-19
   Message 7 – Proverbs 4:20-27
   Message 8 – Proverbs 5:1-23
   Proverbs 6:1-19 (appendix to Lesson 8)
   Message 9 – Proverbs 6:20-35
   Message 10 – Proverbs 7:1-27

3. Two messages from Wisdom
   Message 1 – Proverbs 1:20-33 – An urgent appeal
   Message 2 – Proverbs 8:1-36

4. Rival invitations from Wisdom and Folly
   Proverbs 9:1-18
Introduction – Proverbs 1:1-7

The purpose.
- To know wisdom and instruction
- To receive instruction in wise living

The recipients
- The simple – unformed child
- The wise – the beginner in wisdom

The fundamental requirement
- The fear of the LORD – salvation
- Wise living by the believer in an evil world

Folly and Wisdom

The nature of folly
- Devoid of wisdom – simpletons, fools, mockers
- Evil – murderous men
- Enticing – an attractive harlot
- Darkness – ignorance
- Incredibly dangerous – the pathway to eternal hell

The nature of wisdom
- Distinct from folly – foreign to human capacity.
  - Commands you cannot do
  - Truth you cannot conceive
- Good
- Moral/Ethical
- Knowledge of God and His ways
- Blessed – an ornament of grace – a tree of life
- Exclusively for the believer
Lesson 3: The Pursuit of Wisdom
Proverbs 4-5

Message #5: The priority of wisdom
  Proverbs 4:1-9

Message #6: The safety of wisdom
  Proverbs 4:10-19

Message #7: The heart of wisdom
  Proverbs 4:20-27

Message #8: The faithfulness of wisdom
  Proverbs 5:1-23
A grandfather’s message (4:3-4)
  ▶ To his “sons”
  ▶ Gain insight and get good precepts
  ▶ Keep my commandments in your heart and live

Get wisdom, get insight
  ▶ Duplicated message (4:5, 7)
  ▶ Language of value – Get = buy
  ▶ Language of affection
  ▶ Language of priority

The outcome or benefit.
  ▶ She will keep/guard you
  ▶ She will exalt and honor you.
  ▶ An ornament of grace
Message #6 – Proverbs 4:10-19
The safety of wisdom

The call to hear and live

The way of wisdom
  ▶ Paths of uprightness
  ▶ No stumbling or falling
  ▶ It is your life

The way of the wicked
  ▶ Do not go there
  ▶ The zeal of the wicked
    – Insomnia – eager to do evil
    – Insomnia – eager to corrupt
    – Eat and drink evil

Contrasting paths
  ▶ The path of the righteous – rising sun
  ▶ The path of the wicked – deep darkness
Message #7 – Proverbs 4:20-27
The heart of wisdom

“The anatomy of discipleship” (Waltke)
- Ears
- Eyes
- Heart
- Mouth/tongue
- Feet

The heart is life for the body
- Mind
- Spirit
- Affections
- Served by the members
- Directs the members

The heart keeps to the pathway
- Wisdom must be in the heart
- The heart must be guarded
Message #8 – Proverbs 5
The faithfulness of wisdom

The father’s concern for his son
  • Sexual immorality
  • An expanded audience (Proverbs 5:7)
  • The battle for the mind

The threat to the son
  • The forbidden woman – strange woman
  • The subtle enticement
  • The not so subtle outcome
  • No understanding of the path of life

The father’s warning to his sons
  • Listen to the words of my mouth
  • Stay away
  • Consequences – Dishonor & Slavery
  • Agony at end of life – utter ruin

The cause for failure
  • Hated instruction – discipline
  • Despised reproof

The father’s exhortation
  • Drink water from your own cistern
  • Rejoice in the wife of your youth
    – Be intoxicated with her
    – Remain faithful

The conclusion
  • The LORD knows the ways of man
  • The bondage of sin
  • The want of discipline
  • Great folly leads astray
Proverbs 1-5

Message #1: An issue of life and death (Proverbs 1:8-19)

• Wisdom’s first call: An urgent appeal (Proverbs 1:20-33)

Message #2: The protection of wisdom (Proverbs 2)
Message #3: The blessings of wisdom (Proverbs 3:1-10)
Message #4: The blessing of discipline (Proverbs 3:11-35)
Message #5: The priority of wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-9)
Message #6: The safety of wisdom (Proverbs 4:10-19)
Message #7: The seat of wisdom (Proverbs 4:20-27)
Message #8: The faithfulness of wisdom (Proverbs 5:1-23)