

PROVERBS

The God Who Reveals Wisdom

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Structure and Overview

- ◆ Preamble (1:1–7)
- ◆ Prologue: A wise son “hears” and “keeps” parental instruction that leads to life (1:8–9:18)
- ◆ Proverbial Collections: Detailing the way of wisdom (10:1–31:9)
- ◆ Epilogue: The ideal wife, a woman of wisdom (31:10–31)

Preamble (1:1–&

- ◆ **Source (v. 1)**
- ◆ **Goal (vv. 2–4)**
- ◆ **Nature (vv. 5–6)**
- ◆ **Starting point (v. 7)**

Prologue (1:8–9:18)

- ◆ **Part 1 (1:8–3:25):** God will preserve and bless the wise but will disgrace and destroy the fool.
- ◆ **Part 2 (4:1–9):** As Solomon learned from his father, heeding parental instruction will enable you to get wisdom, which will honor all who have her.
- ◆ **Part 3 (4:10–6:19):** Walk in upright paths that lead to life by filling your heart with instruction, guarding yourself from evil, and not sowing discord in community.

◆ **Part 4 (6:20–9:18):** Flea sexual immorality and all other forms of foolishness by embracing lady wisdom.

Proverbial Collections (10:1–31:9)

◆ What are proverbs?

- ❖ Proverbs as memorable bites.
- ❖ Proverbs as generalizations.
 - ❖ Prov 26:4–5
 - ❖ Prov 25:11
 - ❖ Prov 26, 7, 9

❖ Absolute proverbs

❖ Prov 11:20

❖ 16:1, 4–5

❖ 19:21

❖ 21:30

- ❖ Proverbs as eschatological truths.
 - ❖ Promises not for the present but the future.
 - ❖ Prov 22:8–9
 - ❖ 26:27
 - ❖ 28:10
 - ❖ 28:18
 - ❖ Present-day exceptions to the act-consequence nexus.
 - ❖ Prov 11:16
 - ❖ 13:23
 - ❖ 18:23

❖ God will ultimately make right.

❖ Prov 1:18–19, 32–33

❖ 11:21

❖ 24:19–20

Epilogue (31:10–31)

- ◆ **The interpretive question**
- ◆ **The implications**

The Messiah in Proverbs

◆ **Wisdom is God's Son in Proverbs**

- ❖ The King, God's Son, is the primary agent of wisdom, and the book clarifies what the life of the ultimate nobleman, King Jesus, will be like.
- ❖ 1:1; 10:1; 25:1
- ❖ 4:1–9
- ❖ 1:8, 10; 2:1; 3:1; etc.

- ❖ God made the world through wisdom (8:22–31)
 - ❖ 8:22
 - ❖ 8:23–26
 - ❖ 8:27–31
- ❖ God will remake the world with his Son (30:1–6)
 - ❖ 30:1, 5
 - ❖ 30:3
 - ❖ 30:4

◆ Christ is wisdom

- ❖ Christ's wisdom is shown in his teaching, greater than Solomon's, and proven by his deeds of power.
 - ❖ Matt 11:2, 19
 - ❖ Matt 12:42
 - ❖ Matt 13:54
- ❖ The gospel message is “the wisdom of God.”
 - ❖ 1 Cor 2:7
- ❖ Christ is the wisdom of God who stands against the folly of human speculations.
 - ❖ Col 2:1–8
 - ❖ 1 Cor 1:24, 30

- ❖ OT wisdom imagery is embodied in Paul's description of Christ.
 - ❖ Col 1:15–19
 - ❖ Phil 2:5–1
- ❖ OT wisdom imagery is also part of the NT's portrayal of Christ's re-exaltation.
 - ❖ Rom 1:1–4
 - ❖ Phil 2:9
 - ❖ Acts 2:33–34

Summary of Proverbs

The very wisdom that God appointed his represented in eternity past and that served as God's craftsman at creation is the wisdom embodied in God's royal Son, and all who fear the Lord must hear and keep his teaching in order to rest secure and enjoy lasting life and to flee the way of the fool that leads to death.