I. Foundational principles:

A. Group #1:
   1. Job 28:20–27
   2. Prov 8:22–23, 30–31
   3. Eccl 12:11

B. Group #2:
   1. Job 28:28
   2. Prov 1:7
   3. Prov 9:10
   4. Eccl 12:13–14

C. Group #3:
   1. Prov 2:1–8
   2. Prov 8:32–35
   3. Eccl 7:23–24
   4. Jas 1:5–8

D. Group #4:
   1. 1 Cor 1:17–18, 20–24, 30
   2. Col 2:1–3
   3. Jas 3:13–18

II. Definition of Wisdom:

III. Types and formats of wisdom
    A. OT books:
B. Types:
   1. Speculative wisdom:
   2. Prudential wisdom:

C. Formats:
   1. Monologue
   2. Dialogue
   3. Proverb

IV. Interpreting a Wisdom Dialogue—Job 1–2 (Act 1: Prologue)
   A. Setting (1:1–5)
   B. Scene 1 (1:6–22)
      1. 1:8–9
      2. 1:20–22
   C. Scene 2 (2:1–13)
      1. 2:3–6
      2. 2:7–10

V. Interpreting Some Wisdom Monologues
   A. Eccl 3:9–14

   B. Eccl 11:7–12:1

VI. Interpreting Proverbial Wisdom
   A. A Proverb Test
      1. Grade:
      2. What’s a proverb?

   B. Consider what truth the proverb is communicating.
      1. Generalizations
         a. Prov 26:4–5
      2. Absolutes
         a. Prov 11:20
b. Prov 16:1

c. Prov 16:4–5

d. Prov 19:21

e. Prov 21:30

f. Monologue: Eccl 3:14

g. Monologue: Eccl 7:13–14

3. Ultimate, eschatological truths

   a. Promises not for the present age but the future.
      • Prov 10:25, 27
      • Prov 13:21
      • Prov 22:8–9
      • Prov 26:27
      • Prov 28:10
      • Prov 28:18

   b. “You reap what you sow” has many exceptions in this life.
      • Prov 11:16
      • Prov 13:23
      • Prov 18:23
      • Monologue: Eccl 8:14

   c. God will ultimately punish the wicked and uphold the righteous.
      • Prov 1:18–19, 32–33
      • Prov 11:21
      • Prov 24:19–20
      • Monologue: Eccl 8:12–13

C. Let the proverb move you to fear God and treasure Christ as your wisdom.

1. The king is the agent of wisdom, and he clarifies how the future king should live (1:1; 4:1–9; cf. 1:8, 10; 2:1; 3:1, 21; 4:1, 10, 20; 5:1; 6:1, 20; 7:1).

2. God made the world through wisdom (Prov 8:22–31; cf. 3:19–20).

3. God’s Son is wisdom (Prov 30:1–6).

4. Christ is wisdom (Matt 11:2, 19; 12:42; 13:54), and his work is the pinnacle expression of God’s wisdom (1 Cor 1:22–24, 30).
Notes

Resources


