

# INTERPRETING OLD TESTAMENT WISDOM THROUGH CHRIST AND FOR CHRIST

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## 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

- C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Poetic Books*, 2nd ed. (Chicago: Moody, 1988).
- Jason S. DeRouchie, “Shepherding Wind and One Wise Shepherd: Grasping for Breath in Ecclesiastes,” *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 15.3 (2011): 4–25.
- Jason S. DeRouchie, ed., “Chapters 17–19: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes,” in *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Jesus’ Bible* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013), 358–91.
- Jason S. DeRouchie, *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017).
- Jason S. DeRouchie, Oren R. Martin, and Andrew David Naselli, *40 Questions about Biblical Theology*, 40 Questions (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2020).
- Daniel J. Estes, *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).
- Daniel C. Fredericks and Daniel J. Estes, *Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs*, ApOTC (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010).
- Duane A. Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, NAC 14 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993).
- O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of Wisdom: A Redemptive-Historical Exploration of the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017).