

Proverbs

In a word: Skill

In a sentence: A collection of instruction on how to live skillfully in light of the way God designed the world.

Structure

1-9 Introductory Section (lays foundation)

10-29 Main Body of Proverbs

30 The Ideal Reader/ The Attitude of a Wise Person

31 The Ideal Wise Woman

Some Comments:

- Wisdom as a whole needs to be set in it's Adamic and Evangelistic context.
- Proverbs and Ecclesiastes ultimately work together to describe what it looks like to fulfill our mission of taking dominion in a fundamentally good, but broken, world.
- "there are details of character small enough to escape the mesh of the law and the broadsides of the prophets, and yet decisive in personal dealings,"- Kidner
- "A crucial notion of "wisdom" (Hebrew khokmâ) is that of "skill" (the nuance of khokmâ in Exod. 28:3), particularly skill in choosing the right path for the desired result.¹⁸ Since the covenantal framework defines what is proper in both the path and the result, we may call this "covenantal wisdom": skill in the art of godly living.¹⁹ Fox, Michael V. "Essays on proverbs 1–9: ♦." In *Proverbs 1–9: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, 321–359. New Haven & London: The Anchor Yale Bible, 2000. Accessed June 13, 2023.
- Wisdom is presented as the ability to live in harmony with the way God has built the world. **This is why the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom- because he is the one who formed the fabric of the universe.**
- *Summary of the above:* wisdom is not a series of things to collect and to know..it is a way of living/thinking/being that makes one able to act wisely in whatever situation.
- "Seduction is the main (indeed, almost the only) peril warned against in the lectures. The wisdom that can withstand it is not erudition, sapience, or unusual intellect. Nor is it the aptitude for discovering new truths. It does require (according to 4:23–25) purity of heart, tongue, and eyes, meaning thought, speech, and desire."
- "Wisdom is a configuration of soul; it is *moral character*. And fostering moral character, it is no overstatement to say, is at all times the greatest goal of education. It is also the greatest challenge, for moral character comes down to desiring the right things, and how can we teach desire?" Fox, Michael V. "Essays on proverbs 1–9: ♦." In *Proverbs 1–9: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, 321–359. New Haven & London: The Anchor Yale Bible, 2000. Accessed June 13, 2023.

- Proverbs are not promises.
- The vividness is meant to make *appearances* clear and palpable, so that the son will be aware of their power. He shows the seductive woman's appeal to all the senses, her titillating offer of stolen pleasures, her ostensible attentiveness to her victim (7:15). In like manner, he recounts the gang's promise of wealth, power, and fellowship. The impact is all the greater, then, when he tears away the veil and bares the foul and fatal realities behind the façades. The would-be buddies, he informs his son, are fraudulent, and they are out to trap *you*. The sexy seductress, behind her sensuous looks and honeyed words, is shabby, exploitative, and treacherous. The sweetness of her mouth leaves a bitter aftertaste. Her perfumed abode is but a grave where her victims rot (2:18–19; 7:27). Fox, Michael V. "Essays on proverbs 1–9: ♦." In *Proverbs 1–9: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, 321–359. New Haven & London: The Anchor Yale Bible, 2000. Accessed June 13, 2023..

Ecclesiastes

In a word: Smoke

In a sentence: The world is fundamentally broken and without a view into heaven and eternity it is utterly pointless.

Structure

1:1 Author & "Gatherer"

1:2-12 None of it works except trusting Yahweh in light of eternity

12:9-14 Evaluation of the "Gatherer's" Sermon

Some Comments:

- there is so much beauty in God's world but it is always "inaccessible" (C.S. Lewis helpful here)- it is smoke
- There is no way of life that makes sense of the world apart from eternity and a heavenly view... the world shows so much cohesion, but ultimately man cannot put the pieces together.
- Joy comes from, humility, contentment, and trusting Yahweh.

Song of Songs

In a word: Marriage

In a sentence: In contrast to the “forbidden woman” in Proverbs, love within a marriage relationship can truly be like a mini-return to Eden.