

Interpreting The Proverbs

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A. Introduction to Proverbs in General

Nature:

מִשָּׁל-- saying, proverb, wisdom saying...

Harris-- to translate *mashal* simply as "proverb" misses the wide sweep of the word, suggested by the many suggested translations

- a short pithy saying which assumes the status of truth
- or synonymous with an extended parable (hence the frequent LXX translation *parabole* (Ezk. 17:2,)
- or can refer to an extended didactic discourse (Prov. 1:8-19)
- or a person or group of persons may function as a *mashal* (Saul-1S10.12, Job-Job17.6, Israel, Ps44.14) so as to be a public example...
- or "byword" (Ps44.14, 69.11, Jer24.9, Exk14.8, etc) so as, in these cases, to represent some kind of doom that has or will come upon Israel.

"in the Old Testament, the "proverb" had a clearly recognizable purpose: that of quickening an apprehension of the real as distinct from the wished for... of compelling the hearer or reader to form a judgment on himself, his situation or his conduct... this usage comes to its finest expression in the parables of Jesus."

Origins:

Oral transmission-- (note for instance Judge 8:21, 1 Sam.30:24ff, 2 Sam.5:8)

1. Family or tribe--

Example: Tobit 4:3, 18-19 (quoted p.18)

2. Court school- professional bureaucratic training, more formal

Note several "King sayings" such as Prov.25:1

"Solomonic era as an age of enlightenment when Israel took on the new ways of the surrounding culture, especially in the administration of the newly founded united monarchy."

3. Solomon as the wise man *par excellence*.

1 Kgs 4:29-30,43- described

10:1-10- visit by queen of Sheba

1 kgs 3:3-4- gift of wisdom to Solomon described

3:16-28- illustration of Solomons wisdom by the story of the two harlots

Characteristics of Wisdom Literature

1. Absence of Reference to Salvation History

The wisdom heritage is international...

2. Creation Theology

it is "that of the created world and the experience of it. God is very much a part of this perspective and Yahweh is the only God that Israel rightfully acknowledge. But the sages view the Lord primarily as creator, not as covenant partner... his creative activity is seen as the basis for his kingship. (Prov.30:18-19)

Therefore, Israel was in dialogue with her environment, from which many lessons could be derived--

diligence from the ant (6:6-8)
wisdom of the small (30:24-28)
etc.

Gerhard von Rad, *Wisdom in Israel*

"The experiences of the world were for her (Israel) always divine experiences as well, and the experiences of God were for her experiences of the world."

Murphy

"A distinction between the secular and the religious is not to be discerned in wisdom sayings... A proverb is not religious just because it mentions the Lord. It is religious because the sages world view is ultimately rooted in the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (prov.9:10)

4. Most Especially-- The wisdom of the Law-- The good news of wisdom is "Life"

Wisdom is portrayed as preaching in the streets (1:20, 8:2; 9:3)

And the good news is life (prov.10:16, 11:19)

So as to heed the admonition of wisdom is a path of life (10:17; 2:19; 5:6)

And the teaching of the wise is a "tree of life" (3:18)

Key: We are saved by "wisdom" somehow!! To be wise is to be saved, which then both exasperates us as we discern our lack of wisdom, and directs us to the personification of wisdom unto salvation in Christ | Oor

e.g. The limits of Wisdom that is attainable by man in the present age

Was it as simple as wisdom = prosperity

Yet a realism about the sin in life and its consequences is also noted, as in Prov. 3:11-12 where the sage acknowledges that the Lord reproves whom he loves

Or that no wisdom can avail against the Lord (Prov.21:30) and his intentions.

and that a persons steps are ordered by the Lord (Prov.20:24) such that we do not fully control our prosperity or distress by merely being more or less wise

*(Perhaps what is meant is that since we are not all wise-- God will discipline us by our unwisdom-- moreover, since we are sinners, we cannot perfectly correct the unwisdom of our ways-- thus the need for an all wise substitute to get for us the "Life" which is the result of perfect wisdom)

The Literary structure of Wisdom

Parallelism:

Most significantly, *parallelism*-- normally a two line composition in parallelism and based upon experience.

Note therefore: if one line is obscure, it is often clarified by the second line.

Synonymous- the second line repeats the idea of the first line (Prov.Ps.51:1)

Antithetic- both lines say the same thing but by the first line in contrast to the second line. (Proverbs 10-15 is characterized by this, for example 10:1)

Sythetic- first line creates a sense of expectation which is completed in the second or third line...

(Job23:10)

parallelism-- most basic form of poetic expression for Israel, and other ancient near eastern peoples- where the poet is forced to give expression to the subject matter from two points of view, that is in the two verse stichoi. (a thought rhyme")

"What is characteristic is the further development of the thought that has been expressed, mostly by way of an intensification towards a new thought. The first statement advances beyond its own limits; but the main interest is in the direction in which it is extended."

-- prov.16:11, 18:5, 19:5,

antithetic-- prov.11:12-17

synthetic-- prov.16:31, 17:2, 18:21

B. Two Critical Interpretive Notations Concerning a New Covenant Understanding of OC Proverbs

1) *Law Based Salvation Typified—Heb 11:8-17*

2) *Gospel Based Salvation Fulfilled—I Cor 1:20-25*

For a more thorough study in how to interpret the Old Covenant Revelation in relation to the New Covenant, c.f A Covenant Method in Biblical Interpretation

C. Recurring Categories

1. Fear of the Lord

Prov. 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov. 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Prov. 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Prov. 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.

Prov. 15:33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor {comes} humility.

Prov. 16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.

Prov. 19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.

*Eccl. 8:12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. 13 But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

2. Truth and deceit

Prov. 12:17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

Prov. 12:19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Prov. 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Prov. 14:25 A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies.

Prov. 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

3. Warnings about sexual immorality

Prov. 2:11 Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; 16 To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words; 17 That leaves the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God; 18 For her house sinks down to death, And her tracks {lead} to the dead; 19 None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life.

Prov. 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress. 25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her catch you with her eyelids. 26 For on account of a harlot {one is reduced} to a loaf of bread, And an adulteress hunts for the precious life. 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Or can a man walk on hot coals, And his feet not be scorched? 29 So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her will not go unpunished. 30 Men do not despise a thief if he steals To satisfy himself when he is hungry; 31 But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; He must give all the substance of his house. 32 The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. 33 Wounds and disgrace he will find, And his reproach will not be blotted out. 34 For jealousy enrages a man, And he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35 He will not accept any ransom, Nor will he be content though you give many gifts.

4. Instruction about the tongue

Prov. 10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

Prov. 12:18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

Prov. 13:3 The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Prov. 14:25 A truthful witness saves lives, But he who speaks lies is treacherous.

Prov. 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prov. 15:2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

Prov. 15:4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

Prov. 16:28 A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.

Prov. 17:27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

Prov. 17:28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is {counted} prudent.

Prov. 18:6 A fool's lips bring strife, And his mouth calls for blows.

Prov. 18:7 A fool's mouth is his ruin, And his lips are the snare of his soul.

Prov. 18:8 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

Prov. 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Prov. 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

Prov. 26:28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Prov. 12:17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

Prov. 12:19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Prov. 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

5. Discipline

Prov. 13:18 Poverty and shame {will come} to him who neglects discipline, But he who regards reproof will be honored.

Prov. 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Prov. 10:13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

Prov. 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Prov. 14:3 In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.

Prov. 22:8 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail.

Prov. 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Prov. 23:13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

Prov. 26:3 A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back.

Prov. 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

6. Pride/humility

Prov. 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

Prov. 16:18 Pride {goes} before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

Prov. 16:19 It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Prov. 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, But humility {goes} before honor.

7. Listening to advice/instruction

Prov. 1:2 ¶ For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, 3 for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity;

Prov. 1:7 ¶ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

*Prov. 1:8 ¶ Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching;

Prov. 4:1 ¶ Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight;

Prov. 4:13 Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

Prov. 8:10 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;

Prov. 8:33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

Prov. 9:9 Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.

Prov. 10:17 Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but one who rejects a rebuke goes astray.

Prov. 13:18 Poverty and disgrace are for the one who ignores instruction, but one who heeds reproof is honored.

Prov. 15:5 A fool despises a parent's instruction, but the one who heeds admonition is prudent.

Pro. 12:15 The path of the fool is right (straight) in his own eyes, but the one who listens to (heeds) counsel is wise.

*Prov. 15:32 Those who ignore instruction despise themselves, but those who heed admonition gain understanding. 33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility goes before honor.

Prov. 17:10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.

Prov. 19:20 Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.

Prov. 19:27 Cease straying, my child, from the words of knowledge, in order that you may hear instruction.

Prov. 23:12 Apply your mind to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.

Prov. 23:23 Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

Prov. 24:32 Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction.

8. Guarding one's company

Prov. 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Prov. 14:7 Leave the presence of a fool, Or you will not discern words of knowledge.

9. Marriage a blessing

Prov. 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.

Prov. 19:14 Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the Lord.

10. Cheerfulness

Prov. 15:13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.

Prov. 15:15 All the days of the afflicted are bad, But a cheerful heart {has} a continual feast.

Prov. 15:30 Bright eyes gladden the heart; Good news puts fat on the bones.

Prov. 17:22 A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

11. God's sovereignty over providence

Prov. 16:4 The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.

Prov. 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Prov. 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.

Prov. 16:3-4, Roll onto to Yaweh what happens and the plans will be secure , Everything the Lord makes for a purpose, even the wicked for the day of wrath.

12. Vanity of this life

**Prov. 23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But {live} in the fear of the Lord always.
18 Surely there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off. (NASB)**

I3. Knowledge/wisdom and its value

Prov. 13:16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool displays folly.

Prov. 15:14 The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on folly.

Prov. 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

Prov. 18:15 The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Prov. 19:2, Also, without knowledge, life (is) not good, ones who hurry with their feet are the ones who stumble.

I4. Hard work/labor

Prov. 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and {gets} nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat.

Prov. 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk {leads} only to poverty.

Prov. 18:9 He also who is slack in his work Is brother to him who destroys.

I5. Justice

Prov. 18:5 To show partiality to the wicked is not good, {Nor} to thrust aside the righteous in judgment.

Prov.18:17 The one who first states a case seems right, until someone else comes and cross examines.

I6. True Friendship vs. Concealed love

Prov. 27:5 Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed.

Prov. 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Prov. 27:19 As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man.

I7. Generosity to Poor

Prov.14:31, He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

Prov. 11:25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

*Prov. 22:9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.

*Prov. 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.

Prov. 21:13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard.

Prov. 22:2 The rich and the poor have this in common, The Lord is the maker of them all.

Prov. 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.

Prov. 22:22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate;

Prov. 28:27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

*Prov. 29:7 The righteous considers the cause of the poor, But the wicked does not understand such knowledge.

Prov. 29:13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The Lord gives light to the eyes of both. 14

The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.

Prov. 31:9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Prov. 31:20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

Matt. 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

Mark 12:42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;

2Cor. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Gal. 2:10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

1 John 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18. A Brother Offended

Prov. 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Prov. 6:14 Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.

Prov. 22:10 Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.

Prov. 26:20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

Prov. 26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Prov. 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression.

19. Contention in the Home

Prov. 21:9 Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Prov. 21:19 Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.

Prov. 25:24 It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Prov. 26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Prov. 27:15 A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike;

20. A Virtuous Woman—

Prov. 31

21. Our ways are not God's ways

Prov. 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. 13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth may be grief.

Prov. 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

22. Materialism:

Prov. 23:1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; 2 And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite. 3 Do not desire his delicacies, For they are deceptive food.

Prov. 23:4 Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease 5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

Prov. 13:7 There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches. 8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor does not hear rebuke.

Prov. 28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

Prov. 28:6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Prov. 27:20 Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Prov. 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. 2 The rich and the poor have this in common, The Lord is the maker of them all.

Prov. 22:4 By humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches and honor and life.

Prov. 25:16 Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

1 Timothy 6-- note especially vs. 8 "if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content" and compare to Prov. 30:8-9. (Note also 1 Peter 2:19)

Good Name better than: 19:1

Hasten after wealth is evil 28:22, 23:4-5

Wealth never satisfies 27:20, 28:20-22.

Wealth is a False security: 18:11

23. Love for the Word of God

Prov. 13:13 ¶ He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded. 14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death. 15 Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.

16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.

24. Laziness

Prov. 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man to those who send him.
 Prov. 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.
 Prov. 12:27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.
 Prov. 13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.
 Prov. 15:19 The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, But the way of the upright is a highway.
 Prov. 19:24 A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.
 Prov. 20:4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing.
 Prov. 21:25 The desire of the lazy man kills him, For his hands refuse to labor.
 Prov. 22:13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside I shall be slain in the streets"
 Prov. 24:30 ¶ I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;
 Prov. 26:13 ¶ The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road A fierce lion is in the streets" 14 As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. 15 The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. 16 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.
 Matt. 25:26 "But his lord answered and said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.
 Titus 1:12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

25. Dangers of a Hardened Heart

Prov. 28:14 Happy is the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.
 Prov. 29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

26. Self-Control

Prov. 29:8 Scoffers set a city aflame, But wise men turn away wrath. 9 If a wise man contends with a foolish man, Whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.
Prov. 29:11 A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back.
 Prov. 29:20 Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

27. Fear of Man

Prov. 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.
 Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

28. Loyalty

Prov. 27:10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

29. Flees Sin

Prov. 27:12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; The simple pass on and are punished.
 Prov. 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.
 Prov. 22:5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them.
 Prov. 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

30. Gossip

Prov. 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

31. Plans

Prov. 6:18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil,
 Prov. 15:22 Without counsel, plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.
 Prov. 15:26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure.
 Prov. 16:1 The plans of the mind belong to mortals, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
 Prov. 16:3 Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.
 Prov. 16:9 The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps.
 Prov. 16:30 One who winks the eyes plans perverse things; one who compresses the lips brings evil to pass.
 Prov. 19:21 The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established.
 Prov. 20:18 Plans are established by taking advice; wage war by following wise guidance.
Prov. 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but those of the hasty surely come only to want.
 Prov. 24:8 ¶ Whoever plans to do evil will be called a mischief-maker.

32. Trust in God---

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Prov. 22:19 So that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you.

Prov. 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Pss. 4:5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the Lord.

Pss. 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

Pss. 7:1 O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me,

Pss. 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Pss. 11:1 In the Lord I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"?

Pss. 16:1 Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

Pss. 17:7 Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them.

Pss. 18:2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Pss. 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Pss. 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Pss. 22:9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.

Pss. 25:2 O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me.

Pss. 25:20 Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You.

Pss. 31:1 In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness.

Pss. 31:6 I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the Lord.

Pss. 31:14 But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."

Pss. 31:19 Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men

Pss. 34:22 The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Pss. 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

Pss. 37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Pss. 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Pss. 37:40 And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.

Pss. 40:3 He has put a new song in my mouth--Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord. 4 Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Pss. 44:6 For I will not trust in my bow, Nor shall my sword save me.

Pss. 49:6 Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches,

Pss. 52:8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.

Pss. 55:23 But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; But I will trust in You.

Pss. 56:3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

Pss. 56:11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Pss. 61:4 I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

Pss. 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah

Pss. 62:10 Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.

Pss. 64:10 The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

Pss. 71:1 ¶ In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be put to shame.

Pss. 71:5 For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth.

Pss. 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

Pss. 78:22 Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.

Pss. 91:2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

Pss. 115:9 O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.
Pss. 118:8 It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in princes.
Pss. 119:42 So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.
Pss. 125:1 Those who trust in the Lord Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
Pss. 143:8 Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.
Pss. 146:3 Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

1Tim. 4:10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Heb. 2:13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

Christ the Wisdom from God

Prov. 30:1-4 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, his utterance. This man declared to Ithiel--to Ithiel and Ucal: 2 Surely I am more stupid than any man, And do not have the understanding of a man. 3 I neither learned wisdom Nor have knowledge of the Holy One. 4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?

John 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

Eph. 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

True Religion (Conclude Proverbs Study with this)

Prov. 21: 2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts. 3 To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. 4 A haughty look, a proud heart, And the plowing of the wicked are sin.

Raising Children:

Prov.19:18, Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.

Prov.20:7, The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.

Prov.22:6, Train up a child in the way he should go, and when his is old he will not depart from it.

Prov. 22:15, Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Prov.20:21, An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.

Debt:

Prov.22:26, Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is surety for debts; If you have nothing with which to pay. Why should he take away your bed from under you?

Series:

1. Wisdom for Families then and now(Wise Families)

Note: In Proverbs, point of view was regarding the training of young men in the kings court-- therefore, instructions are given from this point of view

1. Wise families acknowledge the "goodness" in marriage

Prov. 18:22

2. Wise families guard against having a contentious home

Prov. 21:19

3. Wise families have respectful children

Prov. 20:20

4 . Wise families do not spoil their children

Prov. 20:21

5. Wise families "train" their children--specially in religion instruction (p.77ff, see also Sermons on Prov.22.6 beginning on p. 157)

Prov.22:6

He that has trained his children for heaven, rather than for earth,-- for God, rather than for man,-- he is the parent that will be called wise at last. Ryle

6. Wise Families "discipline" their children-- in the special sense of that word...

Prov. 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Prov. 19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

Prov. 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Prov. 23:13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14
You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

Prov. 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

7. Wise families are industrious(roles are compatible)

(Prov. 31)

8. Wise families avoid the "debt trap"

Prov. 22:26

9. Wise families are faithful to one spouse so as to avoid adultery

Prov. 6:23

See also Stephen Voorwind, *Wisdom for Today's Issues*, P&R, out of print.