

Proverbs Introduction

Proverbs is poetry

Terseness:

Structure:

Figurative imagery:

- simile
- metaphor
- hyperbole
- personification
- representation
- wordplays

Critical observation #1:

Critical observation #2:

What is the message of Proverbs?

The two ways in the NT

2 Cor 6:14, 1 John 2:9-11, Acts 26:18

See also Gal 5:19-23, 2 Cor 12:20-21; 1 Thess 5:13-15; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Pet 4:3; 1 Pet 4:7-10.

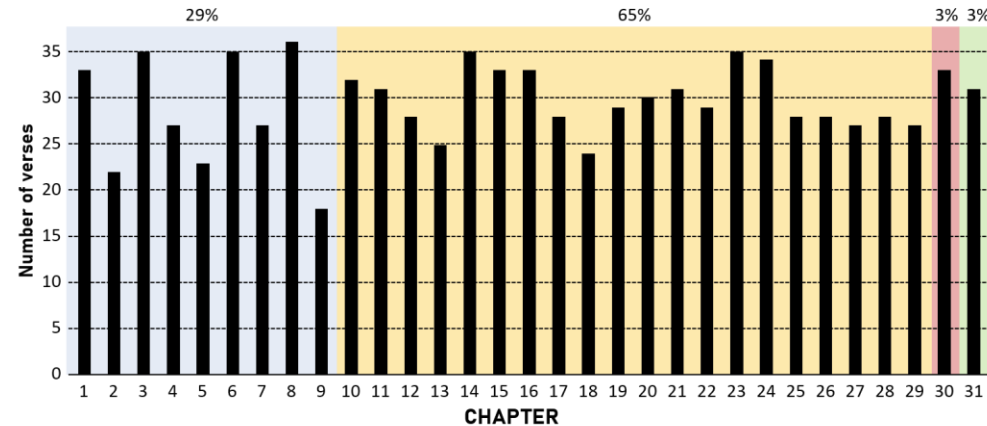
Yahweh in Proverbs

Why study Proverbs?

Ecclesiastes 12:11 The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd.

Structure of Proverbs

- 1-9 Lengthy, well-crafted discourses
- 10-29 A collection of short, pithy sayings, seemingly without arrangement
- 30 The words of Agur
- 31 The words of king Lemuel



Word groups used for the two paths

Way of Wisdom

The Fear of Yahweh

Names	Traits
Wise	Wise
Righteous	Righteous
Upright	Just
Prudent	Loyal love
Good	Fair
	Blameless
	Humble
	Confident
	Straight
	Peaceful
	Pleasant
	Good
	Discrete speech
	Patient
	Noble
	Integrity
	Diligent
	Generous
Resources	
Counsel	
Learning	
Commandments	
Advice	
Teaching	
Fear of Yahweh	
Reproof	
Discipline	
Destination	
Life	
Light	
Peace	
Security	

Simple,
Naive or
Gullible,
Poor

Way of Folly

Rebellion Against Yahweh

Names	Traits
Fool	Anger
Scoffer	Rage
Wicked	Hatred
Vile	Violence
Evil	Crooked
Sinner	Perverse
	Disgraceful
	Shameful
	Contentious
	Fighter
	Arrogant
	Deceitful
	Lazy
	Drunkard
	Talkative
	Murder
	Adultery
	Sexual immorality
	Liar
	Rebellious
	Thief
Resources	
Self	
Other fools	
Destination	
Punishment	
Stumble/Fall	
Snare/Net/Trap	
Darkness	
Disaster	
Pain	
Sheol	
The Pit	
Death	

Sources of wisdom

Discipline (*musar*; מוסר) – 15:32, “whoever neglects discipline despises himself” – correction, chastening; can be verbal (exhortation, warning, harsh criticism, reprimand) or physical (corporal punishment), given to correct someone’s behavior [30 + 5 verb]

Reproof/rebuke (*tokahath*; תוכחת) – 15:32, “he who listens to reproof acquires understanding” – fault-finding communication, a reprimand, reproach or blame during instruction, sometimes undisguised public blame [16 + 10 verb]

Fear of Yahweh (*yirath Yahweh*; יראת יהוה) – 15:33, “the fear of Yahweh is the instruction for wisdom” – reverence for and obedience to God; in some cases, it refers to scripture [14]

Teaching (*torah*; תורה) – 13:14, “the teaching of the wise is a fountain of life” – directive instruction from various sources, typically on what to do or how to live [13]

Advice/counsel (*etsah*; עצה) – 19:20, “listen to advice, and accept discipline” – direction or plan offered by another person [11]

Commandments (*mitsvah*; מצוה) – 4:4, “keep my commandments and live” – a directive or a code of law, a rule or principle [10]

Learning (*leqah*; לקח) – 1:5, “a wise man will hear and increase in learning” – the acquisition and retention of knowledge [5]

Counsel/guidance/direction (*tahbulah*; תחבולה) – 1:5, “a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel” – the art of leadership through deliberation, thought, and consideration [5]

Traits produced by wisdom

Righteousness/justness (*tsedaqah*; צדקה) – 11:19, “he who is steadfast in righteousness will gain life” – moral uprightness and honesty, doing what is ethically right, loyalty to God [94, in 12 forms]

Wisdom (*hakmah*; חכמה) – 28:26, “he who walks in wisdom will be delivered” – the ability to use knowledge and experience to make good choices [39 + 26 adj]

Understanding/discernment (*bin/binah*; בינה/בין) – 1:5, “a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel” – the ability to see or understand deep truth with clarity, to separate good from evil, and thus to act and judge well [52]

Knowledge (*da’ath*; דעת) – 8:10 – “take knowledge rather than the best gold” – to have information that is useful for making good decisions and developing wisdom [40]

Uprightness (*yashar*; ישר) – 2:21 “the upright will live in the land” - straight, level, smooth, what is right and correct [35]

Insight (*sekel*; שכל) – 12:8, “a man will be praised according to his insight” – the ability to perceive and understand, often with success in view [19]

Discretion (*mizmah*; מִזְמָה) – 2:11, “discretion will guard you”- the ability to carefully choose the right course of action at the right time, using good sense; often the good sense not to do or say something [8]

Blamelessness/integrity (*tamim*; תמים) – 28:10, “the blameless will inherit good” – complete, without fault, free of blemish, not guilty [6]

Sound wisdom (*tushiyyah*; תושׁייה) – 2:7, “God stores up sound wisdom for the upright” – productive skill in action, success that flows from self-control and sound reasoning [4]

Prudence/craftiness/cleverness (*armah*; ערמה) – 1:4, “to give prudence to the naïve” – using good judgment, thinking before you act to avoid mistakes, looking ahead to see danger [3]