

## **BIB 221 Poetry and Wisdom**

### **Lesson 10 Proverbs 10-31**

Intro. In these divisions of the proverbs there is no stated purpose as in the first division. Here there appear compilations of proverbial sayings with no continued line of thought; they are divided based upon the author of the particular section and the compiler.

10-24 Proverbs of Solomon compiled by Solomon

25-29 Proverbs of Solomon compiled by Hezekiah

30-31 Appendix: Agur and Lemuel's mother

The division based on the statement: "The proverbs of Solomon" begins each division.

"Three things go into the making of a proverb: shortness, sense, and salt." Spurgeon

"True wisdom develops manhood; leads to morality and, in its highest reach, to piety; it demands obedience to both tables of the Law. It makes the understanding clear, the heart clean, the conscience pure, and the will firm." Carroll

"The strongest symptom of wisdom in man is his being sensible to his own follies." French proverb

"The proverbs are to the practical life what the psalms are to the devotional life" Baxter

#### 1. First division 10-24

A. "The first hermeneutical principle is that the theological assumptions of the book are often more important than the textual context. In many cases the principles of arrangement have not as yet been determined. While a group of sayings may deal with one particular subject, as a general rule each proverb ostensibly stands on its own merits and its meaning is independent of the preceding and succeeding sayings. So context will not always be as determinative as in other biblical genres." Bullock

B. Types of proverbs (Mostly distichs - two line proverbs)

C. Synonymous - second line repeats the sense of the first line in slightly different words Ex: Pr. 16:18, 16:16, 16:13

D. Antithetical - second line expresses the opposite sense of first line Ex: Pr. 11:17 10:16

E. Synthetic - second line adds to the sense of the first Ex: Pr 10:18

F. Comparative - truth is explained by illustration from nature or experience Ex: Pr. 25:25 10:26

#### 2. Second division 25-29 Likely compiled by Hezekiah

3. Emphasizes things profitable for a king

4. Likely Hezekiah learned and profited from Solomon's experience

#### 5. Third division 30-31

6. Words of Agur

7. Begins with his questions that he has asked in life and poses to his disciples Ithiel and Ucal 1-10

8. Tetrastichs - four lined proverbs
  9. "There is a generation" 11-14
  10. "never satisfied" 15-17
  11. "Too wonderful" 18-20
  12. "Cannot bear" 21-23
  13. "little upon earth, but they are exceeding wise" 24-28
  14. "go well...comely in going" 29-31

B. Words of Lemuel - which his mother taught him

C. Words to king to avoid two major pitfalls: wine and women 1-9

D. Virtuous woman 10-31

E. acrostic beginning with each letter of Hebrew alphabet

F. description of her virtues

### Conclusion

The importance of proper interpretation

The value of applying the proverbs to our everyday life. It's great to learn what a virtuous woman is and what to avoid in life but it is nearly worthless without the application to our lives.