

## Proverbs: How is it different/unique from much of the rest of the TANAK?

### Importance of Genre:

**News Paper:** Front page, opinion page, wedding announcements, obituaries, cartoons, Classified ads.

**Books:** Sci-fi, Biography, mystery, Historical Fiction, Poetry, fables, mythology, ...  
Textbook, Cookbook, Atlas, Dictionary, Thesaurus, Encyclopedia.

**Frustration on web:** looking at news, click on link that is “sponsored” or an “ad”  
not news

Impacts: 1) what your expectations are, and 2) how you interpret the text/images

### Initial Questions:

Is Proverbs just like the rest of the OT to be read as a story of God’s redemption history?

How is a proverb different than prophecy or a historical narrative? How is Proverbs different. Focus here

**Thesis: Proverbs is not the same as Torah, Historical Books, Psalms, or Prophets. It is different.**

This presentation is about what a Proverb is **NOT** showing how it is quite different/unique.

**Later we will ask:** what is a proverb? what forms it uses to communicate? what words are characteristic of proverbial literature and how a proverb is it to be read?

How does Proverbs connect intertextually with the rest of the TANAK especially the Torah?

Proverbs is a poetic literary genre unlike any other in the Canon; Not like Torah or History or Psalms or Prophets

– therefore it must be read differently

**Preview: Proverbs is different because there are**

1. **No personal names that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not inside the proverbial collection (6 names restricted pretty much to titles Prov 1:1; 10:1...) Proverbs is different.**
2. **No tribal groups or nations named that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not inside the proverbial collection (restricted only 2 and both in titles—Israel 1:1, Judah 25:1; Egyptian linens 7:16) Proverbs is different.**
3. **No cities/places [tribal boundaries] that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs 0. Proverbs is different.**
4. **No call of particular individuals that are sprinkled in the OT narratives but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**
5. **No temple / tabernacle / house of the Lord focus that is found many times in OT but not in Proverbs Proverbs is different.**
6. **No Institutions-- priests, prophets, judge figures (Samuel, Gideon, ...) found throughout the OT but not in Proverbs (kings, yes, but unnamed, ). Proverbs is different.**

7. No "thus saith the Lord", divine dreams that are found in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
8. No Theophanies, angels, angel of the Lord or miracles that are sprinkled throughout in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
9. No Feasts of Israel, pilgrimage, Sabbath, Sabbatical year or Jubilee. No Congregational meetings, fasting and processions that are found throughout the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
10. No covenant human/divine relationship formalized (Abrahamic, Sinaitic, Davidic, New) – no land focus in Proverbs but covenant is huge in the rest of the TANAK. Proverbs is different.
11. No mention of idolatry that is a ubiquitous problem in the OT but not mentioned in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
12. No history: singularity of historical events (only happen once). Proverbs is different more repeatable/iterative/recurrent in many different contexts and situations.
13. Historical narratives/stories are paragraph or pericope based. Psalms are poems composed of strophes. Proverbs is more sentential (Prov 10-30) (although the Instructions [Prov 1-9] have longer poems- Prov 31). The Proverbial sentential nature is different. Cf. Ruth

1. No personal names that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not inside the proverbial collection (restricted to titles only Prov 1:1; 10:1...) Proverbs is different.

Restricted to Titular location of names in Proverbs: 9X, 6 different names in 5 title verses+31:4:

David/Solomon/Hezekiah, Lemuel/Agur in titular ways but not in flow outside of titles

Prov 1:1, The proverbs of **Solomon** son of **David**, king of Israel:

Prov 10:1, The proverbs of **Solomon**:

Prov 25:1, These are more proverbs of **Solomon**, compiled by the men of **Hezekiah** king of Judah:

Prov 30:1, The sayings of **Agur** son of **Jakeh the oracle**. —an inspired utterance.

Prov 31:1, 4 The sayings of King **Lemuel**—an inspired utterance his mother taught him ... It is not for kings, O **Lemuel**, it is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to take strong drink,

The book is **31 chapters long 915 verses** (11<sup>th</sup> longest book in OT) so in almost every other book we have tons of personal names throughout the narrative with 915 the corpus is big enough to manifest names

—No personal names in Proverbs [outside the 6 in titles]. Proverbs is different.

## 2) As far as Personal Names There are

No Primeval characters: Adam/Eve, Cain/Able, Noah

No Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

No Israelite Leaders: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samson, Samuel, Saul, Jeroboam, Ahab

No Israel's opponents: Og, Sihon, Balaam, Goliath, Sanballat, Nebuchadnezzar

No Israel's named prophets: Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, Jonah, Hosea, Micah, Jeremiah  
telling their stories

No women named: Eve, Sarah, Rachel/Leah, Rebekah, Ruth, Delilah, Bathsheba, Gomer

No foreign kings named: Melchizedek, Abimelech, Og, Sihon, Sennacherib, Achish,

No priests named: Aaron, Eleazar, Abiathar, Ahimelech, Ezra...

No genealogies (Gen. 5, 11; Ruth 4; 1 Chron 1-2)

### E.G. Ruth 1:1-5

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was **Elimelek**, his wife's name was **Naomi** and the names of his two sons were **Mahlon** and **Kilion**. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Now **Elimelek**, **Naomi's** husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named **Orpah** and the other **Ruth**. After they had lived there about ten years, both **Mahlon** and **Kilion** also died, and **Naomi** was left without her two sons and her husband

3:1-2 One day **Ruth's** mother-in-law **Naomi** said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now **Boaz**, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours.

### 4:18-22 Genealogy:

This, then, is the family line of Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Salmon the father of **Boaz**,

Boaz the father of Obed,

**Obed** the father of Jesse,

and **Jesse** the father of **David**.

Historical names frequently mentioned in other narratives:

Jer. 15:1 Then the LORD said to me: “Even if **Moses** and **Samuel** were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people.

**Ezekiel 14:14** even if these three men, **Noah, Daniel, and Job**, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord God.

Exod. 1:1-4 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with **Jacob**, each with his family: **Reuben, Simeon, Levi** and **Judah**; Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher.

Exod 3:14-15 I AM has sent me to you. ” God also said to **Moses**, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of **Abraham**, the God of **Isaac** and the God of **Jacob**—has sent me to you.’

Isa. 51:2 Look to **Abraham** your father, and to **Sarah** who bore you.

Neh 9:7 You are the LORD God, who chose **Abram** and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him **Abraham**

Neh 13:1 On that day the Book of **Moses** was read aloud in the hearing of the people

Psalms: yes in titles: Ps 51: *For the director of music. A psalm of **David**. When the prophet **Nathan** came to him after **David** had committed adultery with **Bathsheba***

But also in the Psalm itself: Ps 105:26: He sent **Moses**, his servant, and **Aaron**, whom he had chosen. ... 105:9,42 the covenant that he made with **Abraham**... 105:17: he had sent a man ahead of the, **Joseph**, who was sold as a slave. Ps 106:30 then **Phinehas** stood up and intervened...

—No personal names in Proverbs [outside titles+31:4] whereas in the rest of the OT personal names are ubiquitous. Proverbs is different.

2. No tribal groups or nations named which are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not inside the proverbial collection (restricted only 3 and both in titles—Israel 1:1, Judah 25:1; Egyptian linens 7:16) Proverbs is different.

Common tribal groups mentioned in OT outside of Proverbs:

Moab(ites), Ammon(ites), Edom(ites), Israel, Philistines, Egyptians, Chaldeans, Amorites, Amalekites, Arameans, Assyrians, Babylonians; tribes of Israel: Ephraim, Judah, Benjamin, Dan, ...

Examples:

**Exod 3:8 [cf. 15]** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the **Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites**. [cf. Ex 23:23; 32:2; 34:11; Deut. 7:1; Josh 3:10; 12:8; Judg 3:5; 1 Kgs 9:20; Ezra 9:1]

**Ezra 9:1** [cf. 8] After these things had been done, the leaders came to me and said, “The people of Israel, including the priests and the Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples with their detestable practices, like those of the **Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians and Amorites**.

**Judges 1:21** The **Benjamites**, however, did not drive out the **Jebusites**, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the **Jebusites** live there with the **Benjamites Tribes of Israel**: Josh 15ff many chapters describing the tribal boundaries.  
Later on Judah and Ephraim conflicts

**Judges 12:4** Jephthah then called together the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. The **Gileadites** struck them down because the **Ephraimites** had said, “You **Gileadites** are renegades from Ephraim and Manasseh.”

**Edomites** [Esau’s descendants]:

**Deuteronomy 23:7** Do not despise an **Edomite**, for the **Edomites** are related to you. Do not despise an **Egyptian**, because you resided as foreigners in their country.

**1 Samuel 21:7** Now one of Saul’s servants was there that day, detained before the LORD; he was Doeg the **Edomite**, Saul’s chief shepherd.

**Whole chapters on Edomites**: Gen. 36; Jer 49 cf. Obad. contra Edom; Psalm 137:7 -- Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. “Tear it down,” they cried,

**Moabites**: origin Gen. 19:37 – Lot’s son with his daughter

**Exodus 15:15** The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of **Moab** will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;

**Balak, king of Moab** hired Balaam in Numb. 22-24 to curse Israel.

**Deuteronomy 2:9** Then the LORD said to me, “Do not harass the **Moabites** or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land.

**2 Samuel 8:2** David also defeated the **Moabites**.

**1 Kings 11:1** King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—**Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites**, Sidonians and Hittites.

**Isaiah 16:7** Therefore the **Moabites** wail, they wail together for Moab.

Ruth the Moabitess

**Ammonites: Genesis 19:38** The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the **Ammonites** of today.

**Deuteronomy 2:37** But in accordance with the command of the LORD our God, you did not encroach on any of the land of the **Ammonites**, neither the land along the course of the Jabbok nor that around the towns in the hills.

**Judges 3:13** Getting the **Ammonites and Amalekites** to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms.

**Judges 10:7 Jephthah** he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the **Philistines and the Ammonites**

**1 Samuel 14:47** After Saul had assumed rule over Israel, he fought against their enemies on every side: Moab, the **Ammonites**, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the **Philistines**. Wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment on them.

**Jeremiah 49:1** Concerning the **Ammonites**: This is what the LORD says:

**Zephaniah 2:9** Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the **Ammonites** like Gomorrah—a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever.

**Philistines:**

**Genesis 26:1** Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to **Abimelek king of the Philistines** in Gerar.

**Judges 10:6** Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the **Ammonites** and the gods of the **Philistines**. And because the Israelites forsook the LORD and no longer served him,

Judg. 14:4 (His parents [Samson's parents] did not know that this was from the LORD, who was seeking an occasion to confront the **Philistines**; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.)

1 Samuel: **Eli, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, David fight the Philistines:**

**1 Samuel 17:51** David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the **Philistines** saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

**Isaiah 9:12** Arameans from the east and **Philistines** from the west have devoured Israel with open mouth.

**Jeremiah 47:4** For the day has come to destroy all the **Philistines**

**Amos 1:8** I will destroy the king of Ashdod and the one who holds the scepter in Ashkelon. I will turn my hand against Ekron, till the last of the Philistines are dead,"  
**Philistine Pentapolis: Ekron, Gath, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza**

**No major nations:** Egypt [except 1x-7:16 Egyptian linens] –**Giza Dream Sheets** (My Pillow guy) Assyria, Aram, Babylon mentioned all over in Scripture.

**Egypt:**

**Genesis 12:10** Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to **Egypt** to live there for a while because the famine was severe

**Genesis 39:1** Now Joseph had been taken down to **Egypt**.

**Exodus 1:8** Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in **Egypt**.—whole early chapters of Exodus Pharaoh/Moses in Egypt, **Exodus out of Egypt (Ex. 14-15) – Passover**

**Joshua 24:6** **When I brought your people out of Egypt**, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea – later rehearsals of Exodus motif

**Judges 6:8** he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **I brought you up out of Egypt**, out of the land of slavery.

**1 Samuel 15:2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the **Amalekites** for what they did to Israel when **they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt**

**1 Kings 4:30** Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and **greater than all the wisdom of Egypt**.

**Nehemiah 9:18** even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, '**This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt**,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

**Psalms 81:10** I am the LORD your God, **who brought you up out of Egypt.**

**Isaiah 11:11** In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from **Assyria**, from **Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt**, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean

**Proverbs 7:16** I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.

**Assyria:** whole book of Nahum, Jonah contra Nineveh – 0 in Proverbs

**Babylon:** Jeremiah whole books about, cf. Isaiah, Daniel, Habakkuk – 0 in Proverbs

—No tribal or nations (except Egyptian linens – Prov 7:16) names in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT tribal group names are ubiquitous. Proverbs is different.

### 3. No cities/places [tribal boundaries] that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs--0. Proverbs is different.

**Jerusalem/Salem/Zion:**

**Genesis 14:18** Then **Melchizedek** king of **Salem** brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High

**Joshua 10:1** Now **Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem** heard that Joshua had taken Ai

**Joshua 15:63** **Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites**, who were living in **Jerusalem**; to this day the Jebusites

**Judges 19:10** But, unwilling to stay another night, the man left and went toward **Jebus (that is, Jerusalem)**,

**1 Samuel 17:54** David took the Philistine's head and brought it to **Jerusalem**; he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent.

**2 Samuel 5:5** In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in **Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.**

**1 Kings 9:15** Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted to build the LORD's temple, his own palace, the terraces, **the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer.**

**Psalms 51:18** May it please you to prosper **Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

**Psalms 137:1** By the rivers of **Babylon** we sat and wept when we remembered **Zion**. There on the poplars we hung our



harps, for there our captors asked us for songs,  
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;  
they said, "Sing us one of the **songs of Zion!**"

#### Sinai:

**Exodus 19:20** The LORD descended to the top of **Mount Sinai and called Moses** to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up

**Exodus 19:23** Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come **up Mount Sinai**, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.' "

**Deuteronomy 33:2** He said: "**The LORD came from Sinai** and dawned over them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran.

**Judges 5:5** The mountains quaked before the **LORD, the One of Sinai**,

**Psalms 68:8** the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,  
before **God, the One of Sinai**,

#### Jordan

**Genesis 13:11** So Lot chose for himself the whole **plain of the Jordan** and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

**Numbers 22:1** Then the Israelites traveled to the **plains of Moab** and camped along the **Jordan across from Jericho**.

**Deuteronomy 1:5** **East of the Jordan in the territory of Moab**, Moses began to expound this law, saying: -- couldn't cross into Promised land

**Joshua 3:13** And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—**set foot in the Jordan**, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."

**Judges 12:6** they said, "All right, say '**Shibboleth**.' " If he said, "Sibboleth," because he could not pronounce the word correctly, they seized him and killed him **at the fords of the Jordan**

**2 Samuel 19:15** Then the king returned and went as far as the **Jordan**.

Now the men of **Judah had come to Gilgal** to go out and meet the king and bring him across the Jordan.

**2 Kings 2:6** Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the **LORD has sent me to the Jordan**." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

**Psalms 114:3** The sea looked and fled, the **Jordan turned back**;

**Jeremiah 12:5** "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the **thickets by the Jordan**?

**Even Jesus baptized in the Jordan River (Matt. 3)**

### No mention in Proverbs of:

**Bethel**, -- Jacob's Ladder dream there, returns there, golden calf (Jeroboam) etc.

**Hebron**, -- Patriarchs buried there, David king there 7 years

**Beersheba** -- Abraham's well there, Dan to Beersheva

**Dan** -- Whole tribe moves north to settle city of Laish → called Dan

**Gilgal, Shiloh, Samaria, Shechem, Megiddo, Hazor, Jezreel** all famous cities in Israel

**Ekron, Gath, Ashdod, Askelon, Gaza**: Philistine Pentapolis never mentioned

**Levitical cities** (48, ) and **cities of refuge** (6) -- never mentioned

**Numbers 35:6** "Six of the towns you give the Levites will be cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone may flee. In addition, give them forty-two other towns.

**Numbers 35:7** In all you must give the Levites forty-eight towns, together with their pasturelands.

**Joshua 21:3** So, as the LORD had commanded, the Israelites gave the Levites the following towns and pasturelands out of their own inheritance:

—No cities, rivers or tribal boundaries names mentioned in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT city locations are ubiquitous. Proverbs is different.

### Numeric confirmation of Difference:

	Verses	Chapts.	Personal Names	Place Names	Tribal/National Names	Proper N's-YHW
Gen.	1533	50	802 [.523] 52%	240 [.157] 16%	26+ [.017] 17%	2314 [1.509] 1.5
Deut.	959	34	152 [.158] 16%	254 [.265] 26%	124 [.129] 13%	510 [0.531] 53%
Prov	915	31	9 [.0098] 1%	0 [0.00] 0%	3 [.0032] .3%	12 [0.0131] 1%
Outside titles only 2: Lemuel (31:4) and Egyptian linen (Prov 7:16) 0.00229						
1 Sam	810	31				1577 [1.947] 1.9
Isa	1292	66				822 [.636] 63%
Jer	1364	52				1674 [1.227] 1.3
Pss	2461	150				433 [0.176] 18%

**4. No call / vocation of particular individuals that are sprinkled in the OT narratives but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

Abraham Gen. 12:1 **The LORD had said to Abram**, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

Moses Exod 39-10, So now, go. **I am sending you to Pharaoh** to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” – from the burning bush

Gideon Judg 6:11-12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “**The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.**”

Samuel 1 Sam. 3:10 The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times [Eli], “**Samuel! Samuel!**” Then Samuel said, “**Speak, for your servant is listening.**”

Saul 11:14-15 Then Samuel said to the people, “**Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.**” So all the people went to Gilgal and made Saul king in the presence of the LORD

David 1 Sam 16:6-7, 12-13 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.” ... **So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him** in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the **Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David**. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Solomon 1 Kgs 3:5, 9 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “**Ask for whatever you want me to give you.**” ... So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong

Isaiah – Isa 6:2-3, 8 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory....Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “**Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?**” And I said, “**Here am I. Send me!**”

Jeremiah – Jer 1:4-6 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, “**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you**, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.

Jonah -- Jonah 1:1 The word of the LORD came to **Jonah son of Amittai**: “**Go to the great city of Nineveh** and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

Amos – Amos 7:14

Amos answered Amaziah, “I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the LORD took me from tending the flock and **said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’** Now then, hear the word of the LORD.

—No vocational calling of any individual in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT there are many vocational calls of leaders. Proverbs is different.

**5. No temple / tabernacle/house of the Lord focus that is found many times in OT but not in Proverbs  
minor impact of cult in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

G. K. Beale: *The Temple and the Church’s Mission: A biblical theology of the dwelling place of God*

**Tabernacle:** Exod. 25-30 and 35-40 in Sinai Wilderness → Shiloh later (1 Sam 1-4; Jer. 7:14) → Jerusalem [David prepared; **Solomon built** one of the greatest achievements of his life 1 Kgs 8-9  
**Apocalyptically** Ezek. 40-48 [Rev. 21-22] Jesus’ temple cleansing, destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it.

Psalms **Psalms 5:7** But I, by your great love, can come into your house;  
in reverence I bow down toward **your holy temple**. – major focus on  
temple/Zion in Psalms

Psalms 122:1ff I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us **go to the house of the LORD.**” Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

**Isaiah 44:28** who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” **and of the temple**, “Let its foundations be laid.” ’ → Ezra rebuilds=second temple [Jesus comes into it; cleansing, rebuild this temple in 3 days]

**Ezra 3:12** But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the **former temple, wept aloud** when they saw the **foundation of this temple being laid**, while many others shouted for joy.

**Ezra 6:14** So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of **Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo**. They **finished building the temple** according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia.

—No mention of temple [Solomon’s greatest achievement] in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT there are many references to the Tabernacle/temple. Proverbs is different.

6. No Institutions-- **priests, prophets, judge figures (Samuel, Gideon, ...)** found throughout the OT but not in Proverbs (**kings**, yes but unnamed, ). **Proverbs is different.**

-- focus on kings but never by name (accept in titles: Prov 1:1 Solomon, David; 10:1 Solomon; 25:1 Hezekiah/Solomon; 31:1 King Lemuel (foreign king) – Prov 16 section on guidance for kings.

#### No Priests:

##### Named priest:

**Melchizedek: Genesis 14:18** Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,

**Aaron: Leviticus 1:7** The sons of **Aaron the priest** are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.

**Joshua 21:13** So to the descendants of **Aaron the priest** they gave Hebron (a city of refuge for one accused of murder)

**Psalms 99:6** **Moses and Aaron were among his priests**, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them.

**Eleazar: Numbers 3:32** The chief leader of the Levites was **Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest**

**Abiathar: 1 Samuel 23:9** When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to **Abiathar the priest**, "Bring the ephod."

**Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:1** The words of **Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth** in the territory of Benjamin

##### Mention of priests (unnamed use of the term "priest(s)":

**Exodus 19:6** you will be for me a **kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

**Leviticus 22:15** **The priests** must not desecrate the sacred offerings the Israelites present to the LORD

**Joshua 3:14** So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the **priests carrying the ark** of the covenant went ahead of them

**1 Samuel 22:18** The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and **strike down the priests.**" So Doeg the **Edomite** turned and struck them down.

**2 Samuel 19:11** King David sent this message to **Zadok and Abiathar, the priests**

**Ezra 2:70** The **priests, the Levites**, the musicians, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns,

**Jeremiah 2:8** The **priests** did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who deal with the law did not know me;

—No mention of priest(s) named or unnamed in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT there are ubiquitous references to the priests. Proverbs is different.

#### No Prophets: - named or unnamed

NAMED:

**Aaron: Exodus 7:1** Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother **Aaron will be your prophet**.

**Miriam: Exodus 15:20** Then **Miriam the prophet**, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand

**Judges 4:4** Now **Deborah, a prophet**, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

**1 Samuel 10:11** When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? **Is Saul also among the prophets?**"

**2 Samuel 7:2** he said to **Nathan the prophet**, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

**1 Kings 1:34** There have Zadok the priest and **Nathan the prophet** anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!'

**1 Kings 18:36** At the time of sacrifice, the **prophet Elijah** stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

**2 Kings 9:1** The **prophet Elisha** summoned a man from the company of the prophets and said to him

**2 Kings 19:2** He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the **prophet Isaiah** son of Amoz.

**Ezra 5:1** Now **Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet**, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in **Judah** and **Jerusalem** in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

**Jeremiah 20:2** he had **Jeremiah the prophet beaten** and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD's temple.

Jeremiah: **Jeremiah 29:29 Zephaniah the priest**, however, read the letter to **Jeremiah the prophet**.

### Unnamed use of the term "Prophet"

**Deuteronomy 13:2** and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the **prophet** says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them,"

**1 Samuel 9:9** (Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, "Come, let us go to the seer," **because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.**)

**2 Kings 17:13** The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through **my servants the prophets.**"

**Jeremiah 23:34** **If a prophet or a priest or anyone else claims**, 'This is a message from the LORD,' I will punish them and their household.

**Jeremiah 29:19** For they have not listened to my words," declares the LORD, "words that I sent to them again and again by **my servants the prophets**. And you exiles have not listened either," declares the LORD.

**Zechariah 1:6** But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my **servants the prophets**, overtake your ancestors?

—No mention of prophet(s) named or unnamed in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT there are ubiquitous references to the priests & prophets. Proverbs is different.

**7. No "thus saith the Lord", divine dreams that are frequently found in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

**Dreams: Abimelech** contra Abraham's lie – she's my sister

**Genesis 20:3** But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

**Dreams: Jacob's Ladder at Bethel**

**Genesis 28:12** He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

**Dreams: Joseph**

**Genesis 41:15** Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

**Daniel:**

**Daniel 2:25** Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means."

**Moses statement: Num 12:6**

**Numbers 12:6** he said, "Listen to my words: "When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, **reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.**

**Deuteronomy 13:1** **If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams,** appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder,

**1 Samuel 28:6** He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by **dreams or Urim or prophets.** Saul and the witch of Endor

**Jeremiah 23:32** Indeed, I am against those who **prophesy false dreams,**" declares the LORD.

**No prophetic dreams in Proverbs yet found throughout the OT. Proverbs is different**

**"Thus Says the Lord": [cf. Isaiah 48:17; 49:22; 50:1; 51:22]**

**Exodus 7:17** **This is what the LORD says:** By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood.

**Exodus 10:3** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, **"This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says:**

**Joshua 24:2** Joshua said to all the people, **"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:**



**1 Samuel 2:27** Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, **“This is what the LORD says:**

**2 Samuel 7:5** “Go and tell my servant David, **‘This is what the LORD says:** Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?

**1 Kings 13:21** He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, **“This is what the LORD says:** ‘You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the Command the LORD your God gave you.

**2 Kings 1:16** He told the king, **“This is what the LORD says:** Is it because there is no God in Israel for you to consult that you have sent messengers to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?

**Isaiah 10:24** Therefore this is what the Lord, the **LORD Almighty, says:** “My people who live in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrians,

**Isaiah 42:5** **This is what God the LORD says—** the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,

**Jeremiah 2:5** **This is what the LORD says:** “What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

**No dreams or “Thus saith the Lord” in Proverbs yet frequently found in the OT elsewhere. Proverbs is different.**

**8. No Theophanies, angels, angel of the Lord or miracles that are frequently found in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

**Theophanies:**

**Genesis 19:1** The **two angels arrived at Sodom** in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

**Genesis 32:30** So Jacob called the place **Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”**

**Exodus 3:4** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, **God called to him from within the bush,** “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

**Exodus 13:21** By day the **LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud** to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

**Deuteronomy 31:15** Then the **LORD appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud**, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the tent.

**Nehemiah 9:12** By day you **led them with a pillar of cloud**, and by night with a pillar of fire to give them light on the way they were to take.

**Psalms 99:7** He **spoke to them from the pillar of cloud**; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

#### **1 Kings 8:11**

And the priests could not perform their **service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.**

#### **1 Kings 9:2-3**

the **LORD appeared to him [Solomon] a second time**, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

#### **Angels:**

Angels: Gen. **Genesis 28:12** He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and **the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.**

**Psalms 8:5** You have made them a **little lower than the angels**

#### **Angel of the Lord:**

**Exodus 3:2** There the **angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush**. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

NUM. 22:23 And the donkey saw **the angel of the LORD** standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road.

**Judges 13:21** When the **angel of the LORD** did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD.

**2 Samuel 24:16** When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The **angel of the LORD** was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

**1 Kings 19:7** The **angel of the LORD** came back a second time and touched him [Elijah] and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

**Psalm 34:7** The **angel of the LORD** encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

**Zechariah 3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the **angel of the LORD**, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

**No theophanies, angels, or angel of the Lord in Proverbs while these are salted throughout the OT. Proverbs is different.**

#### **Miracles:**

**Sodom:** Gen. 19

**Egypt: Exodus plagues & Reed Sea** Exod. 6-9, 14-15

**Manna: Exodus 16:34** As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved.

**Water out of rock: Exodus 17:6** I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.”  
**Numbers 20:11** Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

**Splitting the Jordan River: Joshua 4:18** And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

**Jericho walls: Joshua 6:2** Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

**Sun standing still (Joshua) Joshua 10:13** So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

**Elijah: Carmel: 1 Kings 18:19** Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

**Elisha – Naaman: 2 Kings 5:11** But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy

**Hezekiah's life extended: 2 Kings 20:9** Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?"

**Sennacherib's attack of Jerusalem foiled: 2 Kgs 19:35** That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp.

**2 Kings 19:36** So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

Daniel in the Lions' den: **Daniel 6:16** So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

**No theophanies, angels, angel of the Lord or miracles in Proverbs while there are miracles sprinkled throughout the OT/NT. Proverbs is different.**

**Doesn't focus on Exodus but on Wisdom's role in Creation (Prov. 8)**

**9. No Feasts of Israel, pilgrimage, Sabbath, Sabbatical year or Jubilee. No Congregational meetings, fasting and processions that are sprinkled throughout the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

Feasts of Israel: **Spring:** Passover, Weeks [Pentecost], **Fall:** Trumpets, Sukkoth, Yom Kippur.

**Sabbath:**

**Exodus 20:8** "Remember the **Sabbath** day by keeping it holy.

**Leviticus 23:3** "There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of **sabbath rest**, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD.

**Numbers 15:32** While the Israelites were in the wilderness, a man was found gathering wood on **the Sabbath day**.

**2 Kings 4:23** "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or **the Sabbath**."

**Jeremiah 17:21** This is what the LORD says: Be careful not to carry a load on the **Sabbath day** or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem.

**Hosea 2:11** I will stop all her celebrations: her yearly festivals, her New Moons, her **Sabbath days**—all her appointed festivals.

**Nehemiah 10:31** “When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on **the Sabbath**, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day.

**Passover:** Exod. 12 when leaving Egypt. (Mostly Pentateuch references so not as compelling)

**Exodus 12:11** This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the **LORD’s Passover**.

**Leviticus 23:5** The **LORD’s Passover** begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month.

**Numbers 9:12** They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they **celebrate the Passover**, they must follow all the regulations.

**Deuteronomy 16:2** **Sacrifice as the Passover** to the LORD your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the LORD will choose as a dwelling for his Name.

**Joshua 5:10** On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at **Gilgal on the plains of Jericho**, the Israelites celebrated the **Passover**

**2 Kings 23:21** The king [**Josiah**] gave this order to all the people: “Celebrate the **Passover to the LORD your God**, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.”

**2 Chronicles 30:1** **Hezekiah** sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and **celebrate the Passover to the LORD**, the God of Israel.

**Ezra 6:20** The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The **Levites slaughtered the Passover** lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves.

**No Feasts of Israel, pilgrimage, Sabbath, Sabbatical year or Jubilee. No Congregational meetings, fasting and processions which are sprinkled throughout the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

**10. No covenant human/divine relationship formalized (Abrahamic, Sinaitic, Davidic, New)**  
 – no land focus in Proverbs but covenant is huge principle in OT. Proverbs is different.

**Abrahamic Covenant:** land, seed, blessing to nations

**Genesis 12:7** The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this **land**.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

**Genesis 22:17** I will surely bless you and make your **descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky** and as the sand on the seashore

**Genesis 17:5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a **father of many nations**.

**Genesis 17:11** You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the **sign of the covenant** between me and you.

**Promised and Possessed Land a huge theme elsewhere in OT** (vid. Joshua, Deuteronomy...) The promised land not really a focus in Proverbs at all.  
**Land in Proverbs – land of the living not Promised Land.**

**Sinaitic Covenant:** 10 commands, laws – some proverbs parallel laws (vid Bernd Schipper’s *The Hermeneutics of Torah: Proverbs 2, Deuteronomy, and the Composition of Proverbs 1-9* (SBL Press, 2021). Good work.

**Davidic Covenant:**

2 Sam. 7:11-13, 16: “ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever...Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ” David’s descendants would sit on the throne as king.

**Many king type proverbs but none refer to this Davidic covenant**, more how to behave around a king. King a major player in Psalms and book of Kings.

**Proverbs 22:11** One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the **king for a friend**

**Proverbs 24:21** **Fear the LORD and the king**, my son, and do not join with rebellious officials,

**Proverbs 16:14** A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but the wise will appease it.

#### **New Covenant:**

Jer 31:33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. **"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD.

**No mention of Abrahamic, Davidic or New Covenant, nothing on land possession in Proverbs. Proverbs is different. Some overlap with Sinaitic laws [E.g. will come back to that when we do intertextuality...**

**Proverbs 23:10/22:28** Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,

**Deuteronomy 27:17/19:14** "Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbor's boundary stone." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" ]

#### **11. No mention of idolatry that is ubiquitous in the OT but not mentioned in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

Idolatry problem ubiquitous in OT: vid. G. K. Beale's book: *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*

**Names of gods:** Baal, Molech, Chemosh, Asherah, foreign gods well know throughout the OT

**Baal: 1 Kings 18:21** Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if **Baal is God, follow him.**" But the people said nothing.

**Molech** Lev 20:1-2 The LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'Any Israelite or any foreigner residing in Israel who sacrifices any of his children to **Molek** is to be put to death.

Gen. 3:4-5 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.”

**Genesis 31:19** When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, **Rachel stole her father’s household gods.**

Gen. 35:4 **So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods** they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem

Exod. 32:4-6, 19-20 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, **“These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”** ... When Moses approached the camp and **saw the calf** and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire;

Dt 4:15-19 Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and **make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape**, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below. And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.

Dt. 13:1-3 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the **prophet says, “Let us follow other gods”** (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer

Judges Gideon **Judges 6:25** That same night the LORD said to him, “Take the second bull from your father’s herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your **father’s altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.**

**Judges 6:32** So because Gideon **broke down Baal’s altar**, they gave him the name **Jerub-Baal that day, saying, “Let Baal contend with him.”**

Kings: Solomon 1 Kgs 11:4-5 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his



heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed **Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.**

**Jeroboam: Bethel/Dan Golden Calves:** 1 Kgs. 12:28-31 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. **Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.**” One he set up in **Bethel**, and the other in **Dan**. And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.

**Psalm 24:4** The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not **trust in an idol** or swear by a false god.

**Psalm 97:7** All who **worship images** are put to shame, those who boast in idols— worship him, all you gods!

**Psalm 135:15** The **idols of the nations** are silver and gold, made by human hands.

**Isaiah 2:8** **Their land is full of idols;** they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made

Isa. 40:18-20; 41:21ff; 44:9

**Jeremiah 2:11** **Has a nation ever changed its gods?** (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.

**Jeremiah 10:5** Like a **scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols** cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”

Hosea 1-3 **Hosea/Gomer** – unfaithful to YHWH going after other gods

**1 John 5:21** **Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.**

—No idolatry condemned in Proverbs whereas in the rest of the OT idolatry is ubiquitous. Proverbs is different.

**12. No history: singularity of historical events (only happen once). Proverbs is different more repeatable/iterative/recurrent in many different situations.**

No salvation history (patriarchs, Moses),  
 No conquest (Joshua),  
 No stories of Judges,  
 No stories of special people (Ruth, Esther)  
 No stories of kings (Saul, David, Solomon, Jeroboam, Ahab...),  
 No stories of prophets (Hosea, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah),

**No exodus** motif (instead focus on creation/wisdom Prov 8 not = Gen. 1 or even Ps. 104)

**No war** specific conflicts—Philistine attacks, Amalek or Edomites invading (trans-spatial)

**No exile** [Assyria/Babylon or **No Return** to the land or coming Kingdom [Ezra/Nehemiah],

**13. Historical narratives/stories are paragraph or pericope shaped. Psalms are strophes and poems. Proverbs is more sentential (Prov 10-30) (although the Instructions [Prov 1-9] have longer pericopes and poems- Prov 31). The Proverbial sentential nature is different. E.g. Ruth**

**Ruth – 1 time historical sequence**

**Beginning setting:** Ruth 1:1-5

**Problem:** Leaving Bethlehem, Famine + death of men in Moab,

**Struggle** Return, Boaz and gleaning; who is the Goel [kinsmen redeemer],

**End resolution:** Boaz marries Ruth, and genealogy 4:17-22 to David

**Not like:** Prov 10:1 A wise son brings joy to a father,  
 a foolish son is a grief to his mother.

**14. Summary Review:**

**Proverbs is different because – therefore it must be read differently.**

- 1. No personal names that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not inside the proverbial collection (6 names restricted pretty much to titles Prov 1:1; 10:1...) Proverbs is different.**
- 2. No tribal groups or nations named that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not inside the proverbial collection (restricted only 2 and both in titles—Israel 1:1, Judah 25:1; Egyptian linens 7:16) Proverbs is different.**
- 3. No cities/places [tribal boundaries] that are ubiquitous in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs 0. Proverbs is different.**
- 4. No call of particular individuals that are sprinkled in the OT narratives but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.**

5. No temple / tabernacle / house of the Lord focus that is found many times in OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
6. No Institutions-- priests, prophets, judge figures (Samuel, Gideon, ...) found throughout the OT but not in Proverbs (kings, yes, but unnamed, ). Proverbs is different.
7. No "thus saith the Lord", divine dreams that are found in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
8. No Theophanies, angels, angel of the Lord or miracles that are sprinkled throughout in the rest of the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
9. No Feasts of Israel, pilgrimage, Sabbath, Sabbatical year or Jubilee. No Congregational meetings, fasting and processions that are found throughout the OT but not in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
10. No covenant human/divine relationship formalized (Abrahamic, Sinaitic, Davidic, New) – no land focus in Proverbs but covenant is huge in the rest of the TANAK. Proverbs is different.
11. No mention of idolatry that is a ubiquitous problem in the OT but not mentioned in Proverbs. Proverbs is different.
12. No history: singularity of historical events (only happen once). Proverbs is different more repeatable/iterative/recurrent in many different contexts and situations.
13. Historical narratives/stories are paragraph or pericope based. Psalms are poems composed of strophes. Proverbs is more sentential (Prov 10-30) (although the Instructions [Prov 1-9] have longer poems- Prov 31). The Proverbial sentential nature is different. Cf. Ruth

Above point is Proverbs is different- what Proverbs is NOT LIKE. Don't let intertextuality flatten or knead this into the rest of the Tanak . What IS a Proverb

What types of forms does Proverbs use: literary genre paper mine

What types of words are characteristic of Proverbs

20. Types of metaphors (way, Woman Wisdom, Woman Folly) versus sign acts

21. Use of animals different

21. Specific forms (numerical x, x+1, Acrostics, better-than, etc. )

22. Abundant use of antithetic parallelisms (higher concentration than elsewhere); poetry short, snappy, memorable, reflective

22. Typical contrasts: wise/fools; righteous/wicked; diligent/sluggard dominate characters portrayed differently (not individuals but as types), characteristic words repeated/frequency very different than other sections of canon fear of God nexus with understanding/wisdom, (vid. Nel etc. for list of "wisdom words")

22. Praise of Yahweh not a big theme, little impassioned prayers asking for healing or relief from an oppressor/enemy. The God-petitioner-enemy triad of Psalms not really present

23. Unit lengths 2-4 lines rather than paragraph and larger units (Prov. 10-29) sententially or sentence oriented units not so much strophes or paragraphs

24. Major biblical theological themes [covenant, land, redemption, cult] not really featured

26. Highly pedagogical (Listen my son) Familial setting, royal court, behavior around king concern, instructional setting

28. No storyline: beginning, middle, end; setting, problem, resolution

29. Foreign influence stronger, Agur, Lemuel, Amenemope

30. Personification of Madame Wisdom/Folly.

31. Isolate main topics treated in Proverbs:

32. Character/consequence dominance (act/consequence) generic not tied to specific deeds

31. Instructional stories of seduction generically (Prov 5,7) adultery/immorality prominent, but not specifically like the Midianite women seducing Israelites, or David Bathsheba stories linked to specific personages.

Develop: Proverbs not like ... What is Proverbs like (contra other canonical sources)

Why is genre important?

Know what to expect – comics, obituaries, police reports, front page, editorial, help wanted

May give different locus of origin (family, court)

Link to wisdom ANE and Proverbs in other cultures separate genre

Intertextual tends to flatten the text rather than allowing for special diverse hues to emerge