

Dr. August Konkel, Proverbs, Session 4, The Work of Wisdom [Lecture 2] Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Konkel, Proverbs, Session 4, The Work of Wisdom [Lecture 2], Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Proverbs, Session 4, focuses on Proverbs chapter 2. **This chapter presents wisdom** as a treasure attainable through diligent effort, emphasizing the importance of seeking understanding and fearing the Lord. **The lecture contrasts the path of wisdom** leading to righteousness and long life with the dangers of wickedness and unfaithfulness. **Konkel explains the conditional nature** of the chapter, highlighting that obtaining wisdom requires persistent pursuit and careful consideration of its implications. **He uses personal anecdotes** and biblical references to illustrate the ongoing relevance and application of wisdom in daily life.

2. 12 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkel, Session 4 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Psalms & Wisdom → Proverbs).



Konkel_Prov_Session04.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 4, The Work of Wisdom [Lecture 2]

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Proverbs, Session 4:

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Proverbs Chapter 2

Introduction:

This briefing summarizes Dr. August Konkel's analysis of Proverbs chapter 2, which he describes as a unique and cohesive chapter within the book. Konkel highlights the chapter's structure as a single, extended conditional sentence (if-then), emphasizing the importance of actively pursuing wisdom. The lecture focuses on both the *means* and the *ends* of seeking wisdom, as presented in this chapter.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. The Conditional Nature of Wisdom Acquisition:

- Proverbs 2 is structured as a long conditional sentence ("if you... then you will..."). This highlights that wisdom is not passively received but actively pursued through specific actions.
- The "if" conditions involve:
- "If you will receive my words, if you will lend your ear to my wisdom, if you will call out to understanding, if you will seek her the same way that you will seek money..." This indicates that acquiring wisdom requires effort, attention, and a deliberate seeking process.
- Konkel stresses that "wisdom can't just happen. You really have to want it... it's going to take a consistent and persistent effort."

1. The Results of Pursuing Wisdom:

- The "then" results are outlined in two parts (verses 5 and 9):
- **Verse 5:** The acquisition of the "fear of the Lord." Konkel explains that this isn't a one-time decision but a learned experience. "The fear of the Lord is not simply a decision you make. It starts with the decision you make, but it is something that you must learn."

- **Verse 9:** The attainment of "righteousness, justice and equity." This content is linked back to the introduction and highlights the practical application of wisdom. "This is what wisdom is all about."
- Ultimately, pursuing wisdom leads to a virtuous life, protection from negative influences, and a long life in the land. "You will walk and live in a way that is good, and your life will be long in the land." This is linked to Deuteronomy.

1. **The Nature of Wisdom:**

- Wisdom is not mere memorization or accumulation of facts, but rather a deep understanding of how to make good choices and navigate relationships. "Knowledge here is not something like memorization... but rather, it's knowing how to do something."
- Wisdom involves:
- **Knowledge:** Knowing how to make correct choices and interact with people effectively, leading to intelligence and expertise.
- **Understanding (Tevuna):** Competence, the ability to comprehend situations and solve problems.
- **Comprehension:** A conceptual understanding of situations.

1. **The Warnings of Proverbs 2:**

- The chapter warns against two negative influences:
- **The Wicked Person:** This person leads individuals down the wrong paths, tempting them away from righteousness. Wisdom helps one recognize and avoid such influences.
- **The Foreign Woman:** Konkel clarifies this isn't about literal foreignness but represents the temptation to fulfill selfish lusts and desires outside the bounds of a committed relationship. "The foreign woman is not foreign in that she speaks another language...[she] is the companion that lures you into fulfilling your own lusts and desires." This represents a broader caution against breaking covenants. It is a "version of Thou shalt not commit adultery."
- Konkel emphasizes that the key here is the need for loyalty in a relationship, particularly marriage. The "wife of your youth" is juxtaposed with the "foreign woman," even for men as well.

1. **The Metaphorical Nature of Proverbs:**

- Konkel emphasizes that the examples in Proverbs are not always literal, and often have a broader application. For example, the "foreign woman" metaphor applies to breaking relational covenants in general.
- Proverbs uses the metaphor of life as a path. "Life in Proverbs... is a way. And when you stay on the way, you get to the destination. But if you wander... you're going to get lost." Wisdom is what helps one stay on this path.

1. **The Importance of Continuous Learning:**

- Wisdom is not a static achievement but a continuous journey of learning and applying biblical teachings to daily life. "It's a lesson you never get done learning... because life is always changing."
- Lady Wisdom is always calling, and "you never get done learning" her teachings.

1. **Wisdom and the "Mind"**

- The Hebrew concept of the "mind" (nous) is not found in the language, and is often represented in translation by words like "heart" (lev) and "spirit" (ruach). The lecturer makes it clear that wisdom is an intellectual pursuit. It's something learned in the mind, and understood conceptually. "Proverbs is about the mind. It's about something that you learn."

1. **Life and Death:**

- Konkel draws a parallel between the message of Proverbs 2 and Deuteronomy 30:15, where Moses presents the choice between life and death. This reinforces the central theme that pursuing wisdom leads to life, while rejecting it leads to death. "It really is the same thing that Moses set out before the people in Deuteronomy chapter 30 verse 15. I set before you today life and death."
- Similarly, he links this to Psalm 1, which highlights "the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked which shall perish."

Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel's analysis positions Proverbs 2 as a foundational chapter for understanding the pursuit of wisdom. It is not merely about acquiring knowledge but engaging in an active and sustained process that requires effort, discernment, and adherence to principles laid out in the covenant. Ultimately, wisdom leads to a life of righteousness, faithfulness, and fulfillment.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 4, The Work of Wisdom [Lecture 2]

Proverbs: The Work of Wisdom, Lecture Two - Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences each.

1. What is the unique structure of Proverbs chapter 2 according to Konkel?
2. According to Konkel, what is the first result of pursuing wisdom, and how is it acquired?
3. What are the two negative influences that Proverbs warns against?
4. How does Konkel define "knowledge" in the context of Proverbs 2?
5. What does the term "Tevuna" refer to in Proverbs, and what does Konkel say about it?
6. Why does the text say that wisdom cannot "just happen" and what is required to achieve it?
7. How does the lecture explain the Hebrew concept of "mind" in comparison to the Greek "nous"?
8. How does the example of the chainsaw help illustrate the concept of "justice" or "fairness"?
9. What does Konkel mean when he says that "life is a path" and how does wisdom connect to that?
10. What is the ultimate message of Proverbs chapter 2, and how does it relate to Deuteronomy?

Quiz - Answer Key

1. Proverbs chapter 2 is structured as one long conditional sentence, an "if-then" statement, outlining the means and ends of pursuing wisdom. If certain conditions are met, like listening to wisdom and seeking understanding, specific results will follow.

2. The first result of pursuing wisdom is acquiring the fear of the Lord. According to Konkel, this is not a one-time decision but something that must be continually learned and developed over time.
3. Proverbs warns against the influence of the "wicked person" who leads one down the wrong path and the "foreign woman," who tempts one to fulfill personal lusts and desires outside of the marriage covenant.
4. Konkel explains that in Proverbs, "knowledge" is not mere memorization but rather knowing how to make the right kinds of choices and get along with others, encompassing intelligence, expertise, and craftsmanship.
5. "Tevuna" refers to intelligence at work, encompassing competence and the ability to understand a situation and solve problems. It is a conceptual skill that requires application and is not passive.
6. The text emphasizes that wisdom requires a consistent and persistent effort, that it must be actively sought and cannot be passively received. It requires active reading, reflection, and engagement with the text.
7. Konkel explains that while the Greek language has the word "nous" for mind, the Hebrew language uses "lev" (heart) or "ruach" (spirit) to represent the concept of mind. These words, for the Hebrews, are understood as connected to the cognitive functions associated with the mind.
8. The example of the chainsaw illustrates the concept of "justice" or "fairness" by showing how the children's innate sense of fairness pushed for an equitable exchange of gifts, highlighting that justice is a fundamental human concept, and not always easy to define.
9. When Konkel says "life is a path" he means that life has a specific direction or way, and wisdom helps one stay on the right path, leading to their desired destination, while straying from the path leads to being lost.
10. The ultimate message is that wisdom is the way to life and that lacking it will lead to death, mirroring the choice Moses presented in Deuteronomy between life and death. The chapter presents the same concept of two paths that leads to two separate destinations.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer the following essay questions with reference to the provided source material.

1. Analyze the structure of Proverbs chapter 2 as presented by Konkel. How does this structure emphasize the importance of actively pursuing wisdom and what are the primary conditions and results?
2. Discuss the concepts of "the fear of the Lord" and "righteousness, justice, and equity" as presented in the lecture. How are these concepts connected, and why are they central to Konkel's understanding of Proverbs?
3. Compare and contrast the dangers presented by the "wicked person" and the "foreign woman" in Proverbs 2. How do these figures function as warnings and what larger points about morality and relationships does Konkel connect to them?
4. Explain the meaning of knowledge, *tevuna*, and the need for effort in the pursuit of wisdom as Konkel explains them. How do these ideas challenge the common understanding of learning and how do they connect to the concept of "heart" in Hebrew?
5. Discuss Konkel's explanation of the two ways, life and death, as it relates to Proverbs and Deuteronomy. How does this duality shape the reader's understanding of the importance of wisdom?

Glossary of Key Terms

Conditional Sentence: A sentence that expresses a condition and its result, often using "if-then" structures. Proverbs 2 is structured as one long conditional sentence, according to Konkel.

Fear of the Lord: A concept in Proverbs representing reverence and respect for God which is not a one-time decision, but something that must be learned. It's a core element of wisdom.

Wicked Person: In Proverbs, refers to someone who leads others down a morally wrong path.

Foreign Woman: In Proverbs, refers to a figure who lures someone into fulfilling their own lusts and desires outside of a covenant, often the marriage covenant.

Knowledge (in Proverbs): Not simply memorization, but rather the skill and intelligence to make the right choices and get along with others, encompassing expertise and craftsmanship.

Tevuna: A Hebrew term referring to intelligence at work, competence, and the ability to understand and solve problems; conceptual skill that requires application.

Lev: The Hebrew word for "heart," often used to represent the mind, thought, and understanding, especially in the context of cognitive functions in Proverbs.

Ruach: The Hebrew word for "spirit," used in place of the word mind. Related to thoughts and understanding.

Justice/Fairness (as taught in Proverbs): The concept of what is right and equitable, a principle that should guide daily life as it is taught by wisdom.

Life as a Path: A metaphor in Proverbs that portrays life as having a specific direction or way, where wisdom keeps one on the path while the lack of it leads to wandering and being lost.

5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 4, The Work of Wisdom [Lecture 2], Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Proverbs (Based on Dr. Konkel's Lecture)

1. **What is the main focus of Proverbs chapter 2, and how is it structured?** Proverbs chapter 2 is a unique and cohesive chapter that presents the means and the end of pursuing wisdom. It's structured as one long conditional ("if-then") sentence. The first part of the chapter outlines the conditions for gaining wisdom, and the latter part describes the results and rewards of acquiring it.
2. **According to Proverbs, what are the initial actions required to obtain wisdom?** The chapter emphasizes the need to actively seek wisdom. Specifically, it requires that one *receive* God's words, *listen* attentively to wisdom, *call out* for understanding, and *search* for wisdom as one would search for hidden treasure. This pursuit should be intentional, persistent and effortful.
3. **What does "the fear of the Lord" mean, and is it something one decides to have or something one learns?** The fear of the Lord is not just a simple decision; it's a deep understanding and respect for God that is acquired through learning and experience. This fear is not a fearful dread, but rather a recognition of God's authority and a desire to live in accordance with His will.
4. **What are some of the practical aspects of wisdom, according to the lecture?** Wisdom, as described here, is a combination of knowledge, intelligence, and practical skills. It involves *knowing how to make the right choices*, *understanding situations*, *solving problems*, and *getting along with others*. It's not simply theoretical knowledge, but applied understanding. Wisdom provides guidance for crafting a just and righteous life.
5. **How does the lecture portray the "wicked person" and the "foreign woman" mentioned in Proverbs?** The "wicked person" is depicted as one who leads others down the wrong path, enticing them with false promises. The "foreign woman" represents the temptation to fulfill lusts and desires outside of the context of a faithful marriage. While the literal example used is about a man and a woman, this concept, according to the lecture, applies to any person, male or female, straying outside of a faithful, covenant relationship. Both characters serve as warnings of the negative consequences of not pursuing wisdom.

6. **What does Proverbs mean when it talks about staying "on the path"?** In Proverbs, life is portrayed as a path or way. Staying on the path refers to living according to wisdom, righteousness and God's teachings, which leads to a fulfilling and long life. Wandering off the path means abandoning these principles and succumbing to negative influences and desires which ultimately leads to destruction.
7. **What is the significance of the contrast between wisdom's promise and the promises of the "wicked"?** The lecture highlights the irony that those who lead you astray promise everything you want but lead to death, while wisdom, though seemingly restrictive, actually leads to true fulfillment. This contrast emphasizes the superiority of Godly wisdom over fleeting pleasures and the ultimately destructive nature of worldly desires.
8. **Why does the lecture say that one never stops learning and applying wisdom?** Life is ever-changing and brings new circumstances, challenges and decisions. Therefore, the teachings of wisdom are never exhausted and must be continually learned and applied to navigate new situations. Continuous study and reflection on wisdom from sources like the book of Proverbs is necessary for a life guided by sound principles.