

Dr. August Konkell, Proverbs, Session 8, Four Proverbial Lessons, Proverbs 6:1-19 Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Konkell, Proverbs, Session 8, Four Proverbial Lessons, Proverbs 6:1-19, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. August Konkell's lecture on Proverbs chapter 6, verses 1-19, explores **four proverbial lessons**. The first warns against the dangers of guaranteeing loans, especially to outsiders. The second emphasizes the importance of diligent work, contrasting it with laziness and using ants as a positive example. A third lesson cautions against deceitful schemes and plotting against others. Finally, the lecture lists seven abominations—pride, lies, murder, perverse plans, troublemaking, false witness, and strife—that should be avoided. These lessons are explained using examples from the Torah, the New Testament, and literature.

2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, Session 8 – 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_Session08.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 8, Four Proverbial Lessons, Proverbs 6:1-19

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkell's lecture on Proverbs, Session 8:

Briefing Document: Proverbs Chapter 6: Four Proverbial Lessons

Overview: This lecture focuses on Proverbs 6:1-19, which Dr. Konkell identifies as containing four distinct "proverbial lessons" within the larger context of the parent's lectures in Proverbs 1-9. These lessons cover the dangers of unwise financial dealings (specifically, co-signing loans), the importance of diligence and hard work, the destructive nature of scheming and deceit, and finally, a list of seven things God hates.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. The Peril of Co-signing Loans (Proverbs 6:1-5):

- **Historical Context:** Konkell notes that borrowing money is an ancient practice, arising with the development of currency. The Torah (Law of Moses) had provisions for loans, often secured with a pledge like a tunic, which had to be returned daily for the borrower's well-being.
- **The Proverb's Warning:** This section specifically warns against guaranteeing a loan for someone, particularly a "foreigner" (someone outside the covenant community) who feels no obligation to the guarantor. The lender risks losing their money and must "plead with your friend to get that money back, because it's gone."
- **The Lesson:** The core message is that one should only secure loans if they can afford to lose the money, avoiding serious personal financial harm.
- **Quote:** "If you've loaned money to a foreigner, then you may as well count it as lost."

1. The Value of Diligence and Work (Proverbs 6:6-11):

- **Work as a Necessity:** Work is presented as a fundamental aspect of life, designed by God to be good. It's considered an important measure of the economy, "what are we producing with our efforts and with our work that somebody else wants?"

- **The Fall's Impact:** Konkell points out that work became "toil" or "pain" (the Hebrew word *etzeb*) after the fall, a result of Adam's disobedience. But this struggle is still important and necessary.
- **Ant Analogy:** The lecture uses the analogy of ants to illustrate diligence and productivity. Ants are always busy, know their purpose, and work hard, contrasting with the idea of laziness.
- **Quote:** "You don't have the option of being the drone bee. ... people have to work at the right time, in the right way, and in order. And if you don't do that, then poverty is going to come knocking."
- **Pauline Connection:** The connection between the necessity of work and the biblical teaching about it is reinforced through a reference to the Apostle Paul telling the Thessalonians that if you don't work, you don't eat.

1. **The Destructive Nature of Scheming and Deceit (Proverbs 6:12-15):**

- **Deceptive Signals:** This section condemns those who engage in "clandestine ways of communicating, secret ways of working out a scheme so that you're going to plot a way in which you're going to be able to take advantage of someone else."
- **Inevitability of Trouble:** Such behavior, whether it be "squint[ing] with their eyes, shuffle[ing] with their feet, [or] point[ing] with their fingers," always leads to trouble and calamity.
- **Ukridge Example:** The example of P.G. Wodehouse's character, Ukridge, is used as a literary example of a schemer. Konkell points out that despite Ukridge's best laid plans, the scheme invariably ends in disaster for himself and others.

1. **Seven Abominations (Proverbs 6:16-19):**

- **Things God Hates:** Konkell lists the seven things "the Lord hates," which he equates to the seven abominations found in Proverbs.
- **The List:** The abominations are: pride, lies, murder, perverse plans, troublemaking, false witness, and stirring up strife between friends.
- **Body Parts:** Konkell notes that these abominations involve various body parts, like the eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet, and mouth, suggesting a holistic corruption.
- **Quote:** "...it's obviously a very nicely little laid-out sequence in which you're instructed to know that this is the kind of person you don't want to be. Stay away from all of these seven abominations."

- **Practical Wisdom:** The overall message is a strong call to moral uprightness and avoidance of wickedness in all its forms.

Overall Lesson: This passage provides a multi-faceted warning about the dangers of unwise choices and actions that can negatively impact one's life. Through these proverbs, the listener is directed to a life marked by integrity, hard work, and avoidance of deceitful and malicious behavior. The goal of these teachings is to guide one toward a life characterized by wisdom and godliness.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 8, Four Proverbial Lessons, Proverbs 6:1-19

Proverbs: Four Proverbial Lessons - Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the primary warning given in Proverbs 6:1-5 regarding borrowing money?
2. According to the lecture, what practice related to loans did the Torah of Moses provide for?
3. What is *etzeb* in Hebrew, and how does it relate to work according to the lecture?
4. How does the lecture use the example of ants to illustrate the concept of work?
5. What, according to the lecture, is the inevitable outcome for people who are always scheming?
6. What specific actions does the lecture use to illustrate how people execute their schemes?
7. What is the point of the P.G. Wodehouse reference in the lecture?
8. What are the "seven abominations" listed in Proverbs 6:16-19, according to the lecture?
9. How does the lecture link the "seven abominations" to specific parts of the body?
10. What is the overall message in Proverbs 6:1-19 according to the lecture?

Answer Key

1. The warning is against becoming surety for a loan, especially for someone who is not bound by a covenant to repay, as you will likely lose that money because the borrower will feel no obligation to the person who guaranteed the loan.
2. The Torah of Moses provided ways in which security would be given for money loaned, such as a tunic, that would be returned when the debt was paid; however, if a tunic was the security, it had to be returned by evening.
3. *Etzev* is a Hebrew word meaning toil, struggle, or pain, which is related to the idea that work, which was initially meant to be good, became a difficult and painful struggle after Adam's sin.

4. The lecture notes that ants are always busy, working, and carrying loads, showing that they know their purpose and perform it diligently, unlike human beings who may not always be so diligent.
5. People who are always scheming will inevitably face trouble and calamity, as their plans to take advantage of others always lead to disastrous outcomes.
6. The lecture notes that schemers squint with their eyes, shuffle their feet, and point with their fingers, all clandestine ways of communicating and executing a plan for their benefit.
7. The P.G. Wodehouse reference to the character Ukridge serves as an example of a troublemaker who is always scheming and creating disaster, which is analogous to the behavior warned against in Proverbs.
8. The seven abominations are pride, lies, murder, perverse plans, troublemakers, false witness, and those who stir up strife between friends.
9. The lecture links these abominations to parts of the body, including eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet, and mouth, suggesting these parts of the body are used to carry out these immoral actions.
10. The overall message of the section is to avoid financial recklessness by not guaranteeing loans to those who are not obligated to pay them, to embrace hard work and not be lazy, to avoid making schemes that hurt others, and to avoid the seven abominations that are hated by the Lord.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question in an essay format.

1. How do the four proverbial lessons presented in Proverbs 6:1-19 relate to each other, and what is the underlying message the author is trying to convey to the reader?
2. Discuss the implications of the lecture's interpretation of work as both a blessing and a toil, referring to both Genesis and the New Testament.
3. Analyze the use of natural examples, specifically ants, to teach moral lessons about work and its implications.

4. Explore the connections between the "seven abominations" mentioned in Proverbs 6:16-19 and how they are demonstrated through various parts of the body and how the lecture encourages us to avoid these behaviors.
5. Based on the material presented, how would you describe the type of wisdom that the book of Proverbs seeks to impart?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Covenant:** A formal agreement or relationship, often used in the context of religious or moral obligations, in the lecture it is particularly important in differentiating obligations of an Israelite and that of a foreigner.
- **Torah:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible, traditionally attributed to Moses, which contain foundational laws and teachings for the Jewish people.
- **Etzev (עָצֵב):** A Hebrew word meaning toil, struggle, or pain, often associated with the hardships of work after the fall of humanity, it is used as a comparison in the lecture.
- **Abominations:** Actions or behaviors that are considered morally repugnant or detestable, particularly in the eyes of God, and listed specifically in the text as the "seven abominations."
- **Surety:** One who takes responsibility for another's debt, this term is used in the text as a warning against becoming responsible for the debt of someone who has no covenant with you.
- **Discretionary Income:** Money available for spending and investing beyond basic needs; in the text, it is suggested that one must not put at risk necessities, only income they can afford to lose.
- **Drone Bee:** A male bee whose primary role is to fertilize the queen bee; used in the lecture as a contrast to the diligent work of the ant.

5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 8, Four Proverbial Lessons, Proverbs 6:1-19, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions About Proverbs 6:1-19

1. **What is the primary focus of Proverbs 6:1-19, according to Dr. Konkel?** Dr. Konkel identifies this section of Proverbs as containing four proverbial lessons that follow the "ten lectures" in the earlier chapters of the book. These specific lessons cover the dangers of borrowing money (specifically acting as a guarantor), the importance of diligence and hard work, the negative impact of troublemaking, and the seven things the Lord hates (abominations).
2. **What does Proverbs 6 teach about borrowing money, and why is it problematic?** The text warns against becoming a surety for the debts of others, particularly "foreigners" (those outside one's covenant group). The problem lies in the fact that the original debtor may feel no obligation to repay the person who guaranteed the loan. The guarantor could ultimately be responsible for a debt that is unlikely to be recovered, which means that security should only be given if there is means to cover the loss. The example given suggests that if you do guarantee someone else's debt, you should be prepared to plead or to make every effort to get the money back, because it is unlikely that the initial borrower will be motivated to repay.
3. **How does the passage in Proverbs address the concept of work, and what analogy is used to illustrate this point?** Proverbs emphasizes the necessity of work as a good thing, but that work can become toilsome. In contrast to the drone bee, people are compared to ants, creatures that are always industrious and purposeful. The passage argues that people should not be lazy or expect others to do all the work, as the consequences of laziness can include poverty. God designed work to be good and a delight, but it became toil because of Adam's actions.
4. **What is the significance of the word "etzev" in the context of work?** The word "etzev" is a Hebrew term for "toil" or "pain" in reference to the difficulties associated with labor. It signifies the struggle and frustrations that were introduced into work as a consequence of Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. It means that what was once intended to be a rewarding result, can often become a struggle and cause pain.

5. **How does the passage describe the behavior of a troublemaker, and what is the outcome of such behavior?** A troublemaker is described as someone who uses subtle or clandestine methods (e.g., squinting eyes, shuffling feet) to scheme and manipulate others for their own benefit. The outcome of such behavior is always negative, leading to trouble and calamity for both the schemer and those around them. The figure of Ukridge, from P.G. Wodehouse, serves as a literary example of such a troublesome character who is always scheming and ends up in disaster.
6. **What are the "seven abominations" listed in Proverbs 6:16-19, and why are they significant?** The "seven abominations" are actions and attitudes that the Lord hates. They are: pride, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run to evil, a false witness who pours out lies, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers. These abominations are significant because they represent fundamental moral failings and behaviors that go against God's will and wisdom.
7. **How do the "seven abominations" relate to parts of the body?** The seven abominations are connected to different parts of the body—eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet, and mouth. This emphasis on the physical shows how these behaviors manifest as tangible actions. It underscores the point that these immoral behaviours are active parts of the person, rather than solely internal problems.
8. **What is the overall message or advice that the wise teacher is conveying in these proverbs?** The wise teacher uses these proverbs to instruct and warn against a number of things including making unwise financial decisions by guaranteeing debts, laziness, malicious scheming, and engaging in behaviours that are abhorrent to God. The underlying advice is to be responsible with finances, diligent in work, honest in all dealing, and avoid causing trouble and strife, instead adopting wisdom in all areas of life.