

Dr. August Konkell, Proverbs, Session 11, Proverbs of Solomon – Proverbs 10:1-22:16 Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Konkell, Proverbs, Session 11, Proverbs of Solomon – Proverbs 10:1-22:16, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. August Konkell's lecture focuses on Proverbs 10:1-22:16, a collection of 375 proverbs attributed to Solomon. **He explains the structure** of these proverbs, noting their use of **antithetical pairings** and analogies, often drawing comparisons between seemingly dissimilar things. Konkell emphasizes the **importance of understanding the context and intended analogies**, rather than strictly analyzing grammar. He also **discusses the numerical significance** of 375 in relation to Solomon's name and explores examples of proverbs, illustrating their varied interpretations and applications. Finally, he acknowledges the contributions of Ted Hildebrandt to his understanding of the text's structure.

**2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Konkell, Session 11 – 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_Session
11.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 11, Proverbs of Solomon – Proverbs 10:1-22:16

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

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkell on Proverbs 10-22.16

Introduction

This briefing document summarizes the key points of Dr. August Konkell's lecture on Proverbs, specifically focusing on the section known as the "Proverbs of Solomon" found in Proverbs 10:1-22:16. This section marks a shift from the instructional style of Proverbs 1-9 to a collection of individual proverbs, offering wisdom through concise, often antithetical, sayings.

Main Themes & Key Ideas

1. Structure of Proverbs:

- **Shift from Instruction to Collections:** Proverbs 1-9 are characterized by parental instruction, while Proverbs 10-31 consist of various collections of proverbs. The instructional section is believed to have been added later to provide context for the sayings.
- **The Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16):** This first collection contains 375 proverbs. It is considered one of the earliest sections.
- **Dual Division:** This section is generally divided at the end of chapter 15 based on proverbial style. The first part (10-15) is characterized by antithetical parallelisms.
- **Poetic Form:** Proverbs are written in poetic form using two lines (A and B) that complement each other, often in an antithetical manner (e.g., "A wise son makes a glad father, a foolish son makes a sad mother").

1. Nature of Proverbs:

- **Observations, Not Empirical Science:** Proverbs are based on observations of human behavior and their consequences, but they are not scientific investigations of cause and effect.
- **Analogical Reasoning:** Proverbs often use analogies to make points, but these analogies draw on specific aspects of a comparison and can be interpreted in various ways. The meaning is not always explicitly stated.

- **Multiple Interpretations:** The same proverb can be applied in different situations because the point of the proverb is in the application. The analogy used should be considered with respect to the intention behind the saying.
- **Examples of Analogies:** Konkel uses the example of a ship plowing through the water. He also gives an example of how grasshoppers have a very ordered way of moving in swarms despite having no king or army.

1. Use and Interpretation of Proverbs:

- **Beyond Exegesis:** The focus should not be solely on grammatical exegesis but on understanding the speaker's intended analogy and its implications for life.
- **Not Always Clear:** Proverbs are not always clear in meaning or application. They are designed to be pondered, not simply understood.
- **Proverbs Can Be Used in Different Ways:** Konkel uses an example of a proverb being like a thorn bush in the hand of a drunk. When used poorly by fools, proverbs can hurt. Proverbs, like sayings, can be used to sneer and insult.

1. Examples of Proverbs and Their Usage:

- **"Is Saul among the prophets?"** This is an example of a sneer, used in Samuel to comment on Saul's inconsistent behavior and legitimacy as a king.
- **"Let not him who girds the sword boast like him who takes it off."** A provocation challenging a belligerent king's boasting and warning about the negative result of his challenge.
- **"The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are blurred."** A proverb referring to the consequences of past generations' mistakes.
- **"Physician, heal thyself."** Used to question Jesus' authority.
- **"Defund the police":** A modern example of how a slogan can be interpreted differently based on the context and the observer's particular view.

1. Solomon's Name and the Number of Proverbs:

- **Numerical Value:** The Hebrew numerical system uses letters to indicate numbers. The numerical value of Solomon's name in Hebrew (shin-sha-la-ma-a) is 375.
- **Deliberate Connection:** The collection of 375 proverbs is likely a deliberate association with Solomon as the author of the proverbs.

1. Content of Proverbs 10:

- **Proverbs on Wealth:** The section begins with proverbs about the importance of wisdom and character over wealth. Some of the themes include that deceit leads to poverty, that diligence leads to wealth, and that righteousness leads to blessings.
- **Proverbs on Moral Integrity:** The second unit of proverbs discussed deal with moral integrity. Righteousness leaves a legacy of blessings, and integrity brings safety.
- **Pattern and Structure:** The text itself points to how the lines are complementary, but expressed in opposites. Also, we see patterns of association based on themes.

1. Textual Criticism:

- **Textual Issues:** Verse 10 is noted as having an issue in the Hebrew text as the second half of the verse is identical to the second half of verse 8. This is likely due to a copyist's mistake.
- **Value of Greek Translation:** The Greek translation offers a different version, which can highlight textual issues.
- **Dittography:** Copying an earlier line in a later line. This is likely what happened in verse 10.

Conclusion Dr. Konkel's lecture provides valuable insights into the nature, structure, and interpretation of the Proverbs of Solomon. He emphasizes that these proverbs are not simply instructions, but rather observations expressed through analogies intended to provoke thought and guide understanding of life's lessons. The proverbs are not just something to analyze, but a guide for practical living. They have a variety of different themes and topics but are always presented in a structured way.

Key Quote: "The main point is not in the exegeting of the proverb. It's the thinking about the way in which the analogy was intended by the speaker when they made it."

4. Study Guide: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 11, Proverbs of Solomon – Proverbs 10:1-22:16

Proverbs Study Guide: Session 11

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the main focus of Proverbs 1-9, and how does this section relate to the Proverbs found in chapters 10-31?
2. What are the two primary divisions within the collection of Proverbs of Solomon (Proverbs 10:1-22:16)?
3. Explain what is meant by "antithetical" proverbs and provide an example from the text.
4. Why is the topic of kingship recurrent in the Proverbs, according to the lecture?
5. How do the proverbs differ from scientific or empirical observations, as described in the lecture?
6. How does the speaker illustrate that the analogies within proverbs can be interpreted in multiple ways?
7. What is the significance of the number 375 in relation to the Proverbs of Solomon, and how is it derived?
8. What are some of the themes present in the first unit of six Proverbs in chapter 10 that were read from the text?
9. How can textual criticism, such as the comparison with the Greek translation, help us understand the structure of the proverbs?
10. What did Dr. Konkell say about the importance of recognizing the patterns and associations found in the proverbs?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Proverbs 1-9 focus on instruction, where a parent teaches a child the values needed for wise decision-making. This section serves as an introduction that orients the reader to the collections of proverbs that follow in chapters 10-31, preparing them to understand the values and apply the wisdom in those sayings.

2. The collection of Proverbs of Solomon is divided into two sections primarily based on style. The first section, extending to the end of chapter 15, is characterized by antithetical parallelisms. The second section, after chapter 15, consists of proverbs on various topics, although the theme of kingship is present throughout.
3. Antithetical proverbs are poetic sayings presented in two lines that contrast each other while expressing a similar concept. For example, "A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son makes a sad mother" expresses the positive and negative consequences of a child's behavior.
4. The theme of kingship appears frequently because the proverbs were likely collected by scribes associated with the royal court, making the topic relevant to both the king and his subjects. Kingship is important to both the rulers and those they govern.
5. Proverbs are not derived from empirical scientific observation of cause and effect, but rather from generic observations of human behavior and their consequences. The observations have analogies to other consequences when action takes place.
6. The speaker uses the metaphor of a "ship plowing through the water" to show how the point of comparison in a proverb can be interpreted in different ways. The listener used the image of a wake, while a more technical understanding of a ship's movement is more like a colter (cutting), illustrating different ways the analogy can fit.
7. The number 375 is associated with the numerical value of the Hebrew letters in Solomon's name (shin-sha-la-ma-a). The value of the letters adds up to 375 which was a deliberate association between Solomon's authorship and the collection of the proverbs.
8. The first six proverbs in chapter 10 highlight themes of wise versus foolish children, the importance of character over wealth, and the relationship between diligence and prosperity. Other themes include deceit, laziness, and righteousness versus wickedness.
9. Textual criticism, particularly by comparing different translations such as the Greek, can reveal errors such as dittography (copying the same words or lines) and help restore what may be closer to the original or an earlier version. This is what helps make better sense of the style and patterns in the proverbs.

10. Dr. Konkel pointed out that there are patterns of association and complementarity in the proverbs. We have to be careful when looking for those patterns as they are not always evident, so it's best to take them as individual sayings and recognize there are limits in seeing consistent patterns.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Write a well-structured essay addressing each prompt, using specific examples from the source material.

1. Discuss the structure and purpose of the book of Proverbs, emphasizing the relationship between the introductory instruction (chapters 1-9) and the collections of proverbs that follow (chapters 10-31).
2. Analyze the use of antithetical parallelism in the Proverbs of Solomon (Proverbs 10:1-15), illustrating how this stylistic device contributes to the meaning and impact of the sayings.
3. Compare and contrast the speaker's explanation of how the proverbs are to be interpreted versus the scientific/empirical way of studying cause and effect, using specific examples of how analogies and metaphors are to be understood in Proverbs.
4. Explain how the historical context (scribes, kingship, Hezekiah's collection) influenced the development of the book of Proverbs, and discuss how this historical background impacts the application of the text today.
5. Using specific examples from Proverbs 10, describe how patterns and thematic associations function within the text, paying attention to how they work together to create units of thought, and explaining why these connections are important to the interpretation of the book.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Antithetical Parallelism:** A poetic device, commonly used in Hebrew poetry and especially in Proverbs, in which two lines of a proverb express contrasting or opposite ideas while conveying a similar concept.
- **Proverbs of Solomon:** Specifically refers to the collection of proverbs found in Proverbs 10:1-22:16, which are traditionally attributed to King Solomon. This section is characterized by its use of antithetical parallelism.
- **Textual Criticism:** The scholarly study of ancient texts (such as the Hebrew and Greek versions of Proverbs), in order to identify errors, variations, and discrepancies that may have occurred in the transmission process so as to get to the most accurate version.
- **Dittography:** A type of scribal error in the copying of a text where a word, line, or section of text is accidentally written twice.
- **Analogy:** A comparison between two things or situations that have a similar feature; in Proverbs, it's a way of relating a commonplace observation to a broader principle of life or a lesson.
- **Metaphor:** A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable; in Proverbs, it's used to create vivid images and understanding.
- **Scribes:** Professional writers or copyists of texts, often associated with the royal court or other religious or political institutions; they played a key role in the preservation and transmission of the proverbs.
- **Numerical System (Hebrew):** A system in which letters of the alphabet are used as numerical values; used by the Hebrews and in this instance to link Solomon's name to the number of proverbs in the collection.
- **Empirical Observation:** The process of acquiring information and knowledge through direct observation and experience, often used as a basis for scientific investigation; proverbs differ from this kind of observation.

5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 11, Proverbs of Solomon – Proverbs 10:1-22:16, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

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

1. **What is the structure of the book of Proverbs, particularly in relation to chapters 1-9 and 10-31?**
2. The book of Proverbs is structured with an initial instruction section (chapters 1-9), where a parent teaches a child about the values and wisdom necessary for life. This section is followed by collections of proverbs (chapters 10-31). It appears the instruction section was added later to provide context and a framework for understanding the proverbs that follow. The first collection of proverbs, attributed to Solomon, spans Proverbs 10:1-22:16.
3. **How are the proverbs in the collection attributed to Solomon typically structured?**
4. The proverbs in the Proverbs of Solomon collection (10:1-22:16) are primarily structured in pairs of lines, often referred to as line A and line B. These lines complement each other, often expressing the same idea but using an antithetical structure. For example, "A wise son makes a glad father, a foolish son makes a sad mother," where "wise/glad" is contrasted with "foolish/sad". This antithetical style is particularly prominent until the end of chapter 15, after which various topics are discussed in the proverbs.
5. **Are the proverbs meant to be interpreted literally or in another way?**
6. Proverbs are observations of human behavior and their consequences, often using analogies. These analogies aren't always direct and draw on specific aspects of the comparison. The core meaning isn't in meticulously "exegeting" the proverb as one might with a narrative or law. Instead, it's crucial to consider the way the speaker intended the analogy, and be open to multiple ways of understanding them. The proverbs are not scientific cause-and-effect observations, but rather general observations of human behavior.

7. **What does Dr. Konkel mean by "the ship plows through the water" analogy and how does it relate to the interpretation of proverbs?**
8. The "ship plows through the water" analogy illustrates how a metaphor may be interpreted. The common interpretation is that the front of the ship cuts through the water like the coulter of a plow cuts through the ground. However, someone might view it differently (like the wake left by a motorboat) and still have an accurate, if different, interpretation. This demonstrates that proverbs, like metaphors, can have multiple valid interpretations based on the different aspects of comparison, and the key is understanding the speaker's intent in drawing the analogy.
9. **How does Dr. Konkel use the example of grasshoppers to clarify the nature of proverbs?**
10. The proverb "grasshoppers have no king, yet they go out in army-type units" is an example of how proverbs are observations of natural behavior. The orderly movement of grasshoppers, despite their lack of a leader, serves as a metaphor for human behavior and other consequences that may happen when a certain action takes place. This example illustrates that proverbs often take observed natural behavior to make a point.
11. **What are some examples of sayings that can be found in Proverbs that aren't clear, and what is their point?**

Proverbs sometimes include sayings that may appear as insults, sneers, or provocations. Some examples of these are, "a thorn bush in the hand of a drunk and a proverb in the mouth of a fool," "Is Saul among the prophets?" "Let not him who girds the sword boast like him who takes it off," "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are blurred," and "Jesus, physician, heal thyself." These sayings serve to reveal deeper truths about the use and misuse of wisdom and how people often speak without regard for logic or for the impact of their words.

1. **Why are there 375 proverbs in the Proverbs of Solomon collection?**
2. The number 375 is associated with the numerical value of Solomon's name in Hebrew. Hebrew letters have numerical values, and the sum of the letters in "Solomon" (shin-sha-la-ma-a) equals 375. The author of the Proverbs made a deliberate effort to associate the authorship with Solomon by having that amount of proverbs.
3. **What themes are explored in the early chapters of the Proverbs of Solomon collection?**
4. In the first section of Proverbs 10, there is a unit that deals with wealth, which contrasts a wise child with a foolish child, riches with character, and desires with greed. After that, there's a unit dealing with moral integrity that contrasts righteousness with wickedness, the wise with the foolish, and integrity with deceit. Additionally, patterns can be found related to divine justice, the reward of diligence, and the contrast of righteousness vs foolishness.