

## **Dr. August Konkel, Proverbs, Session 13, Life with God – Proverbs 16:1-22:16 Resources from NotebookLM**

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

### **1. Abstract of Konkel, Proverbs, Session 13, Life with God – Proverbs 16:1-22:16, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This is a transcript of Dr. August Konkel's thirteenth lecture on the Book of Proverbs, specifically covering Proverbs 16:1-22:16. **The lecture focuses on interpreting various proverbs, exploring themes such as God's knowledge surpassing human understanding, the importance of humility, and the role of trust in God's plan. Konkel examines proverbs related to government, the pitfalls of pride, and the value of patience, offering insightful commentary and personal reflections. He connects the proverbs to contemporary issues, illustrating their relevance to modern life. The lecture concludes with a discussion of the significance of aging and a life lived righteously.**

**2. 24 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Konkel, Session 13 – 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  
13.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 13, Life with God – Proverbs 16:1-22:16

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Proverbs, specifically focusing on Proverbs 16:1-22:16:

#### **Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Proverbs 16-22:16**

##### **Introduction:**

Dr. Konkel's lecture, Session 13 of his Proverbs series, focuses on Proverbs 16:1-22:16, which he identifies as the second half of Solomon's collection within the book. This section, he notes, is less driven by a single literary style and more thematic in its organization. Dr. Konkel aims to highlight the interconnectedness of these proverbs around certain key topics.

##### **Key Themes & Ideas:**

#### **1. God's Knowledge and Sovereignty vs. Human Planning (Proverbs 16:1-4):**

- **Human Limitations:** Dr. Konkel starts by emphasizing that even when we carefully plan and organize our thoughts, the outcome is not entirely within our control. He uses the example of spoken communication: "no matter how much time I spend organizing my thoughts...what someone else hears is not what I intended."
- **God's Role:** The proverb "the Lord who gives the answer of the tongue" (16:1) highlights that ultimate success in communication rests with God. Konkel stresses the need to pray and seek God's blessing after we've done our best.
- **Humility in Motivations:** We often have mixed or unconscious motivations for our actions. Konkel notes, "even some of the reasons that I don't know about, God knows about. So, I need to be humble."
- **Trust in God's Plans:** While we should make plans, the success of these plans is dependent on God. Konkel relates to farmers who, despite meticulous planning, experience crop failure. "Trust the Lord with all of your works, and he will establish your plans" (16:3) and this means recognizing our limited control and entrusting God.

- **God's Purpose:** "Every work of the Lord has its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble" (16:4). This doesn't mean that God plans evil, but that God uses everything that happens in the universe to bring about His purpose. Konkel draws parallels to Ecclesiastes 3, which discusses the various times and seasons.

#### 1. **The Importance of Mercy and the Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 16:6):**

- **Loss of Mercy:** Dr. Konkel expresses concern about modern society's "loss of a sense of mercy," especially citing liberal tendencies towards immediate punishment rather than forgiveness. "Liberals just don't know anything about forgiveness. They don't know anything about mercy."
- **Mercy as a Way of Life:** He emphasizes that "We live by mercy" and connects this with the "fear of the Lord," which helps people avoid wrongdoing.

#### 1. **Government and Justice (Proverbs 16:10-15):**

- **Necessity of Government:** Konkel recognizes the necessity of government as a controlling authority to prevent self-destruction, drawing on the example of the flood and Lamech in Genesis. "if there is no government, we utterly enter on a path of self-destruction."
- **Government as a Potential Offender:** The Bible, he observes, has a love-hate relationship with government, portraying it as a necessary evil that is also often the "worst of all human offenders."
- **God's Role in Justice:** He points out that justice and honesty ultimately are from God.
- **Good Government & Good People:** Good government is based on good people and promotes positive behavior, he says. He likens the influence of a good leader to gentle rain as is mentioned in Psalm 72.

#### 1. **Wisdom, Humility, and Consequences (Proverbs 16:16-25):**

- **Straight Road to Security:** He observes that "The straight road is the secure road."
- **Pride Before Fall:** Emphasizes the dangers of pride and value of humility and says that "Pride comes before the fall. Humility with the poor is much to be preferred."
- **Prudence and Discretion:** Acting with prudence leads to prosperity and wisdom leads to good speech. "One who acts prudently will prosper. Discretion is a well of life."

- **The Deception of Human Wisdom:** Konkel highlights the crucial verse (16:25): "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its destiny is the path of death." This emphasizes that our own perceptions of what is right may be very wrong.
- **Work as a Tyrant:** Work can become harmful when it is only for the purpose of fulfilling desires, which he points out are never truly satisfied. "The desire of the worker compels him to work. And his desire continually drives him to it."
- **The Value of Age, Patience, and God's Will (Proverbs 16:31-33): Wisdom of Age:** He contradicts the modern disparagement of growing old, asserting that "Gray hair is found in the way of righteousness." Age should reflect a life of greater understanding.
- **Patience as Power:** Konkel stresses the significance of patience as a strength better than violence. "Patience is better than power. Controlled anger captures the city."
- **God's Decisive Will:** He concludes by reiterating that ultimately the will of the Lord is the decisive factor in all situations.

### **Conclusion:**

Dr. Konkel's analysis of Proverbs 16:1-22:16 reveals a profound understanding of human limitations, the importance of humility and God's sovereignty, and the necessity of seeking justice and mercy while recognizing that God's will always prevails. His lecture provides practical insights into how these ancient proverbs remain relevant for contemporary living, particularly in areas of work, communication, and social justice. He gives both insightful explanations and applications of these sayings.

## 4. Study Guide: Konkler, Proverbs, Session 13, Life with God – Proverbs 16:1-22:16

### Proverbs 16:1-22:16 Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each, based on the provided source material.

1. According to Dr. Konkler, what is the intriguing element of Proverbs 16:1 regarding the organization of thoughts and speech?
2. Why does the text emphasize the importance of humility in relation to our actions and motives (Proverbs 16:2)?
3. How does the example of farmers relate to the idea of trusting the Lord with one's plans (Proverbs 16:3)?
4. Explain the intended meaning of Proverbs 16:4 about the purpose of God in the universe, and what it is NOT saying?
5. According to Dr. Konkler, what has been lost in modern liberal society in regards to justice?
6. How does the Bible portray government, according to the text?
7. What is the significance of the idea that "words well-chosen bring healing" as a motif within Proverbs 16?
8. Explain the meaning of Proverbs 16:25, "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its destiny is the path of death."
9. What is the problem with work when done solely to fulfill desires?
10. What is the significance of "gray hair" mentioned in Proverbs 16:31 according to the text?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The intriguing element is that while a person may carefully organize their thoughts before speaking, it is ultimately the Lord who determines how those words are received and understood. What we say may not be what is heard.

2. The text emphasizes humility because, even if we believe we are doing good things, we don't always know our own motives or the full impact of our actions. God knows the reasons behind all of our motives, whether we know them or not.
3. Farmers can plan for a successful crop, but ultimately depend on factors outside of their control. This is analogous to the idea that even our best-laid plans require God's involvement for success.
4. Proverbs 16:4 isn't saying God plans wickedness but is saying that God uses all the events in the universe for his purposes and that there is a moral order to the universe. God is ultimately in control.
5. The text suggests that modern society has lost its sense of mercy, especially in the area of justice and dealing with those who have made mistakes. It argues for the importance of mercy and forgiveness.
6. The Bible has a mixed view of government, seeing it as necessary for order and to avoid self-destruction, while also acknowledging that the government can become oppressive and a frequent offender in human affairs.
7. The motif of "words well-chosen bring healing" is significant because it underscores the power of thoughtful, wise speech to positively impact individuals and situations.
8. Proverbs 16:25 warns against trusting solely in one's own judgment, as it can lead to actions that seem correct but ultimately result in harm or death.
9. Work becomes a negative force when it is driven only by the desire to fulfill unmet wants. This type of work becomes a tyrant because those desires are never satisfied.
10. Gray hair is a positive attribute that should reflect a life lived righteously and is seen as a symbol of wisdom gained through experience.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following essay questions, drawing from the provided source material and your own critical thinking.

1. Discuss the tension between human planning and divine sovereignty as it is presented in Proverbs 16, using specific examples from the text and the commentary.
2. Analyze Dr. Konkel's comments on the role of mercy in society, considering how this relates to the idea of justice, and how this could inform modern societal issues.
3. Explore the complex perspective on government presented in the text. Analyze the various roles of government and why that is a major motif in this section of Proverbs.
4. Examine the wisdom principles offered in Proverbs 16:1-22:16, focusing on the relationship between words, actions, and their consequences.
5. Critically evaluate the concept of work as presented in the text, exploring how its value changes when motivations shift from intrinsic to extrinsic desires.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Sovereignty (Divine):** The supreme power and authority of God over all things, including human actions and plans.
- **Humility:** A modest view of one's own importance, acknowledging one's limitations and dependence on God.
- **Mercy:** Compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.
- **Justice:** Fairness, righteousness, and moral rightness, especially concerning societal structures and behavior.
- **Prudence:** The ability to exercise sound judgment in practical matters; acting with caution and foresight.
- **Discretion:** The quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information.
- **Motif:** A recurring theme, idea, or element in a work of literature, such as "words well-chosen bring healing."
- **Work (Intrinsic vs Extrinsic):** Intrinsic work is done because one finds the work itself rewarding; extrinsic work is done solely for external rewards.
- **Abomination:** Something that causes disgust or hatred.
- **Righteousness:** Moral uprightness, living in accordance with divine or moral law.

## 5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 13, Life with God – Proverbs 16:1-22:16, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions About Proverbs 16-22:16

1. **How does Proverbs 16:1-3 describe the relationship between human planning and God's will?** These verses highlight the tension between our intentions and God's sovereignty. While we may diligently organize our thoughts and make plans, the ultimate outcome rests with God. Proverbs emphasizes that we should trust God to work through our plans, acknowledging that He can shape our intentions, and that the "answer of the tongue" is from Him. It encourages humility and prayer after our planning, understanding that even our best-laid plans are not fully within our control.
2. **What does Proverbs teach us about understanding our own motives?** Proverbs suggests that our motivations are often complex and not entirely clear to us. Even when we believe we are acting for noble reasons, there may be underlying, less admirable motives at play. The book implies that we should be humble and recognize that God knows us better than we know ourselves, understanding even the reasons we aren't consciously aware of. Therefore, self-reflection should be accompanied by recognition of our fallibility and God's omniscience.
3. **According to the text, what is the purpose of "the wicked" in God's plan?** The passage clarifies that Proverbs is not suggesting that God plans or condones wickedness. Instead, the book emphasizes that God works within a moral order, using all events, including the actions of the wicked, to ultimately fulfill His purpose and intentions. There is a sense that God is weaving all things into a comprehensive and ultimately good tapestry, even those things that seem evil or chaotic.
4. **How does the passage contrast mercy with the liberal approach to justice?** The passage expresses a concern that contemporary society, particularly in its liberal expressions, has lost a sense of mercy and forgiveness. It contrasts this with a need for mercy, suggesting that it is essential to a just society. The passage implies that a purely punitive approach to justice, without room for forgiveness, is ultimately incomplete. The "fear of the Lord" is connected with avoiding wrong and showing mercy.

5. **What is the Bible's perspective on government according to the passage?** The Bible, according to the text, has a complex view of government. On one hand, it recognizes government as necessary to avoid self-destruction and chaos. On the other, the passage notes that government can be, and often is, a source of injustice and corruption. It suggests that good government relies on good people and the recognition that justice and honesty are ultimately rooted in God. The passage emphasizes the need to respect authority, even while acknowledging its flaws.
6. **What does the text say about the value of human wisdom versus God's wisdom?** The passage cautions against relying solely on human understanding. While human wisdom can seem right, it may ultimately lead to destruction. There is a strong emphasis on the idea that God's wisdom is superior, and that we should therefore follow His ways, even when they don't seem immediately sensible to us. "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its destiny is the path of death" encapsulates the warning against self-reliant wisdom.
7. **How does the text describe the relationship between work and desire?** The passage differentiates between work done out of love for the task itself, and work driven by unfulfilled desires. When work is merely a means to fulfill desires, it can become tyrannical because those desires are never ultimately satisfied. The passage implies that work is only beneficial when it is not simply driven by a pursuit of material gain or the fulfillment of endless wants.
8. **What is the significance of aging and "gray hair" according to the text?** Contrary to the modern view of aging as something negative, the text argues that gray hair is associated with wisdom and righteousness. It should reflect a life that has learned from experience and grown closer to God. It suggests that with age should come a better understanding of righteousness and a deeper understanding of the moral order of the world. The passage connects patience, a key virtue associated with age, to power and contrasts it with the kind of force that relies on coercion.