

Dr. August Konkell, Proverbs, Session 14, Sayings of the Wise, Proverbs 22:17-24:22 Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Konkell, Proverbs, Session 14, Sayings of the Wise, Proverbs 22:17-24:22, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. August Konkell's lecture on Proverbs 22:17-24:22 focuses on the "Sayings of the Wise," a collection of 30 proverbs. **Konkell highlights parallels** between this section and the Egyptian "Instruction of Amenemope," noting thematic similarities in many of the maxims. The lecture **explains the proverbs' practical wisdom**, covering topics like honesty, diligence, etiquette, and the dangers of wealth and alcohol. **Konkell uses personal anecdotes** to illustrate the proverbs' relevance to modern life, emphasizing their enduring value. The overall message underscores the importance of applying wisdom to daily life for a flourishing existence.

**2. 12 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Konkell, Session 14 – 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).**



**Konkell_Prov_Session
14.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 14, Sayings of the Wise, Proverbs 22:17-24:22

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Proverbs, Session 14:

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Proverbs 22:17-24:22 – "Sayings of the Wise"

I. Overview

This session of Dr. Konkel's lecture focuses on a distinct section within the Book of Proverbs, identified as the "Sayings of the Wise" (Proverbs 22:17-24:22). This section is treated as a collection of wisdom teachings, with a particular emphasis on practical advice for daily living. Key elements include:

- **A Clearly Defined Section:** This section is marked off in translations, often beginning with a title, "Words of the Wise," which Konkel notes is sometimes embedded within the verse.
- **Exhortation and Motivation:** The section begins with an exhortation to listen and internalize the wisdom offered, likening the process to the way food is internalized and becomes a part of us.
- **Thirty Sayings:** The "Sayings of the Wise" are traditionally understood as comprising 30 distinct pieces of advice or maxims, although they were sometimes referred to as "excellent things" or "former things." This number is largely based on a connection to the Egyptian text, "Instruction of Amenemope."

II. The Connection to the Instruction of Amenemope

- **Historical Context:** The connection to the Instruction of Amenemope, an Egyptian text dating back to Ramses II, was discovered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This connection is significant as it shows a link between Israel and Egypt.
- **Thirty Chapters:** The Instruction of Amenemope has 30 chapters, which strongly corresponds to the understanding of the 30 sayings.
- **Parallels:** Konkel provides a few examples of parallels in the first part of the collection:
 - "Do not steal from the poor just because they are poor."
 - "Beware of angry people."

- "Beware of loan guarantees."
- "Do not move land borders."

III. Key Themes and Ideas from the "Sayings of the Wise"

Konkel highlights several key themes and practical advice found in this section, including:

- **Respect for the Vulnerable:** There's an emphasis on treating all people with respect, regardless of status or vulnerability. "You know, it's strange that when someone is vulnerable or seems to be of a lower status than we are, we seem to think that we don't need to respect them as people."
- **Importance of Property Rights:** The advice about not moving land borders demonstrates the significance of property rights in ancient societies.
- **Diligence in Work:** The example of the scribe highlights the importance of skill and diligence in one's work. "Be diligent in your work and the scribe is a good example. You didn't get to be a scribe without being a really good craftsman."
- **Attention to Etiquette:** The inclusion of etiquette demonstrates the need to be aware of social standards. "The fact of the matter is that to all of us, there are standards of etiquette and they matter. And sometimes we need to pay attention to them."
- **The Fleeting Nature of Wealth:** The transient nature of wealth is emphasized. "Wealth is fleeting, it takes up wings and flies away."
- **Careful Interactions:** The sayings warn against misers, irrational people, and those who are foolish.
- **Adultery:** The lecture includes a note on the betrayal of marriage through adultery. "The adultery of a man betrays his marriage. It not only betrays his marriage but it violates another person's marriage."

IV. The Poem on Drunkenness (Proverbs 23:29-35)

- **Poetic Structure:** This passage is described as a carefully crafted poem illustrating the cycle of drunkenness.
- **Cycle of Addiction:** The poem describes the movement from a hangover to the desire for more wine, illustrating the addictive nature of alcohol abuse. Konkel shares an anecdote of a student's agreement with the portrayal of this cycle: "Man, that's exactly the way that it is!"

- **Experiences with Drunkenness:** Konkel uses personal experiences to explain the text including an interaction with a man who was seeking advice for a hangover and the story of a school teacher who arrived with bruises from a weekend of drinking.
- **Warnings about Alcohol:** The Bible's view of wine is nuanced; while not inherently bad, its potential for abuse is highlighted. Konkel shares an anecdote of a native reservation where a teacher regarded the bible as wicked because of its positive view of wine. "And I guess I just looked a little bit surprised. And he went on a long rant of his frustrations with his class and his students who were always dysfunctional because of inebriation"
- **The Deceptive Nature of Alcohol:** The lecture also notes the deceptive and altering effects of alcohol, describing the feeling of floating at the top of a mast.

V. Conclusion

The lecture concludes by restating that these are pragmatic, daily instructions for the life of the wise person.

VI. Key Takeaways

- The "Sayings of the Wise" in Proverbs 22:17-24:22 offer practical advice for everyday life.
- The connection to the Instruction of Amenemope provides a historical and cultural context for these sayings.
- The lecture emphasizes values like integrity, respect, diligence, and self-control.
- The section on drunkenness serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of alcohol abuse and addiction.
- The "Sayings of the Wise" are lessons that are meant to be internalized in order to control a person's life and body.

This briefing document aims to provide a concise yet thorough overview of the key themes and ideas discussed in Dr. Konkel's lecture excerpt. It can serve as a basis for further discussion and analysis of this important section of the Book of Proverbs.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 14, Sayings of the Wise, Proverbs 22:17-24:22

Proverbs: Sayings of the Wise - Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. What is the main focus of the section of Proverbs covered in this lecture, and what verses does it encompass?
2. How does Dr. Konkel describe the way one should approach the "Words of the Wise," using an analogy?
3. What are the three possible meanings of the Hebrew word related to "thirty" discussed in the lecture?
4. What ancient Egyptian text is related to this section of Proverbs, and what is the connection?
5. Name three specific pieces of advice that appear in both the Proverbs section and the Egyptian text mentioned in the lecture.
6. According to Dr. Konkel, why is the advice not to move land boundaries so important?
7. What example does the lecturer use to illustrate the value of skills and diligence in one's work?
8. How does the lecture illustrate the fleeting nature of wealth?
9. Describe the cycle of drinking, as depicted in the poem in Proverbs 23:29-35, according to Dr. Konkel's explanation.
10. What is Dr. Konkel's concluding thought about the collection of sayings in Proverbs and their intended purpose?

Answer Key

1. The focus of this section of Proverbs is the "Sayings of the Wise," a collection of teachings and advice, encompassing Proverbs 22:17-24:22. This section is clearly marked off as a distinct collection within the larger book.

2. Dr. Konkel describes approaching the "Words of the Wise" as internalizing them, similar to how one internalizes food for energy, so that they become a part of one's life and control one's whole body. The words should shape a person's thoughts and actions.
3. The Hebrew word discussed can mean three, three days ago/formerly, or a chief/one of three top people. The meaning depends on how it is pronounced and used in the context.
4. The ancient Egyptian text related to this section of Proverbs is the Instruction of Amenemope. The connection is that the first section of wise sayings in Proverbs corresponds literarily and sometimes verbally to it.
5. Three pieces of advice that appear in both are: do not steal from the poor, beware of angry people, and beware of loan guarantees. These shared concepts suggest cultural and literary exchange between the two texts.
6. The advice not to move land boundaries is so important because land was the main value in early societies. Moving land boundaries was similar to stealing, undermining the very foundation of property ownership.
7. Dr. Konkel uses the example of Ezra, the diligent scribe, to illustrate the value of skills and diligence in one's work. He describes how scribes had to master incredibly precise and detailed tasks to carry out their duties.
8. The lecture illustrates the fleeting nature of wealth with the story of a man who committed suicide when his fortune disappeared due to market changes. This emphasizes how wealth can vanish quickly and is unreliable for a fulfilling life.
9. The cycle of drinking, according to Dr. Konkel, is portrayed as a downward spiral, moving from a hangover with bruises and a headache to the search for more wine, which perpetuates the cycle of suffering and addiction. This cycle is portrayed as a deliberate poem with an intentional structure.
10. Dr. Konkel concludes that the collection of sayings in Proverbs offers pragmatic, useful daily instruction for the life of the wise person. It provides lessons for living in a good society and helps shape a person's everyday behavior.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the connection between the Proverbs and the Instruction of Amenemope. How does this comparison shed light on the nature of wisdom literature in the ancient world?
2. Analyze the proverbs related to social justice (e.g., not stealing from the poor, not taking advantage of the vulnerable) in Proverbs 22:17-24:22. What do these proverbs suggest about the ethics and values promoted by the wise?
3. Explore the themes of work ethic, skill, and diligence as presented in the sayings of the wise in Proverbs. How do these virtues contribute to the life of a wise person?
4. Examine Dr. Konkel's comments on the nature of wealth, drinking, and other vices mentioned in the Proverbs section. What is the underlying message of these warnings, and how do they relate to a life of wisdom?
5. How do the individual sayings contribute to an overall understanding of what it means to live a wise and virtuous life? How do these sayings function as both instruction and warning?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Sayings of the Wise:** A collection of teachings and advice found in Proverbs 22:17-24:22, distinguished by a clear heading and identifiable themes.
- **Instruction of Amenemope:** An ancient Egyptian text with 30 chapters that shares literary and thematic similarities with the Sayings of the Wise in Proverbs.
- **Masoretes:** Jewish scholars who standardized the text of the Hebrew Bible, including the pronunciation.
- **Deuteronomic Command:** A reference to commands in the Book of Deuteronomy, often regarding law and social justice.
- **Scribe:** A skilled writer and copyist in ancient times, who played a vital role in preserving and transmitting religious and legal texts.
- **Etiquette:** The customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular group.
- **Pragmatic:** Dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical considerations.
- **Ramses II:** An Egyptian pharaoh often associated with the time of Moses and the Israelites in the Book of Exodus.
- **Internalize:** To make (attitudes or behavior) part of one's nature by learning or unconscious assimilation. In the context of this text, it refers to learning and accepting the wisdom of the sayings into one's daily life.
- **Lamp Black:** A black pigment made from soot. Used by ancient scribes as ink.
- **Parchment:** A writing material made from animal skins.

5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 14, Sayings of the Wise, Proverbs 22:17-24:22, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: The Sayings of the Wise in Proverbs (22:17-24:22)

1. **What is the significance of the section titled "Sayings of the Wise" in the book of Proverbs?** This section, specifically Proverbs 22:17-24:22, is a distinct collection of wisdom sayings within the book of Proverbs. It is marked off by a title, "Words of the Wise" and an exhortation to "bend your ear and listen" and to internalize these teachings for life guidance. This section is not just a random collection of proverbs, it is a curated set of instructions meant to shape and control the whole person.
2. **What are the "30 sayings" referenced in this section and where do they originate?** The "30 sayings" are believed to correspond, both literarily and verbally in some instances, to an Egyptian text called the "Instruction of Amenemope." This connection was discovered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and suggests an influence from Egyptian wisdom literature on the book of Proverbs. The Instruction of Amenemope, likely dating back to the time of Ramses II, contains 30 chapters that parallel many of the themes found in this section of Proverbs.
3. **What are some examples of the practical advice found within the "30 sayings"?** The sayings include a wide range of practical advice, for example: do not exploit the poor, beware of angry people, avoid loan guarantees, respect land boundaries, be skillful in your work, be mindful of etiquette, recognize the fleeting nature of wealth, be wary of misers, and avoid engaging with irrational people. These sayings aim to promote responsible, ethical, and wise behavior in daily life.
4. **How does the section address the topic of marriage and adultery?** The section includes a maxim that states the adultery of a man betrays his marriage, and that it also violates another person's marriage. This emphasizes the seriousness of marriage vows and condemns infidelity. The text expresses concern that modern culture does not take marriage vows seriously and is too quick to break them, suggesting that this leads to societal problems.

5. **What does Proverbs say about the use of alcohol and how is it presented within this passage?** Proverbs acknowledges that wine can be a good thing, as it was a common beverage in that time. However, it also warns against the dangers of drunkenness. Proverbs 23:29-35 is presented as a carefully crafted poem describing the downward spiral of the drinker, from headaches and bruises to the deceptive allure of wine and the cycle of seeking more. The text strongly cautions against excessive drinking and the problems it brings.
6. **Why did the teacher on the Native reservation believe the Bible was a wicked book?** The teacher viewed the Bible negatively because he believed it had too many good things to say about wine, and he saw the negative impacts of alcohol abuse in his community. His experiences with alcohol-related dysfunction among his students led him to see the positive portrayal of wine in the Bible as problematic. This highlights how different experiences and cultural contexts can shape the way scripture is interpreted.
7. **What is the significance of the passage about "lingering over the wine" in Proverbs?** The passage warns against "lingering over the wine" because it's associated with the negative consequences of excessive drinking: moans, groans, bruises, strife, and deception. The language and imagery used in the passage (sparkling wine, swaying world, etc) show how easily someone can become trapped in the cycle of drunkenness. It emphasizes that the initial pleasure is fleeting and ultimately leads to pain and regret.
8. **What is the overall aim of these "Sayings of the Wise"?** The "Sayings of the Wise" aim to provide pragmatic, useful, and daily instruction for living a wise life within a functioning society. They offer concrete guidance on various aspects of life, from social interactions and financial responsibility to personal conduct and the avoidance of harmful behaviors. The goal is for the reader to internalize this wisdom so that it shapes and directs their thoughts and actions.