

Dr. August Konkell, Proverbs, Session 17, Instructions for a Civilized Life, Proverbs 27:23-29:27 Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Konkell, Proverbs, Session 17, Instructions for a Civilized Life, Proverbs 27:23-29:27, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. August Konkell's lecture on Proverbs 27:23-29 and chapters 28-29 emphasizes the **interconnection between good governance and a flourishing society**. He argues that God provides for our basic needs, but a righteous society requires adherence to divine values, **justice**, and **integrity**. Konkell highlights the recurring theme of the contrast between righteous and wicked rule, showcasing how the latter leads to societal decay and emphasizes the importance of **correction and discipline**, both within families and the broader community, to foster a just and peaceful society. The lecture concludes by stressing the importance of individual righteousness in a world filled with conflict and imperfection.

2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, Session 17 – 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
17.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 17, Instructions for a Civilized Life, Proverbs 27:23-29:27

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. August Konkell's Session 17 on Proverbs, focusing on chapters 27:23-29:27:

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkell on Proverbs 27:23-29:27

Overview

Dr. Konkell's session examines the final section of the Proverbs collection attributed to the men of Hezekiah's court, focusing on the practicalities of a good society and civilized life. He introduces the section with Proverbs 27:23-27, which emphasizes God's provision for our basic needs and the importance of daily dependence on Him. Chapters 28 and 29 are then presented as exploring the contrast between good and wicked rule, and the impact of each on a society. The overall message is a call for righteousness, justice, and wise living.

Key Themes and Ideas

1. God's Provision and Daily Dependence:

- Proverbs 27:23-27 is presented as a unique introduction to the following chapters, focusing on the essential provisions for life, primarily food and clothing which come from God.
- These basic necessities are represented by tending flocks, highlighting the importance of caring for God's provisions.
- "We can't store up in advance enough that's going to be our supply. So, it's a reminder that we really trust God day by day, moment by moment, for our health, for those things that we need."
- This underscores the need for constant reliance on God, rather than focusing on solely on self-reliance and material accumulation.
- "God does provide for our future, because God does keep sending the green grass, and he does keep providing for the life of the sheep and the goats."
- Caring for the provisions well leads to the well-being of the household

1. The Contrast Between Good and Bad Rule:

- The core theme of chapters 28 and 29 is the "good rule, or the ruin of society," highlighting the stark difference between the effects of righteous and wicked leadership.
- Good, righteous rule leads to "splendor," "bounty," "happiness," and "order," enabling good people to thrive.
- "There is a splendor for the rule of righteousness, but the rule of the wicked will obscure the good people that are in it."
- Conversely, wicked rule obscures good people, destroys them, brings crime, and leads to the destruction of society.
- "The righteous rule enables good people, but wicked rule destroys good people."
- The importance of understanding and upholding God's values (the Torah) is essential for creating a just and stable society.

1. Values of the Torah and Their Importance:

- Konkel emphasizes several key values derived from the Torah, including:
- Security
- Contending for what is right
- Understanding justice
- Integrity over wealth
- Honor for parents
- Trust in God to right wrongs
- These values are presented as the foundation of a good society and are necessary for distinguishing right from wrong, especially concerning justice.

1. Dangers of Greed and Self-Deception:

- Greed is identified as "one of the greatest traps in life," which is hard to recognize and avoid because of our desire for more.
- "I'd like to always think that I'm satisfied with what I have. And yet what I always find out about myself is it would be just a little bit better if I had a little bit more."

- The session highlights that our feelings of injustice when losing things are a subtle manifestation of greed.
- The "self-deception of riches" leads to a false sense of security.
- Mercy is presented as an essential counter to this.

1. **Wisdom for Correction and Justice (Chapter 29):**

- This section stresses the importance of accepting correction, even when difficult.
- Justice is essential to support a community, while deceit destroys it.
- "Justice supports a community, whereas deceit... destroys it."
- Wise people seek peace, and are able to settle with fools; fools are angry and scornful.
- Leaders must perceive deceit and not be swayed by lies. They must be wary of those who tell them "their picture", not the truth.
- "And rulers who don't perceive these things end up believing those who tell you things that aren't true."
- People of power and means are not necessarily more trustworthy or virtuous.
- Correction, sometimes even coercive, is needed within communities and by parents. Physical coercion is not ruled out but needs to be appropriate to the context and severity of an offense.
- Failing to correct issues, often leads to greater external intervention.
- Prophecy and Torah (God's instructions) are presented as guides for right living.
- Humility and trust bring life, while a lack of discipline brings trouble.

1. **Attitude and Choice:**

- The session concludes that choices aren't merely about actions but about a person's attitude, values, and what they deem important.
- The righteous and wicked have contrasting views and cannot coexist peacefully.
- Righteous living is a beacon, exposing the wickedness of others.

Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel emphasizes the importance of daily reliance on God's provision, the necessity of righteous leadership, and the dangers of greed and self-deception. He encourages listeners to strive for justice, humility, and wisdom, while being aware that we live in conflicted societies, where the righteous will need to show their true natures in order to bring peace to others. This session acts as a call to action for believers to live intentionally and righteously within their communities in order to promote peace and life.

4. Study Guide: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 17, Instructions for a Civilized Life, Proverbs 27:23-29:27

Proverbs: Instructions for a Civilized Life - Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the significance of Proverbs 27:23-27 in relation to the following chapters (28 & 29)?
2. According to Dr. Konkell, what are the two essential things that humans need, and how are they provided?
3. What is the primary theme or antithesis that Dr. Konkell identifies in Proverbs 28 and 29?
4. What are some of the values of the Torah emphasized in Proverbs 28 and 29?
5. What is one of the "greatest traps in life" according to Dr. Konkell and how is it described in this section of Proverbs?
6. What point does Dr. Konkell make about the importance of mercy?
7. According to Dr. Konkell, how does justice support a community?
8. What does Dr. Konkell say about the challenges and responsibilities of a ruler?
9. How does Deuteronomy provide guidance for parents who cannot control a recalcitrant child, according to Dr. Konkell?
10. In this section, what is the difference between the righteous and the wicked when it comes to their attitude?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Proverbs 27:23-27 serves as an introduction to chapters 28 and 29, focusing on God's provision for the necessities of life. It lays the groundwork for a discussion on good governance and a civilized society by highlighting the importance of trusting in God for our daily needs.
2. The two essential things are food and clothes, provided by sheep and other livestock. God provides for these in ordinary ways, like the growth of grass for animals to graze upon.

3. The primary theme is the contrast between the good rule of the righteous and the ruin caused by the wicked. This antithesis highlights how leadership impacts the well-being of society.
4. Some of the values include security, contending for the right, understanding justice, integrity over wealth, honoring parents, and trusting in God to right wrongs. These form the basis for a healthy society.
5. Greed is described as a trap that is hard to recognize and escape, leading individuals to always want a little more. It is a self-deceptive pursuit and results in a distorted sense of justice.
6. Mercy provides an opportunity for forgiveness when people make mistakes, it's a necessary and valuable component of a healthy society because all are prone to wrongdoing.
7. Justice supports a community by upholding the rights of the poor and working to prevent deceit. It creates a foundation of trust and equity within a society.
8. Rulers must be perceptive, cautious about who they trust and the advice they receive, and need to be wary of those who present a biased perspective. A good ruler is necessary for the well-being of society and the establishment of justice.
9. Deuteronomy provides for community intervention, allowing parents to take a recalcitrant child before the community to have boundaries set, using coercion if needed. This highlights that the care and control of children is not solely a parental concern.
10. The righteous and wicked differ in their attitudes and values, rather than just behavior. The righteous value justice and integrity, while the wicked have a different system of what's important to them, therefore the actions that flow from their differing values will be in opposition.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of the recurring motif of "good rule vs. ruin" in Proverbs 28 and 29, and discuss how this relates to the importance of leadership and community values.
2. Explore the role of wisdom in both individual and community life, according to the teachings of Proverbs 28 and 29 as presented by Dr. Konkel.
3. Discuss the ways in which the Proverbs address the theme of justice, as it relates to both individual behavior and the structures of society.
4. Examine how the Proverbs presented by Dr. Konkel address the issues of wealth and poverty, and how these issues can create a source of conflict within society.
5. Consider how Dr. Konkel's interpretation of the proverbs applies to contemporary society, and discuss challenges associated with implementing these values in a modern context.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Torah:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). In this context, it represents divine revelation and God's teaching on moral and societal values.
- **Antithesis:** A contrast or opposition between two things. In this case, the contrast between the rule of the righteous and the rule of the wicked.
- **Recalcitrant:** Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline.
- **Coercion:** The practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.
- **Motif:** A recurring element, idea, or theme in an artistic or literary work. In the Proverbs, this includes justice, wisdom, and the impact of rulers on a society.
- **Deceit:** The action or practice of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth.
- **Integrity:** The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.
- **Mercy:** Compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is in one's power to punish or harm.

5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 17, Instructions for a Civilized Life, Proverbs 27:23-29:27, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions About Proverbs 27-29:

1. **What is the significance of Proverbs 27:23-27, and how does it relate to the following chapters (28 and 29)?**
 - Proverbs 27:23-27, with its emphasis on tending flocks and the provision of necessities like food and clothes, serves as an introduction to the themes of chapters 28 and 29. These verses highlight that God provides for our needs through ordinary means, emphasizing trust in His daily provision. This contrasts with the following chapters that discuss the societal impact of good and bad governance, suggesting that a stable society rests upon both God's provisions and human actions guided by wisdom. This section serves as a reminder to be grateful for God's provisions but also to be responsible in how they are used.
1. **What is the main theme running through Proverbs 28 and 29?**
 - The overarching theme of Proverbs 28 and 29 is the contrast between "good rule and the ruin of society." This is presented as a recurring motif, highlighting the impact of righteous versus wicked leadership. Good rule enables good people, justice, and prosperity, while wicked rule leads to the destruction of good people, crime, and societal decay. These chapters emphasize that a society's moral and social health is deeply influenced by the character of its leaders.
1. **According to these chapters in Proverbs, what are some of the core values essential for a good society?**
 - Several key values are identified as crucial for a good society, including: adherence to the Torah (divine teaching), justice, integrity over wealth, honor for parents, trust in God's ability to right wrongs, and mercy and forgiveness. These values are not just individual virtues, but form the foundation of a healthy, functioning community. The text emphasizes that these values allow one to discern right and wrong actions which is necessary for healthy governance.

1. What dangers or pitfalls are highlighted in these Proverbs?

- The proverbs highlight several dangers that can ruin an individual and society. These include greed (an insatiable desire for more), self-deception about wealth (thinking riches bring security), neglecting mercy and forgiveness, and the abuse of others especially when perpetrated by those who themselves are poor and vulnerable. It also speaks against the pretense of righteousness and those who use their position for favoritism. These pitfalls show the destructive force of self-interest when it is allowed to take root.

1. How do these Proverbs discuss correction, and why is it important?

- The Proverbs emphasize that correction, even when harsh or coercive, is sometimes necessary for the good of an individual and community. It suggests that if parents fail to provide correction at home, the state will eventually do it through the justice system. The lack of discipline is seen as a cause of trouble and chaos. While physical correction may be appropriate in some circumstances, the overall emphasis is on the necessity of setting boundaries and guiding people toward righteousness, emphasizing that correction should align with age and offense.

1. What is said about the role and responsibilities of leaders or rulers in these chapters of Proverbs?

- These chapters emphasize the immense importance of leadership in society. They state that good rulers are essential for a community to thrive and prosper while wicked rulers bring about destruction and crime. Good rulers are described as just, merciful, and aware of deceit. They should not favor the wealthy or powerful and need to be able to make right and just decisions for the good of society. The text highlights the importance of being wise and discerning in leadership so that they are not deceived by lies and flattery.

1. How does the concept of "the fear of the powerful" fit within the themes of Proverbs 28 and 29?

- The "fear of the powerful" is described as a snare, indicating that people should not be overly influenced or intimidated by those who hold high positions or have wealth. This ties into the theme that societal health does not come through deference to power, but through adherence to principles of justice and righteousness, which at times must challenge the status quo. It suggests that a person's value is not determined by their means or authority.

1. **What does the text suggest is the fundamental difference between the righteous and the wicked?**
 - The core difference between the righteous and the wicked goes beyond mere behavior to encompass their attitudes, values, and ways of observing and interpreting the world. The wicked are shown to be those who cannot tolerate and do not like those who live righteously because it reveals their own bad conduct. The righteous, on the other hand, are guided by an understanding of justice, mercy, and God's teachings which shape their perspective and actions and how they interact with others. Ultimately the choice is an attitude which shapes perspective and actions.