



WHAT WILL YOU SEE WHEN YOU READ THE PROVERBS... **THE BOOK OF PROVERBS...**

Section 1 – Author: King Solomon (Proverbs 1:1 – 9:18)

Purpose: “Perhaps written for a generation that had become estranged from its cultural and religious roots, it sets out to inculcate human and religious values.”

Section 2 – Author: King Solomon (Proverbs 10:1 – 22:16)

Purpose: Suggests how to best live in this world

Addresses of subjects such as: the tongue, social awareness, and a continued respect/awe for and of God’s mysterious presence in the world

Section 3 – Author: “words of the wise” (Proverbs 22:17 – 24:22)

Purpose: Warnings, counsels, and appeals to the reader’s moral sense

Section 4 – Authors: “these also are sayings of the wise” (Proverbs 24:23-34)

Purpose: Social awareness...practical aspects of justice...and a portrait of one who neglects his moral duties (24:30-34)

Section 5 – Author: “the proverbs of Solomon that the officials of King Hezekiah of Judah copied” (Proverbs 2:1-29:27)

Purpose: Deals with structure of society – government administration, social responsibility and human conduct

4 Appendices (Proverbs 30:1 – 31:31)

1. Essay on skepticism (Proverbs 30:1 -9)
2. The mysterious dimensions of life (Proverbs 30:10 – 33)
3. Manual for rulers – the queen mother’s teaching – moral rather than administrative (Proverbs 31:1-9)
4. Portrait of an ideal Woman (Proverbs 31:10 – 31)

Metzger, Bruce M. and Coogan, Michael D. eds. (“Proverbs, The Book of.” Dermot Cox, O.F.M. pgs. 625-626). Oxford Guide to the Bible. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.



The Proverbs are written in various forms such as:

Poetic parallelism:

Synonymous parallelism (Prov. 1:8)

Antithetic parallelism (Prov. 3:33)

Synthetic parallelism (Prov. 3:12)

Instructions – directed to “my son” or “my sons” (Prov. 2:1-22)

Wisdom speeches (Prov. 1:20-33)

Comparisons (Prov. 26:3)

Numerical sayings (Prov. 30:18)

Admonitions (where the mood is imperative) (Prov. 3:1b-2)

Prohibitions (Prov. 1:15-16)

Rhetorical Questions (Prov. 6:27)

Calls to Attention (Prov. 5:1)

Allegories or extended metaphors (Prov. 5:15-23)

Acrostic (Prov. 31:10-31)

Prepared by Anissa Otto Hamlin for Homemakers By Choice, January 2008