

Words of Wisdom (Part 2)

Introduction

Proverbs 10vs1-22vs16 makes up the second major section of Proverbs. Entitled simply *the proverbs of Solomon*, these chapters consist of short, pithy sayings which typically set 2 things in a *parallel relationship* with each other. In this way the reader is invited to draw comparisons or think about possible connections between related things. Thus, for example, Proverbs 10vs4 invites us to think about the connection between laziness and poverty, hard work and wealth. Four main parallelisms are used – (a) antithetical parallelism where line A and line B state opposite positions e.g. Proverbs 11vs3; (b) synonymous parallelism where line A and line B say the same thing in different words e.g. Proverbs 11vs25; (c) synthetic parallelism where line B develops the thought of line A, either positively or negatively e.g. Proverbs 11vs25,29. For the purposes of this study we will only look at Proverbs 10 - 13. I do however recommend that you read the entire section (preferably at a sitting) to get a feel for the material as a whole. You may also want to summarise the material thematically e.g. proverbs about speech or wealth or work or summarise the material in terms of the main characterisations e.g. the fool or the righteous or the poor.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying.

Read: Proverbs 10vs1-13vs25.

Note: The features of these proverbs as described above

Answer the following questions:

1. What do we learn from these chapters about wisdom, hard work and wealth? What is the link between laziness and poverty? Is this always true? What exceptions can you think of?

