

Sharing Precept Wisdom POST YOUR PROVERB if you have not done so.

Log on to MyLutherNet, then to OT3114 and on to 3116, then to Full Class Discussion, then to Forums, and to Chosen Proverb. While you are there, check out what else you can post!!

I. How Does A Proverb Convey Meaning? Poetically

A. Through Biblical Parallelism

B. With Imagery

1. Nature and natural elements - animals, agriculture, wind, fire
2. Parts of the body - mouth, lips, tongue, heart (לֵב), bowels
3. Invocation of the divine

II. How Does A Proverb Convey Meaning? Formally

A. Variety of proverbial forms

1. Saying (10:15; 11:24)
2. Didactic saying (14:31)
3. Aphorism
4. Admonition (16:3)
5. Similitude (25:14)
6. The “better than” proverb (15:16-17; 17:12)
7. The “Happy is...” (“blessed is”) proverb -- 'ashre (אֲשֶׁר־י; μακάριος) (28:14)
8. Numerical Sayings (30:18-19; 24-28)
9. Parables and descriptions - (24:30-34; 23:29-35)
10. The Wisdom Speech (1:20-33; 8; 9:1-6)
11. The words of Agur (30:1-6)
12. אִשָּׁה־חַיִל 'Isshah Hayil - "The Woman of Worth" (31:10-31)

B. Form vs. content

1. Imperative/Indicative (24:13; 12:18)
2. Descriptive/Prescriptive (27:7)

C. Translating v^e, וְ -- a.k.a. watch your “ands,” “ors,” and “buts”

D. Purpose and Context of a proverb -- Proverbs in Our Lives

III. How Does A Proverb Convey Meaning? Contextually

A. Through Proximity - Canonical Context (11:9-12; 11:24-28)

Proverbs 11:9-12

9 בְּפֹה חֲנֹף יִשְׁחַת רֵעֵהוּ וּבִדְעַת צְדִיקִים יִחַלְצוּ:⁹
 10 בְּטוֹב צְדִיקִים תִּעְלֶז קְרִיָּה וּבְאִבְדַּר רָשָׁעִים רָנָה:¹⁰
 11 בְּבִרְכַּת יִשְׁרָיִם תִּרוּם קִרְתָּ וּבְפִי רָשָׁעִים תִּהְרָס:¹¹
 12 בְּזִלְרֵעָהוּ חָסַר־לֵב וְאִישׁ תְּבוּנֹת יַחֲרִישׁ:¹²

9 With their *mouths* the godless would destroy their neighbors,
 but by knowledge the **righteous** are delivered.

10 When it goes well with the **righteous**, the city rejoices;
 and when the **wicked** perish, there is *jubilation*.

11 By the blessing of the upright a city is *exalted*,
 but it is overthrown by the *mouth* of the **wicked**.

12 Whoever *belittles* another lacks sense, but an intelligent person remains *silent*.

B. Artfully - Catchword (15:13-15)

Proverbs 15:13-15

לב שמח ייטב פנים ובעצבת לב רוח נכאה: ¹³
לב נבון יבקש דעת ופי כסילים ירעה אולת: ¹⁴
כל ימי עני רעים וטוב לב משתה תמיד: ¹⁵

13 A glad **heart** makes a *cheerful* countenance,
but by sorrow of **heart** the spirit is broken.

14 The **mind (heart)** of one who has understanding seeks knowledge,
but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

15 All the days of the poor are hard, but a *cheerful heart* has a continual feast.

C. By Contrast (26:4-5; 14:20-21) – asking the hermeneutical question.

Proverbs 26:4-5

אל תען כסיל כאולתו פן תשוה לו גם אתה: ⁴
ענה כסיל כאולתו פן יהיה חכם בעיניו: ⁵

4 Do not answer fools according to their folly, or you will be a fool yourself.

5 Answer fools according to their folly, or they will be wise in their own eyes.

Proverbs 14:20-21

20 The poor are disliked even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.

21 Those who despise their neighbors are sinners,
but happy are those who are kind to the poor.

D. With Common Imagery:

1. Tree of life - 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4; (12:12)
2. Fountain of life - 10:11; 13:14; 14:27; 16:22; (18:4; 25:26).
3. Common contrasting pairs: wise/fool; rich/poor; wicked/righteous; life/death

E. With Common Subject Matter.

1. King: 25:1-7
2. Creation: 22:2; 14:31; 17:5; 29:13; 20:12
3. Wealth and Poverty; Rich and Poor: 10:15; 11:4; 13:7-8; 14:20-21; 16:8; 18:11, 23;
19:1,4,7,17; 22:2,7,22; 28:6,11 (Question: Is there a social ethic to proverbs?)

4. Women: 11:22; 19:13; 21:9,19; 22:14; (25:24); 27:15-16
a. The good wife 12:4; 18:22; 31:10ff.
b. The nature of disagreement

11:22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without good sense.
19:13 A stupid child is ruin to a father,
and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.
21:9; 25:24 It is better to live in a corner of the housetop
than in a house shared with a contentious wife.
21:19 It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and fretful wife.
22:14 The mouth of a loose woman is a deep pit;
he with whom the LORD is angry falls into it.
27:15-16 A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike;
to restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in the right hand.
12:4 A good wife is the crown of her husband,
but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.
18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

5. Corporeal punishment: 13:24; 19:18,25; 23:13-14; 26:3; 29:15
a. The nature of disagreement
b. The question of authority: law vs. paradigm

13:24 Those who spare the rod hate their children,
but those who love them are diligent to discipline them.
19:18 Discipline your children while there is hope;
do not set your heart on their destruction.
19:25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence;
reprove the intelligent, and they will gain knowledge.
23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from your children;
if you beat them with a rod, they will not die.
If you beat them with the rod, you will save their lives from Sheol.
26:3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,
and a rod for the back of fools.
29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom,
but a mother is disgraced by a neglected child.