

Rev. White's reading notes
based on synthetic reading of the book

Proverbs

Notes from proverbs

Synthetic reading 160929

160928

A synthetic reading of Proverbs emphasizes the primacy, preference, & profit of wisdom. The general idea is that the life of any person can have regal & royal implications or impact by living a life of wisdom. The wisdom proverbs speaks of is to be preferred over wealth, women, prosperity, property, or popularity. Wisdom, Proverbs 8 says, accompanied God in the creation of all creation. It is wisdom that will give a person's life power and prominence and purpose.

The 1st 9 chapters are more narrative in genre. The writer writes uses groups of verses to address particular topics or to follow a thematic thread throughout each of these chapters. That style shifts dramatically with the rest of the Proverbs chapters. Proverbs 10 through 31 contains hundreds and hundreds of verses with the pithy sayings we often associate with proverbial style. Also, while there are places where a couple of verses and sometimes groups of verses speak to a single topic or idea, the majority of these proverbs shift from one idea to another without apparent rhyme or reason.

It's also helpful to know that like the poetic framework of the Psalms, Proverb writers also use the Hebrew poetic device called Parallelisms of which there are 3 main types: 1) synonymous parallelisms, where the meaning of the 1st line is repeated in the 2nd line using different words; 2) antithetical parallelisms, where the meaning in the 1st line is restated in reverse in the 2nd line; and 3) synthetic parallelisms, where the meaning in the 1st line is completed or expanded on in 2nd line.