

Lecture 16 – Wisdom in the OT and the ANE, I

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30*

Key Terms

Wisdom, prudential, speculative

Lecture Objectives

- *Identify the major sources of wisdom in the Old Testament and Ancient Near East.
- *Identify and explain the two types of wisdom in the Bible.
- *Provide a definition for biblical wisdom.

Preliminary Questions

- *How would you define “wisdom?” In what ways is Biblical wisdom like non-Biblical wisdom? In what ways is it different?
- *How are wisdom and knowledge related to one another? Is there true knowledge in “the world?” Why or why not? Is there true wisdom in the “the world?” Why or why not?

Dr. Long answers questions about imprecatory psalms, vengeance issue, and anticipated eschatology.

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I. Wisdom in the OT and the ANE

A. Corpus

1. Biblical
2. Apocryphal

See Appendix C, in Kidner

B. Character

1. Prudential

- a. Webster’s 2 definitions:
- b. Short, pithy sayings
 - 1) John Mark Thompson, The Form and Function of Proverbs in Ancient Israel
- c. Aphorism (another word for proverb) *Illustration: African proverbs*
 - 1) Characteristics of:
 - a) Sometimes we have to struggle to figure out what Proverbs mean
 - b) Concreteness *ex. Pr. 11:22*
 - c) Kidner pp. 131, Appendix A
 - d) Brevity

2. Speculative

- a. Webster: “contemplate without sufficient information” *ex. Job, Ecclesiastes*

3. Summary Definition

- a. Wisdom is.....

Should these two types of wisdom be applied differently? If so, in what ways?