The Mechanics of Proverbs
Paul Twiss - January 10, 2018

1. **Structure**

    a. Aim to develop a 'roadmap' for each book of the Bible.
    b. This includes understanding the structure.

    For Proverbs:

    7 collections of sayings (1:1; 10:1; 22:17; 24:23; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1)

    2 'halves' –

    1-9:

    10-31:

    A progression –

    Application:

2. **Genre**

    What is a proverb?

    What is wisdom?

    The Law

    Davidic King

    What is the fear of the Lord?

    Application:

3.   Interpretation

1. Examine the relationship between line 1 and line 2.

    Generally:

    Line 2 is synonymous with line 1 (reiterates)

    Line 2 is antithetical to line 1 (contrasts)

    Line 2 is synthetic with line 1 (expands)

These relationships are fairly straightforward. Aim to press into them and consider more specifically the relationship.

2. Examine the immediate context of the proverb

    The nature of Hebrew poetry –

    The nature of life –

    Prov 12:1-7

3. Read the whole of Proverbs

4. Proverbs aren't probabilities

4.   Application

OT texts: pre-cross interpretation, post-cross application.

1. Christ has come –

2. Wisdom without salvation is worthless –

Suggested Structure to Proverbs
Adapted from Bruce K. Waltke, *The Book of Proverbs*, NICOT
(Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005)

Collection 1: Prologue (1:1-9:18)

Title and Preamble (1:1-7)
Lecture 1: Exhortation to Listen and Reject the Gang's Invitation (1:8-19)
First Interlude: Wisdom's Rebuke of the Gullible (1:20-33)
Lecture 2: Safeguard against the Wicked (2:1-22)
Lecture 3: Lord's Promises and Son's Obligations (3:1-12)
Lecture 4: The Value of Wisdom (3:13-35)
Lecture 5: Get the Family Heritage (4:1-9)
Lecture 6: Stay Off the Wrong Way (4:10-19)
Lecture 7: Don't Swerve from the Right Way (4:20-27)
Lecture 8: Folly of Adultery, Wisdom of Marriage (5:1-23)
Appendix: Three Inferior Types of Men (6:1-19)
Lecture 9: The High Price of an Unchaste Wife (6:20-35)
Lecture 10: The Unchaste Wife's Seductive Tactics (7:1-27)
Second Interlude: Wisdom's Self-Praise to the Gullible (8:1-36)
Epilogue: Rival Banquets of Wisdom and Folly (9:1-18)

Collection 2: Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)

The Righteous vs the Wicked (10:1-15:29)

Wealth and Speech (10:1b-16)
Deeds and Destinies (10:17-11:31)
Speech and Deeds (12:1-28)

Good Teaching, Ethics and Living (13:1-25)
Living in Wisdom (14:1-32)
Upholding Righteousness with a Gentle Tongue (14:33-15:4)

The Importance of Instruction (15:5-19)
Consequences of Righteousness and Wickedness (15:20-29)

The Lord and His King (15:30-22:22)

The Dance Between Humanity, the Lord, and His King (15:30-16:15)
Wise and Foolish Speech (16:16-30)
The Splendid Crown of Old Age through Righteousness (16:31-17:6)
A Collection of Proverbs on Fools (17:7-28)
The Speech of Fools vs the Speech of the Wise (18:1-21)
Wealth and Wisdom in the Court and in the Home (18:22-19:23)
The Pedagogue and Punishment of Fools (19:23-20:11)
Speech and Commerce (20:12-19)
Trusting the Lord to Avenge Wrongs through His King (20:20-28)
Doing Righteousness and Justice (20:29-21:31)
Wealth and Moral Instruction (22:1-16)

Collection 3: Thirty Sayings of the Wise (22:17-24:22)

Saying 1 (22:17-21)
A Decalogue of Sayings about Wealth (22:22-23:11)
An Obedient Son (23:12-24:12)
Strength in Distress (24:3-12)
Prohibitions against Involvement with the Wicked (24:13-22)

Collection 4: Further Sayings of the Wise (24:23-34)

Judging at Court, Correct Speaking, Positive Behavior at Work,
Wrong Speaking, Negative Behavior at Work

Collection 5: Proverbs of Solomon (25:1-29:27)

The Court Hierarchy (25:2-27)
Seven Perverted Types of Humanity (25:28-26:28)
About Friends and Friendship (27:1-22)
Torah and Wealth (28:1-11)
God and Wealth (28:12-27)

Collection 6: The Sayings of Agur Son of Jakeh (30:1-33)

Renouncing Greed (30:10-16)
The Wisdom of Living within Boundaries (30:17-31)
Don't Upset Divine Order (30:32-33)

Collection 7: The Sayings of Lemuel (31:1-31)

The Noble King (31:2-9)
The Valiant Wife (31:10-31)