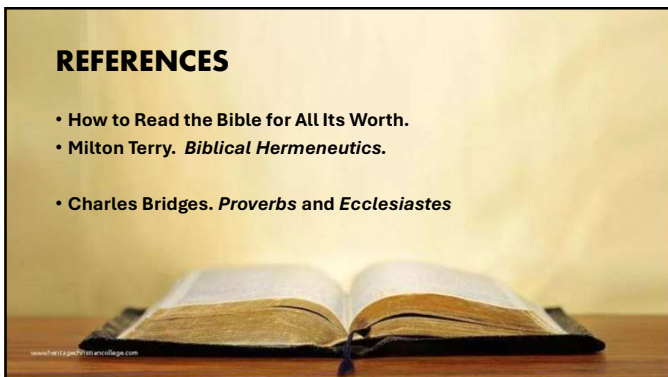


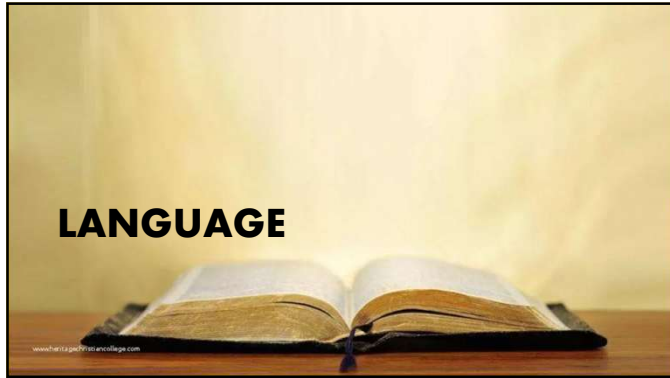
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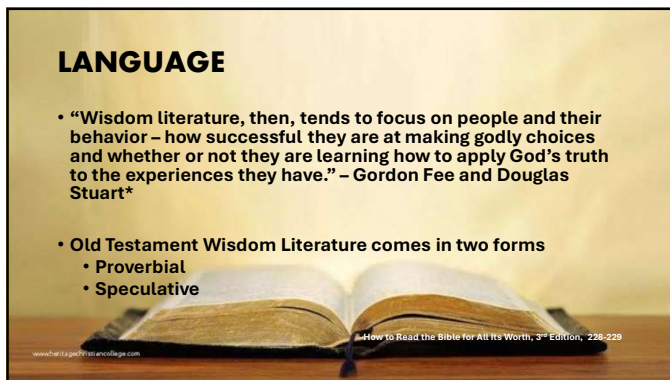
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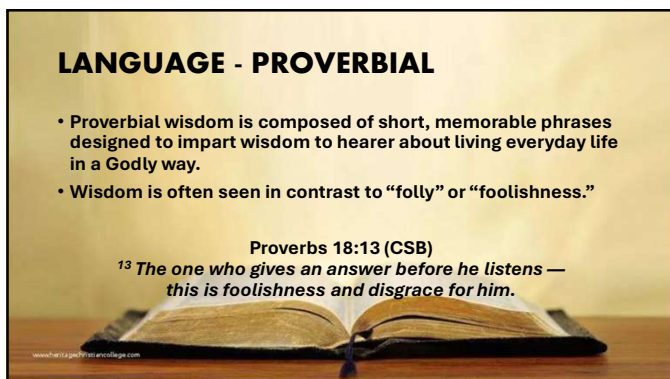
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6

LANGUAGE - PROVERBIAL

- Proverbs use a variety of linguistic features: parallelism, figures of speech, imagery, simile and metaphor, and even acrostics.
- They are written to be memorable and widely applicable. They are not meant to be taken as absolute statements. They are guidelines for godly living, not promises.



7

LANGUAGE - SPECULATIVE

- Speculative wisdom is found in Job and Ecclesiastes.
- It is a narrative. Job and Ecclesiastes take the reader on a journey to discover deeper truths about life and godliness.
- Like Old Testament Narrative not every person or piece of dialogue is meant to be a positive model, very often it is the opposite.



8

OCCASION



9

OCCASION

- Unlike other portions of Scripture, the occasion is not important in the same way. In fact, the occasion may be unclear.
- It is the purpose that matters.
- These books are meant to provide Godly wisdom to men and women throughout the ages.
- However, there are cultural issues that will affect our understanding and application.

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OCCASION

- Cultural distance can keep the modern reader from fully understanding a proverb.

Proverbs 25:24 (ESV)

²⁴ It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

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OCCASION

Proverbs 25:24 (ESV)

²⁴ It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

- Similar to Proverbs 21:9
- “The corner of a housetop” sounds extremely harsh. With our modern pitch roofs, this seems almost impossible.

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OCCASION

Proverbs 25:24 (ESV)

²⁴ It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

- Houses had flat roofs. There were often used at night.
- The point remains: it is difficult to live with a quarrelsome spouse.

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OCCASION

"In the spacious homes in the East several families lived together in society. A brawling woman would be a grievous disturbance to the little community; and a peaceable man would prefer the corner of a housetop, exposed to all the inconveniences of wind and weather; to the ample accommodation of a wise house in the atmosphere of contention." – Charles Bridges

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OUTSIDE

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OUTSIDE

- Understanding the work as a whole will keep the interpreter from making grave mistakes with speculative wisdom.
- Job and Ecclesiastes can only be understood completely when the narrative is followed. They have a start point. There is a journey. There are conclusions where the true wisdom is found.



16

OUTSIDE

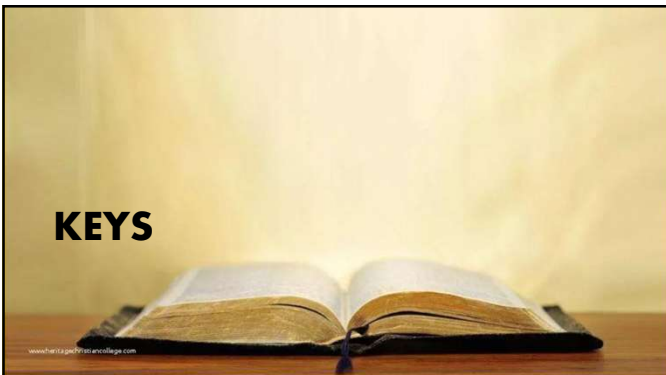
- In the book of Proverbs, many verses and section will address the same issue in a different way. Cross references can help.
- Sometimes, Proverbs can seem contradictory.

Proverbs 26:4-5
⁴ Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
 Lest you also be like him.
⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly,
 Lest he be wise in his own eyes.



17

KEYS



18

KEYS

- Proverbs are not legal guidelines.
- Keep track of who is speaking. This will give you clues on how to look at what they say.

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EXAMPLE FROM PROVERBS

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PROVERBS 29:18

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish:
but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;
But happy is he who keeps the law.

Proverbs 29:18 (LSB)


¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people are out of control,
But how blessed is he who keeps the law.

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PROVERBS 29: 18


- There two linguistic issues: vision/prophecy and perish/cast off restraint.
- Vision/Prophecy: dream, revelation, or oracle: — vision.
- Perish/ Cast off Restraint: be unrestrained .
- How should we understand this proverb?



22

PROVERBS 29: 18

- *"The visions - as appear from the constrast - is Divine instruction. No greater calamity can there be than the removal of vision. A famine affecting the body is light judgment compared to the famine of hearing words from the Lord." - edited from Charles Bridges.*
- *When none can edify, they will perish. They become thralls and captives of Satan. They are carried away as prey into hell, because they have not the knowledge of God.- edited from Charles Bridges*




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PROVERBS 29: 18

My Response:

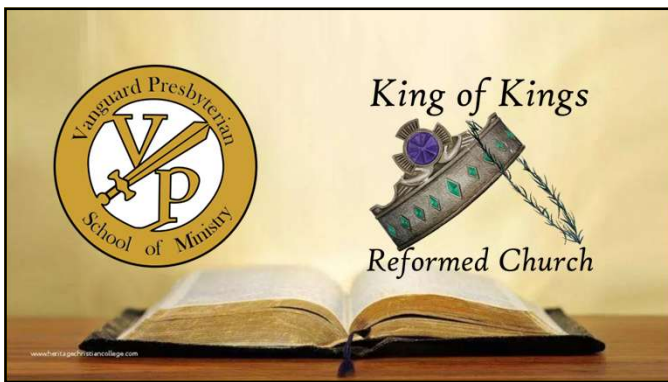
It is not about the absence of prophecy in the modern church. To the original audience of proverbs, prophecy or vision meant hearing from God. Remember that the Old Testament was still being written. We are at a period in history when there is no more new revelation. The Scripture is complete. The application for us today is "where there is no true preaching of the Word, the people do as they want."



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25



26
