



1



2

LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE:

PROVERBS EXPLORER

3

WISDOM LITERATURE

WISDOM BOOKS (PRIMARY)

- Job – Dialogue
- Ecclesiastes – Monologue
- **Proverbs – Pithy Sayings**
- (Song of Solomon & Psalms can be included)

THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE (SECONDARY)

PURPOSE

- Practical Living before God and others

4

WISDOM OF GOD VS. WISDOM OF THE WORLD

“Do not lean on the scales, nor falsify the weights, nor damage the fractions of the measure” (proverb of Amen-em-ope, of Egypt)

“Differing weights and differing measures, both of them are abominable to the Lord” (proverb of Solomon, 20:10).

Irving L. Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament: Search and Discover* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1978), 289.

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BACKGROUND & PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

AUTHORS

- Solomon the son of David
- Sayings of the Wise men
- Agur the son of Jakeh to Ithiel & Ucal
- King Lemuel's Mother's Wisdom

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BACKGROUND & PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

BOOKS PURPOSE: Proverbs 1:2-7 (NKJV)

THREE ACTIONS

2 To **know** wisdom and instruction, To **perceive** the words of understanding,

3 To **receive** the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;

THREE INDIVIDUALS

4 To give prudence to the **simple**, To the **young man** knowledge and discretion—

5 A **wise man** will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

SINGLE THEME

7 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

7

PROVERB | מִשְׁלֵי | mā · šāl

PROVERBS ARE NOT PROMISES!

Proverbs 22:66

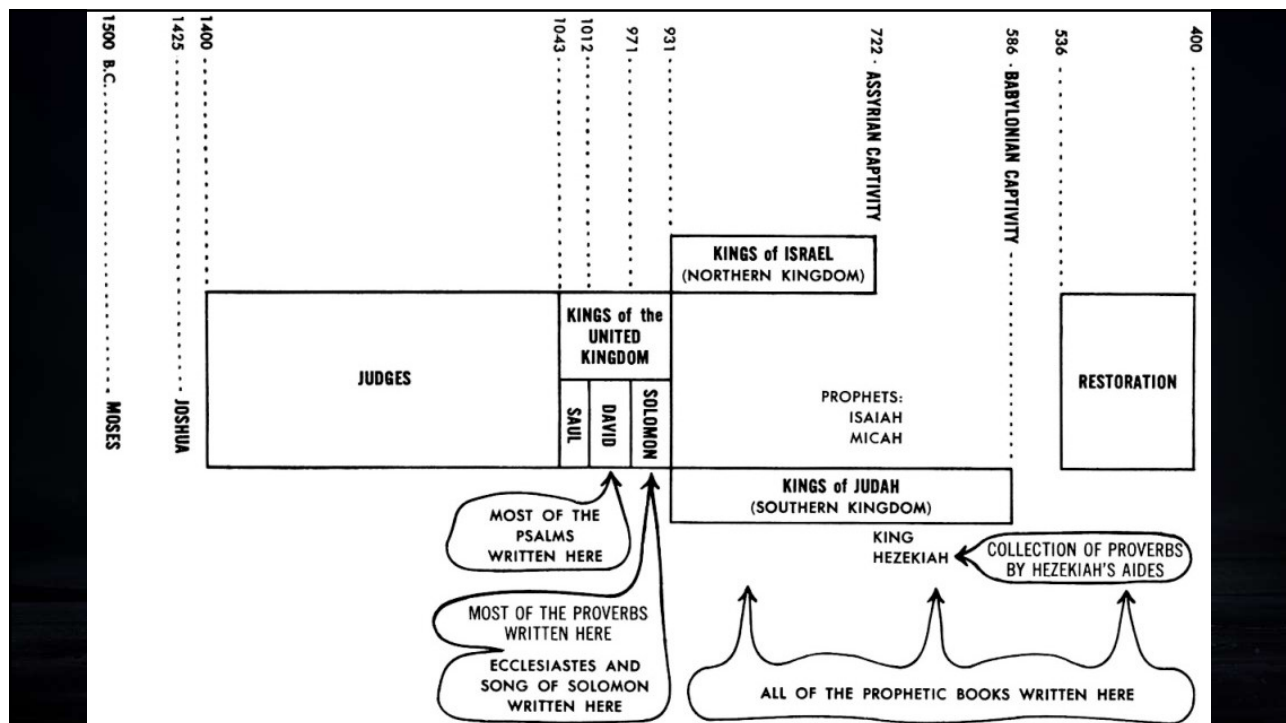
Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old
he will not depart from it.

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PROVERB | מִשְׁלֵי | *mā·šāl*

- “A Statement of comparison/summary of a common experience”
- *Wisdom/Illustration for Others: A Nation can be a Proverb*
 - **1 Kings 9:7 (NKJV)** then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a **proverb** and a byword among all peoples.
- *Prophetic Use*
 - **Isaiah 14:4 (NKJV)** that you will take up this **proverb** against the king of Babylon, and say: “How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased!”
- *Connected to Wisdom Speech*
 - **Job 27:1 (NKJV)** Moreover Job continued his **discourse**, and said:

9



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T H E M E					M I S C E L L A N E O U S A P P L I C A T I O N S			
P R O V E R B S O F S O L O M O N						words of wise	collected by Hezekiah's men	words of Agur and Lemuel
1:1	"my son"	"wisdom"	"but"	"and"	22:17	25	30	31
1:7	8	10	16					
PRO-LOGUE	M A X I M S						EPI-LOGUE	
PURPOSE OF PROVERBS	personification prominent		one-verse maxims		more general			numerical proverbs
	COMMENDATION		O B S E R- V A T I O N		EXHORTATION AND WARNING	COMPARISON		DESCRIP- TION
	especially for youth		- f o r a l l -					

KEY WORDS: wisdom, knowledge, instruction, folly, fear of the Lord, life, but, law, commandments, righteous, evil, justice, my son

KEY VERSES: 1:7; 9:10

13

PROVERBS: STRUCTURE?

- A** two-part introduction (1:1–7; 1:8–9:18)
- B** Solomon's proverbs—first collection (10:1–22:16)
- C** words of the wise (22:17–24:34)
- B'** Solomon's proverbs—second collection (25:1–29:27)
- A'** two-part conclusion (30:1–33; 31:1–31)

David A. Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis–Malachi* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), 187.

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STRUCTURE OF PROVERBS...MYSTERY?

DEEPER LITERARY STRUCTURE (Chapters 1-9) (Dorsey)

- A (1:8-19) Invitation of folly
- B (1:20-33) Invitation of wisdom
- C (2:1-9) Invitation to call out for wisdom
- D (2:10-22) The loose woman
 - E (3:1-20) Good consequences of wise living
 - F (3:21-35) Practical advice about right social behavior
 - G (4:1-27) Embrace wisdom!**
 - G' (5:1-23) Don't embrace the adulteress!**
 - F' (6:1-19) Practical advice about wrong social behavior
 - E' (6:20-35) Bad consequences of adultery
- D' (7:1-27) The loose woman
- C' (8:1-36) Invitation by Wisdom, who calls out
- B' (9:1-12) Invitation of Wisdom
- A' (9:13-18) Invitation of Lady Folly

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ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS...

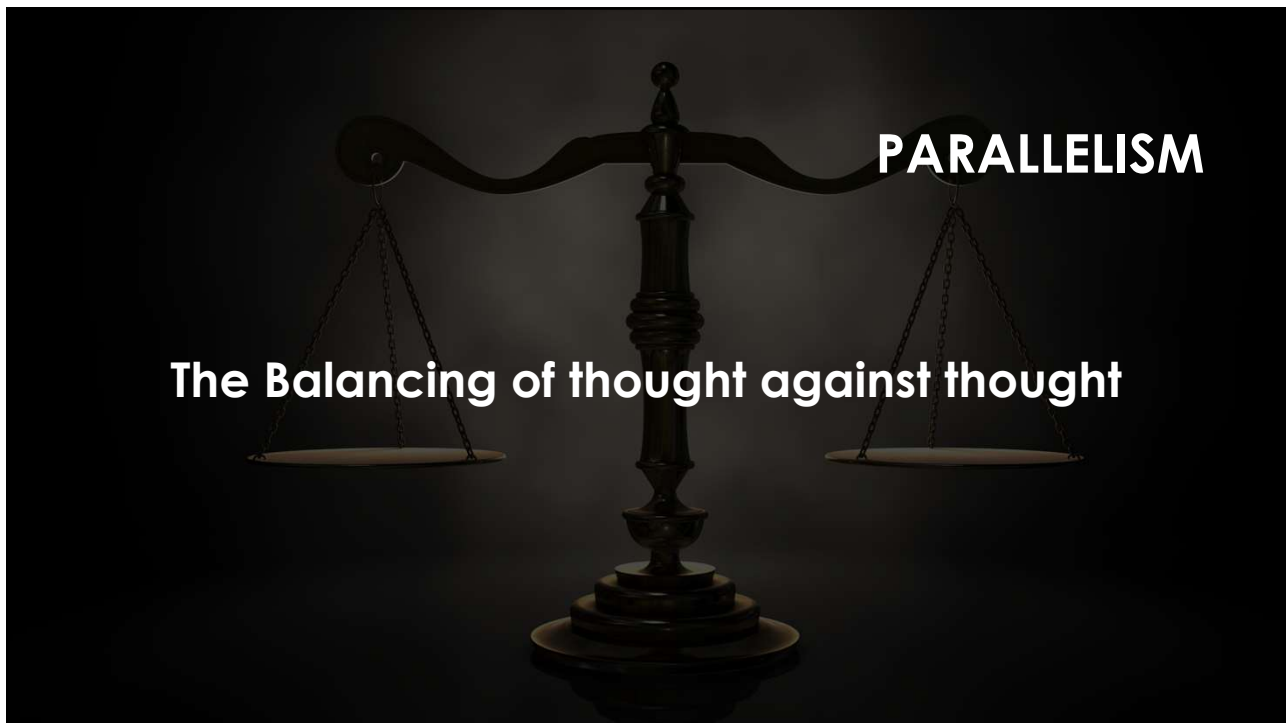
• FOUR SOURCES & EXPRESSIONS OF WISDOM

- **Observation based on experience** (Ants, Proverbs 6:6-8)
- **Tradition Passed on from others** (Father/Mother to Son, Proverbs 31:10-31)
- **Learning from Mistakes** (Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.)
- **Revelation** (Prov 2:6-8)

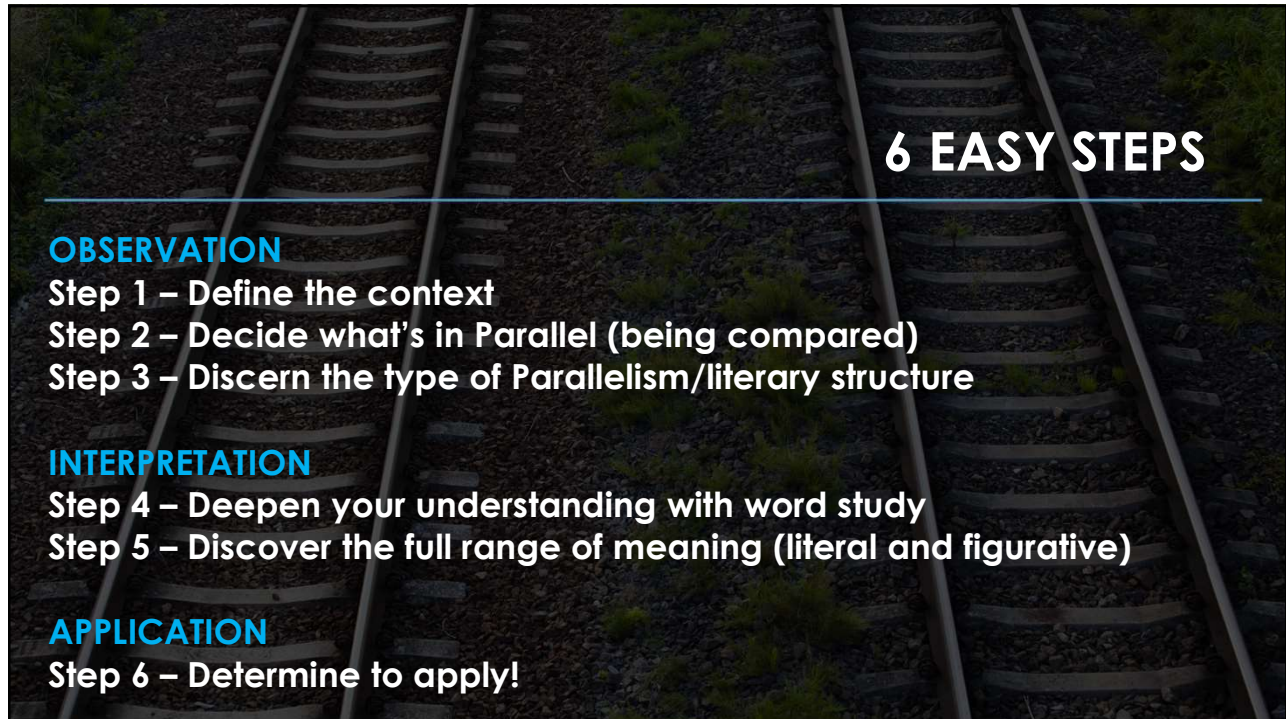
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17



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6 EASY STEPS

OBSERVATION

- Step 1 – Define the context
- Step 2 – Decide what's in Parallel (being compared)
- Step 3 – Discern the type of Parallelism/literary structure

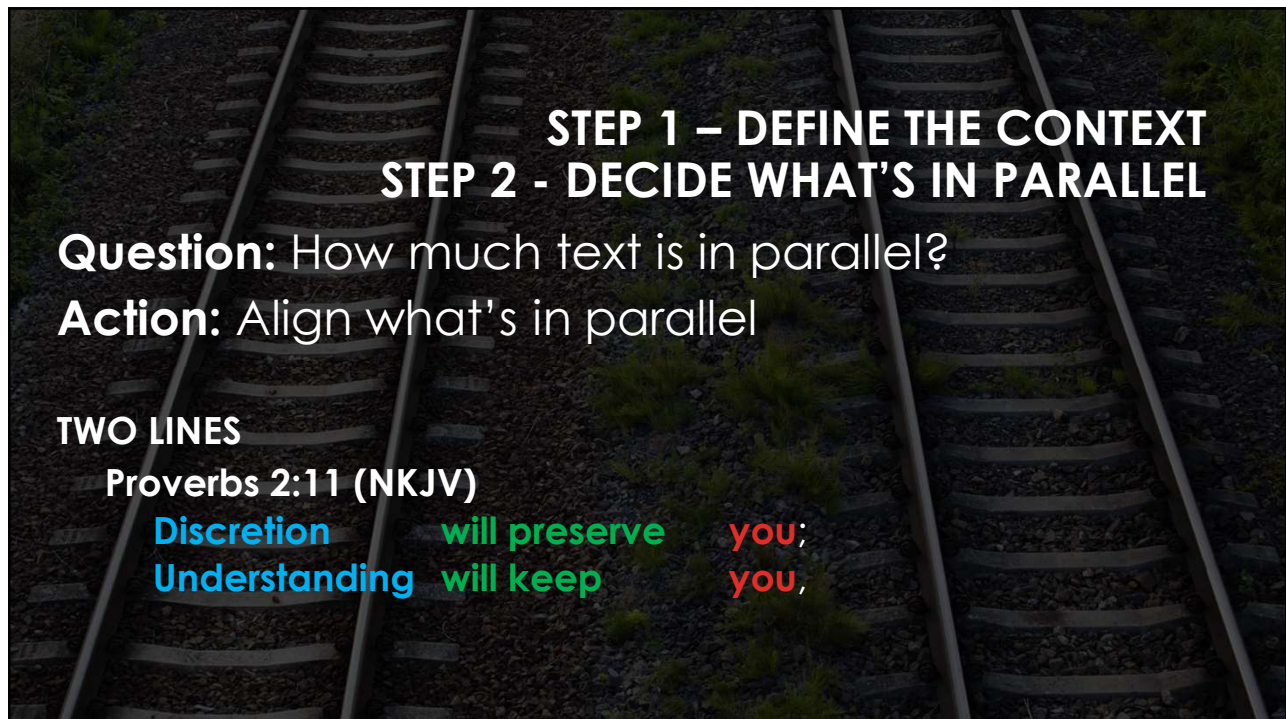
INTERPRETATION

- Step 4 – Deepen your understanding with word study
- Step 5 – Discover the full range of meaning (literal and figurative)

APPLICATION

- Step 6 – Determine to apply!

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STEP 1 – DEFINE THE CONTEXT STEP 2 - DECIDE WHAT'S IN PARALLEL

Question: How much text is in parallel?

Action: Align what's in parallel

TWO LINES

Proverbs 2:11 (NKJV)

Discretion	will preserve	you;
Understanding	will keep	you,

20



THREE LINES

Proverbs 1:27 (NKJV)

27 When **your terror** comes like a storm,
And **your destruction** comes like a whirlwind,
When **distress and anguish** come upon you.

Proverbs 6:13 (NKJV)

13 **He winks** with **his eyes**,
He shuffles his feet,
He points with **his fingers**;

21



FOUR LINES

Proverbs 30:9 (NKJV)

9 Lest **I be full** and **deny You**,
And **say**, "**Who is the LORD?**"
Or **lest I be poor** and **steal**,
And **profane** the **name of my God**.

22

FOUR LINES

Proverbs 30:18–19 18 There are **three** things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, **four** which I do not understand:

19 The **way of an eagle in the air**,
 The **way of a serpent on a rock**,
 The **way of a ship in the midst of the sea**,
 And the **way of a man with a virgin**.

} 1-3
 } 4

23

FIVE LINES

Proverbs 23:4–5 (NKJV)

4 **Do not overwork to be rich**;
Because of your own understanding, cease!
 5 **Will you set your eyes on that which is not?**
 For **riches certainly make themselves wings**;
 They **fly away like an eagle toward heaven**.

1 Timothy 6:9–10 (NKJV)

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

24

SIX LINES

Proverbs 30:29–31 (NKJV)

29 There are **three things which are majestic in pace**,
Yes, **four which are stately in walk**:

30 A **lion**, which is **mighty among beasts**
And **does not turn away from any**;

31 A **greyhound (strutting rooster)**, A **male goat** also,
And a **king whose troops are with him**.

} 1-3
} 4

25

SIX LINES

Proverbs 30:4 (NKJV)

4 Who has **ascended** into **heaven**, or **descended**?

Who has **gathered** the **wind in His fists**?

Who has **bound** the **waters in a garment**?

Who has **established** **all the ends of the earth**?

What is His name, and **what is His Son's name**,

If you **know**?

26

SEVEN LINES

Proverbs 23:6–8 (NKJV)

6 Do not eat the bread of a miser,
Nor desire his delicacies;

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

“Eat and drink!” he says to you,
But his heart is not with you.

8 The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up,
And waste your pleasant words.

27

EIGHT LINES

Proverbs 23:22–25 (NKJV)

22 Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it,
Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.>

24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,
And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

25 Let your father and your mother be glad,
And let her who bore you rejoice.

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STEP 3 – DISCERN THE TYPE OF PARALLELISM

TYPES OF PARALLELISM AND MORE!

SYNONYMOUS – Repeats idea with similar words

ANTITHETIC – Repeats idea with opposite words

SYNTHETIC – Extends ideas

EMBLEMATIC – pairs ideas that are literal with figurative

CHIASTIC – pairing from outward to inward, main point at the center

ALLITERATION – Repeats a Sound

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TWO LINES

Proverbs 2:11 (NKJV)

Discretion will preserve you;
Understanding will keep you,

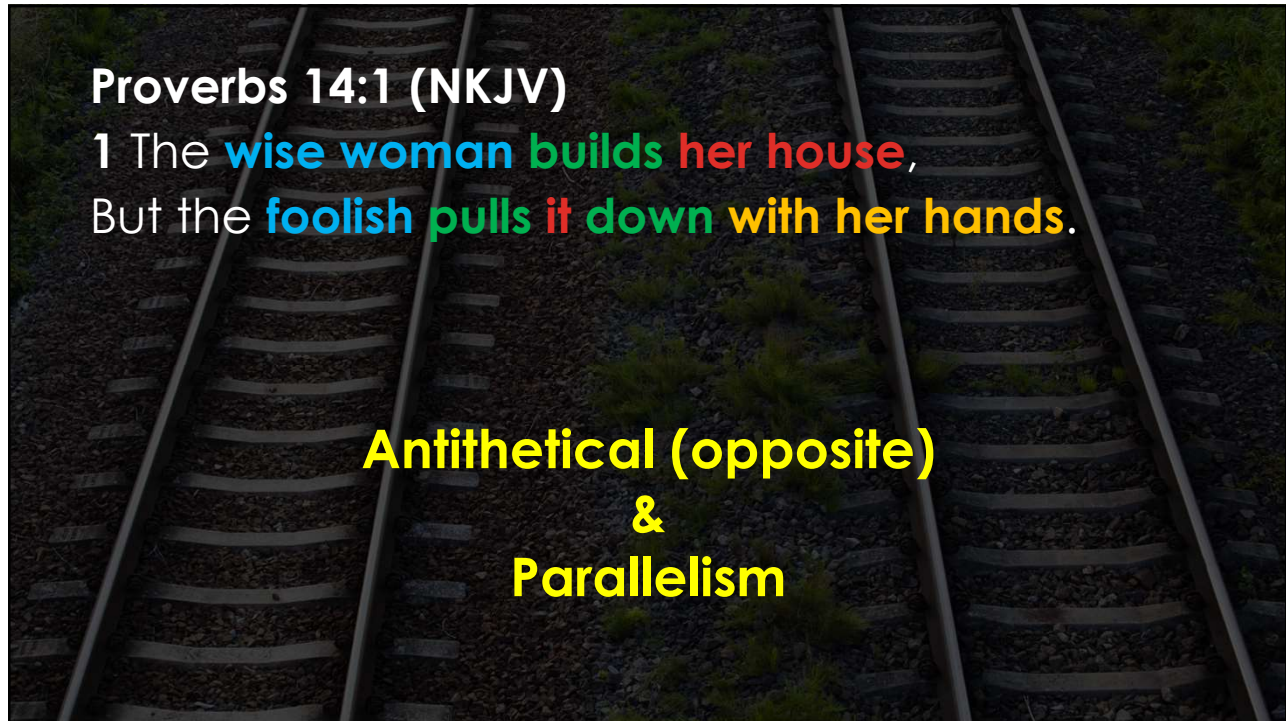
Synonymous (same)
&
Parallelism (complete)

Proverbs 1:9 (NKJV)

For they (Verse 8) will be a graceful ornament on your head,
And chains about your neck.

Synonymous (same)
&
Parallelism (incomplete)

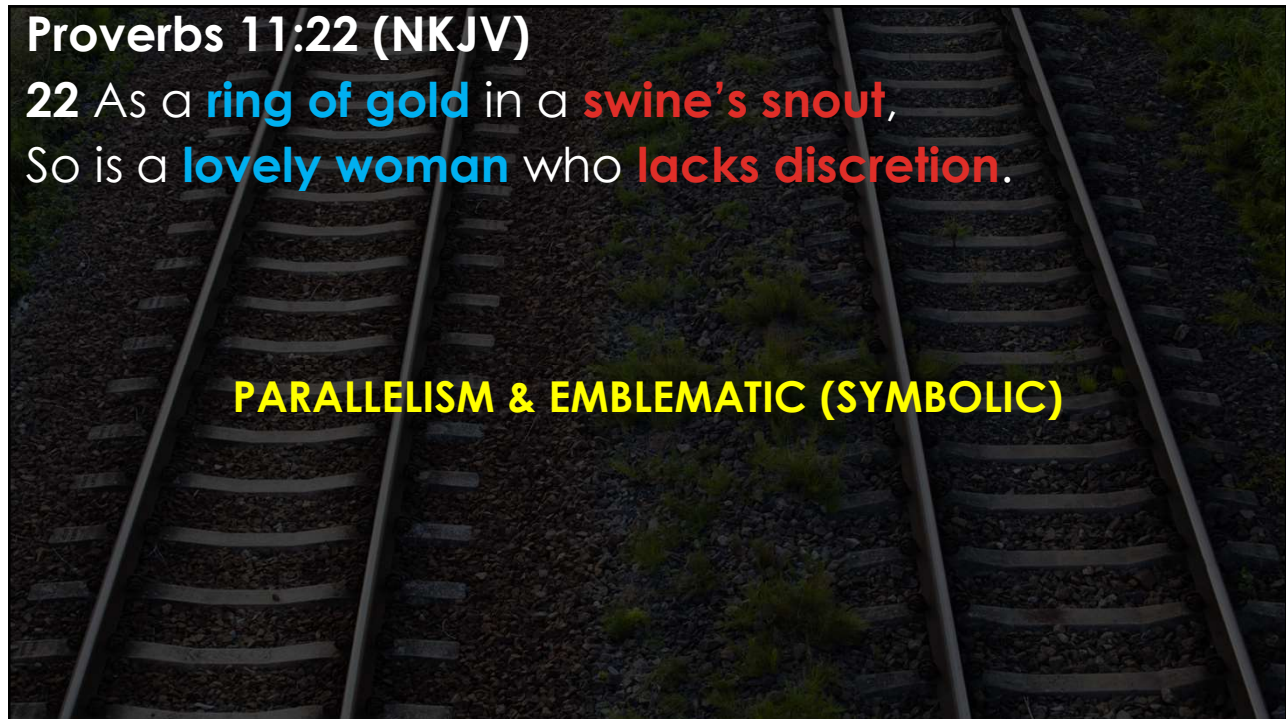
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Proverbs 14:1 (NKJV)
1 The **wise woman builds her house,**
But the **foolish pulls it down with her hands.**

**Antithetical (opposite)
&
Parallelism**

31



Proverbs 11:22 (NKJV)
22 As a **ring of gold** in a **swine's snout,**
So is a **lovely woman** who **lacks discretion.**

PARALLELISM & EMBLEMATIC (SYMBOLIC)

32

NOTE: look for simile (like) (I like Smiles)
 A Declaration that 1 Thing resembles another/Comparison by **Resemblance**

NOTE: look for metaphor (is /metamorphosis into something else)
 A Declaration that 1 Thing is (**represents**) another/Comparison by **Representation**

Comparison between two things that are not alike

Similes differ from **metaphors** by having an identifiable indicator of resemblance.

Simile (explicit indicator): This rainbow trout glistens like fire. (color)

Metaphor (no explicit indicator): The fish is a stroke of lightning. (speed)

David L. Petersen and Kent Harold Richards, *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*, ed. Gene M. Tucker, Guides to Biblical Scholarship (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992), 50.

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PARALLELISM & EMBLEMATIC (SYMBOLIC)

Proverbs 16:24 (Simile)
24 Pleasant words **are like** a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

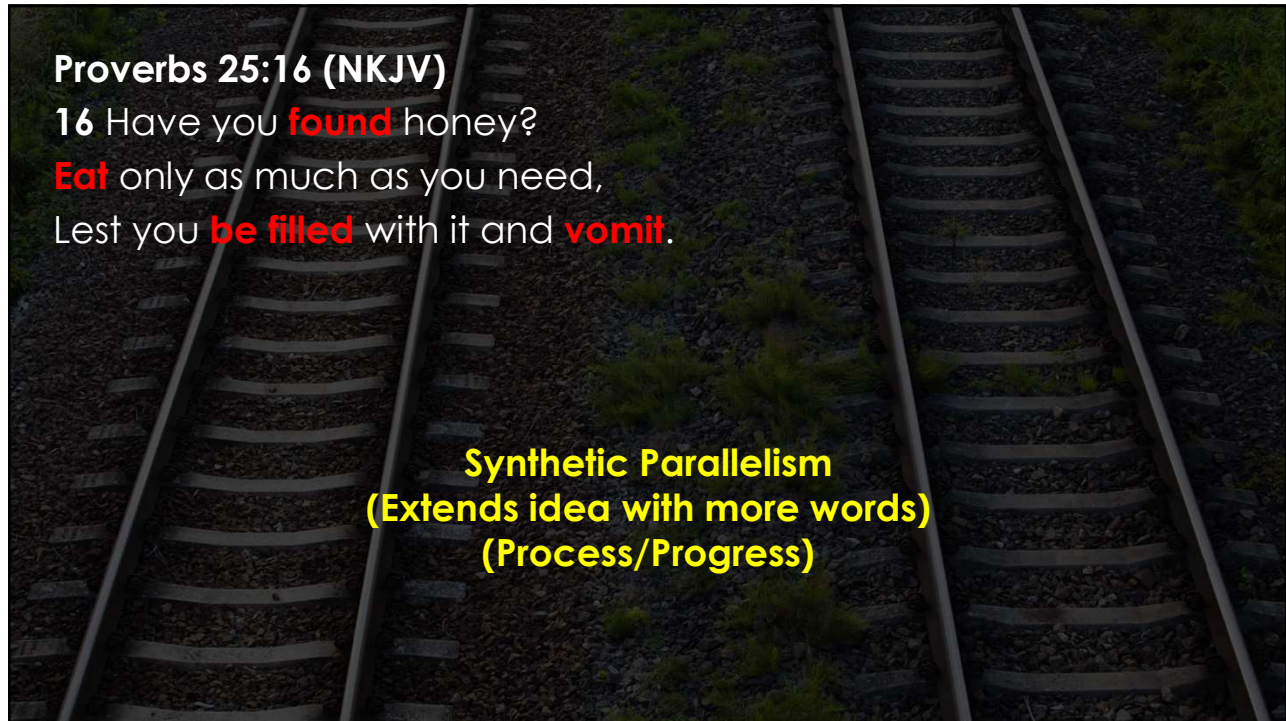
INDICATOR (given): look for the indicator given in the text that applies to both (sweetness)

Proverbs 10:15 (Metaphor)
15 The wealth of a rich person **is** a fortified city, but the poor are brought to ruin by their poverty.

INDICATOR (not given): look for the indicator that both images have in common (fortification/protection vs. no protection)

NOTE: focus on the comparison word (honeycomb, fortified city)

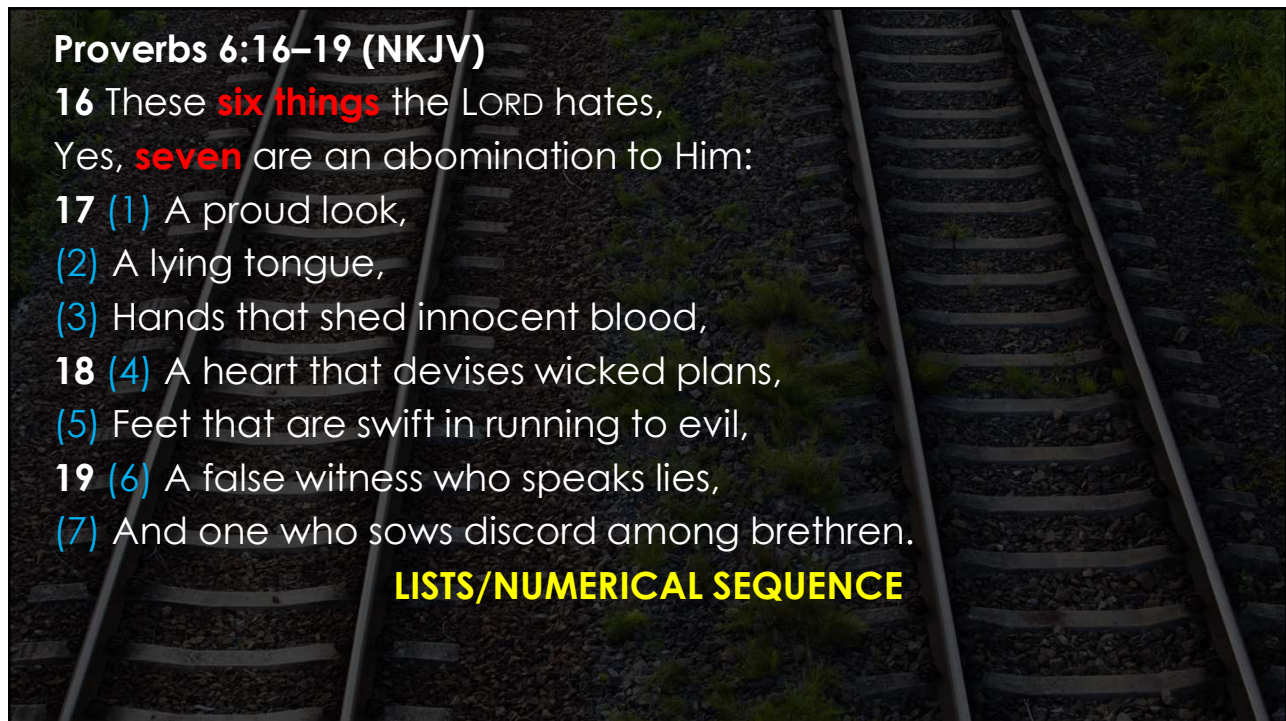
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Proverbs 25:16 (NKJV)
16 Have you **found** honey?
Eat only as much as you need,
 Lest you **be filled** with it and **vomit**.

Synthetic Parallelism
(Extends idea with more words)
(Process/Progress)

35



Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV)
16 These **six things** the LORD hates,
 Yes, **seven** are an abomination to Him:
17 (1) A proud look,
 (2) A lying tongue,
 (3) Hands that shed innocent blood,
18 (4) A heart that devises wicked plans,
 (5) Feet that are swift in running to evil,
19 (6) A false witness who speaks lies,
 (7) And one who sows discord among brethren.

LISTS/NUMERICAL SEQUENCE

36

(10) א	A: High value of a good wife (v. 10)
(11) ב	B: Husband benefited by wife (vv. 11–12)
(12) ג	C: Wife works hard (vv. 13–19)
(13) ד	D: Wife gives to poor (v. 20)
(14) ה	E: No fear of snow (v. 21a)
(15) ו	F: Children clothed in scarlet (v. 21b)
(16) ז	G: Coverings for bed, wife wears linen (v. 22)
(17) ח	H: Public respect for husband (v. 23)
(18) ט	G': Sells garments and sashes (v. 24)
(19) י	F': Wife clothed in dignity (v. 25a)
(20) יא	E': No fear of future (v. 25b)
(21) יב	D': Wife speaks wisdom (v. 26)
(22) יג	C': Wife works hard (v. 27)
(23) יד	B': Husband and children praise wife (vv. 28–29)
(24) טו	A': High value of a good wife (vv. 30–31)
(25) טז	
(26) טז	
(27) טז	
(28) טז	
(29) טז	
(30) טז	
(31) טז	

Chiasmic & Acrostic (Proverbs 31:10-31)

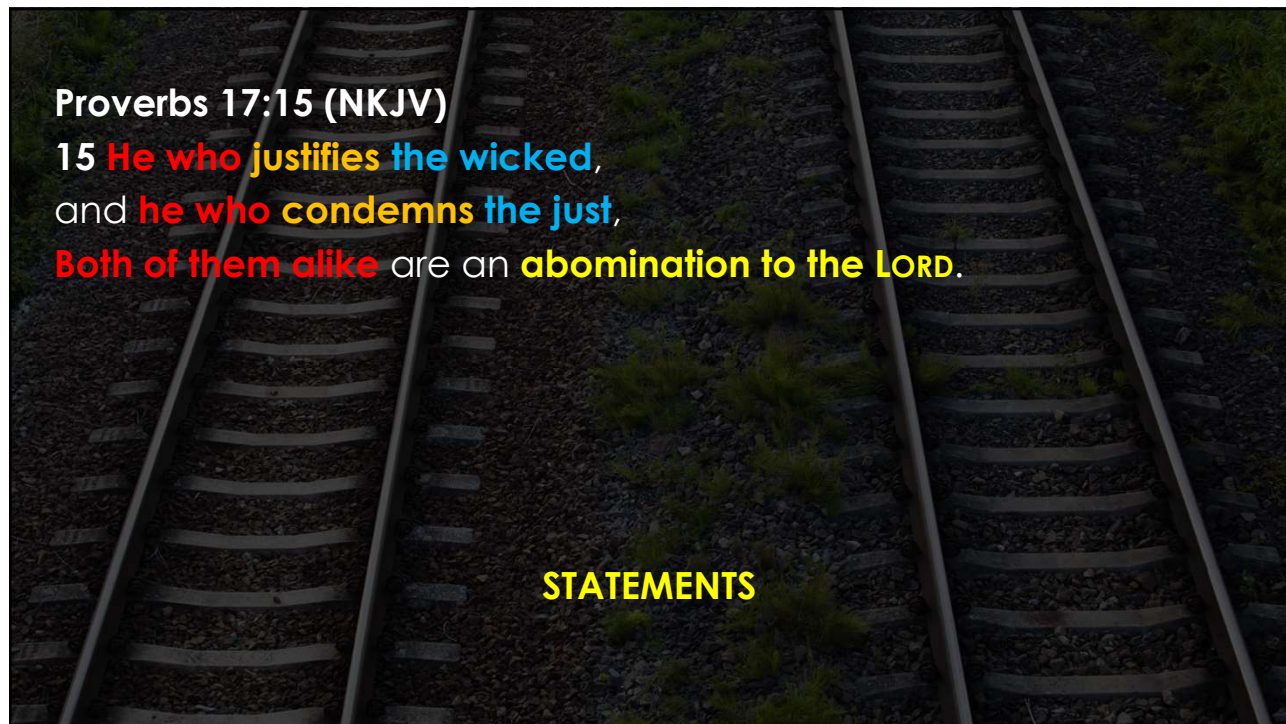
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Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV)

- 24 He who spares his rod hates his son,
- **hōśēk šibṭō sōnē' bēnō** חוֹשֵׁק שִׁבְטוֹ שׂוֹנֵא בְנוֹ
- But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
- **wē' ōhābō šihārō mūsār** וְאֹהֲבוֹ שִׁחָרוּ מוֹסֵר

Alliteration
"Spare the rod and spoil the child"

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STEP 4 – DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH WORD STUDY

WISDOM – 51x (NKJV), 7 DIFFERENT UNDERLYING HEBREW WORDS

1. (הַכְּמָה) | 38X (*hāk·mā(h)*), technical skill/mastery, aptitude, experience, good sense, wisdom (skilled living & wisdom) – Truth applied
2. (הַכְּמוֹת) | 3X (*hāk·mōt*) Wisdom (personified)
3. (לֵב) | 3X (*lēb*) Normally referring to the inside, heart/mind (heart/mind and wisdom)
4. (תוֹשִׁיָּה) | 3x (*tū·šiy·yā(h)*) prudence, sound judgment (thinking/decision & wisdom)
5. (שִׁכְלֵל) 2x | (*šē·kēl*) insight, intelligence from the mouth (mouth and wisdom)
6. (פֶּה) 1x | (*pē(h)*) mouth, opening, declaration
7. (שִׂכְלֵל) 1x | (*šā·kāl*) Understanding, wisdom, discretion (experience & wisdom)

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STEP 5 – DISCOVER THE FULL RANGE OF MEANING

When doing word studies, look at the phrases that use the word, and examine the ideas being included.

Proverbs 1:3 (NKJV)

3 To receive the instruction of wisdom,
Justice, **judgment**, and **equity**;

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STEP 5 – DISCOVER THE FULL RANGE OF MEANING

Look for...

- Repeated words and phrases
- What kind of person is being identified
- What type of expression (saying, advice)
- Establish a Theme/Topic/Category (see end of handout)

42

APPLICATION

Step 6 – Determine to apply!

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PARENTING & PROVERBS

UNDERSTANDING THE LIFE STAGE

- CONTROL
- CORRECT
- COACH

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PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES
Level 1: Teaching the Guidelines	
Principle 1: Teach Appropriate Behavior	Proverbs 1:8-9; 2:1-22; 3:1-35; 4:1-13; 6:20-26; 7:1-5; 8:1-36; 23:24-25
Principle 2: Inform of Improper Behavior	Proverbs 1:10-19; 4:14-27; 6:1-19; 7:6-21; 9:13-18; 22:24-25; 23:26-28
Principle 3: Explain the Negative Consequences of Disobedience	Proverbs 1:10-33; 5:1-23; 6:26-35; 7:22-27; 9:17-18; 10:1; 13:18; 14:14; 16:18, 26; 17:20; 18:13; 23:10-12; 24:17-20
Level 2: Reiterating the Guidelines	
Principle: Give Appropriate Warnings	Proverbs 1:7, 15, 19, 22, 28, 31-33; 2:11-19, 22; 3:7, 11; 4:2, 5-6, 14-19, 23-27; 5:3-16, 21-23; 6:1-5, 9-15, 25-35; 7:24-27; 8:33-36; 9:13-18; 10:1-24; 24:34; 26:17-29; 27; 31:2-9
Level 3: Enforcing the Guidelines	
Principle 1: A Reprimand with Non-Corporal Punishment	Proverbs 1:8; 3:12; 4:1-2, 10-27; 5:1-2; 6:1-5, 20-35; 7:1-5, 24-27; 23:22-23; 24:24-25; 25:12; 27:5-6; 28:23
Principle 2: A Reprimand with Non-Abusive Corporal Punishment	Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14; 29:15
BEYOND A PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY	
Level 4: Government's Role in Discipline <i>WARNING!</i>	
Principle: Continued Disobedience May Bring Severe Punishment	Proverbs 10:31; 20:30

↑ INCREASING SEVERITY ↓

PARENTING PRINCIPLES FROM PROVERBS

Level 1 – Inform
 Level 2 – Warn
 Level 3 – Enforce
 Level 4 - Government

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DISCIPLINE IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS: "TO SPANK OR NOT TO SPANK?"

- **Paul D. Wegner**
 - Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 48, no. 4 (2005)

46

STAGE 1 – MODEL & INFORM **PROPER** BEHAVIOR

Proverbs 1:8–9 (NKJV)

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; **9** For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

Proverbs 3:13–15 (NKJV)

13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; **14** For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. **15** She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

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STAGE 2 – INFORM OF **IMPROPER** BEHAVIOR

Proverbs 1:10–15 (NKJV)

10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.

Proverbs 3:31–32 (NKJV)

31 Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; **32** For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright.

48

STAGE 3 – EXPLAIN THE **NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES** OF SIN

Proverbs 1:18–19 (NKJV)

18 But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. **19** So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

Proverbs 5:3–6 (NKJV)

3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; **4** But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. **6** Lest you ponder her path of life— Her ways are unstable; You do not know them.

49

STAGE 4 – **GENTLY** EXHORT

Proverbs 4:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; **2** For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.

Proverbs 4:14–16 (NKJV)

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. **15** Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. **16** For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.

50

STAGE 5 – GENTLY **REBUKE** OR **REPROVE**

Proverbs 3:12 (NKJV)

12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 24:24–25 (NKJV)

24 He who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,” Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him.

25 But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.

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STAGE 6 – PUNISHMENT (HOME)

Proverbs 19:18 (NKJV)

18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV)

24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Proverbs 23:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. **14** You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

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STAGE 7 –PUNISHMENT (WORLD/AUTHORITIES)

Proverbs 20:30 (NKJV)

30 Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart.



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STAGE 8 –DEATH (AUTHORITIES/GOVERNMENT)

Proverbs 19:18 (NKJV)

18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

Deuteronomy 21:18–21 (NKJV)

18 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, **19** then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. **20** And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' **21** Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

54



55



56



57



58

