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Thirty Sayings of the Wise
22:17 to 24:34



Proverbs 22:17-21 provides an introduction to the next main division to the book (**to see link click Cz – Prologue to Thirty Sayings of the Wise**). This section falls into two parts. The first part **(22:17** to **24:22)** is introduced as **the sayings of the wise (22:17)**. It resembles the first **nine chapters**, being directly addressed to **a disciple** who is called **a son**, and in its style as a moral sermon. **The sages** exhort **their** hearers to listen to **the words of the wise (22:17)**, comprising **thirty (22:20) sayings** (through **24:22**). The second part is introduced by the statement: **These are further sayings of the wise (24:23-34)**. **These thirty sayings were written by various sages, with Solomon compiling and editing many of them.**

In style, this section includes at least twenty instances in which two verses express a complete thought, rather than one verse, as in **10:1 to 22:16**. Also, seven verses have three lines rather than the normal two lines **(22:29, 23:5, 29,** and **31, 24:14, 27,** and **31),** and two verses have four lines **(23:7** and **24:12)**. **My son** occurs five times **(23;15, 19, and 26, 24:13 and 21)** whereas it occurs fifteen times in **Chapters 1-9**, and only once **(19:27)** in **10:1** to **22:16** and only twice **(27:11** and **31:2)** in the rest of the book. **A wise son** occurs once **(23:24)** in **22:17** to **24:34** compared with five times in **10:1** to **22:16**.

Many **sayings of the wise** are warnings, using the words: **do not** (see **22:22, 24,**

26, 28, 23:3-4, 6, 9-10, 13, 17, 20, 22-23 and **31, 24:1, 15, 17, 19, 21,** and **28-29).** Interestingly each of **the thirty sayings** in **22:22** to **24:22** includes a reason for the warning or other advice and several of **the sayings** in **24:23-34** include reasons. **The sayings** in **22:17** to **24:34** were written by **wise men** other than **Solomon**, and were compiled either during **his** lifetime or shortly thereafter. As stated in **22:20**, the first portion **(22:17** to **24:22)** includes **thirty sayings**. For example **22:22-23**, the first **saying**; and **22:24-25**, the second **saying**.[443]