

WISDOM

PROVERBS 10-16
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Reading Exegetically



- **Biblical Exegesis:** Critical interpretation of a text to arrive at the inherent meaning. Good exegesis considers **authorial intent** and how the message would have been received and interpreted by the original audience.
- **11:14:** Where there is no guidance, a people falls, *but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*
 - **Literary construction:** Antithetical Parallelism, a contrasting statement to bring further meaning
 - **Author & Audience:** Who is this proverb for?
 - What are the context clues?
 - What does the original language offer?
 - ✦ Guidance (hb *tahbulot*) comparable to a rudder steering a ship
 - What have previous generations contributed?
 - ✦ “Of course, the saying assumes that the counselors are wise and intelligent.” A.P. Ross
 - **What themes arise:** What is the principle virtue of 11:1?

Application



- Be fair (v1)
- Communicate your intention to be fair (v14)
- Consult advisors to succeed in being fair (v14)
- Be humble in your dealings and communication (v2)
 - **Predictive Result:** When discrepancies arise, integrity will guide you (v3), securely (v14).
- Are there other applications?
 - Individual, but the most appropriate application is to those who lead a people.
 - **11:5** - Righteousness of the blameless keeps “his” ways straight... the wicked falls by “his own” wickedness
 - **11:6-8** – parallels v5 to establish the theme of judgment and deliverance

Proverbs 14:1-4



- Literary construction:
 - Antithetical Parallelism
- Author & Audience: Who is this proverb for?
 - Individuals and family units
 - Woman is named specifically
- What themes arise?
 - Material success or failure
 - Tied to spiritual fidelity and Fear of the Lord
 - Careful of speech
 - Success isn't easy, requires work and the effect of oxen
- What are the context clues?
 - The woman, the home, the oxen

Proverbs 14:1-4



- What does the original language offer?
 - or “in the mouth of the fool is a rod of pride”
- What have previous generations contributed?
 - The benefits of the sensible labor of the wisest of women and prudent speech of the wise are contrasted with the way in which the acts of folly and words of the fool ultimately result in self-harm. “With her own hands tears id down.” Sinful people sometimes become highly irrational and foolishly destroy the fruit of many years of work.

Application



- Set goals to achieve and live a purposeful life
- Work hard (and smart) rather than taking devious shortcuts
- In your speech:
 - Be diligent and mindful of your goals
 - Be prudent in what you say to whom (less can be more)
 - Reinforce vision and preserve it
- Don't avoid the labor

Proverbs 16:27-33



- Literary construction:
- Author & Audience: Who is this proverb for?
- What themes arise?
- What are the context clues?
- What does the original language offer?
- What have previous generations contributed?