

WISDOM

PROVERBS 3-9
JOEL W. HARDER

Literary Construction



- **BREVITY:** compact statement to impact a thought. English translations are often unable to capture this device in the Hebrew.
- **PARALLELISM:** the second line “echoes” or sharpens the truth of the first line (Pr 16:3)
 - Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.
- **ANTITHETICAL PARALLELISM:** the second line is the opposite of the first line (Pr 14: 1-3,5)
 - Whoever walks in uprightness fears the LORD,
but he who is devious in his ways despises him.
- **BETTER-THAN PARALLELISM:** shows the relative value of two things (Pr 15: 16-17)
 - Better is a dinner of herbs where love is
than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

Literary Construction Cont.



- **NUMERICAL PARALLELISM:** X, X+1 pattern such as “three, no four” says there are a number of different examples of the phenomenon, only a few of which are given. (Pr 30:15-16)
 - The leech has two daughters:
Give and Give.
Three things are never satisfied;
four never say, “Enough”:
Sheol, the barren womb,
the land never satisfied with water,
and the fire that never says, “Enough.”
- **IMAGERY:** compares two things that are not essentially alike, sometimes for shock value (Pr 11:22)
 - Like a gold ring in a pig's snout
is a beautiful woman without discretion.

Literary Construction Cont.



- **ACROSTIC:** Each new line begins with a consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Assists in memorization and the idea that the picture is A-Z complete (Pr 31)
- **ALLITERATION:** the line contains a concentration of a certain Hebrew letter or sound- creates coherence in the poetry and meaning of a line. (Pr 31:11: *betah bah leb ba'lah...*)
 - (Tremper Longman, III, 2013)

From Last Week



- Read Proverbs 3-9
- Questions:
 - With what does Proverbs 3 tell us that we are to honor God?
 - What does it feel like to “trust in God” rather than “leaning on your own understanding?”

Be Not Wise in Your Own Eyes



- Perhaps the most famous of all in Proverbs
- Begins with an interesting direction
 - Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you... (v3)
 - Bind them around your neck and write them on the tablet of your heart (Shema, Duet. 6:4-9)
 - It is beyond your control
 - ✦ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deut. 31:8)
- so you will find favor in the sight of God and man (v4)
 - “Proverbs are generally true but not true in every instance.” (T. Longman)
 - “It is far better to please God and displease man than to please man and displease God.” (Barry Camp)

There is an art, or rather, a knack to flying.



- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
- It's a free fall... to which you pay no mind
- Typically developed in time through experiences (Romans 12:1-2)
- Make them experiences with God
 - He is an incredibly intimate and personal God

Make Straight Paths



- “Yes, you see but you do not observe!” – Sherlock Holmes
- What do you do with a straight path?
 - Walk down it.
 - Proverb is about maturity, arriving at the destination
- What do you do along the way?
 - Fear the Lord AND Turn away from Evil
 - Healing power and restoration

Honor the Lord



- With your wealth
- With the first fruits of all your produce
- Tithing (Barna Group)
 - 2001: 8 percent
 - 2003: 3 percent
 - 2005: 5 percent

Foundations of the Earth



Ken Ham

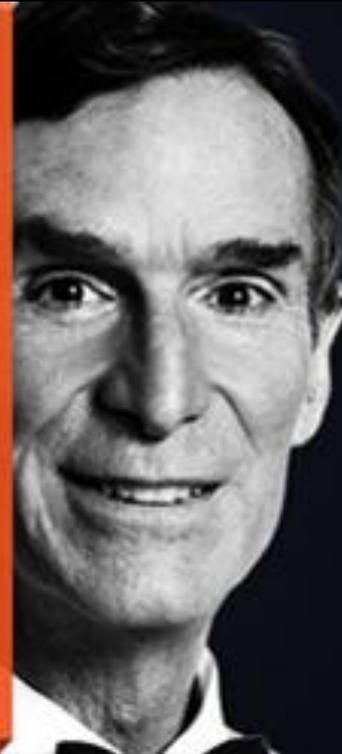
KEN HAM

ANSWERS IN GENESIS CEO

DEBATE

2.4.14

AT THE
**CREATION
MUSEUM.**



Bill Nye

BILL NYE

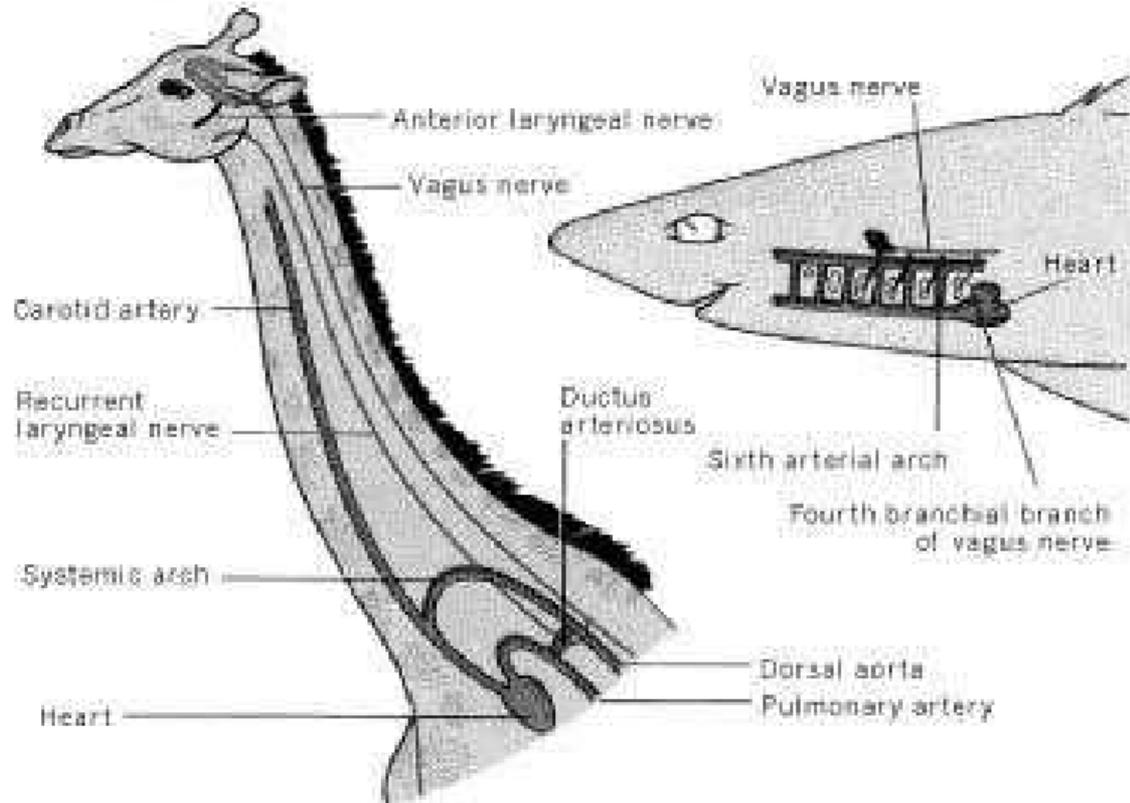
THE SCIENCE GUY

The Principal Thing



- **Proverbs 3:19-21**
- ¹⁹ The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;
by understanding he established the heavens;
²⁰ by his knowledge the deeps broke open,
and the clouds drop down the dew.
- ²¹ My son, do not lose sight of these—
keep sound wisdom and discretion,
- **Proverbs 4:7** King James Version (KJV)
- ⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get
wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Laryngeal Nerve



Laryngeal nerve in giraffe and shark

Laryngeal Nerve

“But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.”

Matt. 15:18

