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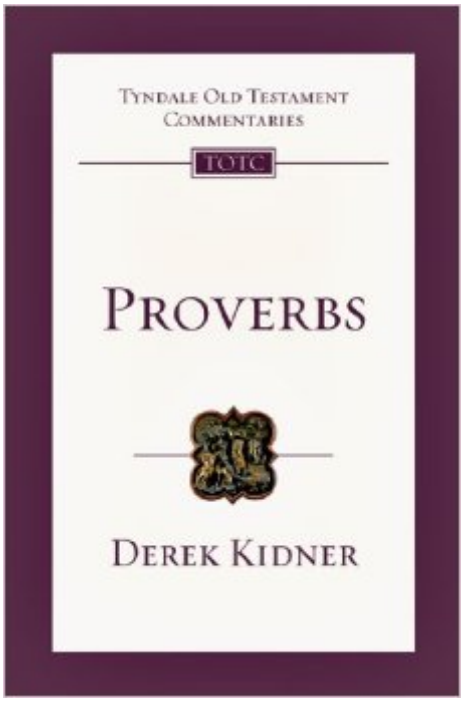
Proverbs (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)



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Synopsis

Proverbs--a book full of wisdom--and yet a book demanding all one's wisdom to understand. Derek Kidner not only has provided a running commentary on the whole of Proverbs but has also included two helpful study aids. The first is a set of subject guides that pull together teaching scattered throughout the book. The second is a short concordance that helps locate lost sayings (in territory notoriously hard to search) and encourages further subject studies. In short, this volume is a wise person's guide to wisdom. The original, unrevised text of this volume has been completely retypeset and printed in a larger, more attractive format with the new cover design for the series. These commentaries are designed to help the reader of the Bible understand what the text says and what it means. The Introduction to each book gives a concise but thorough treatment of its authorship, date, original setting and purpose. Following a structural Analysis, the Commentary takes the book section by section, drawing out its main themes, and also comments on individual verses and problems of interpretation. Additional Notes provide fuller discussion of particular difficulties. The goal throughout is to explain the true meaning of the Bible and make its message plain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this commentary on a recommendation from C.J. Mahaney video I watched on line. What makes the book worth the money is the introduction. The introduction exposed me to categories and descriptions of these categories that made the book hugely edifying. It's very short, as I believe

most commentaries in this series are. You won’t get a huge exposition of every word or syntactical expression, rather you’ll get the thrust of a passage or section of passages. If you’re a laymen (like me) and not a pastor, I would whole-heartedly say start here.

Kidner is a true scholar, and his commentaries on the Psalms have become a classic. With Proverbs, he does comment on each verse (which makes this better than most supposed "commentaries" on Proverbs), but his comments are very, very brief and thus do not get into the text deeply (as Bridges does). This is a good work to own if you already possess some more thorough treatments. For a layman just wanting to get the basic flow of the proverbs, this would be a fine book. If you want to do a deeper study in Proverbs, this will help you in a limited way only.

Kidner is a great commentator and is notorious for his brevity. That said, this was not his best commentary in my opinion mainly because he was too brief as he moved through chapters 10-29. Proverbs is a difficult book to organize because most of its verses are 2 line thoughts on a single subject. So you are left with the task of combing through the chapters to group Proverbs on a given subject. I would like for Kidner to have applied his skills to grouping the Proverbs by subject more than he did (he did a little of this at the start of the book in his "character sketches" which were very good). I still gave it 4 stars because he does an overall good job and the book did help me teach this in Bible class.

See my full review here: wp [.] me/p3JhRp-T8Kidner begins his commentary in Part One with a brief study of the Book of Proverbs and the Wisdom of Israel. Wisdom literature was important to Israel (and should be important to us) because Ã¢Â Âœthere are details of character small enough to escape the mesh of law and the broadsides of the prophets, and yet [are] decisive in personal dealingsÃ¢Â Â• (13). Second comes Wisdom in the Ancient World. The authors of Proverbs likely used both original and material from their Mesopotamian neighbors. Yet the book of Proverbs is set within the context of YHWH who reveals himself to his people. Kidner finishes Part One with a survey of the structure, authorship, date, and text of Proverbs.In Part Two, Kidner shows us a glimmer of IsraelÃ¢Â Â™s jewels in a series of 8 subject-studies, reoccurring themes in Proverbs:God and ManWisdomThe FoolThe SluggardThe FriendWordsThe FamilyLife and DeathIn the next section Kidner divides Proverbs into 7 main sections. He looks at the meaning and usage of words, where they are found throughout Proverbs and other OT books, and how a word or phrase might be better translated.The volume ends with a short concordance 10 pages in length

Ã¢Â Âœthat helps locate lost sayings (in territory notoriously hard to search) and encourages further subject studiesÃ¢Â Â• (9).Kidner is both clever and concise with his words. Rather than getting a 1,000 page commentary of dense syntactical, grammatical, textual details, one gets a brief comment on almost every verse of Proverbs. This makes the commentary easy to use for devotional reading, as each chapter on Proverbs doesnÃ¢Â Â™t require you to read 30+ pages. Instead, most of KidnerÃ¢Â Â™s chapters run about 5 pages each.The difficult part about this book is the lack of both the text's meaning and its application. While IÃ¢Â Â™m sure Kidner would know how to apply the truths of Proverbs, the application is often left on the cutting room floor. To give but one example, on Proverbs 18.8 (Ã¢Â ÂœTidbits of GossipÃ¢Â Â•) Kidner comments,Delicious morsels (RSV) is a more likely translation than AVÃ¢Â Â™s wounds; modern scholars agree in deriving it from a verb Ã¢Â Âˆto swallow greedilyÃ¢Â Â™. See subject-study: Words 1 (1), p. 43. The proverb is exactly repeated in 26:22 (121).When it comes to actual devotional use, this commentary is hit and miss. Sometimes it works, and others times it isnÃ¢Â Â™t. I would like to have seen more of KidnerÃ¢Â Â™s wordsmithing in this commentary, particularly how Christ is the Wisdom of God and how Christian are to use this godly wisdom in their life.I wouldnÃ¢Â Â™t recommend this as your first Proverbs commentary. For the same price you could get Duane GarrettÃ¢Â Â™s NAC volume Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs or Eric LaneÃ¢Â Â™s Proverbs volume in the Focus on the Bible series. Kidner will prove helpful on the subject-studies, the outline of Proverbs, and some critical-textual matters. If you want to go even deeper, head over to Longman and Waltke.(Special thanks to IVP Academic for allowing me to review this book! I was not obligated to provide a positive review in exchange for this book).

I think that he breaks down in detail the book of Proverbs and he does a fine job of making you understand the book more. It goes in depth into the chapters and scriptures of Proverbs. Its a good book to read if you want to know more about the book of Proverbs.

Great book on Proverbs - love the fact that it is not longwinded yet full of great insights. Felt it got to the heart of Proverbs - buy this book!!!!!

One of the best little commentaries out there. The initial portion focuses on themes and character types in Proverbs, which is very useful. after 20 or more years I still use his material.

Love the mix of exegetical and topical commentary

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