

# Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	IX
<b>Ch. 1. Introduction to the wisdom literature and the book of Proverbs</b> .....	1
A. The book of Proverbs: its relation to the wisdom literature of the Ancient Near East.....	1
1. Basic issues in the study of the book of Proverbs.....	1
2. Other wisdom literature.....	17
B. The book of Proverbs: its concept of God and theology .....	31
1. The portrayal of God in the wisdom literature .....	31
2. The theology of the book of Proverbs .....	33
 <b>Part one:</b> <b>Theology of creation and order</b>  	
<b>Ch. 2. The book of Proverbs and creation theology</b> .....	47
Introduction.....	47
A. Analysis of text material related to creation in the book of Proverbs.....	48
B. The creation motif in the book of Proverbs in relation to other creation traditions .....	68
1. Creation of man and creation of the world .....	68
2. Creation as Chaoskampf .....	75
3. Creation of El type and of Baal type .....	76
C. Conclusions.....	80
1. Frequency and position of the creation sayings .....	80
2. Dating the creation passages .....	80
3. The function of the creation themes.....	83
4. The significance of the creation motif.....	84
5. The concept of God as creator.....	87
<b>Ch. 3. God, retribution and order in the book of Proverbs</b> .....	90
Introduction.....	90
A. Retribution and order in the God-sayings.....	97
1. Proverbs 1–9 .....	97
2. Proverbs 10:1–22:16 .....	101
3. Proverbs 22:17–24:22.....	106
4. Proverbs 25–29 .....	109

5. Conclusions concerning retribution and order in the God-sayings.....	112
<b>B. Retribution and order in other sayings of the book.....</b>	<b>114</b>
1. Proverbs 1–9 .....	114
2. Proverbs 10:1–22:16 .....	117
3. Proverbs 22:17–24:34.....	126
4. Proverbs 25–29 .....	128
5. Conclusions concerning retribution and order in other sayings of the book.....	132
<b>C. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>134</b>
1. The formulation of consequences .....	134
2. The relationship between the God-sayings and other sayings .....	136
3. The active role of the Lord .....	136
4. The concept of order.....	136
5. Anthropocentricity .....	137
6. Acts and consequences.....	138
7. The concept of God.....	139

## **Part two: God's relationship to the world**

<b>Ch. 4. The Lord as supreme God in the book of Proverbs.....</b>	<b>142</b>
Introduction .....	142
<b>A. The transcendent God.....</b>	<b>144</b>
1. Definition of transcendence .....	144
2. The Lord as transcendent in the book of Proverbs.....	145
3. Comparisons between the book of Proverbs and other Old Testament traditions.....	150
4. Comparisons between the book of Proverbs and non-Israelite wisdom .....	155
5. Conclusions concerning God's transcendence .....	166
<b>B. The sovereign God.....</b>	<b>169</b>
1. Definition of sovereignty.....	169
2. The Lord as sovereign in the book of Proverbs .....	169
3. Comparison between the book of Proverbs and other Old Testament traditions.....	177
4. Comparison between the book of Proverbs and non-Israelite wisdom.....	180
5. Conclusions concerning God's sovereignty.....	187
<b>C. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>190</b>

<b>Ch. 5. The Lord as personal God in the book of Proverbs.....</b>	<b>193</b>
Introduction.....	193
A. God and the weak.....	197
1.The Lord's concern for the weak and defenceless in the book of Proverbs .....	197
2.Comparison between the book of Proverbs and other Old Testament traditions.....	203
3.Comparison between the book of Proverbs and non-Israelite wisdom. ....	205
4.Conclusions concerning God and the weak.....	211
B. God and the righteous man .....	213
1.The Lord as personal god of the righteous man in the book of Proverbs .....	213
2.Comparison between the book of Proverbs and other Old Testament traditions.....	225
3.Comparison between the book of Proverbs and non-Israelite wisdom. ....	228
4.Conclusions concerning God and the righteous man .....	234
C. Conclusions.....	236
<b>Summary and final conclusions.....</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Abbreviations. Technical Remarks.....</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Index.....</b>	<b>257</b>