

CONTENTS

Preface	7
Abbreviations and Symbols	9
Introduction	11
 Chapter 1	
ASPECTS OF WISDOM IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS	13
1. Introduction	13
2. Wisdom Tradition and Wisdom Influence	13
3. Christology	17
4. Social Identity: Jesus as a Wise Man	22
5. Forms of Speech and Literary Forms	25
6. What is Wisdom?	28
 Chapter 2	
CLASSIFYING AND ANALYZING PROVERBIAL SAYINGS	31
1. Questions of Definition	31
2. Classifying Proverbs	36
3. The Structure of Synoptic Proverbial Sayings	44
4. Summary and Conclusions	52
 Chapter 3	
ISSUES IN THE MODERN INTERPRETATION OF SYNOPTIC PROVERBIAL WISDOM	59
1. R. Bultmann	59
2. Literary/Rhetorical Approaches	69
3. Historical Approaches	83
4. Conclusions	98

Chapter 4	
PROBLEMS OF HISTORICAL RECONSTRUCTION: WISDOM, ESCHATOLOGY AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD	99
1. Introduction	99
a. The Problem	99
b. Old Quest and New Quest	100
2. Principles for Historical Reconstruction	106
a. The Centrality of Historical Background	106
b. Authenticating Criteria	109
c. Coherence as a Broad Principle of Historical Reconstruction	114
3. Concluding Comments	121
Chapter 5	
THE FUNCTIONS/RHETORIC OF THE PROVERBIAL SAYING IN THE SYNOPTIC LITERATURE	127
1. Introduction	127
2. How to do Things with Proverbs	128
3. Summary	140
Chapter 6	
WISDOM OF THE KINGDOM: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROVERBIAL WISDOM	141
1. Arguments based on Compatibility	141
2. Rethinking the Kingdom of God	148
a. The Diversity of Kingdom Language	149
b. Kingdom Language and Apocalyptic Imagery	159
c. Theology vs. Eschatology	161
d. The Activity of Jesus	163
e. On not seeking a neat fit	164
3. Jesus and the Wisdom of the Kingdom	166
Notes	169
Bibliography	215
Index of Biblical and Extra-Biblical References	227
Index of Authors	233