

SAPIENTIAL BOOKS

PROVERBS

Introduction

The doctrines or teachings of this anthology have two main axes, each with an extreme pole: one is the wise/foolish, the other is honorable/wicked. These two axes intertwine, because being wise has an ethical component, while wickedness is considered foolish.

God is present in this wise and ethical world: He possesses wisdom and grants good sense to human beings.

Proclamation of Wisdom

8²²Yahweh created me first,
at the beginning of his works.
²³He formed me from of old,
from eternity, even before the earth.
²⁴The abyss did not exist when I was born,
the springs of the sea had not gushed forth,
²⁵the mountains were still not set in their place
nor the hills, when I was born
²⁶before he made the earth or countryside,
or the first grains of the world's dust.
²⁷I was there when he made the skies
and drew the earth's compass on the abyss,
²⁸when he formed the clouds above
and when the springs of the ocean emerged;
²⁹when he made the sea with its limits,
that it might not overflow.
When he laid the foundations of the earth,
³⁰I was close beside him,
the designer of his works,
and I was his daily delight,
forever playing in his presence,
³¹playing throughout the world
and delighting to be with humans.
³²Now then, my sons, listen to me:
happy are those who follow my ways.