

AGUR'S WISDOM AND THE
COHERENCE OF PROVERBS 30

SBL Press

ANCIENT ISRAEL AND ITS LITERATURE

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COHERENCE OF PROVERBS 30

Alexander T. Kirk

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For Meghan.
We did it, babe.

לאדני
הקיצתי ועודי עמד
Ps 139:18

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Durham, 14 July 2023

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Abbreviations and Sigla

Sigla

√	Semitic root
{}	translation of reconstructed Hebrew text that deviates from MT
§	section number

Greek Letters for Hexaplaric Sources

α'	Aquila
θ'	Theodotion

Abbreviations

1cs	first-person common singular
2ms	second-person masculine singular
3fs	third-person feminine singular
3mp	third-person masculine plural
3ms	third-person masculine singular
AB	Anchor (Yale) Bible
ABD	Freedman, David Noel, ed. <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
Avod. Zar.	Avodah Zarah
Avot R. Nat.	Avot of Rabbi Nathan
AIL	Ancient Israel and Its Literature
A.J.	Josephus, <i>Antiquitates judaicae</i>
AJSL	<i>American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures</i>
ANEM	Ancient Near Eastern Monographs
ANET	Pritchard, James B., ed. <i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
AnOr	<i>Analecta Orientalia</i>
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament

AOTC	Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries
ArBib	Aramaic Bible
ATD	Das Alte Testament Deutsch
<i>AuOr</i>	<i>Aula Orientalis</i>
b.	Babylonian Talmud
BBRSup	Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement
BDAG	Danker, Frederick W., Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
BDB	Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 1907. Repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
Ber.	Berakot
BHBib	Bibliotheca Hispania biblica
BHS	Elliger, Karl, and Wilhelm Rudolf, eds. <i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1983.
BHQ	Biblia Hebraica Quinta
BHRG	Merwe, Christo H. J. van der, Jacobus A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze. <i>A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar</i> . 2nd ed. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017.
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
BibOr	Biblica et Orientalia
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar, Altes Testament
BLS	Bible and Literature Series
BSOAS	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
BT	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
BTB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BWANT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

CAD	Gelb, Ignace J., et al., eds. <i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> . 21 vols. Chicago: Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1956–2010.
CAL	The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon. http://cal.huc.edu .
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CD	Cairo Genizah copy of the Damascus Document
ConBOT	Coniectanea Biblica: Old Testament Series
ConcC	Concordia Commentary
COS	Hallo, William W., and K. Lawson Younger Jr., eds. <i>The Context of Scripture</i> . 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997–2016.
CrStHB	Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible
CurBR	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
DBSup	Pirot, Lous, and André Robert, eds. <i>Dictionnaire de la Bible: Supplément</i> . Paris: Letouzey & Ané, 1928–.
DCH	Clines, David J. A., ed. <i>The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . 9 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993–2016.
DCLS	Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Studies
DDD	Toorn, Karel van der, Bob Becking, and Pieter van der Horst, eds. <i>Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible</i> . 2nd ed. Leiden: Brill; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
DMOA	Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui
DNWSI	Hoftijzer, Jacob, and Karen Jongeling. <i>Dictionary of North-West Semitic Inscriptions</i> . 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1995.
DSD	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
DULAT	Olmo Lete, Gregorio del, and Joaquín Sanmartín. <i>A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition</i> . Translated and edited by Wilfred G. E. Watson. 3rd ed. HdO 112. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
EBR	Klauck, Hans-Josef, et al., eds. <i>Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception</i> . Berlin: de Gruyter, 2009–.
ET	English translation
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
fs	feminine singular

G	The Greek version of the Hebrew Bible commonly known as the Septuagint
G ^A	The Greek version of the Hebrew Bible according to Codex Alexandrinus
GKC	Gesenius, Wilhelm. <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Edited by Emil Kautzsch. Translated by Arthur E. Cowley. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910.
GöMisz	<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>
HALOT	Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann Jakob Stamm. <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Edited and translated under the supervision of Mervyn E. J. Richardson. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2001.
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament
HBAI	<i>Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel</i>
HBCE	The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition
HBM	Hebrew Bible Monographs
HCS	Hellenistic Culture and Society
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik
HS	<i>Hebrew Studies</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IB	Buttrick, George A., et al. <i>Interpreter's Bible</i> . 12 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1951–1957.
IBC	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
IBHS	Waltke, Bruce K., and Michael Patrick O'Connor. <i>An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
ICC	International Critical Commentary
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
ITQ	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
JANES	<i>Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Studies</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JBW	<i>Jahrbücher der biblischen Wissenschaft</i>
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JHS	<i>Journal of Hebrew Scriptures</i>
JNSL	<i>Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages</i>

Joüon	Joüon, Paul. 2011. <i>A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew</i> . Translated and revised by Takamitsu Muraoka. 2nd ed. SubBi 14. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2011.
JPSV	Jewish Publication Society Version
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSem	<i>Journal of Semitics</i>
JSJSup	Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplement
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
JSSSup	Journal of Semitic Studies Supplement
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KAI	Donner, Herbert, and Wolfgang Röllig. <i>Kanaanäische und Aramäische Inschriften</i> . 2nd ed. 3 vols. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1966–1969.
Ketub.	Ketubbot
Klio	<i>Klio: Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte</i>
KTU	Dietrich, Manfred, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín, eds. <i>Die keilalphabetischen Texte aus Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani und anderen Orten</i> . 3rd ed. AOAT 360. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2013. Cited according to Smith and Pitard 2009.
LD	Lectio Divina
LEH	Lust, Johan, Erik Eynikel, and Katrin Hauspie, eds. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2003.
Let. Aris.	Letter of Aristeas
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LSAWS	Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic
LSJ	Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. with revised supplement Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
Menah.	Menahot
Midr.	Midrash (+ biblical book)
M ^L	Masoretic text as witnessed to by Leningrad Codex
mng.	meaning
MT	Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible
NAC	New American Commentary
NCB	New Century Bible

NETS	Pietersma, Albert, and Benjamin G. Wright. <i>New English Translation of the Septuagint</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
NIB	Keck, Leander E., ed. <i>The New Interpreter's Bible</i> . 12 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994–2004.
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NJPS	<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures; The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i>
NMES	Near and Middle Eastern Series
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NS	new series
NTG	Neue Theologische Grundrisse
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
Or	<i>Orientalia</i> NS
OSHT	Oxford Studies in Historical Theology
OTL	Old Testament Library
OTM	Oxford Theological Monographs
OTP	Charlesworth, James H., ed. <i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> . 2 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1983–1985.
OTS	Old Testament Studies
OtSt	<i>Oudtestamentische Studiën</i>
OTWSA	<i>Oud Testamentiese Werkgemeenskap in Suid-Afrika</i>
P.Amh.	Papyrus Amherst
P.Ins.	Papyrus Insinger
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
Pesah.	Pesahim
PHSC	Perspectives on Hebrew Scriptures and Its Contexts
PSB	<i>Princeton Seminary Bulletin</i>
PTMS	Princeton Theological Monograph Series
Qidd.	Qiddušin
R-H	Rahlf's, Alfred, and Robert Hanhart, eds. <i>Septuaginta: Editio Altera</i> . Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.
Rab.	Rabbah (+ biblical book), i.e., midrashic works
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
Rhet.	Aristotle, <i>Rhetoric</i>
RSO	<i>Rivista degli studi orientali</i>
S	The Syriac version of the Hebrew Bible, or the Peshitta
Shabb.	Shabbat

Sanh.	Sanhedrin
SCS	Septuagint and Cognate Studies
<i>Sef</i>	<i>Sefarad</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SPIB	Scripta Pontificii Instituti Biblici
SStLL	Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
StPohl	Studia Pohl
SubBi	Subsidia Biblica
SymS	Symposium Series
T	The Targum, or the Aramaic version of the Hebrew Bible
Tanh.	Tanhuma
<i>TDOT</i>	Botterweck, G. Johannes, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry, eds. <i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . Translated by John T. Willis et al. 17 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–2021.
<i>Text</i>	<i>Textus</i>
Tg. Neof.	Targum Neofiti
Tg. Onq.	Targum Onqelos
THB	Textual History of the Bible
<i>TLOT</i>	Jenni, Ernst, and Claus Westermann, eds. <i>Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated by Mark E. Biddle. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
TOTC	Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries
TUGAL	Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur
<i>TWOT</i>	Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. <i>Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament</i> . 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
V	The Vulgate, or Jerome's Latin version of the Hebrew Bible
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplement
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WeBC	Westminster Bible Companion
WLAW	Wisdom Literature from the Ancient World
WOO	Wiener Offene Orientalistik
<i>WZKM</i>	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>
YJS	Yale Judaica Series
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

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Agur ... may aptly be termed the Hebrew Voltaire.

—E. J. Dillon, *The Skeptics of the Old Testament*

“Ah! you are a happy fellow,” said Mr. Farebrother, turning on his heel and beginning to fill his pipe. “You don’t know what it is to want spiritual tobacco—bad emendations of old texts, ... or a learned treatise on the entomology of the Pentateuch, including all the insects not mentioned, but probably met with by the Israelites in their passage through the desert; with a monograph on the Ant, as treated by Solomon, showing the harmony of the Book of Proverbs with the results of modern research. You don’t mind my fumigating you?”

—George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

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