

## 5. Outline:

This is not an easy book to outline but the following scheme has been suggested along these general lines by many authors:

- I. Prologue: 1:1-11
- II. First Discourse: 1:12-2:26
- III. Second Discourse: 3:1-5:20
- IV. Third Discourse: 6:1-8:15
- v. Fourth Discourse: 8:16-12:7
- VI. Epilogue 12:8-14

Other outlines are common and this one does not tell you much. Some seek to arrange the book in connection with poems, prose, proverbial sections, etc. I also have outlined it in 14 separate section headings..but that does not look wise to me now. The above is my preference. What hampers efficient outlining is simple fact that the book was not written that way! The repetition of key items in each discourse indicates that the organizing principle is one of fluid ideals, not tight structure. We might expect that to some degree as it is poetic. All of this does not interfere with the meaning but does make the structural development problematic and this will affect the presentation of the message of the book as we are most used to thinking with methodological precision more than empathy. Within these outlined materials, however, will be found a number of interesting linguistic and literary features and we will remember that a simple outline is always preferable to one of complicated nature and this one is simple and direct, if nothing else.

## 6. The Vocabulary

A Hebrew student's dream..replete with hapax legomena, Aramaisms, and unusual meanings assigned to stems which otherwise you thought you already knew.

## 7. The Nature of the Book:

## a. Characteristics:

- (1) earthy language
- (2) human experimentation
- (3) logical inference
- (4) realism
- (5) controlled pessimism or pragmatism