



## Roots of Wisdom: The Oldest Proverbs of Israel and Other Peoples

By Claus Westermann

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In this book, Claus Westermann argues that Israel's early wisdom literature grew out of an oral tradition reflecting an agrarian setting. Dealing primarily with Proverbs 10-31, Westermann demonstrates how the wisdom literature evolved into a form of poetry that had greater universal appeal as the people of Israel became more urbanized. A distinctive feature of *Roots of Wisdom* is Westermann's use of other wisdom sayings, particularly those from ancient Africa, to illustrate the logical progression of wisdom poetry being simply observational in character to becoming more universal in character.

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### **Editorial Review**

About the Author

**Claus Westermann** was Professor of Old Testament at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. He authored a number of books, including *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*, *Roots of Wisdom*, and *Prophetic Oracles of Salvation in the Old Testament*, all published by WJK.

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