1. The overview of Book Two connects Morphology (form) with Theology (fact)
2. A Proverb is a poetic way of conveying truth; therefore, FORM is everything. An application of Proverbs would be, “A wise man is a poet; but fools refuse to rhyme.”

A. Non-biblical proverbs abound:

1. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.  
 2. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it’s a duck.  
 3. Where there’s smoke, there’s fire.  
 4. People don’t care how much you know ’til they know how much you care.  
 5. It takes one to know one.  
 6. This, too, shall pass.  
 7. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.  
 8. The greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground.  
 9. People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.

10. Look before you leap.

11. Winning is not the most important thing – it’s the only thing.

*Vince Lombardi ~*

12. It’s better to have a gun and not need one than to need a gun and not have one. *Al Capone~*

B. Those statements would not long be remembered if it were not for assonance and alliteration.

III. The Form of the Proverb

A. The single parallel couplet is basic to the structure of Proverbs.

1. Antithetic Parallelism (AP) is essential to Book Two.

a. AP says, “Get your ‘buts’ in the right place.”

(1) A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly. (Proverbs 12:23)

2. Synonymous Parallelism

a. A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue. (Proverbs 17:4)

3. Comparative Parallelism

a. As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him. (Proverbs 10:26)

b. A is better than B:

(1) Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than to pretend to be somebody and have no food. (Proverbs 12:9)

4. The Bible loses the most in the translation of its poetry.

a. It’s not just what it says, but also how it sounds.

5. Jesus’ poetic forms continue to teach the wisdom of poetry.

IV. The Major Function of the Proverbs is for the “young.”

A. To the spiritually mature the message can be altered.

1. Hebrews 5 speaks of the “milk” and “meat” of the word.