Title: Is the Book of Proverbs a book of proverbs?

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Abstract: The מִשְׁלֵי שלֹמֹה is known throughout English tradition as the Book of Proverbs. Despite this, interpreters are generally reluctant to read these biblical sayings in the same way that they might read genuine proverbs. In this paper, I challenge this tendency. Using contemporary genre theory, I argue that the sayings *are not* proverbs in a straightforward sense, and yet they should be read *as* proverbs. Indeed, they invoke the proverb genre through e.g. their content, form and style. This genre invocation brings with it attendant strategies for interpretation and use. In particular, it invites readers to use the biblical sayings like proverbs in specific situations with specific functions. There is much recent research in paremiology (proverb studies) that could be fruitfully incorporated here, and I present some preliminary results of the investigation.