



An Analytical Exegesis of קִנְיָה in Proverbs 22:6 in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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INTRODUCTION

- Distinguished scholars, esteemed faculty, beloved students, and honoured guests,
- Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I wish, with deep respect, to acknowledge the leadership and governance of KAG EAST University: our Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, the University Council, the Deans, the HODs, the Senate, the BOM and the entire university management, whose visionary leadership continues to shape the academic and spiritual identity of this institution.
- I also recognise the invaluable contribution of the School of Bible and Theology, the Research Directorate, and the student led KAG EAST University International Journal and Conference Club (KIJCC), whose commitment to scholarly excellence and global academic engagement has created a vibrant culture of research, writing, and intellectual dialogue.
- As the Patron of the KIJCC Writing Club, I stand here not merely as a representative of an academic community, but as a witness to the transformative power of disciplined scholarship, collaborative inquiry, and faith-informed research in our contemporary world.



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INTRODUCTION

- We are living in an age where artificial intelligence is transforming how we learn, think, teach, and even form identity. Machines are now “trained,” data is “processed,” and algorithms are “educated.” This raises a critical theological question: *What does it truly mean to train a child?*
- Today, I invite us to reread a familiar pericope, Proverbs 22:6, through analytical exegesis and in dialogue with the realities of artificial intelligence. My focus is the Hebrew verb קָנַן commonly translated as “train.”
- I argue that קָנַן does not simply mean instruction. Rather, it refers to holistic formation, spiritual, moral, relational, and vocational, offering a profound biblical critique of modern technological models of learning.



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EXEGETICAL INSIGHT INTO תִּנְּךְ

- ❑ Proverbs 22:6 reads: “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
- ❑ The key term here is תִּנְּךְ. Lexically, this verb appears in contexts of dedication or inauguration. For example, it is used for dedicating a house, an altar, or a sacred space. Therefore, its meaning goes beyond teaching facts.
- ❑ To תִּנְּךְ a child is to initiate the child into a way of life.
- ❑ It implies:
 - ❖ Orientation toward a moral and spiritual path
 - ❖ Formation of character and identity
 - ❖ Integration into a community of values
- ❑ In the wisdom tradition of Israel, education is not neutral. It is covenantal. It shapes who a person becomes, not just what a person knows.
- ❑ Thus, Proverbs 22:6 is not merely a pedagogical instruction; it is a theological vision of human formation.



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AI AND THE LANGUAGE OF TRAINING

- In contemporary discourse, artificial intelligence systems are also described as being “trained.” However, the meaning of training in AI differs fundamentally from biblical formation
- In artificial intelligence, Training is functional
 - training = data exposure
 - goal = prediction accuracy
 - focus = performance optimization

AI Training	Biblical קִנּוּיָה
Data-driven	Value-driven
Performance-oriented	Wisdom-oriented
Instrumental	Theological
Functional systems	Moral persons



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ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONTRAST

- AI can process information, but it cannot:
 - Possess moral conscience
 - Experience spiritual transformation
 - Participate in covenantal relationships
- Therefore, Proverbs 22:6 challenges the modern assumption that education is merely technical or informational. It reminds us that true formation involves:
 1. **Relational formation:** identity shaped through community and mentorship
 2. **Moral formation:** cultivation of virtue and wisdom
 3. **Spiritual formation:** orientation toward God and divine purpose
- In the age of AI, the danger is not technology itself, but the reduction of human beings to data-driven systems.



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IMPLICATIONS FOR THEOLOGY, EDUCATION, AND MINISTRY



- This exegetical rereading has significant implications:

(a) Theological Implications

- Proverbs 22:6 affirms a biblical anthropology in which humans are not machines but covenantal beings created in the image of God. Formation is sacred, not mechanical.

(b) Educational Implications

- Christian education must resist the temptation to equate learning with information transfer. While AI can enhance learning, it cannot replace character formation, mentorship, and spiritual discipleship.

(c) Ministerial and African Contextual Implications

- In African contexts, where communal identity and relational wisdom are central, קהילה resonates deeply. It affirms that education is communal, ethical, and spiritual.
- Thus, African theological institutions are called not only to adopt technology but to critically interpret it through biblical wisdom.



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S/NO	SERVICES OFFERED	COMMITMENT	PERSONNEL	REQUIREMENTS	TIME LINE
1	Clearance at gate	Courtesy	Gate keeper	I.D card	2 minutes
2	Response to general enquiries	Honest & friendly response	Secretary	Nil	5 minutes
3	Service at principal's office	Courtesy	The principal	Nil	5 minutes
4	Phone calls	Promptness & courtesy	Secretary	Nil	Immediate
5	Admission of new students	Fast & Politely	Boarding	Boarding requirements	30 minutes
6	Orientation of new students	Passion & excellence	HOD'S / Students Council	Nil	1 day
7	Collection of fees and other revenues	Integrity & Honesty	Accounts clerk	Bank Slip/ Money order	5 minutes
8	Payment of salaries	As per agreement contract	Accounts clerk	Service delivery	By the 5th day of following month
9	Payment of supply of goods and service	As per agreement / FDSE disbursement	Accounts clerk	LPO/LSO Delivery/Invoice	Within 90 days
10	Submission of Books of Accounts	Professionalism & time bound	Accounts clerk	Submission letter	31st Jan. of every new Year
11	Teaching and learning	Responsibility & professionalism	Teachers and students	Teaching/ learning Resources	Whole course
12	Examination Marking and Results	Professionally and Timely	Teachers	Nil	3 times a term
13	Typing of official work	Accurancy & professionalism	Secretary	Registry	1 hour
14	Guidance and Counselling	Professionalism and confidentiality	H.O.D/Administrative	Free	Open
15	Spiritual Nourishment	Impacting Godly values	Chaplaincy/Priests	Bible	All the time
16	Assemblies Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Inspiring Students for excellence	Principal / Teachers/ Students	Undivided attention	30 minutes
17	Meetings B.O.M staff	Punctuality and time lines	All concerned stakeholders	Notice/ Agenda	2-3 hours
18	Parents Meetings	Networking with stakeholders	P. A/B. O. M / Principal & Teachers	Notice	5 hours
19	Tendering	Fairness, transparency & Integrity	Tender committee	Ksh 1000/= per tender	2 weeks
20	Procurement of goods and services	As per procurement regulations	Procurement committee	Requisition form	2 weeks
21	Discipline management	Professionally, fairness, promptly	Discipline committee	Nil	Depending on case

MOTTO: EDUCATION ENABLES



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KEY INSIGHT

- This study has shown that the Hebrew verb קָנַח in Proverbs 22:6 signifies holistic initiation into a divinely oriented way of life.
- In the age of artificial intelligence, Proverbs 22:6 reminds us of a crucial truth
 - Machines can be trained
 - Humans must be formed

Wisdom ≠ Intelligence

- Therefore, the biblical vision of formation challenges us to rethink education, discipleship, and identity in a digital world.



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CONCLUSION

- Focus term: קִּנּוּיָהּ = holistic initiation into life before God
- Proverbs 22:6 offers a theological critique of modern education
- The challenge today: **How do we form persons in a digital world?**

“If we train machines faster than we form souls, we may gain intelligence, but lose wisdom.”



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