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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Proverbs 11.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Proverbs 11.

Topics.

- This chapter is filled with a multitude of various Proverbs.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, that has multiple authors, but most of it is attributed to King Solomon. Chapter one to nine gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The central concern of the book of Proverbs is practical wisdom for living. We are told that the beginning and essence of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (Prov. 1:7) (Prov. 9:10). It contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a foolish life. While the wicked stumble in deep darkness (Prov. 4:19), the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day ((Prov. 4:18). Individual proverbs date from between the tenth and sixth centuries B.C.

Kings and angels: the title king is often used throughout the book of Proverbs, it comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) which can refer to the following four things: -

1. A royal king ascending to the throne of royalty and reigning from it.
2. A male sovereign (i.e., a man or boy who rules as a monarch over an independent state.
3. The chief, or the principal leader or ruler of a group (secular or religious).
4. A messenger or ambassador, especially of God, (i.e. an angel, a king, a prophet, a priest or a teacher).
5. The best, the strongest and the wisest of all.

It is interesting to notice in the first verse of proverbs (Prov. 1:1) the word king comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) and the first mention of an angel in the Bible also comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) (Gen. 16:7). This means when the title king is used in the book of Proverbs it carries the idea of a wise king that does good unless the context implies otherwise. For further information concerning angels see the title: -

- Angels (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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Proverbs 11

Proverbs 11:1 ----- ¹A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.

This means that the LORD hates deception and cheating, but delights in those who are honest, just and fair.

Proverbs 11:2 ----- ²When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

When pride comes, then comes disgrace: (v2) this is because the primary goal of the prideful is not about finding the best solution to any given situation, but about protecting self and pride and because of this the prideful do not know when it is wise to back down, pride will stand its ground no matter who is going to suffer or even if it means war.

The prideful lack wisdom because their motivation is not about finding the best way to deal with any given situation or circumstance, but about protecting their pride so they are driven to defend self or attack their opponent either physically or verbally.

With the humble is wisdom: (v2) this is because their primary goal is not about protecting self and pride, but about finding the best solution to any given situation.

There are two aspects to pride, healthy pride and destructive pride. Not all pride is evil pride the following shows the difference between healthy pride and destructive pride.

Healthy Pride.

- Satisfaction with self: the happy satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire. A person taking great pride in their work.
- Proper sense of own value: having the correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth.
- The source of personal satisfaction: such as an achievement or possession that somebody feels especially pleased and satisfied with (i.e. their grandchildren were their pride and joy).
- To be proud of something: personal satisfaction and pleasure from a particular source, especially something accomplished or a quality possessed.

Unhealthy Pride.

- Is having a feeling of superiority and a haughty attitude. This type of pride is shown by somebody who believes (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God, and will treat those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.
- Is having the biggest ego of all, a person at this level of pride sees themselves at the top of humanity and views themselves as always being right. They believe they are equal to God or even a god themselves and are so egotistical that they think the whole world revolves around them.

Proverbs 11:3 -----³The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

The statement, "The integrity of the upright guides them," carries the following two ideas, firstly, they are guided by honesty, truth, faithfulness and loyalty and secondly, they steadfastly adhere to what is right and hold firm to God's principles and standards. In contrast to this group of people the wicked are guided by their lies, deceptions, crimes and wrongdoing which will eventually destroy them in this world and bring God's judgment of condemnation upon them when they stand before him on their Day of Judgment.

Proverbs 11:4 -----⁴Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

No matter how abundantly rich or wealthy a person maybe it will not help them when death comes. In contrast to this doing what is good and right before God will deliver a person from the death to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

NOTE: this does not mean it is wrong for Christians to be rich and wealthy, there are many men and women who have been very successful in their particular line of work, they do all their business deals honestly and with integrity and treat their staff justly and because of their success they have resources that are able to help others extend the Kingdom of God and help the poor. The focus of this Proverb is on those who give God no place in their heart, mind and thoughts and instead build

their life upon their success, upon what they achieve and upon what they possess and put all their trust in their riches and wealth and use it for their own selfish indulgences. Money is not sinful or evil it can be used for good or for bad, to help the poor or to corrupt a king. It is the purpose it is used for that determines whether the money is good or bad, not the money itself.

Proverbs 11:5-6 ----- ⁵The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness. ⁶The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.

The word blameless in verse five does not mean without sin if it was possible for any of us to achieve the glorious state of a sin-free life while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose rather the word, blameless carries the following two ideas: -

1. To live a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which means forsaking those things that are against God's will and behaviour that could bring hurt and harm to another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed be filled with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace, mercy and such like things).
2. By faith we solely trust in Christ's righteousness to be saved and not our own self-righteousness and in God's grace, contrasted to trusting in self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. It means crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic. It is doing as much as is in our power to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. Being blameless means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right where possible when a wrong has been done.

Paul told his disciples to do all things without grumbling and questioning so that:-

- They may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom they shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:14-15).

This is not talking about being without sin we know this because the Lord Jesus Christ is the only man who has ever been without sin. The focus is not being without sin, but being blameless in the world's eyes or by the world's standards. Paul says those who are humble, obedient and do, not grumble, murmur, complain or cause divisions and who without question do what is lawful and right will be counted innocent and blameless in the world. Doing what is good and right will not only protect those who live this way from trouble and harm, but will also deliver them from death. In contrast to this those who live by lies, deceptions, wrong-doing and wickedness will bring punishment and condemnation upon themselves.

Proverbs 11:7 ----- ⁷When the wicked dies, his hope will perish, and the expectation of wealth perishes too.

The wicked that do-wrong may in this life have hope of eternal life, but it and all the wealth they have gathered by crooked and dis-honest means will perish with them in the grave.

A man wisely said, "I have never seen a Hurst transporting the coffin of a corpse with a trailer attached and full of the deceased person's material possessions." I myself live in a downstairs unit. When the man above me died, a tip truck was backed up to the balcony of his upstairs unit and all the possessions were thrown into the tray of the truck most of the items smashing into little pieces as they hit the steel floor of the tray. These broken and worthless pieces were then taken to the smelly fires of the rubbish dump. These two simple examples clearly show the vanity of labouring and building our entire life solely on the temporary riches and things of this world and giving no thought or time to God.

Proverbs 11:8 ----- ⁸The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.

Doing what is right and good will protect and keep a person from trouble, whereas wrongdoing will lead a person directly into it.

Proverbs 11:9 ----- ⁹With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbour, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

This verse could carry the following two ideas: -

1. Those who are corrupt and wicked seek to entice their neighbour who lives a good life into their evil ways, but those who do what is right know that to join with the wicked in their ways will only bring misery and ruin to their lives so in this sense they are saved by their knowledge.
2. Those who aggressively deny God and live contrary to His laws make every attempt to verbally destroy the faith of their neighbour, by trying to prove to them that the Bible is foolish or prove that their faith is flawed in some way, but those who understand the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary, the Gospel of grace, the multitude of prophecies that have been fulfilled and are still to be fulfilled and have a sound knowledge of Scripture cannot be deceived by such attempts, so in this sense their knowledge has saved them.

Proverbs 11:10 ----- ¹⁰When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.

Those who love justice and hate seeing the innocent suffer rejoice when they see those who are deliberately evil, corrupt and wicked destroyed. Naturally the fewer the number of wicked people there are in a city the greater the safety for people to walk in its streets and families to dwell in their homes and because of this there will be far more joy, peace and happiness within its walls.

This same principal is not limited to cities, but applies to the entire earth on a global level. As the generations and populations of the earth increase in their denial of God and deny His laws (our schools and most TV nature programs today speak of evolution as a scientific fact and it denies the existence of God the creator of all things) and wickedness, deceptions, crime, oppressing the poor, murder, violence and wars continue to increase God hand of favour and blessing is withdrawn further from the planet we live on and when earth suffers we all suffer.

It is common for the world to refer to the planet we live on as, "Mother Earth," this is a very appropriate title since the Bible personifies the earth as a pregnant mother longing to give birth to the sons of God (referring the resurrection of the faithful). It also likens natural disasters and troubles upon earth to the labour pains of a pregnant woman. In the same way that the labour pains of a pregnant woman increase and become more rapid as the time of the birth draws closer likewise troubles and disasters will increase in power and rapidness as we nearer the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone of us treated our mothers and abused them in the same way mankind treats and abuses the earth we would not only be cast out of our mothers home, but also be standing in a court of law accused of grossly abusing our mother in every way possible and no doubt condemned by the judge of the courtroom for the harm and abuse we have caused our mother.

Proverbs 11:11 ----- ¹¹By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.

It means that a city prospers and is spoken well of because of its inhabitants who speak words of peace and do what is right, honest and just. It is common even today to hear holiday travellers say, "Such and such a place is a good city to visit the people are friendly and you can walk its streets without fear of being robbed and abused etc." In contrast to this the, dishonest, the unjust, the wicked, the violent and the corrupt that dwell within a city bring that city to ruin. This is especially true if the head of the city and its government is deceitful, dishonest and corrupt.

The principal contained in this proverb is not limited to cities it applies to nations, organisations, communities, companies, churches and even very small groups.

Proverbs 11:12 ----- ¹²Whoever belittles his neighbour lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

Neighbour in this context would embrace someone living next door, someone you see everyday someone you work with or someone who is close by. The idea carried here is that it is foolishness to gossip, degrade and demean a neighbour to others because if they hear of it they will turn against you and from that point on there will be tension and hostility. Wisdom says it is far better to remain silent than risk causing such trouble. The common expression today is, “If you don't have something good to say about a person don't say anything.”

Proverbs 11:13 ----- ¹³Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

A person with integrity and a trustworthy and an honest heart will protect a person by remaining silent when they see a secret fault in someone that people would love to gossip about. In contrast to this those who love slandering are so excited they have discovered the person's secret they can't wait to find someone to gossip with and tell them about it even though it means it will bring mental hurt and emotional harm to the one they are gossiping about. Such uncaring and uncompassionate people not only feel a twisted sense of superiority and importance when they are able to reveal such secrets of others, but they also feel a sense of self-exaltation when they are able to demean and degrade others

Proverbs 11:14 ----- ¹⁴Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

This is wisdom that will not only safe guard against making bad choices and decisions, but will also greatly help in times of confusion and bewilderment. A wise person will listen to the advice and counsel of various people they respect and then make their decision, especially if such a decision is going to affect their life in a major way. In contrast to this the unwise will speak to no one before making their choice and the prideful are too proud to listen to the advice of another.

Proverbs 11:15 ----- ¹⁵Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure.

Since lies, deceptions and false promises are common today amongst our governments, our new media, our Politian's, our TV commercials and society in general to fully understand this Proverb it needs to be understand that during the ancient era this was not so, a man's word was his bond, if they made a promise they kept it no matter what or suffered the consequences. For them it was a great disgrace not to keep a promise. With this in mind this Proverb is saying that it is foolishness to promise something to a stranger, because if you fail to keep it they will exact it from you in some way, even if they have to use violence. In contrast to this it is safe to make a promise to a person who hates violence, because if you fail to deliver they will not beat you or worse kill you.

Proverbs 11:16 ----- ¹⁶A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches.

A woman full of tact, compassion, kindness, divine grace, mercy, and politeness and who is generous will receive honour amongst her community and before God. In contrast to her a man who lacks any form of gracious and compassion gain worldly riches and wealth by violence, such violence maybe through theft, verbal threats, blackmail, kidnapping, war and such like things. It would also embrace slavery and oppressing the poor for one's own gain. In contrast to the gracious woman being honoured by God wicked and violent men are bringing God's judgment and condemnation upon themselves.

Proverbs 11:17 ----- ¹⁷A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

A kind person benefits their own life, because they will reap the rewards of the kindness, the goodness and the help they have shown to others in this life and God's respect and favour will be toward them. In contrast to this a cruel (i.e., harsh,

unkind, mean, pitiless, merciless and heartless) person will in time reap the hurt and pain they have caused others and by their merciless actions are heaping up God's wrath upon themselves on the Day of Judgment.

Proverbs 11:18 ----- ¹⁸The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.

There will not be an eternal reward for those who get rich and wealthy through dishonesty, deception, lying and cheating whereas a person who does what is right is guaranteed to receive a reward. It is interesting to notice that nearly all New Testament verses that speak about literal riches and wealth speak about it negatively, but this does not mean that it is wrong for a Christian to be rich and wealthy. When the Bible speaks of money negativity it is not the money that is sinful (it is neither good nor bad since it is just paper) rather it is the love of money that is sinful for two reasons: -

1. Because the affections are set on money and profit rather than on God and those who love money trust in their abundant wealth rather than upon God for their inner joy, contentment, comfort and security.
2. Because the outward manifestation of the love of money is selfish-ambition, greed and indulgent luxurious living, those who love money spend it to gratify self, ego, pride and greed rather than use their abundance to help the poor and less fortunate and for this reason their wealth will be their undoing. They may remain saved to eternal life, but there is no-doubt they will suffer loss at the judgment seat of Christ as Paul taught in the following verses: -

If anyone builds on the foundation (the Lord Jesus Christ) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, they will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

Money is not sinful or evil it can be used for good or for bad, to help the poor or to spoil and pamper oneself in an indulgent lifestyle, it is the purpose it is used for that determines whether the money is good or bad, not the money itself. There are no-doubt certain brothers and sisters in the family of Christ who God has blessed with a business mind and the skills needed to turn everything they do into great success and great wealth.

For those who are humble before God and have the Spirit of Christ this is a great blessing since they are then not only able to extend the Kingdom of God by supporting those gifted in proclaiming the 'Good News' of the gospel of Christ, but are also able to help the poor in ways that many of us are unable to do. When riches and abundance of money is used in this fashion it is storing up eternal treasures in heaven for those who have not set their hearts upon greed and profit, but used their blessing to advance God Kingdom and help the poor.

Proverbs 11:19 ----- ¹⁹Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.

Those who accept God's plan of salvation and do what is good and right before God will inherit eternal life, but those who do what is wrong, wicked and corrupt will be denied such life. For further information see the title: -

- Death (What Happens when we Die?) in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Proverbs 11:20 ----- ²⁰Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the LORD, but those of blameless ways are his delight.

The apostle John in his letter wrote: -

- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

No-one is without sin, when Solomon uses the word blameless in this context he does not mean without sin, it carries the idea of being a person who believe in God accepts His plan of salvation and not only does what is good and right, but also does what they can to help the poor and treats everyone with decency and respect. Today we don't use the expression, "A blameless person," we would instead say that they are a decent and good human being. The formula for those who truly desire to be a delight to God's heart is to always do the good and right thing and always treat others with decency and respect whether they are Christians or not.

Proverbs 11:21 ----- ²¹Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.

Seeing all the injustice in the world today some maybe tempted to feel that the evil person does go unpunished, but God's judgment is not random it has its own appointed time. At the moment we are living in the long day of death and the long day of God's grace, judgment is delayed until the right time. No one should think that just because God's judgment cannot be seen in the world at this present moment in that many of the ungodly and wicked prosper while many of the innocent and righteous suffer that they can do as they please and act corruptly and wickedly and escape God's judgment.

Scripture says that God does not forget the cry of the afflicted, some may find it difficult to comprehend that God remembers the cries of the poor, the oppressed, the helpless and the afflicted, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen (soon it is most likely they will simply appear in the air), then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps the cries of the afflicted in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and avenge the cries of the poor, the oppressed, the helpless and the afflicted, on the day of judgment. The ultimate punishment of the person who does evil is the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). For further information see the title: -

- Lake of Fire in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The offspring of the righteous will be delivered: (v21) carries the idea that children who are raised in a home in which the parents believe in God and not only know His love and grace, but also faithfully live a lifestyle that honours Him and brings a good testimony to their faith will follow in the same footsteps and be delivered from the darkness of the grave and from death.

Proverbs 11:22 ----- ²²Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.

When a gold ring is put into a pig's snout the beauty of the ring is destroyed, such is the beauty of a woman who has no sense of what is right or appropriate and lacks the sensitivity needed to avoid giving offence to others.

Proverbs 11:23 ----- ²³The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath.

The reason the desire of the righteous only ends in good is because the righteous (those who love God and do what is good and right) only desire what is honest, good, kind just and brings no harm or hurt to anyone. The good that will come to them at their end is eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory. In contrast to this the wicked not only place no value on honesty, kindness and doing what is right and good, but are also indifferent to the hurt and harm their goals and plans might injure. They have great expectations and ambitions which are fine, but their attitude is to crush everyone who stands in their way and because of this uncompassionate attitude and lack of mercy their grandiose expectations are storing up wrath against them for the Day of Judgment.

Proverbs 11:24 ----- ²⁴One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Those who give freely to others will grow richer; this richness maybe manifested in any of the following things happiness, joy, contentment, peace or spiritual blessings. They are freely able to give, because their love is not set upon money. They are of course aware of its practical need, but if their living needs are supplied they have no interest in storing up riches and wealth for themselves because their affections are not attached to it. This is why they are able to freely give and why they grow richer in spirit for it. God designed the laws of the universe and human nature in such a manner that great joy comes to the heart of a man or woman who is able to help the poor and those in need.

Another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want: (v24) in contrast to those who are able to freely give there are those who are stingy because their love and affection are set upon money. This is why they cannot give, their money, it owns them by love and because of this they are like slaves owned by their master in this case the master is money. Their money controls them rather than them controlling it. This is why those who love money always crave more even though they have more than enough. It matters not how much they have they will always crave more and therefore never find true joy, contentment and peace.

Proverbs 11:25 ----- ²⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

This means that a man or woman that has a generous heart and who helps others will be helped by others themselves.

Proverbs 11:26 ----- ²⁶People curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

Those who store food in abundance to themselves while others go hungry will be despised by the people (whether they are hungry or not), but a person who sells it will be blessed. Many of us today would feel that should we have more food in our house than we need and our neighbour knocked on our door saying they have had no food for two days we should give it to them, not sell it to them, but in our western world if someone had money to buy food they would not be lacking it since they would simply go to a supermarket and buy it.

In ancient times this was not the case people could have money, but be completely out of food since they were dependent upon their farms and crops producing if their farms did not produce they starved. They could not walk down to a supermarket and buy some. This is why it was acceptable for those who had abundance to sell it since they had worked hard to have such an abundance and were worthy of wages for their labour, besides this it is quite likely that when the next harvest comes around they maybe the one that suffers lack and asking their neighbour for food. It is not wrong to be paid wages for work done, but it is grossly wrong before God to exploit employees and make excessive profit from people suffering hardships.

Proverbs 11:27 ----- ²⁷Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favour, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

Every man and woman who seeks favour from God and from others will conscientiously set their heart and mind to search for and chase after what is good worthy, kind, compassionate, right and honourable since these are the things that endear others toward a person and bring delight to God's heart..

Evil comes to him who searches for it: (v27) following is a simple example of the truth of this statement. During my teenage years drugs were around, but they were hard to come by for those like myself and my friends who feared taking drugs we never came across them, but another troubled teenager we knew found them whenever he wanted them. We never came across them because we never went looking for them, unlike our troubled friend he always found them because unlike us he was always hunting for them. This proverb teaches us the following two things, firstly, if you want good things in life chase after what is good and associate with people who do what is right and good and secondly, if you want trouble and misery join those who live a lifestyle of wrongdoing, lies, deception and wickedness.

Proverbs 11:28 ----- ²⁸Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

Those who put all their trust in money will crumble (i.e., suffer deep depression, despair and some may even suicide) and at the end of their life are destined to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). In contrast to this those who trust in God's plan of salvation and do what is right and good will find happiness, peace and contentment in this world whether they are rich or poor and at their end will inherit eternal life and eternal and everlasting happiness in glory. This does not mean it is wrong for Christians to be rich and wealthy (see the notes following (v14) (above)

Proverbs 11:29 ----- ²⁹Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

A family member who causes strife, trouble and divisions amongst their own family will inherit nothing and the foolish who lack common sense and wisdom will be workers of the wise.

Proverbs 11:30 ----- ³⁰The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures (winneth souls in KJV) souls is wise.

The fruit of the righteous: is love, kindness, compassion, mercy, grace, forgiveness and such like things. They are called a tree of life for the following two reasons, firstly, because they are also the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Lord Jesus Christ and the attitudes of heart that bring delight to God and the angels in heaven and secondly because those who love God and allow these fruits to guide all that they do will inherit eternal life.

Whoever captures (winneth souls in KJV) souls is wise: (v30) some may wonder at times, "How can I ever repay Christ for the brutal beating he suffered and the cruel death he endured on the bloodstained cross of Calvary that I might be saved by grace and by faith be clothed with his perfect righteousness and made right before God. The truth is there is nothing we can do to repay him, but there are two things we can do that bring joy to his heart, firstly, live a lifestyle that bring honour to his heavenly Father and treat everyone with respect and decency whether they are Christians or not and secondly, save the lost by sharing our faith and the message of the bloodstained cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ whenever we have the opportunity.

Proverbs 11:31 ----- ³¹If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

Those that love God and live a lifestyle of honesty, integrity and goodness are rewarded for their goodness by being resurrected to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory, in contrast to this the wicked and the sinner will be repaid by God's judgment and condemnation to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). For further information concerning this, see the title: "Lake of Fire," in Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

This verse also carries a faint echo of the righteous and the wicked being rewarded on earth when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce.

All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Nine Aspects of Wisdom: wisdom embraces the following nine aspects: -

1. Having a clear thoughtful, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, and discreet mind.
2. Being cautious in character as opposed to being impulsive.
3. Being sensible and practical with the skills and talents that a person has.
4. Making choices that considers others and that will be fair and just.
5. Studying, reading and learning to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
6. Being able to see the future danger of a decision, choice or action.
7. Having the ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in the best result and a good outcome in the future.
8. Being able to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message a speaker is teaching.
9. Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future for themselves and for others.

End.