



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Proverbs 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Proverbs 2.

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### Topics.

- Those who search for wisdom will find hidden treasure and find God.
- The fear of God wisdom and Christians.
- Key to understanding the law and Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount.
- Wisdom and understanding is a shield against those that are evil.
- Wisdom will deliver from the forbidden woman and her smooth words.
- The upright will inhabit the land, but the treacherous will be rooted out.

**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.

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### INTRODUCTION

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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.

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### KINGS AND ANGELS

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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).

**Whoever Searches for Wisdom Finds Hidden Treasure and God.**

- **Proverbs 2:1-5:** My (Solomon's) son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>2</sup>making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup>yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup>if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

No-one finds hidden treasure easily, wisdom does not just come, one has to seek after it, meaning study, read, learn and listen to those that are wise. Understanding the fear of the LORD comes by gaining wisdom.

**The fear of God and wisdom:** the reason a person is told to fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek God and his eternal salvation and forgiveness. This is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek God and His forgiveness. The apostle John in his letter wrote:

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

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually (summed up they mean do-good and not harm). The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

**The fear of God and Christians:** those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lord's global family.

**The key to understanding the law:** the spirit behind the law is love, because each law protects another human from harm. In the book of Romans Paul states, "Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law," (Rom 13:10). The spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from physical, financial, sexual, emotional and spiritual harm. Those who know God aim to keep the law because it is the right and loving thing to do. It fulfils the Ten Commandments regarding man, and the royal law, "Love thy neighbour as thyself" (Mark 12:31) (Jas 2:8). It pleases God and brings a good testimony to His name and the name of Jesus and the church. Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because they are saved. They understand that righteousness is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort. A wise scholar wrote: though the law is splendid as a guide to understanding God's will, as a

means of reunion with God, the God we have sinned against, it is a hopeless failure, nevertheless both law and grace go together, the law without the Gospel is diagnosis without remedy, but the Gospel without law is only the good news of salvation for people who don't believe they need it because they have never heard the bad news of judgment, the law is not the Gospel, but the Gospel is not lawless (Rom. 3:19-20) (Eph. 2:13-22).

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah not only show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt, but also clearly show that the spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

**Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount:** the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5).

Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Those who do all they can to love God with all their heart, mind and strength and love their neighbour as themselves. (Mark 12:30-31) will hear the words of their Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matt. 25:21). An evil and wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans.

**Wisdom and Understanding is a Shield Against those that are Evil.**

- **Proverbs 2:6-15:** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; <sup>7</sup>he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, <sup>8</sup>guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. <sup>9</sup>Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; <sup>10</sup>for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; <sup>11</sup>discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, <sup>12</sup>delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, <sup>13</sup>who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, <sup>14</sup>who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, <sup>15</sup>men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth, during the Old Testament era the mouth of God was the prophets, but today the mouth of the LORD is the Bible, and by extension anyone who belongs to God and teaches it in truth. From God's mouth (the Bible) comes:

- Wisdom, knowledge and understanding.
- Protection for those who live by them and walk in integrity.
- Justice, equality and fairness to all.
- Discretion and understanding in the right way to live which guards and delivers from evil and deceptive speeches all who live their lives by God's words.

**NOTICE:** (v10) as a person listens to God's words wisdom and knowledge of God comes into their heart and they then love to obey the LORD because His words are pleasant to their soul (their inner most being).

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**PROVERBS 2:16-19**

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**Wisdom Delivers from Forbidden Woman and Her Smooth Words.**

- **Proverbs 2:16-19:** So, you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress (strange woman in KJV) with her smooth words. <sup>17</sup>who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; <sup>18</sup>for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; <sup>19</sup>none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

**Strange:** comes from the Hebrew word (zuwr) and means to turn aside (especially for lodging), to be a foreigner, to profane or commit adultery and to come from another man's place. This woman has forsaken the companion of her youth means she has forsaken her husband and is having an affair with a married or single man.

Following are two reasons God considers adultery so bad:

1. It breaks the covenant of marriage made before Him.
2. It destroys an entire family and brings enormous hurt to everyone who is connected to the people involved especially if there is children nevertheless for those who have fallen into adulteries destructive path there is forgiveness in Christ, everyone is a sinner before God. Even the woman at the well who had five husbands the Lord Jesus Christ forgave because of her honesty toward him and no-doubt her broken spirit when she saw such a caring man without sin protecting her from her enemies and able to show her compassion and forgiveness.

**The Upright inhabits the Land, the Treacherous will be Rooted Out.**

- **Proverbs 2:20-22:** So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. <sup>21</sup>For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, <sup>22</sup>but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

Wisdom will teach a person the right way to live, and because of this wisdom they will inherit eternal life, but the evil and wicked that have no wisdom will be cast into the lake of fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). For further information on the lake of fire see the title: "Lake of Fire in Death" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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**WISDOM EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING NINE ASPECTS**

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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.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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