



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Proverbs 3

(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 3.

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### Topics.

- Keeping God's commandments will add years of life and peace.
- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and not your own understanding.
- Despise not God's discipline for the LORD reproves those who He loves.
- Blessed is the one who finds wisdom she is better than silver and gold.
- Keep wisdom, it will be life for your soul and your sleep will be sweet.
- Devious people are an abomination, the upright are God's confidence.
- The LORD'S curse is on the wicked, He blesses the righteous.

**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).

**Keeping God's Commandments will Add Years of Life and Peace.**

- **Proverbs 3:1-4:** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> So you will find favour and good success in the sight of God and man.

Generally (there are always exceptions) doing good and what is right will add peaceful years to a man and woman's life. When a person lives according to the law of faithfulness and in love and let these be the motivating power of their choices and what they do they will not only have favour with people, but will also have favour with God.

**Faithfulness:** in this context means being consistently reliable, trustworthy and loyal, especially to a person, a promise, or a duty, and not having an adulterous sexual relationship or sexually cheat on a romantic partner.

**Love:** in this context means to be friendly and show kindness and charity to others and, not deliberately set about to cause harm to another person physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually. Jesus summed love up in the word's, "Love your neighbour as yourself," meaning do good to others and not harm, no sane person sets about to deliberately cause themselves harm, Jesus in his command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," is saying, "As you would treat yourself treat others."

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**PROVERBS 3:5-8**

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**Trust the LORD with all Your Heart, Not Your Own Understanding.**

- **Proverbs 3:5-8:** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

The expression, "Trust in the LORD and not your own understanding," means to follow the laws and the way of the LORD and not what you think is the right way. An example of this would be a couple who may think it is right for them to have an adulterous relationship because they feel emotionally in love with each other, but God's way says, "Don't do it", so in this scenario the believer is called to trust what the LORD says and not their own human reasoning and emotions and thereby turn away from what is wrong and in the long term will not only save people and the children a lot of hurt and heartache, but will also be better off for it.

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**PROVERBS 3:9-12**

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**Despise not God's Discipline for He Reproves those who He Loves.**

- **Proverbs 3:9-12:** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD'S discipline or be weary of his reproof,<sup>12</sup> for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

To honour the LORD with your wealth today is not about the faithful tithing 10% of their gross or net income. This was an Old Testament tax system God commanded the nation of Israel to pay and that was the only tax the

nation had to pay. Giving in the New Testament is a totally different concept to the Old Testament command of tithing that God gave to the nation of Israel.

For further information see the title:

- Tithing in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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### PROVERBS 3:13-18

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#### **Blessed is One with Wisdom, She is Better than Silver and Gold.**

- **Proverbs 3:13-18:** Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, <sup>14</sup>for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. <sup>15</sup>She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>16</sup>Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. <sup>17</sup>Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. <sup>18</sup>She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Everyone who finds wisdom is blessed for the following two reasons: -

1. Wisdom will lead a person to God and eternal life.
2. Wisdom teaches a person the right way to live so that their life will have peace because they will be free of a lot of mistakes a foolish or wicked person makes.

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### PROVERBS 3:19-24

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#### **Keep Wisdom, it will be Life for Your Soul and Sleep will be Sweet.**

- **Proverbs 3:19-24:** The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; <sup>20</sup>by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. <sup>21</sup>My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion, <sup>22</sup>and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. <sup>23</sup>Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. <sup>24</sup>If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Solomon tells his son never to lose sight of the greatness of God's creative power and the enormity of His wisdom and to always remember God's ways and follow the way of the LORD'S wisdom. Living a good life results in peaceful sleep, but that does not mean that everyone who is having a restless night must be committing gross sin. These teachings are the general rule, but because we are not living in a perfect world, there will always be exceptions as there always is to the general rule of everything.

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### PROVERBS 3:24-32

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#### **Devious People are an Abomination, the Upright His Confidence.**

- **Proverbs 3:24-32:** Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, <sup>26</sup>for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. <sup>27</sup>Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. <sup>28</sup>Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. <sup>29</sup>Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you. <sup>30</sup>Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm. <sup>31</sup>Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, <sup>32</sup>for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence.

Following are the six do nots in these verses:

1. Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, because the LORD will keep the faithful from being caught (v25). This ultimately refers to the Day of Judgment, when the wicked will be cast down but the godly will be kept.
2. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to do it, God does not expect people to put themselves in jeopardy or hardship when offering to help, the New Testament teaches give as you are able.
3. Do not say to your neighbour, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. When a person asks for something that will help them and we have it, we are expected to offer it to them when they ask.
4. Do not plan evil against your neighbour, who dwells trustingly beside you, this would apply to adultery, stealing, business deals, lying and gossip etc.
5. Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm.
6. Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, this would also include idolising those who do wrong, (some of today's movies deceptively make the bad guy out to be the hero).

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### PROVERBS 3:33-35

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#### **The LORD'S Curse is On the Wicked, He Blesses the Righteous.**

- **Proverbs 3:33-35:** The LORD'S curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous. <sup>34</sup>Toward the scornful he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor. <sup>35</sup>The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

The wise will be judged to honour and granted eternal life while the wicked will be judged to 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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