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Proverbs 1

(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 1.

Topics.

- Understanding words of insight and perceiving the ramifications.
- Wisdom and prudence in a good and bad sense.
- Let the wise increase in learning, to understand a proverb and riddle.
- Fear of God is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise instruction.
- Forsake not your parents teaching they are a crown for your head.
- If sinners entice you and say, "come with us," do not consent.
- If you turn at my reproof, I will pour out my Spirit to you.
- They hated God's knowledge and will eat the fruit of their way.
- Whoever listens to wisdom dwells secure, while fools are destroyed?

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.

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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).

King Solomon is the Author of Proverbs.

- **Proverbs 1:1-4:** The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ²To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight (perceive in KJV), ³to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth.

Equity: comes from the Hebrew word (meyshar) and means equal evenness.

Proverbs: teaches a person to be just and fair; to consider others and make wise choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in a good outcome in the future.

To understand words of insight: means to perceive the result and ramifications, good or bad of the action (especially the end result) the words are teaching.

Prudence in a good sense: means tact and discretion it carries the following ideas:

- Having good judgment and the sensitivity needed to avoid embarrassing or upsetting others
- The ability to keep sensitive information secret.
- The freedom and authority to judge and decide on a matter and make a decision about it.
- To use good judgment and good sense in dealing with practical matters by carefully considering the likely consequences and acting accordingly to manage resources so as to provide for the future.

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Prudence in a bad sense: means trickery and guile it primarily carries the following ideas:

- Being skilful in the use of clever and deceptive schemes to mislead others.
- To have a cunning, deceitful and treacherous quality and subtlety
- To use clever and deceptive schemes deliberately designed to deceive for the purpose of achieving a goal

Solomon's purpose in writing Proverbs: was to teach the reader, how to make good decisions that will bring about the best result for their future and make choices that will be fair and just to others.

Wisdom in a good sense: carries the idea of being clear thoughtful, talented, sensible, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, practical and discreet, it implies a cautious character and practical skill and intelligence or mental acquirement of the intellect.

Wisdom in a bad sense: carries the idea of being conceited, smug, egotistical, complacent, self-important, self-glory, self-satisfied and self-centred.

Wisdom, children and the foolish: one major aspect of wisdom is being able to see the ramifications and consequences of the end result of a thing, a choice or an action. Children and the foolish do not look or see ahead, the only time for them is now. They are not aware of the damage that could result at a later time because of what they are doing in the present moment. Proverbs is to teach the reader the end result of a wrong action done in the present moment, (i.e. adultery may bring great pleasure in the present moment, but further down the track it is going to bring enormous hurt to everyone who is connected to those involved). A wise

person is able to foresee ahead in time to the end result that a choice or an action that they are about to do in the present moment will bring about at a future time. This knowledge stops them from entering into actions that are going to bring ruin their lives. A wise person is able to see ahead in time to the end result that a choice they are about to make or an action they are about to do in the present moment will bring about at a future time. This knowledge stops them from entering into actions that are going to ruin their lives.

PROVERBS 1:5-6

Increase in Learning, to Understand Proverbs and their Riddles.

- **Proverbs 1:5-6:** Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

Riddles: (dark sayings in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*chiydah*) and carries the idea of a puzzle or a trick, a sentence with an answer in the form of a play on words, a rule, principle or saying that is puzzling and confusing, but has some proven truth to it.

PROVERBS 1:7

Fear of God is Beginning of Knowledge; Fools Despise Instruction.

- **Proverbs 1:7:** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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. That 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 the following verses says:

- If we say 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 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. 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.

PROVERBS 1:8-9

Forsake Not Parents Teaching they are a Crown for Your Head.

- **Proverbs 1:8-9:** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Solomon's wife was Naamah, an Ammonitess (1 Kings 4:21) and their son was Rehoboam. Though Solomon is telling his son to listen to his mother the application is to everyone who has a wise father and mother.

PROVERBS 1:10-19

If Sinners Entice You and Say, "Come with us," Do Not Consent.

- **Proverbs 1:10-19:** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. ¹¹If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; ¹²like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"— ¹⁵my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, ¹⁶for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, ¹⁸but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. ¹⁹Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

Solomon warns his son not to join in with those who want to get wealthy by forming gangs and mugging and even killing the innocent and stealing their possessions.

In vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird: means it is a waste of time to try and catch a bird in a net it can see because no bird is going to fly into a net that is visible to its eyes (v18).

These men lie in wait for their own blood: means the men's own evil is the net that will trap them (v18).

PROVERBS 1:20-23

If You Turn at My Reproof, I will Pour out My Spirit to You.

- **Proverbs 1:20-23:** Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; ²¹at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ²²How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? ²³If you turn at my (wisdom) reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

Wisdom is personified as a person crying out to people everywhere, wanting to give the foolish a clear rational, discerning and discriminating mind and practical skills to enhance their life and their future.

PROVERBS 1:24-31

They Hated God's Knowledge and will Eat the Fruit of their Way.

- **Proverbs 1:24-31:** Because I (wisdom) have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, ²⁵because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, ²⁷when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸Then they will call upon

me (wisdom), but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰would have none of my (wisdom) counsel and despised all my reproof, ³¹therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.

Wisdom is available to everyone who seeks after it, but if people do not seek it, they will not be given it. Without wisdom foolish decisions and foolish actions are made and calamity eventually comes. Then people will look for wisdom but it will be too late they have reaped the repercussions of the foolish choices they have made. The reason people lack wisdom is because they do not fear the LORD and they follow their own ways.

The fear of the LORD protects a person from going the wrong way because they know the end result will be calamity and ultimately judgment.

PROVERBS 1:32-33

Whoever Listens to Wisdom is Secure, While Fools are Destroyed.

- **Proverbs 1:32-33:** For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; ³³but whoever listens to me (wisdom) will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

It is complacency that destroys a person, complacency applies to anyone who is self-satisfied and eager to please, but is unaware of possible dangers.

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.

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.
