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Proverbs 4

(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 4.

Topics.

- Hear a father's instruction, be attentive and gain insight.
- Do not forsake wisdom and she will keep and guard you.
- When you walk with wisdom, you will not be hampered or stumble.
- Do not enter the path of the wicked and walk in the way of the evil.
- The righteous are like the light of dawn, shining brighter and brighter.
- Wisdom is life to those who find it, and healing to all their flesh.
- Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

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).

PROVERBS 4:1-4

Hear a Father's Instruction, Be Attentive and Gain Insight.

- **Proverbs 4:1-4:** Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, ²for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. ³When I (Solomon) was a son with my father (David) tender, the only one in the sight of my mother (Bathsheba), ⁴he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.

What a beautiful picture of David a great king and mighty warrior pictured in these verses by Solomon as a devoted father teaching his young son the ways of God and now Solomon is passing on to his son the things his father David taught him.

PROVERBS 4:5-9

Do Not Forsake Wisdom and She will Keep and Guard You.

- **Proverbs 4:5-9:** David told Solomon to: ⁵Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my (David's) mouth. ⁶Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. ⁷The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. ⁸Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. ⁹She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

Now Solomon tells his son to listen to what he is saying:

- **Proverbs 4:10:** Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.

David taught Solomon, and now Solomon is teaching his son what David taught him, which was to get wisdom and insight and not to turn away from what he says. Whoever embraces wisdom will be kept and guarded from trouble in this life and for eternal life, exalted honoured, and granted a beautiful crown, since Solomon is teaching his Son this would refer to the king's royal crown to the throne of Israel, but by extension it also embraces the royal crown of eternal life.

NOTICE: the beginning of wisdom is to get wisdom and insight (v7).

PROVERBS 4:11-13

When You Walk with Wisdom, You will Not Stumble.

- **Proverbs 4:11-13:** I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. ¹²When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. ¹³Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

Wisdom is personified as a woman the Bible often uses the language of personification throughout the Scriptures. For further information on personification, see the title:

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

Wisdom in this context is, knowing the right thing to do, and doing it. Life will be far easier for the person who knows the right thing to do and does it because doing the right thing will protect a person from, trouble, crime, punishment, calamity and hurt.

PROVERBS 4:14-17

Do Not Enter the Path of the Wicked or Walk in the Way of Evil.

- **Proverbs 4:14-17:** Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. ¹⁵Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

Those that are considered wicked are those who are constantly and deliberately planning evil, a person who commits an act of wrong doing could be a good person inwardly, but have been enticed by peer pressure, the wrong friends, or by unfortunate circumstances, whereas the wicked person is seen as being a person who has no compassion or empathy for others, is totally selfish and will not hesitate to harm others, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually to get what they want and to satisfy their own selfish desires and lusts.

PROVERBS 4:18-19

The Righteous are Like the Light of Dawn, Shinning Brighter.

- **Proverbs 4:18-19:** But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. ¹⁹The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

Those who follow the right way will find greater joy, happiness and peace right up to the day they enter eternal life, but the wicked will become more confused.

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PROVERBS 4:20-22

Wisdom is Life to those who Find it, and Healing to all their Flesh.

- **Proverbs 4:20-22:** My (Solomon's) son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. ²²For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

The words Solomon has spoken to his son contain within them the power to bring health to the body, peace to the mind and ultimately eternal life to all who follow them.

PROVERBS 4:23-27

Keep your Heart with Vigilance, for from it Flow the Springs of Life.

- **Proverbs 4:23-27:** Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. ²⁴Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. ²⁵Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. ²⁶Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. ²⁷Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

From what is dwelling in the heart life or death flows, if integrity and love toward others is in the heart joy and happiness will flow and eternal life will be the inheritance, but if wickedness and wrong doing is dwelling in it joy and happiness will be lacking and eternal death will be their end.

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.
