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Proverbs 25

(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 25.

Topics.

- This chapter is full of a variety 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:

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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 25:1

- **Proverbs 25:1:** These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.

How good is this? Hezekiah the King of Judah had his men copy Solomon's proverbs, what a thrill that would have been for the people to know that their king was seeking wisdom to help him govern his people.

- **Proverbs 25:2:** It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: following are some of the things of God that are concealed:

- His infinite wisdom and knowledge, his absolute power and sovereignty.
- His incomprehensible being, perfections and the mysteries of the universe and heavens.
- His perfect fullness of revelation and ways upon the earth and with mankind.
- His times and seasons in which His prophecies will be accomplished and fulfilled.
- His judgments and the day and hour of Christ's return and the last judgment.

All of these are secrets unrevealed, unsearchable and past finding out to our mortal mind. The more we search into the mysteries of these things the more we discover depths of which we have no idea and come to understand how far our understanding is lacking. All is known to God and it is His glory to conceal such things to mortal man. In the book of Ecclesiastes, it is written:

- God has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (Ecclesiastes. 3:11).
- Man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However, much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out. (Eccles. 8:17).
- The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. ¹²For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them. (Eccles. 9:11-12)

This means that no man can find out the works of God upon the earth. The LORD has designed the universe this way so that no human whether righteous or wicked can find out their future or know what will happen to them tomorrow.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

- Truly, you are a God who hides yourself, O God of Israel, the Saviour. (Isaiah 45:15).

The apostle Paul wrote:

- Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Rom. 11:33).

It is the glory of kings to search things out: this expression means that it is the glory of a king to:

- Search out political difficulties and find the best solutions for his kingdom.
- Search out crime and fraud and the hidden works of darkness.

- Search out the true and right way by communicating his plans to others.
- Search out everything relating to his civil government so he may discover that his appointed leaders are not acting corruptly.
- Search out the word of God to discover its laws and rules so he can apply them to his kingdom.
- Search out all causes that are brought before him to find the truth of the matter.

The reason this is said to be the glory of the king is because the king has the power and authority to search these things out and the power to deal with them as he sees fit.

PROVERBS 25:3

- **Proverbs 25:3:** As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

No one can discover or comprehend the height of the heavens or discern what is contained within them likewise no one can know exactly what is in the depth and centre of the earth or what is exactly contained within it (at least no common persons) both the heights and fullness of the heavens and the depths of the earth are immeasurable. Today our scientists and astrologers with the aid of the amazing cameras of the Hubble satellite and others like it and our massive telescopes conclude that there are billions of planets in the heavens and that our universe is continually expanding.

In the book of Jeremiah, it is written:

- Thus, says the LORD: "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD. (Jer. 31:37).

The heart of kings is unsearchable: this statement does not refer to a wicked king since his heart is easily discernible, but to an upright king who rules his kingdom as best as he can with the people of his kingdom well-being in his heart. The inward thoughts and purposes of such a king's heart, is unsearchable because the nature of his position compels him to conceal his intentions, keep secret state affairs and his dealings with other the nations. Added to this his heart and mind is filled with a complex multitude of decisions that he cannot share with the common people of his kingdom. For these reasons the common people cannot know all that is in the king's mind and his heart. Because of the truth that those in the king's kingdom cannot know all the difficulties, complexities and pressures of a wise king ruling a kingdom that he carries within his heart and mind it is not right for them to judge him since they are not proper judges, because they cannot know the multitudes of complexities that he has to manage and find solutions to.

PROVERBS 25:4-5

- **Proverbs 25:4-5:** Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel; ⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

Dross: comes from the Hebrew word (*ciyg*) and literally means scoria. Figuratively it carries the idea of retreating, apostatizing and backsliding. The English Dictionary says it refers to something that is worthless or of a low standard or quality, the scum formed on molten metals, usually caused by oxidation.

Take away the dross from the silver: for the worthless contaminants contained in the raw rock of silver it was put through fire and the, contaminates (the dross) would be separated from the pure silver. The silversmith was then able to mold the pure silver into something of great value. Likewise, for a kingdom to flourish the king has to remove the wicked and suppress wrongdoing so that he can build a kingdom that will remain with those who love justice and do what is right and good. Though these verses have a human king in focus, it also carries with it an echo of the Lord Jesus Christ when he 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).

PROVERBS 25:6-7

- **Proverbs 25:6-7:** Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. What your eyes have seen.

If you are invited to a social function or the home of friends don't take the best seat in the house, because you maybe told to give it up for someone more important or worse still you may offend the far more important person who normally sits in it and who the seat may have been reserved for. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ teaches humility and self-denial. Those who understand the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and know the perfect nature and character of the King and Saviour who ascended from it will feel their own unworthiness.

PROVERBS 25:8-10

- **Proverbs 25:8-10:** do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? ⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, ¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

The King James Bible says:

- **Proverbs 25:8-10:** Go not forth hastily to strive, lest *thou know not* what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame. ⁹Debate thy cause with thy neighbour *himself*; and discover not a secret to another: ¹⁰Lest he that heareth *it* put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

Shame: carries the idea of feeling inferior unworthy, dishonoured, disgraced and embarrassed.

Infamy: refers to a person's disgraced reputation caused by a shameful act or criminal conduct.

These verses carry the following two ideas:

1. Do not speedily take another person to court; because if they prove you are at fault, they will put you to shame.
2. Debate the case with your opponent first to see if the case can be resolved before going to court.
3. If your opponent reveals personal secrets to you do not share them with others, because if it gets back to your opponent, they will definitely turn against you and destroy your reputation as a trustworthy person.

These three could be summed up by saying, settle quarrels, arguments and contentions privately and do not gossip about them with others.

PROVERBS 25:11

- **Proverbs 25:11:** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver (in pictures of silver in KJV).

Apples of gold in pictures of silver: could refer to any of the following:

- Golden-coloured apples or pomegranates, citrons, or oranges which are all fruits that all have a tint of a golden colour.
- Painted pictures of golden apples in silver bowls or golden coloured apples in dishes of silver.
- Golden apples appearing through a net-work of silver woven baskets or covered with and network of silver embroidery.
- Imitation golden coloured apples on silver embroidery or engraved on tablets of silver.

These are not only very rare, beautiful and valuable, but also appear, pleasingly exquisite to the eye so the expression, "Apples of gold in a setting of silver," carries the idea of something that is of such rare beauty, value and worth that all desire it, which in this context refers to a word of wisdom, encouragement and comfort fitly spoken at the right moment which is something that is rare and highly valued by those it is spoken to.

- To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is! (Proverbs 15:23).

The expression, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver," may be applied to the words of Christ and the Gospel of grace and the message of salvation spoken by his ministers and the faithful who belong to his Kingdom. These words are truly of great value to those who receive them since they lead to God's love and grace and eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

PROVERBS 25:12

- **Proverbs 25:12:** Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.

A gold ring or gold ornament was not only something of great beauty to those who wore them, but also of great value and worth, likewise a man or woman who gives wise rebuke and correction to those who are humble and wise enough to accept it is of great worth and value to those who receive it. Throughout the book of Proverbs a fool is described as a person whose pride is so high they will not listen to good counsel, correction and advice, in contrast to this a wise person is described as a person who is not only humble enough to listen to good counsel, correction and advice, but will also apply it to their life.

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PROVERBS 25:13

- **Proverbs 25:13:** Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.

The snow in harvest: does not refer to a snowstorm as this would utterly destroy the harvest, but to any of the following: -

- Wind blowing cool air across the snow at harvest time that refreshes the workers from the summer heat as it blows across the fields.
- Snow employed to cool drinks in the summer heat. In hot countries snow used to be kept in vessels and placed underground to cool their drink just as ice is kept with us for the same purpose. So the sense of the verse would be, "as drink cooled with snow is very pleasurable and refreshing to those that labour in the field during the time of harvest."

A faithful messenger to them that send him: refers to a trustworthy and loyal messenger that can be relied upon who the workers of a master have sent to take a message of good news to him (i.e., the harvest is plentiful), which not only refreshes the heart and mind of those who sent him knowing he is going with good news, but will also refresh the mind of their master when he hears the good news. In this way the messenger is like a cool wind blowing from the snowy mountains that refreshes those in the hot fields.

The faithful messenger can also apply to the following:

1. Christ the messenger sent by his heavenly Father with good news that has brought great delight to the heart of his heavenly Father and refreshed the hearts and minds of millions with his message of grace and salvation.

2. Faithful Gospel ministers who are sent as Christ's messengers to take his Gospel to the world, such ministers bring delight to Christ's heart and refreshing to the heart of all who receive their message.
3. To all who belong to Christ's kingdom and share their faith and the Good News of the Gospel with others, such believers are spoken of as ambassadors of Christ since they are not only sharing the words of Christ, but are a reflection of him on earth.

Christ's faithful Gospel ministers and believers who share the Good News of grace can also be likened to a cool wind blowing from the snowy mountains that refreshes those in the hot fields and likened to the messenger who brings delight to the heart of those who sent him.

PROVERBS 25:14

- **Proverbs 25:14:** Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

Those who pretend to have given a gift that they never gave are like dark morning cloud that promises rain, but gives none, disappointing all who were looking for rain. An example of this would be someone boasting of giving money to a charity or a church to appear to be far more charitable than they really are. Like dark clouds without rain disappoint the words of a person who boasts of something they did not actually do are empty and full of disappointment. This principal is not limited to giving money to charity or a church, but applies to any boasting of anything a man or woman may boast of that they have not actually done or achieved.

PROVERBS 25:15

- **Proverbs 25:15:** With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.

Those who are reasoning and pleading their case before a ruler and trying to guide him to a certain view or path to take will soften his resistance and hardness of heart and have far more success in convincing him if they speak softly and have patience and do not get frustrated or angry while trying to persuade him to their way of thinking. Persuasive language is the most effective to prevail over a hardened mind when spoken softly and calmly.

PROVERBS 25:16

- **Proverbs 25:16:** If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.

Don't over indulge in a good thing, God has given us many good things to enjoy, but we are cautioned against excess and self-indulgence. Two good examples of this would be:

1. A good example of this is wine, the Bible does not teach total abstinence, nor does it teach that drinking alcohol is a sin, but it does warn against drinking an excess of alcohol many times. The reasons are obvious, excessive amounts of alcohol can lead to many sins, even the secular world understands this truth and drunkenness often results in behavior that is regretted the next day.
2. Eating food is enjoyable, but eating to excess is not only dangerous to our heart and health, but also makes us grossly overweight and lethargic.

PROVERBS 25:17

- **Proverbs 25:17:** Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

This is a warning against overstaying your welcome and visiting a neighbour so often that you, become an annoying nuisance to them and they begin to dislike you. This often applies to the following three groups of people:

1. Those who have no goals, no ambitions and no interests in life and no interest in what others say or in their lives, but simply love to talk. This group of people do not care about the person they are talking to or what they have to say they just live to talk, mostly about their own interests and opinions so they impose themselves onto anyone who is willing to give them a listening ear.
2. Those who are truly lonely, or suffering a crisis in their lives and desperately need someone to help them with counsel, encouragement and comfort.
3. Those who do enjoy fellowship with others, especially of the same faith and are interested in hearing about their lives, their experiences, their knowledge, hardships and troubles and enjoy their fellowship and company.

PROVERBS 25:18

- **Proverbs 25:18:** A man who bears false witness against his neighbour is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

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Whoever tells lies against another standing on trial is like:

1. A murder standing over them and beating them to death with a baseball bat.
2. A swordsman cutting and slicing them until they bleed to death.
3. An archer with a powerful bow shooting arrows into their body until all life is drained from them.

This is how serious God considers the evilness of those who give a false witness against another. One of the great pillars of God's throne is justice so to pervert it is a great abomination before God. Those who give a false testimony against the innocent will be judged by the great Judged accordingly.

PROVERBS 25:19

- **Proverbs 25:19:** Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

The word treacherous embraces the unfaithful, disloyal, deceitful, double-crossing and untrustworthy. A bad tooth is extremely painful and a foot that slips can results in broken bones. The idea carried in these verses is that putting confidence and trust in such an untrustworthy person would not only be extremely foolish, but will certainly lead to either mental and physical pain or emotional and financial pain.

PROVERBS 25:20

- **Proverbs 25:20:** Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.

Taking off a garment on a cold day and putting vinegar on a soda drink is foolishness since one will cause freezing of the body and the other will spoil the good flavour of the drink, likewise to sing and rejoice in the company of a person who is suffering deep grief and sorrow is not only extreme foolishness, but also shows a total lack of compassion and empathy, because such joy and rejoicing will increase their sorrow and make them feel even worse, because it will make them feel that no one cares.

PROVERBS 25:21-22

- **Proverbs 25:21-22:** If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, ²²for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

This is totally contrary to everything the flesh (self, pride and ego) want to do. The flesh wants to lash out and inflict as much harm as it can on its enemies. In contrast to the desire of the flesh God calls those who love Him to do good to their enemies. Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount calls his followers to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them. Doing what is right before God is about seeking the way of peace in all situations. Throughout this sermon Jesus calls his followers to treat all people fairly and with respect, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means that 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. Those who do all they can to live this way will hear their Master say, "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." (Matthew. 25:21). For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

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

You will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you: when people bully someone, speak against them, spread malicious rumours about them or do them harm and their victims respond to them by doing something good, it will cause them to feel guilty for their bad and cruel behaviour. This does not mean they will instantly stop their bad behaviour (they might), depending upon the peer pressure surrounding them, but it is almost certain when they are alone (especially in their beds at night) the one thought in their mind will be the kindness they were shown despite their wicked actions.

PROVERBS 25:23

- **Proverbs 25:23:** The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.

Just as it is certain a north wind will bring rain, it is also certain that those who make spiteful and slanderous comments about a person behind their backs will bring angry looks from those who are in the company of the one who is gossiping and speaking the malicious rumours. Even if these angry looks are not actually seen by the eyes it is certain they will be thinking, "what a mean person" and certainly will not be endeared to them as a friend. If anyone thinks this statement is not true take notice of those who have a lot of good and true friends.

The three things they all have in common is that:

1. They lack malice in their hearts
2. They have a spirit that thinks good of all people

3. They speak words of encouragement and comfort to those around them.

PROVERBS 25:24

- **Proverbs 25:24:** It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife (a brawling wife in KJV).

The word quarrelsome and brawling comes from the Hebrew word (*madow*) and means discord and strife it carries the idea of one quarrelling as if the discussion is a contest to be won. A wife who continually quarrels and brawls with those in her house will eventually, quarrel by quarrel not only spoil everyone's happiness and wear them away, but will also over time drive away all the inhabitants of the household. This proverb is teaching that it is better to be single than live with a wife who continually argues and quarrels.

PROVERBS 25:25

- **Proverbs 25:25:** Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Just as a glass of cold water refreshes a person who is thirsty, likewise good news will uplift the heart and refresh the mind of those who are in despair or depressed especially if it comes from a stranger or someone who was never expected to bring such good news.

PROVERBS 25:26

- **Proverbs 25:26:** Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

A godly person who confesses to believe in Christ and does what is good and right and speaks what is true and honest when in the company of their Christian friends, but when in the company of secular men and women (i.e., at work, social functions, family gatherings and such like occasions) conforms to their ungodly speech (i.e., crude jokes and coarse language) and their sinful behaviour not only corrupt their own integrity, but bring a bring dishonour to God and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith, because all who know them and see them compromise what they say they believe in such a blatant manner consider them hypocrites. Such confessing believers turn people away from God rather than toward Him.

PROVERBS 25:27

- **Proverbs 25:27:** It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.

Many things in the world are good, pleasant, enjoyable and not sinful, but over indulging in such things is not wise likewise being thrilled and proud about one's own achievements is not wrong or sinful, but boasting about them to others is foolish and unwise.

PROVERBS 25:28

- **Proverbs 25:28:** A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

This is because those who lack self-control are open to all sorts of temper tantrums which can lead to physical and emotional strife and contention and rage that can bring them to utter ruin.

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.
