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Proverbs 10

(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 10.

Topics.

- This chapter is filled with a multitude 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 10:1-2

The Proverbs of Solomon.

- **Proverbs 10:1-2:** The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. ²Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.

Obviously both a mother and father are proud and happy when their children do what is right and good and grief and sorrow fill the hearts of both parents when their children do what is corrupt and wicked. Riches gained by theft, deceit, deception, oppression of the poor for one's own gain and any type of wickedness do not profit, because ultimately it leads to eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction), whereas it matters not if a person is rich or poor righteousness leads to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

PROVERBS 10:3

- **Proverbs 10:3:** The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

Those who live by God's laws will always be satisfied, but the cravings of the wicked will not be.

PROVERBS 10:4

- **Proverbs 10:4:** A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

The way to wealth is hard work, while the path to poverty is laziness.

PROVERBS 10:5

- **Proverbs 10:5:** He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

Those who prepare for the future are wise, while those who do not will be brought to shame.

PROVERBS 10:6

- **Proverbs 10:6:** Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Blessings come to those who do the right thing while the wicked conceal their wickedness by smooth words.

PROVERBS 10:7

- **Proverbs 10:7:** The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

A good person will not only be remembered by others, but also by God, but the wicked who do wrong will be forgotten by God and by others.

PROVERBS 10:8

- **Proverbs 10:8:** The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling (prating in KJV) fool will come to ruin.

Unlike the foolish the wise will accept laws and rules and obey them. The word babbling (prating in KJV) means irrelevant and foolish chatter, it carries the following two ideas, firstly, of talking rapidly and at length

about things that seem irrelevant and foolish, secondly, to reveal something thoughtlessly or impulsively that is supposed to be secret and confidential, (i.e., they immediately babbled the whole story to the neighbours). The reason they will come to ruin is because they are self-consumed in their own chatter and babble about trivial and unimportant things rather than listen to the wise advice, teachings and counsel of others.

PROVERBS 10:9

- **Proverbs 10:9:** Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

The word integrity refers to the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles or professional standards. It carries the idea of being faithful, loyal, upright and honest in heart, thoughts, speech and behaviour. Whoever adheres to high moral principles and honesty will be secure, meaning they need not fear trouble coming to them because they will have done nothing wrong, in contrast to this those who do things that are not legal and dishonest will eventually be caught and suffer the punishment accordingly.

PROVERBS 10:10

- **Proverbs 10:10:** Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

The word wink comes from the Hebrew word (*qarats*) literally it means to wink the eye, but in the context of this verse it figuratively carries the idea of winking the eye as a gesture of malice and deception. The reason a babbling fool will come to ruin is because they do not listen to the solid teaching and good counsel of others.

PROVERBS 10:0-11

- **Proverbs 10:11:** The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Those who live according to what is right, just and good before God will naturally speak words of life (i.e., compassion, empathy, encouragement etc.,) from their good and honest heart to others when they speak, in contrast to this the wicked who do wrong will speak smooth and deceptive words of flattery to conceal the wickedness and hide the and evil dwelling in their heart.

PROVERBS 10:12

- **Proverbs 10:12:** Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

A person whose heart is full of love will be willing to overlook and forgive an offence, but those whose hearts are full of hatred will retaliate in some way to even the score or get revenge against the person who offended them.

PROVERBS 10:13

- **Proverbs 10:13:** On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

Those who have understanding not only carries the idea that they perceive the true case of a matter, but is also wisdom and therefore whatever counsel they give will be empathetic, compassionate and good and those who listen to it and heed it will benefit. In contrast to this those who refuse to listen to it and take the advice lack good sense and will come to trouble.

PROVERBS 10:14

- **Proverbs 10:14:** The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

Those who have the ability to make sensible decisions and wise judgments will always be reading, studying and listening and learning from others and because of the increase in knowledge their lives will be enhanced in every way. In contrast to this, fools have no interest in reading, studying and listening and learning from others and therefore instead of their lives being enhanced mentally, emotionally spiritually and prospering they will not only lack mature growth in every way, but also over time bring ruin to themselves.

PROVERBS 10:15

- **Proverbs 10:15:** A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin.

Wealth protects against troubles while poverty brings ruin and hardship.

PROVERBS 10:16

- **Proverbs 10:16:** The wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin.

The reward of those who do what is right, just and good is eternal life, but possession gained by wrong doing leads to eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction).

PROVERBS 10:17

- **Proverbs 10:17:** Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

Listening to correction will lead to life, because a person who listens will take heed and adjust their life accordingly, but those who refuse to be corrected will not only continue doing the wrong thing themselves, but also lead others in the wrong path.

PROVERBS 10:18

- **Proverbs 10:18:** The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.

The only way to hid hatred from others is to lie, deceive and speak falsely. Those who speak slander against somebody by making false and malicious statements that damage their reputation are fools, because they will eventually reap what they sow and at the judgment seat of God be judged accordingly.

PROVERBS 10:19

- **Proverbs 10:19:** When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Strife and contention is not far away from those who speak multitudes of words without taking into account the consequences of what they are saying. In contrast to this a prudent person (i.e., one that is practical, sensible, wise, cautious and discreet) speaks carefully considering what they are saying and whether it will affect others in a good and kind way or bad and hurtful way.

PROVERBS 10:20

- **Proverbs 10:20:** The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

The teachings, advice and conversations, with those who do good and what is right before God is as choice silver because they will be encouraging, comforting and full of wise words. In contrast to this, teachings advice and conversations with the wicked have no worth since they lack wisdom and act foolishly.

PROVERBS 10:21

- **Proverbs 10:21:** The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.

The words of those who do what is good and right will prosper others mentally, emotionally and spiritually, but fools who lacks good sense and judgment will bring ruin to themselves.

PROVERBS 10:22

- **Proverbs 10:22:** The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

God's blessings not only bring joy, comfort and peace when they come through honest work and doing what is good and right, but also prosperity in this world. In contrast to this guilt, stress and eventual ruin and misery will come to those who gain wealth by dishonesty, deception and oppressing others for their own gain and at the judgement seat of God they will be judged and condemned to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction).

PROVERBS 10:23

- **Proverbs 10:23:** Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

Fools have a light-hearted attitude toward doing-wrong; they do not consider the seriousness of what they are doing or the consequences of their wickedness but treat it all as a bit of fun. In contrast to this those who have understanding find enjoyment in wisdom (i.e., doing what is right and good). Understanding in this context also carries the idea of knowing that wrongdoing leads one on a downhill path of ruin, misery and hurt. Those with understanding have the insight to see the end result of an action done in the present moment, meaning a person with understanding knows if they do wrong today they will eventually be found out in the future and suffer for their action done in the past.

PROVERBS 10:24

- **Proverbs 10:24:** What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

The thing the wicked dreads is being caught and suffering punishment for their wrong doing. Often, they will feign sorrow when they are caught. This is why the apostle Paul wrote: -

- For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. (2 Cor. 7:10).

Godly sorrow: is having sorrow for the hurt and pain caused to another person and the desire to correct it.

Worldly sorrow: is being sorry because of the punishment one is going to suffer, there is no thought for the other person's pain, hurt and suffering, the sorrow is for self, it is about what self is going suffer.

Godly repentance that leads to salvation: embraces two things, firstly repentance over the fact that we have offended God in some manner and secondly, repentance over the fact that we have caused others hurt. This kind of grief leads to a change of attitude in the heart. This is why it is called godly grief, the sorrow is not about self, but stems from offending God and from hurting others this kind of sorrow leads to salvation, because it is honest repentance from the heart and truly sorry before God. Following are three reasons Paul states that this kind of repentance is, without regret.

1. It allows God and those who have been hurt to forgive.
2. It unites the repentant person to God.
3. It saves those who repent to eternal life.

Worldly grief produces death: (v10) is in absolute contrast to, godly grief' since, worldly grief refers to a person who is full of tears of sorrow, but only because they have been caught and are going to suffer some form of punishment, this kind of repentance does not bring about a change of attitude in the heart since it's only focus is caring about self. This is the reason it is called worldly grief and worldly sorrow and the reason it leads to death (separation from God and death eternal) since this kind of repentance and grief has nothing to do with God neither does it care about the hurt it may have caused others, added to this it does not bring about an honest change in the heart and behaviour.

The desire of the righteous will be granted: (24) the desire of those who do what is right is happiness and peace. Their desire will be granted because the righteous only do what is right, honest, kind and good and therefore they have no need to fear trouble and punishment in this world and no need to fear the judgment and condemnation of God. Added to this God's favour love and grace will be upon them.

PROVERBS 10:25

- **Proverbs 10:25:** When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is established forever.

When this present age passes away so too will all who are corrupt and do wrong, but the faithful who accepted God's plan of salvation and endeavoured to do all they could to live a life that brought honour to God and treated others with goodness, decency and respect will be granted eternal life.

PROVERBS 10:26

- **Proverbs 10:26:** Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

Teeth decay if they are soaked in vinegar and smoke stings the eyes the symbolism is that those who send a lazy person to do a job are going to be terribly irritated and horribly frustrated and that a lazy person is a pain to their employer.

PROVERBS 10:27

- **Proverbs 10:27:** The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.

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 and do the right thing. 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 and why these verses say the fear of the LORD prolongs life.

The apostle John in his letter wrote:

- 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 (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 fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (Prov. 8:13).

The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil: it is having a hatred of everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually and having a strong dislike of anything that destroys the planet and of whoever treats animals cruelly. God loves humans He gave his only Son to die for them. The fear of the LORD is about protecting and preventing harm to other humans. It is about knowing we are all going to stand before Him one day and give an account of our actions.

The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right thing and treat others with respect.

PROVERBS 10:28

- **Proverbs 10:28:** The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

It is hope that brings joy that is why lottery tickets are so successful, it gives people hope for a better life, even if the expectation is an illusion and only for a brief moment, they are willing to pay to buy hope. In contrast to this Christians joy is automatic it comes with the tremendous Hope God through the Gospel promises. Most people live with the expectation that they are going to heaven, but that does not always mean that they are. Multitudes of people live with the expectation that they are going to win the lottery, but very few actually do. This verse tells us that the expectation of those who deny God and do wrong will not be realised. Just because a person has an expectation for a thing or for eternal life does not guarantee that they will receive it.

The meaning of hope: hope is to expect and anticipate with confidence it is, trusting and relying on something (usually with pleasure). In the Christians case it is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness that leads to eternal life and in the Gospel and Christs return in glory. The things hoped for are not as extensive as the things unseen this is because the things hoped for refer to things future and joyful to us, whereas the things unseen embrace the future the past and the present and can refer to things good or bad.

Salvation and hope: when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and He cannot lie (Rom. 8:24).

- In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

Faith and hope: the difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. In this way faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in. Faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith. A person who is full of faith is a person who has examined the evidence and is fully convinced that what they have examined proves itself to be true. The pillars of faith are conviction, assurance and confidence without these three there is no faith.

PROVERBS 10:29

- **Proverbs 10:29:** The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers.

The way of the LORD is to accept His plan of salvation and do-good and what is right and show fairness to all and treat everyone with honest justice, decency and respect. The LORD is a stronghold to everyone who

lives this way because they delight His heart and He favours them with inner joy, contentment and on the day of resurrection their Master will say to them:

- 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) (Matt. 25:23) (Luke 19:17).

The word blameless in this verse does not mean without sin if it was possible for any of us to achieve the glorious state of a sin-free life while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose rather the word, blameless carries the following two ideas:

1. To live a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which means forsaking those things that are against God's will and behaviour that could bring hurt and harm to another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed be filled with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace, mercy and such like things).
2. By faith we solely trust in Christ's righteousness to be saved and not our own self-righteousness and in God's grace, contrasted to trusting in self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. It means crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic. It is doing as much as is in our power to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. Being blameless means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right where possible when a wrong has been done. Paul told his disciples to do all things without grumbling and questioning so that:

- They may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom they shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:14-15).

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This is not talking about being without sin we know this because the Lord Jesus Christ is the only man who has ever been without sin. The focus is not being without sin, but being blameless in the world's eyes or by the world's standards. Paul says those who are humble, obedient and do, not grumble, murmur, complain or cause divisions and who without question do what is lawful and right will be counted innocent and blameless in the world.

The righteous and blameless will never be removed: (v30) means God will never forsake the faithful, He will be with them by His Spirit, His love, His grace and His favour in this world and in the eternal world to come

The wicked will not dwell in the land: (v30) in contrast to the righteous and the blameless the wicked and those who are corrupt will never dwell in God's Kingdom in this world or in the eternal Kingdom to come and never know His love, His grace or His favour as long as they choose to deny Him and continue in their wickedness. Without faith and honest repentance before God no one can enter His Kingdom.

PROVERBS 10:31

- **Proverbs 10:31:** The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off.

Those who live a good and right lifestyle speak words of wisdom, make sensible decisions speak common sense and words of encouragement, comfort, blessing and hope and because of this will have many good

friends. In contrast to this the perverse (i.e., deviant, rebellious, stubborn, unreasonable and wicked) will not only lack friends, but the ones they do have will eventually turn against them, because no-one will want to listen to the perverse person who deliberately and doggedly speaks in a way that is contrary to common wisdom and good sense. Added to this at the judgement seat of God He will reject them.

PROVERBS 10:32

- **Proverbs 10:32:** The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

Those who do what is right and good know what is acceptable speech amongst the company they are with and before God, but a perverse (i.e., stubborn rebellious, wicked, mean and vicious) person has no idea what is good decent and right. They speak contrary to what would be considered acceptable and contrary to common and good sense and things that are an offense before God.

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.
