



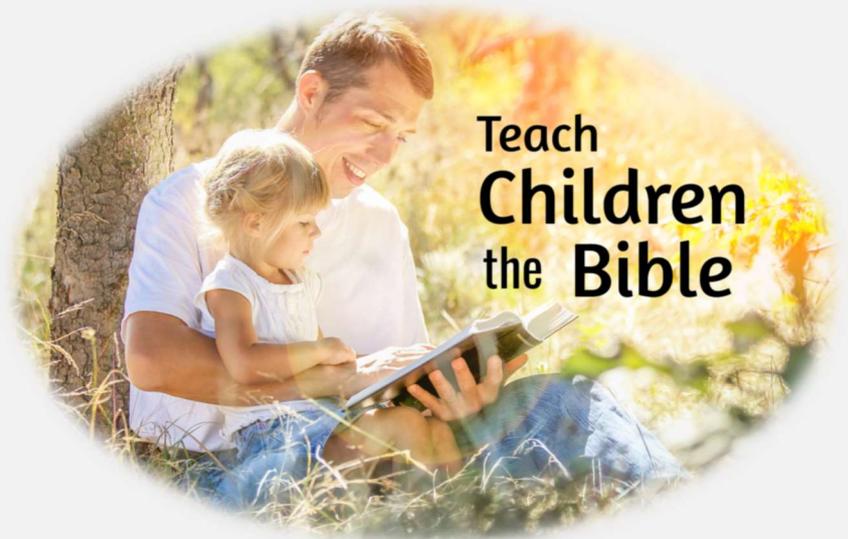
**WELCOME  
TO  
BIBLE HOUSE  
OF  
GRACE**

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## **Proverbs 16**

(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 16.

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### 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.

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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).

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### PROVERBS 16:1

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- **Proverbs 16:1:** The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

We make our plans, but it is the LORD who says whether they will come to pass or not.

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### PROVERBS 16:2

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- **Proverbs 16:2:** All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

People justify their own outward actions, but God looks at the motive.

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### PROVERBS 16:3

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- **Proverbs 16:3:** Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

Commit your work to the LORD, means do everything with integrity, honesty and fairness and then trust in the LORD in contrast to using dishonesty, deception, taking or offering bribes and oppressing employees, the poor and the helpless for one's own gain and advantage.

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### PROVERBS 16:4

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- **Proverbs 16:4:** The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, refers to the heavens, the sun, the moon, the stars and the vast expanse of space and all living creatures, birds of the air and everything that swims in the sea. It means all that is created is created for a specific purpose. Though God has made everything for its specific purpose the following verses show that man cannot find out all the purposes and works of God upon the upon earth:

- 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. <sup>12</sup>For 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 writer of Ecclesiastes concludes with the following two statements, firstly, that without God all is vanity (meaning brief, passing and meaningless) because the righteous and the wicked, the wise and the foolish all end up in the grave and are forgotten. (Eccles. 3:11) and secondly, the end of all wisdom is to fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man, because God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

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### PROVERBS 16:5

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- **Proverbs 16:5:** Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

The King James Bible says:

- **Proverbs 16:5:** Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. (Proverbs 16:5).

The word proud and arrogant come from the Hebrew word (*gabahh*) and means to be lofty, proud, haughty (i.e., to think oneself superior to all others). Those who are conceited, egotistical and have an exaggerated opinion of themselves and a feeling of self-importance and contempt for others are an extreme offence to God and will be punished for their arrogance accordingly. It should be mentioned that pride has two vastly different aspects, healthy pride and destructive pride. Not all pride is evil the following notes show the difference between healthy pride and destructive pride.

#### **Healthy pride embraces the following:**

- That happy satisfied feeling experienced when having or achieved something special that other people admire.
- Taking great pride in one's work is healthy and productive pride.
- That personal sense of satisfaction and pleasure that comes from something accomplished or a quality possessed.
- Having a proper sense of one's own value and the correct level of respect for the importance and value of one's personal character, life, efforts and achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth.
- That personal feeling of satisfaction because of an achievement or possession that one is especially pleased to have accomplished and is fully satisfied with (i.e. their grandchildren were their pride and joy or the gold medal I won at the Olympics is my pride and joy etc.).

#### **Unhealthy pride embraces the following:**

- Having a feeling of superiority and a haughty attitude. This type of pride is shown by somebody who believes (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God, and will treat those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.
- Having the biggest ego of all, a person at this level of pride sees themselves at the top of humanity and views themselves as always being right. They believe they are equal to God or even a god themselves and are so egotistical that they think the whole world revolves around them.

**Be assured, he will not go unpunished** (v5) some may think that these are empty words because good and bad fall upon the righteous and the wicked alike.

- There are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. (Eccles. 8:14).

According to our logic and our sense of justice we would reason, bad things should only happen to bad people and good things should only happen to good people, likewise good people should not suffer bad things and bad people should not be blessed with good things. But this verse and the world around us tell us a different story. There are righteous people who bad things do happen to that according to our reasoning should only happen to the wicked and there are wicked people who good things do happen to that according to our sense of justice should only happen to the righteous. Because crime, murder unjust wars, rape and sexual predatory are rampant in the world today some feel that the words, "The arrogant in heart will not go unpunished," (this of course includes all the wicked) are empty words, since they see so much injustice in the world today. The following verses explain the reason for this:

- Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. <sup>12</sup>Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God. <sup>13</sup>But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God. (Eccles. 8:11-13).

God's justice at this present time is delayed until that glorious day when the Lord Jesus Christ 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).

Those who choose to accept God's plan of salvation and do what is good and right will be rewarded with eternal life. This is the purpose God created eternal life and the purpose he created goodness. In contrast to this those who choose to deny God and do what is evil and wicked will be judged and condemned to eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction), this is the purpose God created death.

**Judging people and God by outward circumstances:** to judge a person and the ways of God simply by the outward circumstances of a person's life (good or bad) is very naïve and limits the eternal God to our mortal and imperfect mind with its limited reasoning and flawed thinking, though in certain circumstances there maybe some truth in this kind of thinking it shows a very naïve understanding of God and His ways when the principal is applied to every person standing on planet earth. This type of naïve reasoning produces the underlying thought that if a person's life is charmed God is favouring and blessing them, but if their life runs into trouble God's judgment is upon them, but this is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus said, "God makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt 5:45) showing that God blesses both the righteous and the wicked and in this way has designed the world with far too many contradictions for anyone to be able to apply a simple formula to God that will guarantee a positive outcome or result for everyone who applies the formula or a fixed set of rules to their lives. Neither God Himself, or His ways and His works can be determined simply by the good or bad outward circumstances of a person's life.

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## PROVERBS 16:6

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- **Proverbs 16:6:** By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

If a person has offended someone, healing the offence comes by persistent love and faithfulness. The expression, "By the fear of the LORD a person turns away from evil," means that those who have a healthy fear of the LORD know that wrongdoing will always lead to future trouble and not go unpunished on the Day of Judgment that is why they do the right thing and avoid wrong doing. In the book of Proverbs, it is written:

- 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 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.

**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 Lords global family.

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## PROVERBS 16:7

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- **Proverbs 16:7:** When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

This is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ teaches on the Sermon on the Mount. In the book of Luke, it is written, "I (Jesus) say to you who hear, love your enemies, do-good to those who hate you (Luke 6:27).

For a full understanding of this verse see: (Matt. 5:44) (Luke 6:27) (Luke 6:35), in Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The calling to discipleship is an enormously high calling, the Lord Jesus Christ while suffering on the cross of Calvary said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments" (Luke 23:34). Christ while in extreme pain asks His Father to forgive those who couldn't care a less about him, and even worse while his blood was flowing from his bleeding and suffering body the only thing they were worried about was getting his garment, no wonder the Hymn writer wrote "Amazing Grace."

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### PROVERBS 16:8

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- **Proverbs 16:8:** Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

A godly person who does what is honest, good and right will have more joy and peace in life than a person who gets enormously wealthy by injustice, dishonesty deception and oppressing their employees.

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### PROVERBS 16:9

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- **Proverbs 16:9:** The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

We set our goals and plan our lives and what we are going to do, but it is the LORD who establishes our steps. This does not mean that God will bring to pass all that we set our minds to do or make us successful and bring to pass what we plan to do (He may do), but the statement, "God establishes our steps," primarily means that it is the LORD who will determine the outcome of our life and the path it will take in spite of what we plan. By extension this principle applies to kings, leaders of nations and nations themselves.

This should bring great comfort to the faithful who belong to God since it means, whether our circumstances are good or bad God is in the control of them and in control of our life.

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### PROVERBS 16:10

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- **Proverbs 16:10:** An oracle (divine sentence in KJV) is on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin (transgresseth in KJV) in judgment.

When a king loves God his judgment will be honest, just and fair, he will not pervert justice or take bribes, or favour a guilty family member or friend who has committed a crime, nor will he be bias toward a guilty person because it would be in his advantage or to his gain to have them set free.

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### PROVERBS 16:11

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- **Proverbs 16:11:** A just balance and scales are the LORD'S; all the weights in the bag are his work.

Everything that results from honesty, justice, fairness and equality for all people is the LORD'S work.

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### PROVERBS 16:12

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- **Proverbs 16:12:** It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.

A king who does wickedness is extremely disapproved of by God and a gross offence to Him and will be judged accordingly on the Day of Judgment. They are also extremely foolish, because a king and his kingdom is established by doing what is right for the people and not by corruption, wickedness and oppressing them for his own gain and advantage.

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### PROVERBS 16:13

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- **Proverbs 16:13:** Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.

A king, rulers of nations and leaders of communities, churches, groups etc., take great delight, enjoyment and pleasure when they hear a person speaking what is good and right.

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### PROVERBS 16:14

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- **Proverbs 16:14:** A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.

A wise person will quieten the anger of a king, because the king has the power to sentence to death those who stir up his wrath.

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### PROVERBS 16:15

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- **Proverbs 16:15:** In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

When a king is joyful and happy, he will treat the people within his kingdom with approval, favour, kindness and goodwill.

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### PROVERBS 16:16

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- **Proverbs 16:16:** How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

It is better to seek after wisdom and understanding than chase after worldly riches and material possessions, because having good sense in thinking and the ability to make sensible decisions and judgments in the present moment that will give the best outcome in the future, will bring about a good life for a person in this world and ultimately lead them to seek after God, His salvation, eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

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### PROVERBS 16:17

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- **Proverbs 16:17:** The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life.

The highway of the upright is, honesty, integrity, justice, kindness, compassion, truthfulness and loyalty, it is doing what is good and right and treating all people with decency and respect. The expression, "Whoever guards his way preserves his life," means those who love what is good and right will make choices that will guard them against what is wrong and decisions that will protect them from anything that is tainted with dishonesty, deception and injustice. It carries the idea that those who choose to follow what is good and right and turn away from what is wrong are by their choices and lifestyle protecting their life in this world from trouble and should they accept God's plan of salvation also protecting their life for eternity.

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## PROVERBS 16:18

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- **Proverbs 16:18:** Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Those who believe they are superior and who do not mix because they consider others social inferiors to them are headed for emotional and mental misery, affliction and ultimately ruin and eternal destruction.

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## PROVERBS 16:19

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- **Proverbs 16:19:** It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

A person who is humble and poor will be happier than those who are rich and wealthy, but full of pride. This is because amongst the prideful there will always be contention, because the character of the prideful is such that those possessed with pride desire to be the top dog, the head of the group and therefore bows down to no one. In contrast to this those who are humble do not exalt themselves above others and are willing to show grace to each other and because of this there is joy and harmony amongst the humble. For further information concerning healthy pride and destructive pride see the notes following (Proverbs 16:5) (above) under the title: "Two Aspects to Pride."

**NOTE:** this verse is not saying it is wrong to be rich and wealthy the focus of the verse is upon pride contrasted to humility. It is the attitude of prideful superiority and considering others as lessor beings that God is against and not riches and wealth. In fact, those who are blessed with such riches and wealth and use them to help the poor and expand the Kingdom of God are storing up treasure in heaven. Jesus words, "Blessed are the meek (humble) for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5) shine a spotlight upon the ultimate reason the godly, poor and humble are far more blessed than the rich and wealthy who are arrogant and prideful.

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## PROVERBS 16:20

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- **Proverbs 16:20:** Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

The King James Bible says:

- **Proverbs 16:20:** He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he.

Everyone who trusts in God and reads and meditates upon His word will not only find wisdom and by this wisdom do what is right and good and protect their lives from harm, but will also inherit eternal life. Following are eight aspects of wisdom.

Wisdom is:

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 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 or 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.

Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt and calamity in the future for themselves and for others and ultimately lead to eternal life and everlasting happiness. God's word produces life and love for God in the heart and mind to those who mindfully give thought to it and it is from this love they willingly choose to obey and follow God).

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### PROVERBS 16:21

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- **Proverbs 16:21:** The wise of heart is called discerning (prudent in KJV), and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

A wise person is able to consider diligently a situation or a decision and mentally separate between what is good and what is bad. They are keenly selective in judging and showing good judgment and good taste. The ability to persuade people is increased when a person has a pleasant manner and speaks softly and kindly.

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### PROVERBS 16:22

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- **Proverbs 16:22:** Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it, but the instruction of fools is folly.

Accepting instruction from a fool (somebody considered to lack good sense and good judgment) shows a lack of wisdom in those who listen to the counsel of such a person since their advice will be lacking wisdom (good sense and judgment) and therefore lead to some kind of mental and emotional hurt and ruin. In contrast to this good sense and good judgment will protect a person from harm and trouble and lead to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

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### PROVERBS 16:23

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- **Proverbs 16:23:** The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Judicious means sensible, careful, thoughtful and well-judged it carries the idea of carefully thinking about something, before speaking and that what they do say is well thought-out. This verse is saying that those who are wise speak with thoughtfulness and discretion to avoid embarrassing or upsetting anyone and by their courtesy and respect they increases their ability to persuade others toward what is right.

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### PROVERBS 16:24

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- **Proverbs 16:24:** Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Speaking with thoughtfulness, respect and kindness and with words of comfort and encouragement will uplift the heart and mind and bring health and a sense of joy and well-being to the body and soul of those who are being spoken to.

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## PROVERBS 16:25

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- **Proverbs 16:25:** There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

People may think that a path they have chosen to take is the right path for them or that a decision they have made is a right decision even though everyone else knows that they are headed for hurt, harm and ruin. This is why those who have wisdom listen to their family and friends. They know that what they may think is the right choice, decision or path to take may not always be the best thing for them to do so they listen to the opinion and advice of others they trust.

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## PROVERBS 16:26

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- **Proverbs 16:26:** A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.

A worker's appetite for food motivates them to work. This principle not only applies to food, but to all things we need to survive and live a healthy, happy and enjoyable life.

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## PROVERBS 16:27

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- **Proverbs 16:27:** A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

The words of a wicked person will lead to trouble and destruction.

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## PROVERBS 16:28

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- **Proverbs 16:28:** A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

The word whisper carries the idea of secretly gossiping and lying about others. Those who lack integrity and honesty spread strife, conflict and discord, because they will lie about others when it works to their own advantage, gain or popularity. Likewise, those who whisperer separates close friends because they spread malicious gossip and rumours about them.

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## PROVERBS 16:29

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- **Proverbs 16:29:** A man of violence entices his neighbour and leads him in a way that is not good.

A person who has violence in their heart is not afraid of violence and therefore take no thought about enticing others into violence to achieve their plans, purposes and goals, because they have no compassion or concern for the well-being of another.

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## PROVERBS 16:30

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- **Proverbs 16:30:** Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.

Wink in this context carries the idea of covering up something crooked secret or dishonest. When those who they wink at join them in their dishonest plans they bring wickedness to pass.

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## PROVERBS 16:31

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- **Proverbs 16:31:** Gray hair (hoary head in KJV) is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

**Hoary:** comes from the Hebrew word (*seybah*) and means old age and to have grey hair. Following are two ways of interpreting this verse: -

1. Grey hair is a crown of glory gained by living a godly life and doing right.
2. Grey hair is a sign of old age, but a crown of glory is gained by living a godly life and doing right.

The second interpretation would appear to be closer to the truth since there are many elderly, godly and righteous men who have no hair at all and many older and dishonest men who deny God that have grey hair.

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## PROVERBS 16:32

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- **Proverbs 16:32:** Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

This verse carries the following two ideas:

1. It takes far more mental strength of character and will power to control anger than is needed to conquer a city.
2. Those who cannot control their anger not only inflict great harm and hurt upon those they love, either by physical violence or verbal abuse, but also bring ruination to themselves by their anger.

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## PROVERBS 16:33

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- **Proverbs 16:33:** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

**Lot:** comes from the Hebrew word (*gowral*) and literally means to be rough (as stone), in the context of this verse it refers to a stone or pebble, that is thrown to determine a decision by the way it is going to land.

**Why casting the lot was in God's will:** in some circumstances the easy way to decide a thing or stop a quarrel is to flip a coin. Proverbs states; "The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders. (Proverbs 18:18).

1. When my building partner and I decided to go our own way we had to divide the tools, we were good mates and did not want to upset each other so we prayed that God's will would be done and then grouped the tools together in pairs of equal value. We wrote our names on opposite sides of a block of wood and tossed it in the air and agreed that whoever's name came up would have the first choice then we would alternate choosing from then on, it worked really well and stopped any tension that could have developed. In casting lots God's will was done because we both agreed to accept the outcome whatever way the block fell and both accepted the outcome of it as God's will.
2. In the book of Acts those in the upper room agreed that there were two men who could equally replace Judas so either way the lot fell would have been OK.
3. If Paul and Peter were deciding to share the Good News of the Gospel on a particular Sunday at the same house meeting they could pray and flip a coin to see which one of them was to lead the meeting in that home and by faith whatever way the lot fell it could be accepted as

God's will since no matter whether the coin fell in favour of Peter or Paul the outcome is a good result for those attending the meeting and for God's Kingdom.

In all three examples whatever way the lot fell was not only a good outcome, but also agreed by all involved that whatever it determined would be accepted. No-one with any wisdom would cast a lot if one man was perfectly suited for the position or the work and another was not nor would they cast a lot if one of the outcomes had the potential to do harm, bring ruin or cause division. In these types of scenarios no one needs to cast a lot to make the right decision since the choice would be obvious to all. Casting lots is only in God's will when whatever way the lot falls is a good outcome. When the lot is cast according to this principle every decision can be accepted as being from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33).

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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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