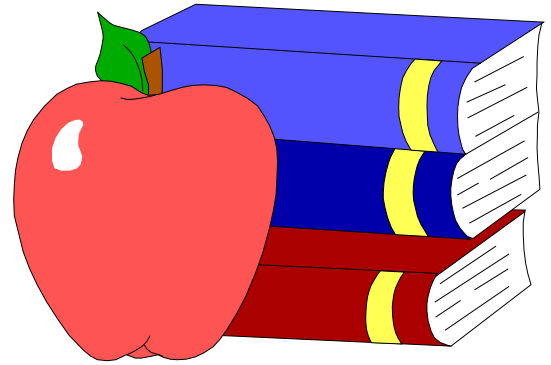


Proverbs 25:11

*Like apples of gold  
in settings of silver*

*Is a word spoken in right circumstances.*



# Proverbs

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Ron Adams

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# Topical Study in the **Book of Proverbs**

## **THE VALUE OF WISE SAYINGS**

*Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have taught you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, to make you know the certainty of the words of truth that you may correctly answer to him who sent you? 22:17-21*

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVERBS**

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion. 1:1-4*



*[quotations from New American Standard Bible]*

## **NOTES**

### **REVERENCE**

#### **Fear of the Lord**

- 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- 14:2** He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is crooked in his ways despises Him.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 10:27; 28:14

### **INSIGHT**

#### **Knowledge**

- 15:14** The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on folly.
- 18:15** The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
- 19:2** Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who makes haste with his feet errs.
- 23:12** Apply your heart to discipline, and your ears to words of knowledge.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 20:15; 24:3,4

## Discerning and Understanding

- 10:23** Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool; And so is wisdom to a man of understanding.
- 13:15-16** Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard. Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool displays folly.
- 14:6,8** A scoffer seeks wisdom, and *finds* none, but knowledge is easy to him who has understanding . . . The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit.
- 14:15** The naive believes everything, but the prudent man considers his steps.
- 16:16** How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.
- ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 15:21; 17:24; 19:8; 20:5; 20:12

## Dealing with Fools

- 26:4-5** Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, lest he be wise in his own eyes.
- 27:22** Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him.
- 10:14** Wise men store up knowledge, but with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.
- 14:7** Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.

## Advice and Rebuke

- 3:1-2** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life, and peace they will add to you.
- 9:7-9** He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, and he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself. Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you, reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning.

- 12:15** The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.
- 13:1** A wise son accepts his father's discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
- 17:10** A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.
- 25:12** Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
- 29:1** A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.
- ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 10:8; 15:31; 19:16; 19:20; 19:25; 19:27; 23:9; 27:5,6

## Value of Advisors

- 11:14** Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.
- 13:10** Through presumption comes nothing but strife, but with those who receive counsel is wisdom.
- 15:22** Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.
- ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 20:18; 24:5,6

## CHARACTER

### Discipline

- 3:11-12** My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord, or loathe His reproof, for whom the Lord loves He reproves, even as a father, the son in whom he delights.
- 12:1** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.
- 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.
- 22:15** Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

- 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.  
ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 10:17; 12:1; 13:18; 13:24; 15:5; 15:12; 15:32; 19:18

## **Integrity and Contrariness**

- 10:9 He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.
- 15:26 Evil plans are an abomination to the Lord, but pleasant words are pure.
- 11:3,6 The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them . . . The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the treacherous will be caught by *their own* greed.
- 24:8-9 He who plans to do evil, men will call him a schemer. The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men.
- 27:19 As in water face *reflects* face, so the heart of man *reflects* man.  
ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 13:6; 21:8; 28:18; 29:10

## **Motivation**

- 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.
- 16:26 A worker's appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him *on*.
- 20:11 It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself, if his conduct is pure and right.  
ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 15:11; 17:3; 20:27; 21:2; 27:19

## **Love, Kindness and Mercy**

- 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.
- 15:17 Better is a dish of vegetables where love is, than a fattened ox and hatred with it.
- 17:5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.

- 24:17-18** Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the Lord see *it* and be displeased, and He turn away His anger from him.
- 25:21-22** If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.
- 19:22** What is desirable in a man is his kindness, and *it is* better to be a poor man than a liar.  
ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 3:3-4; 16:6; 20:6; 25:19

## Pride and Humility

- 11:2** When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.
- 16:18-19** Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 18:12** Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility *goes* before honor.
- 21:4** Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.
- 25:14** *Like* clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.
- 29:23** A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.  
ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 12:9; 13:7; 15:25; 16:5; 19:10; 21:24; 22:4; 25:27; 26:16; 27:2; 27:21

## Jealousy

- 27:4** Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?

## Envy

- 24:19-20** Do not fret because of evildoers, or be envious of the wicked; For there will be no future for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

## Revenge

- 20:22** Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

**24:29** Do not say, "Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

## Self-control

**25:28** Like a city that is broken into *and* without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.

**29:11** A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back.

## Impulsiveness

**20:25** It is a snare for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!" And after the vows to make inquiry.

**21:5** The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.

**25:8-10** Do not go out hastily to argue *your case*; Otherwise, what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your case with your neighbor, and do not reveal the secret of another, lest he who hears *it* reproach you, and the evil report about you not pass away.

**29:20** Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

# SPEECH

## Foolish Talk

**14:3** In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for *his* back, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.

**15:2** The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.

**18:6-7** A fool's lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

**19:1** Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

## Pleasant Speech

- 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 15:23 A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!
- 16:21 The wise in heart will be called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.
- 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
- 25:11-12 Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
- 25:15 By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.

## Few Words

- 10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.
- 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.
- 13:3 The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.
- 17:27-28 He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is *counted* prudent.
- 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

## Flattery

- 26:28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.
- 28:23 He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor than he who flatters with the tongue.
- 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps.



## Slander and Gossip

- 10:18** He who conceals hatred *has* lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool.
- 11:13** He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.
- 16:28** A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends.
- 26:20** For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down.

## Harmful Words

- 12:18** There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- 15:4** A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit.
- 16:27** A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are as a scorching fire.

## Quarreling

- 17:14** The beginning of strife is *like* letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.
- 20:3** Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.

## Lying

- 12:19-22** Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy. No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight.
- 17:20** He who has a crooked mind finds no good, and he who is perverted in his language falls into evil.
- 19:5** A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will not escape.
- 19:22** What is desirable in a man is his kindness, and *it is* better to be a poor man than a liar.

21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.

## NEIGHBORS

### Generosity

- 3:27,28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do *it*. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give *it*," When you have it with you.
- 11:24-26 There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but *it results* only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered. He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells *it*.
- 14:21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but happy is he who is gracious to the poor.
- 19:17 He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.
- 21:13 He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered.
- 22:9 He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

### Strife

- 6:16-19 There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.
- 17:1 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 18:19 A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

## Meddling

- 26:17 *Like* one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by *and* meddles with strife not belonging to him.

## NOTES

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## BUSINESS DEALINGS

### Accurate Weights

- 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight.
- 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures, both of them are abominable to the Lord.
- ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 16:11; 20:23

### Wrongfully Obtained Gains

- 1:19 So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.
- 10:2 Ill-gotten gains do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.
- 20:17 Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

### Bribery

- 15:27 He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.
- 17:23 A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom to pervert the ways of justice.

## JUSTICE

### Witness

- 12:17 He who speaks truth tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit.
- 19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will perish.
- 19:28 A rascally witness makes a mockery of justice, and the mouth of the wicked spreads iniquity.
- 25:18 *Like* a club and a sword and a sharp arrow is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.
- ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 14:5; 21:28

# FAMILY

# NOTES

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## Parents and Children

- 1:8-9** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, and ornaments about your neck.
- 10:1** A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother.
- 15:20** A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.
- 17:6** Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers.
- 17:21** He who begets a fool *does so* to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.
- 19:26** He who assaults *his* father *and* drives *his* mother away is a shameful and disgraceful son.
- 23:22-26** Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell *it, get* wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you. Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.
- 28:24** He who robs his father or his mother, and says, "It is not a transgression," is the companion of a man who destroys.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: 17:25; 20:20