

Life after the alarm goes off on Monday morning.

A Study of the Book of Proverbs

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Life's Compass



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Introduction

In studying the Bible many do not realize the books are not arranged in chronological order. The books are grouped like books in a library. For instance, the “wisdom” grouping of books in the Old Testament were written primarily by David and his son, Solomon, during Israel’s “golden age”—the period of the United Kingdom. The exception is the book of Job, which is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible, written, perhaps, during the Patriarchal Period. While Psalms is considered a book about our relationship to God; Proverbs is more about our relationship to our fellowman.

	Historical Period	Main Character/Event
1	ANTEDILUVIAN	Adam, Eve/ Creation to Flood
2	POSTDILUVIAN	Noah/ Flood to Call of Abraham
3	PATRIARCHAL	Abraham/ From Call of Abraham to going into Egypt
4	EGYPTIAN BONDAGE	Joseph/ Bondage to Exodus Israel Becomes a Nation
5	WILDERNESS WANDERING	Moses/ Exodus to Conquest of Canaan
6	CONQUEST OF CANAAN	Joshua/ Conquest to Judges
7	JUDGES OF ISRAEL	Samuel/ Judges to Monarchy
8	UNITED KINGDOM	Saul, David, Solomon/ United kingdom to Divided Kingdom
9	DIVIDED KINGDOM	Elijah/ Kingdom splits to fall of Israel (Assyrians)
10	JUDAH ALONE	Josiah/ Fall of Israel to Fall of Judah
11	BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY	Jeremiah, Daniel/ Fall of Judah to Return to Jerusalem
12	RESTORATION OF THE JEWS	Ezra, Nehemiah/ Fall of Judah to Return to Jerusalem
13	400 YEARS BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS	Maccabees, Alexander/ return to Jerusalem to Birth of Christ
14	LIFE OF CHRIST	Jesus, John the Immerser/ to the Ascension
15	CHURCH OF GOD	Peter, Paul, Holy Spirit/ Ascension to New Testament church, spread



Who wrote the book of Proverbs?

1:1; 30:1; 31:1

What are the purposes given for writing the book of Proverbs?

1:2-6



What can I expect from the book of Proverbs?

How many proverbs did King Solomon actually compose? 1 Kings 4:32

We obviously do not have all of the proverbs Solomon composed but what do we know about the ones we do have?

Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

At one time or another we have all used proverbs that are not in the Bible, such as:

"A stitch in time saves nine"

"Cleanliness is next to godliness"

"Can't put an old head on young shoulders"

"A pound of prevention is worth a

_____ _"

We could all think of truths to pass on to others—but why do some sayings or maxims have the staying power to become a proverb?

As we go through life and experience a wide range of situations, mature people consider what works and what doesn't work. They learn to look at a problem, determine what caused it, consider possible consequences and work out a solution. Overall they use common sense in weighing out the options (that will be pleasing to God) and are able to see the end of a situation from the beginning.

A proverb has that ring of truth, common sense and universality. It is not a law or a promise from God. Nor is it a statement of an absolute. It is an observation that describes what, in most instances, is the outcome of a situation. Sometimes a proverb is defined as a short parable. To paraphrase Cervantes, a proverb is:

A Long Life in a Short Sentence.

Personal Enrichment

A study will bring immense enjoyment and a wealth of good, practical advice. You will not find the way of salvation in Proverbs, but you will find how a person who wants to be upright should act, think and respond to everyday situations and relationships. In other words, there will be principles that guide you on how to act at home, at work, in traffic, at the store or ticket counter, when turning the TV dial or surfing on the net, when choosing movies or videos, when doing business, with family, with friends, with neighbors, with enemies and when choosing elected officials. The foundation and our motivation for practicing these principles is an abiding reverence for God.

Colorful Language

Brush up on figurative language! Sometimes we tune it out because we think it is going to be difficult and we can't remember how a **metaphor** differs from a **simile**. We speak in figurative language everyday without stopping to think about it ("It's raining cats and dogs!" or "See that redhead going down the street?"). A general rule for identifying figurative language is that if taken literally it does not make sense. However, it makes the examples and the teachings of a book like Proverbs so rich.

Proverbs is most of all a book of comparisons, such as:

antithesis - comparing opposite things (13:4)

comparison - comparing similar things (17:10)

imagery - using word pictures (26:27)

personification - giving personality to an inanimate object or abstract concept (9:1-6)

Elements used in Hebrew writings are found throughout Proverbs. One of the main techniques used to reinforce a thought is to repeat it—but in different words. Known in literature as **parallelism**. (16:16) If you don't quite understand the first line, just read the second. (cont)

In our study Proverbs is not a book that is easily outlined because it discusses such a variety of topics. Our study will group and explore some of the main topics in the book. And remember, “You get out of something what you put into it.” That may have the makings of a proverb!

Historical Insights

The Israelites demanded a king so they could be like the countries around them. God told Samuel He would give them a king since they were rejecting Him as king. Samuel also told the people what life would be like under a king. Israel’s first three kings were, as follows:

Saul (ca 1040 - 1000 B.C.)

David (ca 1000 - 960 B.C.)

Solomon (ca 960 - 920 B.C.)

Each king had a 40-year reign. Each had very different personalities and tasks to accomplish. Since Israel was new at this political monarchy business it was on-the-job training for each of these kings. Most of their challenges were created by Israel’s failure to completely rid the land of Canaanites, as God had commanded when they took over the land.



Briefly name five things the Israelites were instructed by God to do (or to not do) when conquering the Promised Land? Deuteronomy 7



The Scepter shall not depart from Judah.

Genesis 49:10



The Lion of Judah

Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, was primarily occupied with uniting and maintaining unity among the tribes of Israel and defending Israel from neighboring enemies, such as the Philistines.

The reign of David, from the tribe of Judah, was characterized by extensive, aggressive warfare on several fronts. His efforts ultimately recovered the boundaries of the Promised Land first granted to the Israelites.

What were the original boundaries of the Promised Land first granted to the Israelites?
Genesis 15:18



When King David died, Solomon’s half-brother, Adonijah, attempted to beat him to the throne. However, God had told David that the next king’s name would be Solomon (a name meaning “peaceable”). David saw to it that God’s will was done. Solomon became the third king of Israel.

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding MORE light!

How do you get 12 tribes out of 14?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Reuben | 7. Dan |
| 2. Simeon | 8. Naphtali |
| X Levi | 9. Gad |
| 3. Judah | 10. Asher |
| 4. Issachar | X Joseph |
| 5. Zebulun | 11. Ephraim |
| 6. Benjamin | 12. Manasseh |

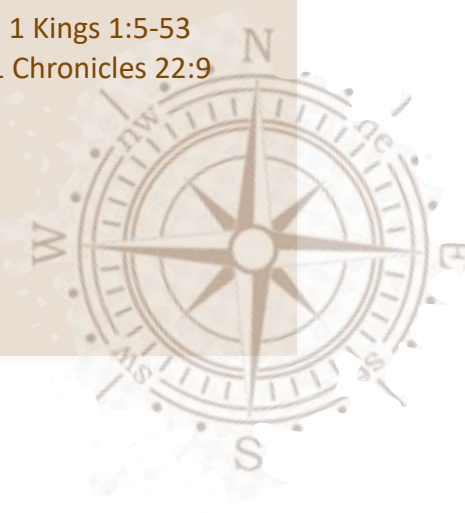
Genesis 15:18-21
Genesis 48

Deuteronomy 7

Deuteronomy 11:24

Joshua 1:3-4;
21:43-45; 23:14-16
2 Samuel 8:1-18

Genesis 49:10
1 Kings 1:5-53
1 Chronicles 22:9



Historical Insights (con't)

Solomon's Opportunity

Solomon came to a kingdom secure against its neighboring enemies. He was blessed, also, by a sort of lull in the great conflicts between the Egyptian, Hittite and Mesopotamian empires, between which Israel would often be caught in the middle, in subsequent centuries.

To the south, Egypt was declining from her days of greater glory. To the distant north, the warlike Hittites were coming to the end of their long domination from Anatolia (modern Turkey). And to the East the growing Assyrian Empire was fighting its perennial enemy, Babylon, and consolidating its strength in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (in modern Iraq). It would be nearly one hundred years after Solomon before the Assyrians would invade Israel. To the immediate north lay Phoenicia (modern Lebanon) whose King Hiram, had been a good friend and ally of King David. That friendship grew even stronger between Solomon and King Hiram.

Solomon came to the throne at a time of unprecedented opportunity to accomplish great things for his people and for the LORD. This was truly Israel's "Golden Age." Solomon came to the throne at a time of unprecedented opportunity to accomplish great things for his people and for the Lord.

Solomon at His Best

In the very beginning of his reign Solomon could not have done better than he did. God told him to ask for what he wanted. Solomon asked for "an understanding heart" to lead his people. This pleased the LORD and He told Solomon that because he had asked for wisdom rather than a long life or riches, he would be given all three. He would be so wise there would be none like Solomon, before or after him—and he would be given great riches and honor.

And God blessed Solomon, just as He had promised. His reign was undisputed, all the way from the Euphrates River in the east to the land of the Philistines (the Mediterranean Sea) in the west. He maintained a truly regal court and he was extremely wealthy.

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!



The Hittites are mentioned 40 times in the Old Testament. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, critics of the Bible pointed to the Hittites as proof that the Bible's historical account was false. They assumed that no such people as the Hittites ever lived since no archaeological evidence of their existence had been discovered.

Then, in 1906, Professor Hugo Winckler discovered the ancient Hittite capital city Hattusas, while excavating near the Turkish village of Boghaz Koi, southeast of Turkey's modern capital city, Ankara. The evidence at Hattusas and other more recently discovered Hittite sites makes it clear that the Hittites were one of the three super-powers of the ancient Near East, along with the Egyptians and Mesopotamians.

Personal Note. In recent years I was with a study group touring Greece and Turkey. At the museum in Istanbul there is a contract between the Hittites and Egypt.



King Hiram
in Lebanon
kept Israel
supplied
with logs
for Israel's
great Temple.

Historical Insights (con't)

Solomon at His Best

He would be so wise there would be none like Solomon, before or after him—and he would be given great riches and honor. And God blessed Solomon, just as He had promised. His reign was undisputed, all the way from the Euphrates River in the east to the land of the Philistines (the Mediterranean Sea) in the west. He maintained a truly regal court and he was extremely wealthy.



Solomon Dedicates the Temple of God with an Awe Inspiring Ceremony

The Tabernacle had served Israel a little over 500 years before it was dismantled and the furnishings were installed in Solomon's Temple.

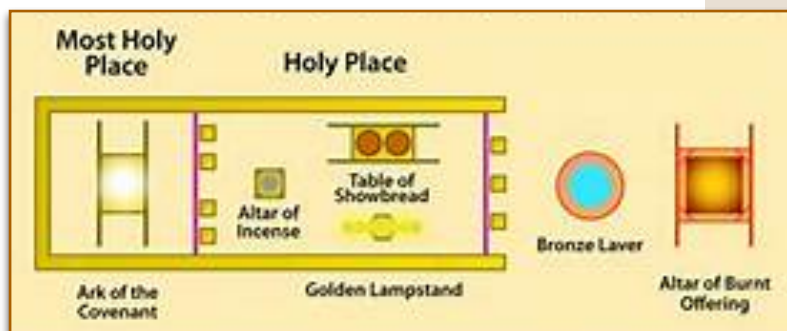
According to instructions the priests and Levites transported the furnishings from the Tabernacle to the Temple which had the same floor plan as the Tabernacle.

All Israel gathered while animals, that couldn't be counted, were continually being offered on the burnt sacrifice altar.

The glory of the Lord filled the house of God in a cloud until the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud! Solomon began to speak giving some of their history and gave a lengthy prayer of dedication & blessed the assembly.

And above all, God gave Solomon great wisdom. He was "wiser than all men." He uttered thousands of wise proverbs, many of which are found today in the book of Proverbs; and he wrote more than a thousand songs. Common people and kings came from everywhere to hear his wise counsel. His wisdom was very practical.

What kind of provisions did it take to run Solomon's royal house-hold everyday? How would you like to shop that grocery list?
1 Kings 4:22-23.



When the Ark of the Covenant was first made and put in the newly built Tabernacle at Mt. Sinai it contained three things: Aaron's rod that budded, shewbread and the Ten Commandments tablets. Now the Ark just contained the two tablets of stone, the Ten Commandments. 1 Kings 8:9; 1 Samuel 4; 2 Kings 25:8-9. What could have happened?

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

1 Kings 3:5-13

1 Kings 4:21-28

1 Kings 10:14-29

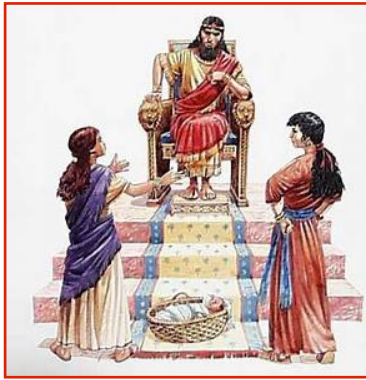
1 Kings 4:31-34

**586 BC
Babylon destroys
Jerusalem & the
Temple.**



Solomon at His Best (con't.)

On one occasion two women came before him, each claiming to be the mother of the same child. Solomon told his servants to cut the living child in two and give half to each of the women. The true mother immediately gave up her claim and begged Solomon to



not to kill the baby but give it to the woman who was lying. Solomon gave it to the pleading woman; he knew the real mother would do anything to save the child's life. Solomon's people respected him for this.

Solomon, Builder and Commercial Success

King David had wished to build a great temple for the Lord. However, He was told to prepare Solomon to perform this task. Solomon built the Temple according to the specifications God had given to King David. The prayer Solomon offered when the Temple was dedicated is one of the greatest in the Bible. Solomon also built his own house and many other structures in Jerusalem that were magnificent. He also instituted a great building program throughout Israel, setting up "storage cities" and "chariot cities," military strongholds, in key positions in the land.

Solomon engaged in international commerce very successfully. He had trade agreements with his friend, Hiram, king of Tyre (in modern day Lebanon). And, He built a great navy that sailed out of the port of Ezion-gezer (modern Eilat, at the north end of the Gulf of Aqaba of the Red Sea) that brought him immense wealth. He imported chariot, horses and textile products from Egypt. (I'm sure the Egyptians didn't dig up all of those chariots in the Red Sea that Moses left behind!)

In short, Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. When the Queen of Sheba came to visit him and saw all his wealth and listened to his wise sayings she exclaimed, "....I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard."

Notes:

"Since Solomon controlled the frontier districts of Transjordan, he had an actual monopoly of the entire caravan trade between Arabia and Syria" from which he derived income through tolls and trade. R.K. Harrison, *Old Testament Times*, Wm.B. Eerdmans, 1970, pp. 201-2; see I Kings 10:15."

Archaeologists have discovered copper mines and refining facilities at Ezion-geber, operated by Solomon. Though they are not mentioned in the Bible.



8. Since King David was not allowed to build the Temple, what did he do concerning God's house? 1 Chronicles 28:11-21

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

1 Kings 3:23-27
1 Kings 4:28

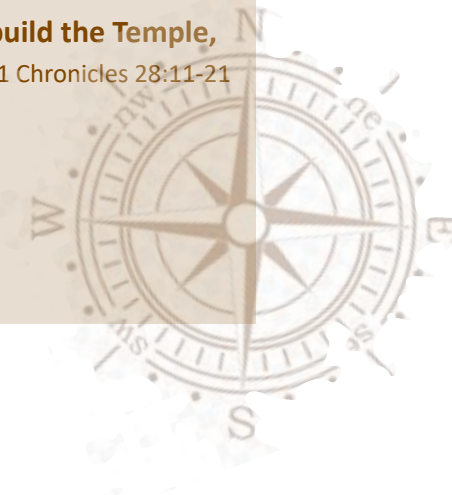
1 Chronicles 28:2-20

1 Kings 7:51

1 Kings 8:12-21
1 Chronicles 28:11, 19
1 Kings 8:22-54
2 Chronicles 8:1-6
1 Kings 9:15-19

1 Kings 5:10-12
1 Kings 9:26-28
1 Kings 10: 22
2 Chronicles 8:17-18
1 Kings 10:28-29

1 Kings 10:23
1 Kings 10:7



Solomon's Folly

In the beginning of Solomon's reign, when God of Solomon's reign, when God promised him wisdom and riches and honor, God also told him to "keep my statutes and my commandments." And, in his early days as king, Solomon did so. But as his wealth and influence grew, so did the temptation to love the LORD less, and to love the world more.

Solomon made alliances with foreign powers, cemented, for example, by his marriage to the daughter of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. He slid into sensuality; his harem came to number 300 wives and 700 concubines. He fell into idolatry. These "foreign womenturned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God." He also became an oppressor. His building projects, his splendid lifestyle, and his military establishment became so costly that he pressed corvees of laborers, overseers and guards into his service. He taxed his people heavily.

His disobedience angered the LORD. He was told his kingdom would be torn in two after his death. A small part would be given to his son, Rehoboam, and a large part would be given to one of his servants, Jeroboam. This came to pass when Rehoboam refused the reasonable requests of his new subjects, shortly after he became the new king.

★ In seeking advice, Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men. What was it? 1 Kings 12:6-11



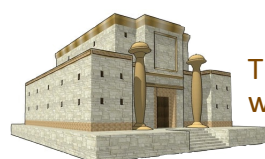
JUDAH



Capital: Jerusalem
Kings from Tribe of Judah



Priests from Tribe of Levi



Worship - Temple
They switched back & forth worshipping God and idols.

ISRAEL



Capital: Samaria
Kings from any Tribe



Priests from any Tribe



Worship - Calf Idols
at Dan & Bethel to prevent the people from going to the Temple to worship.

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

1 Kings 3:14

1 Kings 3:1; 7:8; 9:24

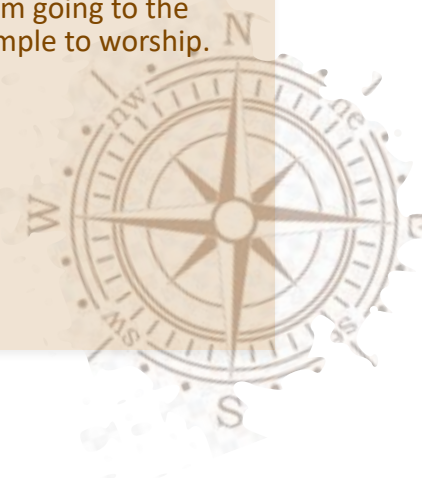
1 Kings 11:1-3, 4-8

1 Kings 5:13; 10:15-23

1 Kings 4:7

1 Kings 11:9-13

1 Kings 12:1-20



Archaeological Insights

BethDAVID (House of David)

King David, son of Jesse of Bethlehem, tribe of Judah, shepherd, warrior, musician, poet anointed the second King of Israel, writer of many of the Psalms, father of Solomon and chosen by God to be in the lineage of Jesus. Whatever David did he did with great passion. He is described as “a man after God’s own heart” and the “sweet psalmist of Israel.”

1 Samuel 13:14; 2 Samuel 23:1

As king of Israel, David secured the borders of the promised land and he paved the way for Solomon to have a peaceful reign and to build God’s Temple. David lamented that he had a fine house and that God just had the Tabernacle. God was building something extremely important for David—his throne would last forever.

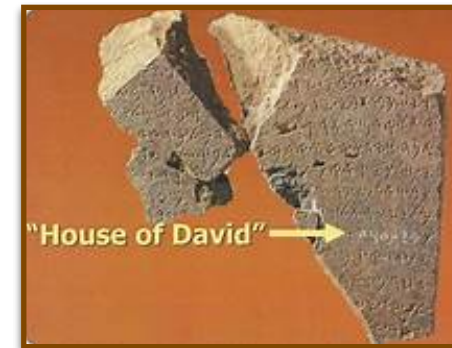
David made mistakes in his life but when confronted with his sins he was remorseful and repentant. He never led Israel away from God. God told David his son, Solomon, would build His Temple because David had bloody hands.

★ **Was David punished for going into battles the Lord had told him to do?**

David was a warrior and was occupied with securing Israel’s borders, sanctioned by God. However, before he died, David secured a stockpile of materials for Solomon to have ready to start to build the Temple.

Bible critics have said there is no such person as King David since no inscriptions had been found with his name. In recent years two archaeological finds had Bethdavid inscribed on them. Bethdavid is “house of David.” The stone found is called the Tel Dan and the “tel” is a mound indicating a buried city or site. Dan indicates the area it was found in—in the land originally given to the tribe of Dan.

Through Israel’s tumultuous history and finally being under the iron fist of the Romans such sects as the Pharisees, Sadducees, priests and scribes began developing and gaining the most control over the people. Time and time again, all through the Old Testament, Israel was spared from their wrong doing because of David. Now as we move into the time of Jesus the House of David has become obscure. A young couple came to the Temple with their baby boy and offered a bird sacrifice—a sacrifice usually made by the poor. The kingdom that will not be destroyed is coming soon, “during the time of those kings.” Daniel 2



Tel Dan Steele—“Bethdavid”



**Moabite or Mesha Stele
“House of David” mentioned**

SOLOMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSIGHT

As archaeologists continue their work in bible lands, new information comes to light that illustrates and confirms the bible's historical account. Here are a few items that have been discovered in Israel, dating from the reign of Solomon.

Solomon's Stables

Whereas David had refused to employ chariots, Solomon saw their value as a military weapon, and he built up a number of divisions that were stationed in strategic positions throughout his kingdom. These fortified towns included Jerusalem, Gezer, Hazor and Megiddo ((1 Kings 9:15ff).

Archaeological excavations at these sites have uncovered the remains of chariot enclosures and stables. At Megiddo, the level IV B contained a group of stables that could have accommodated the remains of about 500 horses. There is some doubt, however, as to whether this level belongs to the time of Solomon or Ahab of Israel.

The structure of the masonry in Megiddo corresponds to the description in 1 Kings 7:12, and may have been the result of Tyrian architectural influence" (i.e., influence from the Phoenicians of Tyre, over whom Hiram, Solomon's friend, reigned, D.B.;R.K. Harrison, *Old Testament Times*, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1970, p. 201).



The Gezer Calendar

The Gezer calendar is thought to be the oldest Hebrew inscription yet discovered. It has scratches made on limestone, but the lower part has been broken and is lost.

The calendar has seven lines of horizontal writing and the eighth line is written vertically but only part of it survives. Some do not believe it is a calendar but a record giving a rotation of agricultural labors.

The writing is interpreted, by Pere Vincent, as follows:

- (1) Two months, late crops - Two months,
- (2) Sowing-two months, spring crops-
- (3) One month, cutting flax-
- (4) One month, harvest of barely-
- (5) One month, all the harvest-
- (6) Two months, fruit vines-
- (7) One month, summer fruits
- (8) Abi - This is thought to be the person who wrote this.

In any event, it has to do with very early farming. Some of the signs belonged to earlier writings, which the scribe himself corrected.

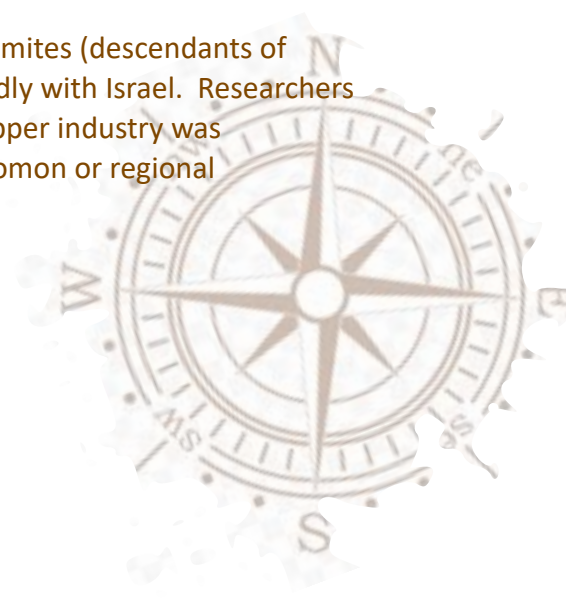
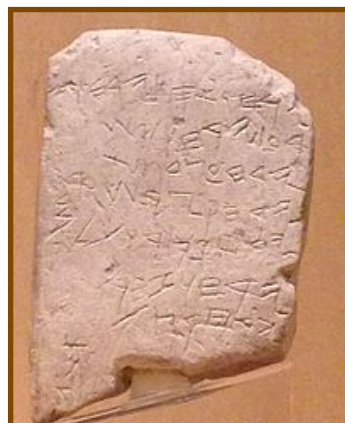


Solomon's Mines

To be as wealthy and as ambitious as King Solomon there had to be enormous resources to build and maintain hundreds of chariots, build the Temple and his palaces.

At first it was thought this was a figment of somebody's imagination, but a huge area at Khirbat en-Nahas shows signs of an enormous mining operation, dating back to the time of David and Solomon

This is also in the area of the Edomites (descendants of Esau) who were not always friendly with Israel. Researchers are trying to determine if the copper industry was controlled by King David and Solomon or regional Edomite leaders.



Solomon's Legacy

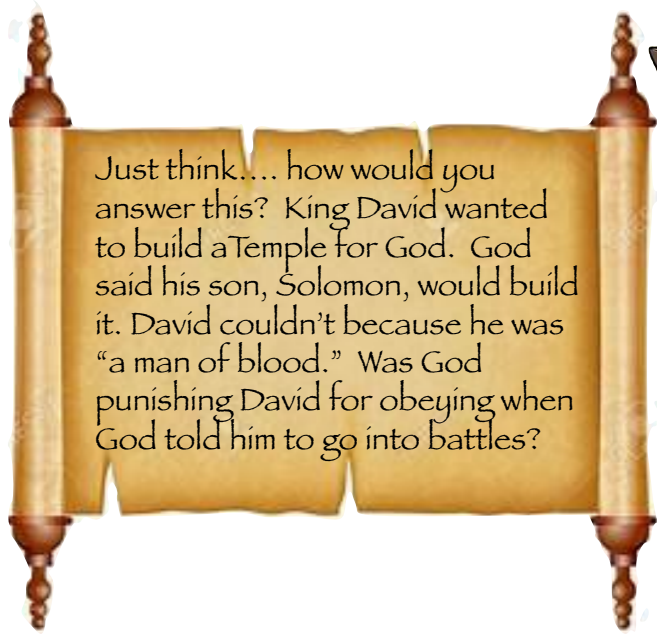
Solomon had been given talent and resources necessary to lead Israel in a way that pleased God. He fell far short of the mark. Yet, hundreds of his wonderful proverbs have been preserved for us in the book of Proverbs. Two of the beautiful songs of the Book of Psalms are attributed to him.

His matchless prayer at the dedication of the Temple has come down to us in the book of 1 Kings. His tribute to pure mating love is ours in the poetry of the book called the Song of Solomon, or Song of Songs, in the poetry section in the Old Testament. His wise observations on life and its purpose are ours to study in the book of Ecclesiastes. In the books of 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles we have the carefully preserved history of his life and reign.

The Challenges

Through his life's history we are challenged to emulate his humility and his service to the Lord—and we are made aware how easily success may lead to temptation and failure. In his proverbs we are taught how to be practical and wise while being upright and godly at the same time. In his psalms and prayers we learn to praise God and submit ourselves to Him. In the Song of Solomon we see the old Solomon praising the virtue of chaste, loyal love between a man and a woman—which he failed to practice in his own life.

In Ecclesiastes, a world-weary Solomon, who had tried everything, tells us what really matters. These great works are our legacy from Solomon. Those who meditate on them will come away as the possessors of great treasure.



Just think.... how would you answer this? King David wanted to build a Temple for God. God said his son, Solomon, would build it. David couldn't because he was "a man of blood." Was God punishing David for obeying when God told him to go into battles?

What was the difference between wives & concubines? Concubines were like a secondary wife. She increased the possibility of having male heirs in case the wife was barren and she also increased the labor force.

The concubine had some of the rights of a wife, but she could not seek a divorce.

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1

Psalms 72:27

1 Kings 8:22-54

Song of Solomon 1:1

Ecclesiastes 1:1

1 Kings 1 - 11

2 Chronicles 1 - 9

*Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of
the matter:'*

*Fear God and keep his
commandments, for this
is the whole (duty) of man.
For God will bring every
deed into judgment,
including every hidden
thing, whether it is good
or evil.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Basic Training

The Tactics: *Promises, Promises*

Years ago a popular comedian used to petulantly say, “The devil made me do it!” Satan does not “make” us do anything, but he cleverly conceals deceit in many disguises to lure us away from the path leading us to God. We each make the choice to take the bait or to pass it up. Proverbs is about making good or bad choices everyday.


The Weapons of War

A spiritual warfare is being waged everyday. No one is exempt from these battles. To prepare, you must train yourself to detect deceit. We are surrounded by it!

This is Satan’s primary weapon. The advertising world is often a great accomplice, in subtlety aiding satan in deceiving us. Learn to look critically at ads and commercials.

Did you ever see any homely, pot-bellied, bleary eyed, sloppy dressed people selling whiskey, beer, cigarettes? The message you are meant to get in these commercials is that this is what the beautiful people do. They look great and have all the fun. They are going to be the most popular for sure! You will have it “all” when you choose this particular product, especially their brand.

The difficulty for us lies in the fact that a lot of the things Satan is tempting us to do are fun—for awhile. The “good” things we should do too often look dull in comparison. We have to see past the glitz, the promises and the deceptions.



Satan in Action:

These are the tried and true avenues of temptations Satan uses and they will be delivered to you—personally and frequently

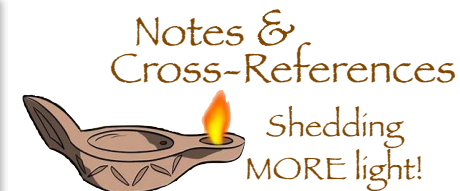
- ✓ Lust of the Flesh
- ✓ Lust of the Eyes
- ✓ Pride of Life

(“Lust” means a strong desire. We can lust for good things.)

Temptation, itself, is not a sin. I have thought of it like fishing. Bait the hook to tempt the fish. As long as that fish is swimming around looking at it, it is okay. Once it bites the bait it ends up in the frying pan.

Jesus warns us that dwelling on a temptation and we become guilty of it in our hearts. Too often, some snicker and joke about sin. The crucifixion shows the awful cost of sin. Our savior’s blood is nothing to ever joke about.

★ **How is Satan described?** 1 Peter 5:8



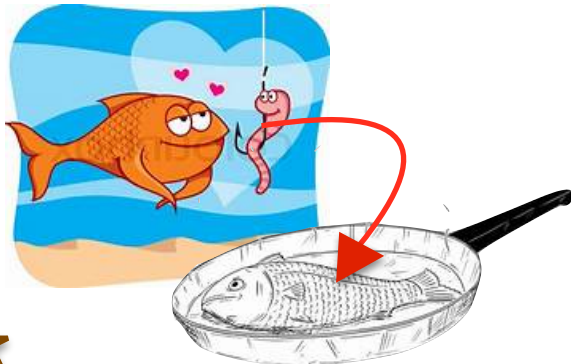
1 John 2:16
1 Corinthians 6:19-20
James 1:13-15
Matthew 4:1-10



Basic Training (con't)

The Process:

Hmmm. Do I take the bait...and maybe end up in the frying pan?
Your mind has to be made up ahead of time!



Maybe, just a little nibble. I don't have to eat the whole thing. One time won't hurt.

I'm in control. I won't get hooked. Maybe, I can just stay around and watch awhile, be sociable.

God must mean for me to eat this or He wouldn't have dropped this right in front of me!

I know I was told to beware of worms in water, but this looks harmless enough.

This looks great. I don't know why they say it's bad for you. They just don't want me to enjoy myself.



How did Satan present the following temptations?

Eve **Jesus**
Genesis 3:1-6 MT 4:1-10; Lk 4:1-13

lust of the flesh		
lust of the eyes		
pride of life		

SEEDS OF ADULTERY...a little wink here and there or maybe a little chuckle over someone's account of a recent sexual conquest or score. A few X-rated videos occasionally, just to spice things up. A little pornography here, a little there. The necklines are low and the hemlines are high, after all, clothes are our best advertisement.

The seeds have been planted, what kind of garden will you grow?

Adam & Eve

Notice a few things about the circumstances of these temptations. In the instance of Eve, Satan changed only one word in God's command. You will also notice that Adam was there with her. Not once did he say, "Now, Eve, don't do that, you know what God said!" Instead he completed the first sin and then was all too willing to try to "pass the buck" when it came time to answer for it.

Temptation of Jesus

Jesus' temptation came after he was baptized by John. Jesus had been fasting in the wilderness and in vulnerable condition. Ironically, Satan used scripture in trying to tempt Jesus. Satan was not using scripture in its proper context and Jesus answered him with the word of God—in its proper context.

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived....
James 1:14-16

Genesis 3

1 Timothy 2:14

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
Hebrews 4:15

Matthew 4:1-10

Mark 1:12-13

Luke 4:1-13



Basic Training (con't)

★ **How does the New Testament say we may fall into the same trap that Eve did?**
2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:13-14

Since Jesus did not let Satan succeed in tempting Him to sin, did Satan just give up on Jesus? Luke 4:13
What are other ways he tried to tempt Jesus?

God's Defense System

There is an unseen war going on every day of our lives. It is a battle for the possession of our very souls. God does not leave His people defenseless. This requires us to know His word, apply it to our lives and to be vigilant. We must be growing spiritually day by day or we are losing ground, usually by compromising.

Satan looks for that off-guard, vulnerable moment. There is an old saying that "a chain is as strong as its weakest link." He knows your weak links in life and he knows if you are trying to strengthen them with God's word or if you are letting the links rock along unattended. Over confidence and compromise are other ploys in Satan's offensive arsenal.

If you choose to surround yourself with spiritually weak people and do not feed on God's word daily and participate in questionable activities—Satan has already taken you prisoner. You may have won a few token battles here and there, but you will ultimately lose the war if you continue in this lifestyle.

The Christian is instructed to put on the whole armor of God to defend himself against Satan's temptations. The following pieces of armor are represented by what figures? Ephesians 6:11-18



helmet _____
breastplate _____
belt/waist _____
shield _____
sword _____
feet _____



**What part of the body
is not covered?**

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

1 Corinthians 15:33

Hebrew 5:12-14

1 Peter 2:1-3; 4:1-5; 5:8-9

2 Peter 2:17-22



WISDOM

Is it IQ?
Is it common sense?
Can anyone get it?
Is it catching?
How do you get it?
How is it used?
Can you get it & lose it?

The entire book of Proverbs contrasts the wise and the foolish. In fact, the two main characters in the book are “Wisdom” and “Folly.” Each are personified as women, each trying to influence peoples action daily.

It is all about making choices. The litmus test for any choice is “Will this be pleasing to God? What can possibly be the end results and consequences?”

Where does wisdom come from? God.

Wisdom was established in eternity, before the creation (8:22-31). God has made wisdom available to everyone in His word—you just have to come and get it. True wisdom is God-centered and you must have a loving reverence or awe (“fear”) of our Creator to obtain this wisdom.

Like a recipe, several ingredients go into the recipe that make up wisdom. The main contents are:

- A reverent fear of the Lord
- A search for knowledge
- Understanding
- Discretion

The word “search” is usually passed over rather quickly. This is a personal search and nobody can do this for you. You have to have the commitment and perseverance to be prepared to acquire knowledge, plus desire and the discipline to put it into practice in your life.

God states that He can declare “the end from the beginning” (Isaiah 46:10). This is the essence of what wise individuals seek to do. Assess a situation, sort through the choices, determine what would be the effect of each choice, then act with prudence.

Leave one ingredient out of the recipe and the cake doesn’t rise—to the occasion, so to speak.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

10. When young Solomon became the third king of Israel, what did he pray for God to give him? 1 Kings 3:6-9



11. What did God give him? 1 Kings 3:10-14; 4:22-34

12. How can we get wisdom? James 1:5-6; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16

13. How should this search for wisdom be conducted? Proverbs 2:4-5

14. How is wisdom valued and what kind of return does it give? Proverbs 3:13-15; 8:10-11

Define FEAR. as it applies to God.

Proverbs 9:10



Wisdom

**Is it IQ? Is it common sense? Can anybody get it? Is it catching?
How do you get it? How is it used? Can you get it and lose it?**

The entire book of Proverbs contrasts the wise and the foolish. In fact, the two main characters are “Wisdom” and “folly.” Both are personified as women, each trying to influence people’s actions daily. It is all about making choices. The litmus test for any choice is “Will this be pleasing to God? What can possibly be the end results and consequences?”

★ **When young Solomon became the third king of Israel, what did he pray for God to give him and why?**

1 Kings 3:6-9

What did God give Solomon? 1 Kings 3:10-14; 4:22-34.

Where does wisdom come from?

God.

Wisdom was established in eternity, before the creation. God has made wisdom available to everyone in His word—you just have to come and get it. True wisdom is God centered and you must have a loving reverence or awe (fear) of our Creator to obtain this wisdom.

Look at wisdom like a recipe.

Several ingredients go into the recipe that make up wisdom. Leave one ingredient out of the recipe and it doesn’t total up to true wisdom. Here are the necessary ingredients:

- a fear of the Lord (reverence)
- a search for knowledge
- understanding
- think and act in the way of common sense
- experience
- PRAYER & meditation & application

The word “search” is usually passed over rather quickly. This is a personal search and nobody can do this for you. You have to have the commitment and perseverance to be prepared to acquire knowledge, plus the desire and discipline to put it into practice in your life. God states that He can declare “the end from the beginning.” This is the essence of what wise individuals seek to do. Assess a situation, sort through the choices, determine what would be the effects of each choice, then act with prudence.

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

The fear of the
Lord is the
beginning of
knowledge,
but fools despise
wisdom and
instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

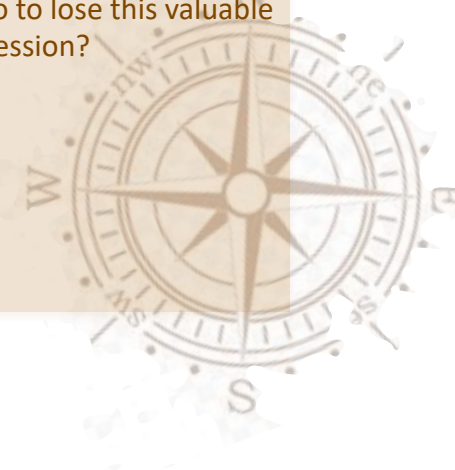
Proverbs 8:22-31

Psalms 19:7

James 1:5

Isaiah 46:10

If one gets wisdom can
it be lost? There is no
better example of this
than Solomon. What did
he do to lose this valuable
possession?



Wisdom (con't)

Knowledge Understanding Discretion

★ How can we get wisdom? James 1:5,6; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16

How should this search for wisdom be conducted? Proverbs 2:4-5

How is wisdom valued and what kind of return does it give? Proverbs 3:13-15; 8:10-11

The Search:

In seeking out a wise person you might include “Experience Needed” in the job description. Find them and learn from them and treasure their good influence.



What kind of experiences prepared Solomon to write Proverbs? List some of these experiences recorded in Ecclesiastes:

2:1-2 _____

2:3 _____

2:4-6 _____

2:7 _____

2:8. _____

Solomon states that he denied himself nothing that his eyes desired. He observed that it was all “vanity,” “a chasing after the wind”—in other words, meaningless. And that is depressing.

Many of the things Solomon pursued were not evil experiences as such. However, he concluded that everything and every pursuit on this on this earth is worthless if it is without God—and there lies the key.

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

Proverbs 2
When you apply the
teachings in this
chapter—
Then you will
understand
what is right
and just
and fair—
every good path

Ecclesiastes 12:13



Wisdom (con't)

The Cause of the Problem

After Israel possessed the Promised Land (Canaan) we are given some clues how Israel started their spiritual decline. Since they did not drive out the Canaanites, Israel became used to their evil practices and copied them. Over time God was slowly being left out of their lives.



When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. Judges 2:10

Ancient Israel did have a king—God. However, they did not recognize Him as such and they demanded an earthly king so they could be like the countries around them. This was somewhat like peer pressure on a large scale with a lot of coveting thrown in with it.

During some of Israel's darkest days God lamented, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* Hosea 4:6

Israel's darkest days were during the time of the Judges and when their kingdom divided. What really became divided was Israel's heart and loyalties to God.

The Cure

Knowledge is a necessary requirement in the quest for wisdom. Obtaining knowledge, especially of God's word, is an ongoing process lasting a lifetime. You never "have it all for all time." It takes study, not just reading, and it also takes meditation and prayer. Don't let the simplicity of this "cure" fool you. It takes determination, discipline and commitment. Adding those characteristics to your life is a daily challenge.

Does this mean I have to make all A's on a report card? Have a high IQ? Have a PH.D? That knowledge is profitable and should be pursued, but not at the expense of gaining knowledge of God's word. This is how we discover how to be pleasing to God, how to make wise choices.

★ **What caused the wisest man's downfall during a certain period in his life and what were the consequences?** Deuteronomy 7; 1 Kings 11-12

Notes & Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25

1 Samuel 8:1-9

R_x

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:5-8

Psalms 119: 7-9, 9-11, 99, 104-105



Wisdom (con't)

Knowledge, Understanding, Discretion

What characteristics do the wise and the foolish have?

Will we know them if we see or hear them?

Proverbs is a treasure trove of comparisons between the wise and the foolish persons, especially in this section of verses. These examples show how the wise person shows respect for God, his fellowman and for himself. This can be used as a personal checklist to help you sort out foolish choices and to help develop them into wise choices.

★ Look up the indicated scripture and make a brief list below of the various characteristics of the wise and of the foolish persons.

Proverbs

The Wise

The Foolish

10:8	<hr/>
10:9	<hr/>
10:11	<hr/>
10:14	<hr/>
10:16	<hr/>
10:17	<hr/>
10:21	<hr/>
10:23	<hr/>
10:25	<hr/>
10:29	<hr/>
10:32	<hr/>
11:2	<hr/>

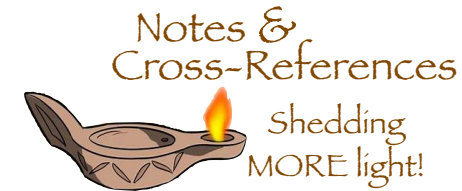
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the Lord
gives
wisdom

PROVERBS 2:1-6



A Standing Invitation



Notice the verbs used in verses 7-9: forsake, corrects, rebukes, instruct and teach. Does this party sound like fun?

Did Wisdom promise fun?

Are you calling ME *simple-minded*?

You must understand that everyone starts out “simple.” The connotation here points to a person who is naive, who does not understand the dangers he or she may encounter, thereby being easily deceived.

We have all heard of some people being described as a “fool about money” (can’t handle it wisely) or “he’s a fool when it comes to women” (doesn’t choose wisely or use restraint). Each of us should make it our goal to mature in all facets of our life. This is what Lady Wisdom is calling us to do.



Who are the people invited to the different feasts—the same or different people? Proverbs 9:4, 16

How has Wisdom prepared for this feast—and has given out invitations? 9:1-4

How do you know this is no ordinary invitation? 9:10-11



A Standing Invitation (con't)

★ What has Wisdom prepared to serve her guest? 9:5-12

The siren's call is always out there.

The first nine chapters of Proverbs reveals Folly's wiles and warn over and again to resist her temptations. She is very skilled in all of the ways of being seductive and appealing to a man. How would this be in the framework of a marriage rather than in the situation Folly is operating?

★ What kind of preparations does Folly make to lure in her potential prey? 7:14-23
How did being married make any difference to her?

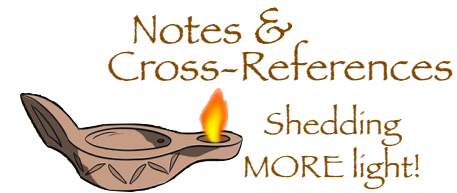
How does the woman Folly invite her guests? 9:13-16

How does Folly entice her guests? 9:17; 7:13-21?

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul told young Timothy to "*Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace...*". There are two action words here—*flee* and *pursue*. If you are consciously looking for good things to do, you will avoid a lot of trouble taking this advice. BUT if you confront a situation or person who has the potential for bad, you get away immediately and don't pass GO! Don't ever think, "I'll just hang around awhile and just be sociable, I won't participate in any of this." Satan is already a jump ahead of you and he doesn't allow that.

★ When there is a potential for trouble, what are some actions we are instructed to take?

2:12 _____	5:15 _____
4:14-15 _____	2 Timothy 2:22 _____
_____	_____
5:8 _____	_____



2 Timothy 2:22



A Standing Invitation (cont)

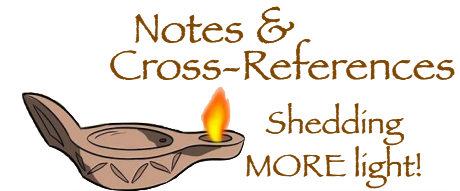
Proverbs clearly recognizes the powerful draw of sexual desires. It is God given and to be enjoyed within a marriage relationship. To participate in sex outside of marriage or with someone other than one's mate in marriage is to abuse this privilege. The sin of adultery or fornication leaves a trail of devastation. The promise of short lived pleasures only masks the resulting deceptions, ruined reputations, broken homes and possible sexual addictions. Even more serious is facing the fact that this is a sin against God. What is always lurking in the background is the unpleasant possibility of sexual diseases.

The main approach in Proverbs is the immoral woman (Folly) trying to seduce any man that comes along. The woman on the side of morality (Wisdom) tries to warn the man of the danger of playing such a game. If he gives in to this temptation he is immediately classified as a fool—like Adam, he completes the sin. Of course, this whole charade can be played in reverse (men trying to seduce women). For now, we will focus on the woman being the huntress.

Don't think that the woman Folly is confined to her house on the highest point of the city. She can also be next door, at work, at school, in the carpool, wife of a best friend, someone you meet on a business trip or a vacation...*anywhere*. She can be married, unmarried, divorced, widowed and it makes no difference to her.

How do women, young and old, choose to become another "Woman Folly?" It begins with the home. If a young woman is brought up with no value system, then anything goes—no matter who gets hurt. Many get their values (or lack of them) from television, movies, videos and the latest popular entertainers and musicians. There are few in the entertainment industry who feel the responsibility of trying to be good role models.

Contrary to what many think, our manner of dress says a lot about us. Revealing and immodest dress sends the inviting message for sexual attention. However, "Women's Folly" would not be so rampant, if there weren't so many men, young and old, who also do not hold fast to a value system and take the bait. Some stray because they are weak or gullible. What message is a young man sending to young women who are trying to be modest when he keeps giving attention to the immodest women?



Can a man
scoop fire into
his lap without
his clothes
being burned?

Proverbs 6:27

Proverbs 7:22-27

Proverbs 6:32-34

Proverbs 2:16-19

Proverbs 6:23-29

2 Samuel 12:13

Psalms 51:3-4

Proverbs 5:3-6; 6:24-25;
9:13-14



Meet the Fool

Already know one? Been trying to avoid one?
Proverbs has three types to sort out and to avoid.
They specialize in being naive, stubborn or scoffing.

What's the difference in fools?

Proverbs was originally written in the Hebrew language. The fool is represented as either "simple," "scornful," or a "fool." They are a lot alike, yet different. And the fool is a favorite target of Solomon's stylus.

Introducing the Simple Fool #1:

The "simple" fool is basically naive, gullible and easily led or enticed. With no aims he easily drifts into temptation and peer pressure.

★ This person chases after _____ because they lack _____ 12:11

What kind of belief system does this person have? 14:15

When a mind is allowed to stay empty, it is easy for anyone to fill it up with anything most anytime.

What might get a lesson across to the simple? 19:25

What does the New Testament say about this type of person? See Ephesians 4:14

What is the difference in the way a wise person and a fool each meet danger? Proverbs 22:3

It is sad that the foolish exert so much influence. They can cause a family suffering, grief, anxiety, disappointment—and they have the fool for life. The fool, who resists discipline and correction, loves folly and tries to entice others to join in his destructive game.

★ When enticed (in word or deed) by the fool what should a wise person's reaction be? 26:4,5

These are the
people who
turned down
Lady Wisdom's
invitation!

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

A foolish son

★ brings grief to his
_____ &
bitterness to the
one who bore him.
Proverbs 17:25



Meet the fools (con't)

Introducing the Stubborn Fool #2

A common thread running through all types of fools is their hatred of wisdom, instruction and a lack of respect for authority. Fool #2 is especially dull and stubborn. To be a fool is not a matter of "I can't help it," but making a choice to pursue the path of least resistance.

List some of the things the fool hates or rejects. 1:29, 30



Socially, this fool can waste your time, pouring out his many opinions, never imagining he could ever be wrong. Searching out wisdom and truth does not interest him in the least.

This opinionated fool who does not know when to quit talking runs into what problems when the men hold their meetings at the town gate? 24:7

What characteristics do the dog and the this fool have in common? 26:11

Fool #2 thrives on stirring up trouble. Briefly identify some of the ways he accomplishes his folly:

10:14 _____

12:16 _____

15:14 _____

17:12,19 _____

18:6 _____

20:3 _____

27:3 _____

★ 29:9 _____

What will you never hear from the mouth of a fool? 14:7

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

?



Answer



Answer Not

*Answer not a fool
according to his folly,
lest thou be like unto him.*

*Answer a fool
according to his folly,
lest he be wise
in his own conceit.*

Proverbs 26:4,5

**He who walks
with the wise,
grows wise,
but a companion
of fools
suffers harm.**

Proverbs 13:20



Meet Fool #3

Introducing: the Scoffer

This fool is exceedingly stubborn. The trouble he causes is more deliberate and the damage goes deeper than the aggravations caused by his fellow fools. Lady Wisdom did not even invite him to her feast. What's the use?

The scornful have no respect for God, nor does he seek out the wise for guidance. He scoffs at them all with great relish. The minds of the vulnerable and immature person are like putty in his hands—as long as he is permitted to have his way.

Fool #3 refuses all instructions, correction and rebukes. He meets it all with insults, insolence and mocking. None of this really has anything to do with this person's intelligence, but his attitude.

What are mockers capable of doing? 29:8



When you get rid of a mocker, what goes with him? 22:10

How is the fool associated with...26:1-11

snow in the summer & rain in harvest?

fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow?

a whip for the horse & a bridle for the ass?

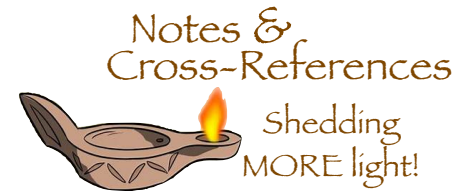
a lame man's legs?

tying a stone in a sling?

a thorn in the hand of a drunkard?

a dog returning to its vomit?

WHY?



***The Fool
has said
in his heart,
“There is no
God.”***

Psalms 14:1



Meet a Couple of Five-Star Fools

A character trait all fools share is they refuse to listen to the wise.
Have you ever said, “You just can’t tell him anything?” Meet two.

Nabal vs. David *“...For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him. 1 Samuel 25:17b*

Israel’s first king, Saul, became insanely jealous of David, forcing him into exile. 1 Samuel 25:1-38 gives the account of David and his group encountering a man by the name of Nabal. How would you like to go through life with a name that means “fool?”

★ What did David request of Nabal and what had David and his men done for Nabal?

How did Nabal respond to David’s request?

Who was wise enough to resolve this situation and how did they do it?

What did David say that had been prevented by Abigail’s wise action?

Rehoboam vs. Israel *“But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him.” 1 Kings 12:13-14*

Israel remained one strong kingdom under the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon. Solomon lived lavishly and this increased the tax burden on the people. Upon Solomon’s death his son Rehoboam became king. The people asked him to give them some relief from the heavy tax burden. Unfortunately, he listened to the wrong advise and the people were so furious they split the kingdom. Jeroboam led 10 tribes to the northern part of the land. Judah remained in the south with two tribes, the Temple, and the priesthood. This account is found in **1 Kings 12**.

What was the difference in the advice Rehoboam received?

★ What was the difference in the attitudes of the elders and the young men?

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

1 Samuel 25:25

In the New Testament
read the following
accounts and be
easy to discuss.

Wise & Foolish Builders
Matthew 7:24-27

Five Wise & Five Foolish
Virgins
Matthew 25:1-13



The Power of Words

The tongue: communication tool *or* weapon?

Except for the blood of Christ, the mass guilt from the sin of the tongue would have condemned us forever; and in proportion as that little member is bridled, the peace of God rules in the heart.

A Modern Study of the Book of Proverbs
Charles Budes by George F. Santa, p.183

★ Read the above quote again. This is as serious as it gets. Now turn to the New Testament and read **James 3:1-12**.

What two things are used to show they are controlled by what small objects?

To what is the uncontrolled tongue compared?

With all of Man's accomplishments what has he not been able to conquer and why?

The power of the tongue often escapes us because we assign to its various capabilities. Lying ceases to be a lie but is just "a little white lie" or "stretching things a bit." Gossip just becomes a little chat, passing on the news of the day. Flattery is just making another feel good or more open to our intentions. Hurting feelings often flies under the banner of being "honest" or "frank," while the victim is being skewed with words.

What are some of the differences in passing on information and in gossip?

★ 11:13; 16:28; 26:20



See, Hear & Speak No Evil

What is it that draws us to using words destructively? Some people simply have to have the last word, nobody else's counts. The "last" is a misnomer. Having the "last word" only creates a firestorm of many more words, used ill-advisedly. It can also be one of the means of "getting even." Some derive pleasure from being a fountain of misinformation to get attention. Many vie for the position of being head of the grapevine news network.

Notes &
Cross-References

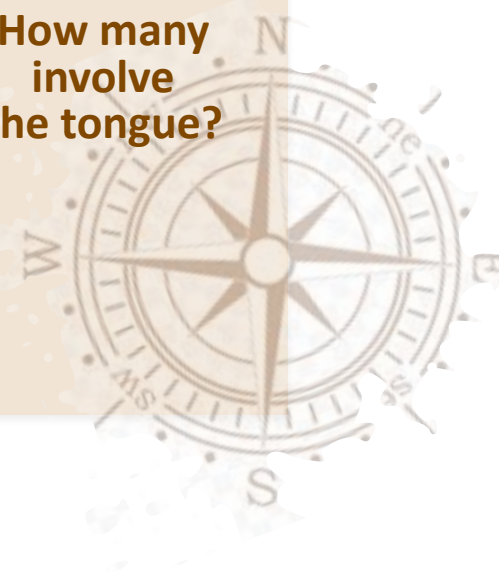


Shedding
MORE light!

7 Things God Hates

1. Haughty eyes
 2. Lying tongue
 3. Hands that shed innocent blood
 4. Heart that devises wicked schemes
 5. Feet quick to rush into evil
 6. A false witness who pours out lies
 7. A man who stirs up dissension among brothers.
- Proverbs 6:16-19

**How many
involve
the tongue?**



The Power of Words (cont)

During World War II in the early 1940's posters were put up across the country urging Americans to be careful with any information about the war so our troops wouldn't be placed in danger. The slogan on one of those posters was "Loose Lips Sink Ships." Words can do other things than "sink ships" Just consider the damage the uncontrolled use of words can do! They have split families or caused great bitterness and resentment within the family. Words can make or break a marriage. Words can take away self-esteem, create doubts. They have divided churches. They have broken up friendships, separated neighbors. They have caused political upheavals. Words have started wars.

On the other hand there are those who are quick to give insincere praise. This is known as flattery. It is often used for a separate agenda (i.e., Are you using flattery to soften up the person to benefit yourself in some way?) Since it is insincere, it automatically comes under the classification of deceit. Satan is the real master of deceit.

★ **How can words be used in a "sweet" way, but be meant for evil?** 5:3; 7:10-22

Why is it so easy to use the tongue destructively and seemingly difficult to use it constructively? It goes back to the principle of "following the course of least resistance." As mentioned previously, the choice to practice self-control is the course brought with resistance, a constant battle within ourselves.

Anything that has the capability of inspiring faith in God or driving a person away from God is supremely important.

★ **What are some of the benefits of using words in a wise, positive and uplifting way?**

10:21 _____	10:32 _____
11:13b _____	21:23 _____
12:14 _____	17:9 _____
12:17 _____	16:24 _____
12:25 _____	15:1 _____

"Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but more have fallen by the prick of the tongue." -anon

Notes &
Cross-References



Shedding
MORE light!

WWII Posters



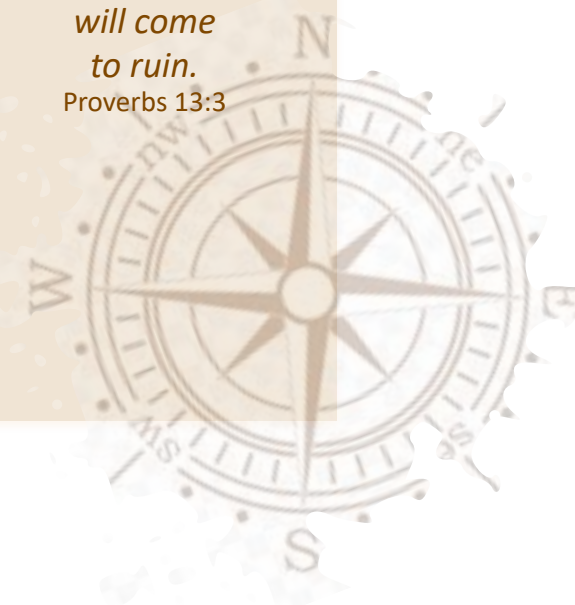
**Conversation
is not just
looking for
your next
opening
to talk.**

Psalms 12:2-4

Proverbs 18:21

*He who
guards his lips
guards his life,
but he who
speaks rashly
will come
to ruin.*

Proverbs 13:3



Your Investment Portfolio

Ironically, in the righteous person's life, he draws dividends on what he *gives* away. It has been said that we only leave this life with what we gave away. Yet it all takes planning and diligence.

What are some aspects to consider concerning how we get our money?

10:2, 16; 13:1; 14:23

What is our first priority in giving? 3:9

What gain does a generous man receive when he gives to others?

11:24-26; 28:22, 27

This does not mean that we don't act prudently. We give to the Lord, "save for a rainy day" to meet our family's needs and also be in a position to help the needy. Our giving isn't just flinging funds and possessions about without thought, but it must be done responsibly and with regard to the consequences it will create.

No matter what the market is doing, no matter the cost, there is one thing we must obtain because everything else will flow from it. It's value cannot be totaled on a calculator.

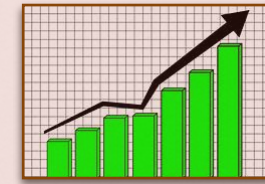
Above all, what are we to get whatever the cost? 4:7-8

What kind of returns does it give? 3:13-16; 8:11

Notes &
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1 Corinthians 16:1-2

***The plans of the
diligent
lead to profit,
as surely as
haste leads
to poverty.***

Proverbs 21:5



Your Investment Portfolio (con't)

In the New Testament Paul wrote to the young evangelist, Timothy, that “the love of money is the root of all evil.” This is often misquoted as “money is the root of all evil.” Money itself is lifeless. It is our attitude toward money and how we choose to use it that reveals our priorities. Remember, that whatever we do or collect of a physical nature on this earth will end up in smoke. We have a special responsibility during our brief time on this earth to be good stewards of our time, our bodies, our spirits, our possessions and resources. They are all on loan to us for a short while

Are we putting daily deposits in our eternal accounts? How?

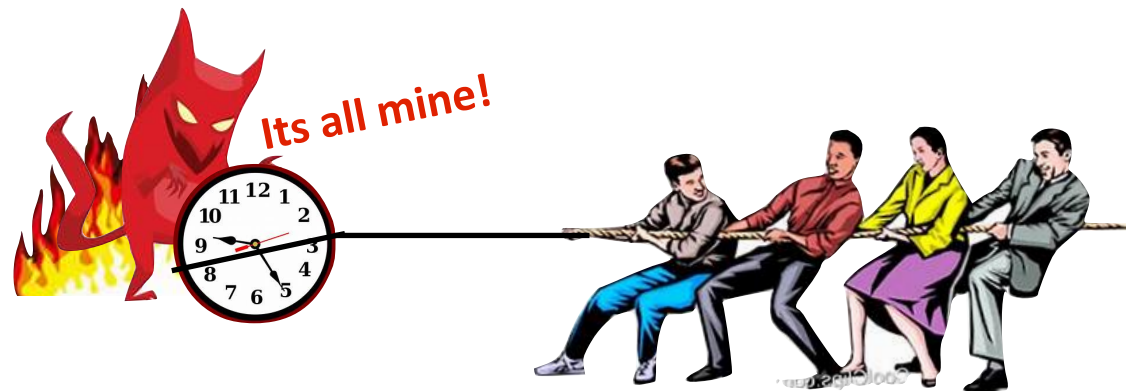


The Real Commodity We need to Market

Too often in thinking about investments we tend to consider only money. Yet one of the most valuable commodities we have to invest is our time. The following require much time and effort, but are essential in developing life's portfolio:

- seeking wisdom/understanding
- listening to the wise
- learning to accept correction
- putting it all into practice
- helping the needy

These are some of the things we can do to “redeem the time” or making the most of your time. Discuss how that fits in with the illustration below.. Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5



Notes & Cross-References



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1 Timothy 6:10

2 Peter 3:10

Matthew 25:14-30

Ephesians 5:15-16

The **REAL** Bottom Line:

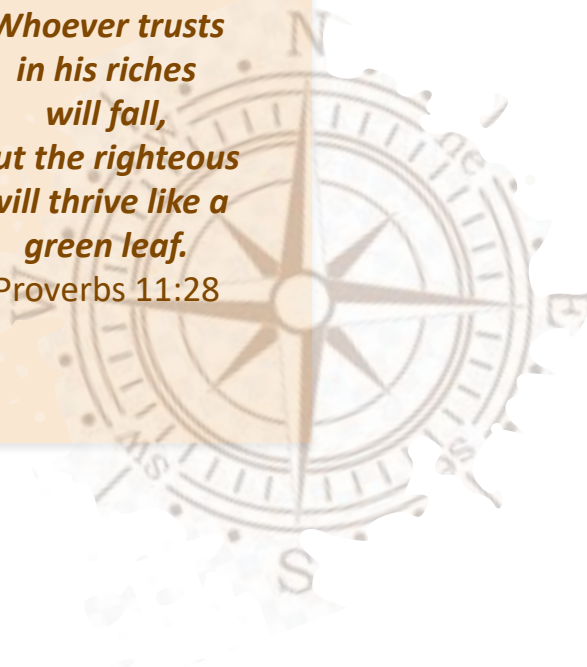
Read the following passages and be prepared to discuss:
Matthew 6:19-21;
Luke 12:15-21

James 4:13-17

Psalms 90:10

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*Whoever trusts
in his riches
will fall,
but the righteous
will thrive like a
green leaf.*
Proverbs 11:28



Inheritance Matters

As we fret about money matters we overlook everyday things, weightier matters. How are we going to be remembered by our family and friends? What traits are we passing on to our children? What is our reputation? How much time have we truly redeemed for the Lord? No matter what choices we make, they will be passed on to others in some form.

It is bad enough for someone to be a fool and trouble other people, but to trouble his own family (those he should be closest to), what will be his inheritance? 11:29

Again, one's family often gets treated with less respect than strangers.

What are some ways one can "trouble" his/her family?

What is one of the most valuable assets we can pass on to others? 22:1

How long does the influence of a good name last and who is an example of this? Proverbs 10:7; Ecclesiastes 7:1; Hebrews 11:4

What is the inheritance of a wise person as opposed to the inheritance of a foolish person? 3:35; 14:18

The Hebrews did not have a word for grandparents or great-grandparents. Consequently, you have in the New Testament (thousands of years later) Jews calling Abraham "our father." Knowing this helps in sorting out the genealogies in the Bible.

What is a good thing for grandparents to do? 13:22

What may happen in the end to an inheritance (whether position, power or material possessions) gained quickly in the beginning? Why? 19:10; 20:12; 21:6; 30:22

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People are often consumed with inheritance matters—what they are going to leave or what they are going to get. Attitudes run the gamut. Shall I say, "Being of sound mind, I spent it all?"

??????

Or do I live frugally so I can leave the bulk of my estate to my children or whoever?

??????

Or do I leave it in trusts to my grandchildren for them to have at a certain age—an age we hope they have acquired some wisdom?

??????

Or do I buy a house/ car whatever because I just know Uncle Bob is going to leave me some money—and he's got one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peeling? What about taxes?

??????

Or maybe I can slack off working some and bide my time since I will be inheriting a pretty good nest egg anyway?

Ecclesiastes 2:20-21
Psalms 16:5

Health & Healing

In the world today controversy rages over which is the best way to heal our bodies—with conventional drugs or alternative medicines (i.e., herbs, vitamins, etc.). While we may never fully understand either argument, why not see what God has to offer on the subject?

The five wisdom books in the Bible speak more than most might think about a healthy body, mind and spirit. By the inspiration of God, these early writers were well ahead of their time in recognizing that any part of our well being affects the whole. Stress, alone, has been found to be especially destructive. This is a difficult thing to face because we like to think of ourselves as being strong enough to not let a thing like a little stress to get us down.

17:22 cheerful heart is a good medicine—while a cursed spirit dries up the bones

14:30 heart at peace vs. envy rots the bones

15:13 happy heart, happy face/ heart ache crushes the spirit

Remember in the introduction there was a discussion about figurative language? The writer especially uses a literary technique called “metonymy.” This is where a part of something is made to represent the whole. You hear an example of this almost everyday on the news— “The White House says...”. The White House is obviously not speaking, but it represents the executive branch of the government. In Proverbs the “heart,” the “bones” and the “spirit” sometimes represents the whole being of a person.

At other times the “heart” represents the inner man with his thoughts, desires, conscience and emotions. All that he is and does and thinks flows from his “heart.”



There is a saying concerning computers—“garbage in, garbage out.” It is the same with our minds and bodies. What we allow our minds to be filled with will be reflected in our speech and in our actions. It is vitally important that we filter out harmful substances from our body and mind.

Our spiritual being reflects our relationship to God and our response to His word.

Proverbs

3:1-2 keep commands, prolong life

5:7-14 impurity will waste you

9:10-11 fear of the Lord beginning of wisdom—days, many years added to life

10:27 fear of Lord adds length to life, wicked are cut short

18:14 man’s spirits sustains him in sickness, crushed spirit who can bear?

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***Do not be wise
in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and
shun evil. This
will bring health
to your body
and
nourishment to
your bones.***

NOTE.

“Fear” of the Lord is
a sense of
awe and respect.

Proverbs 3:7-8



Health & Healing The Natural Way

The five wisdom books in the bible speak more than most might think about a healthy body, mind and spirit. By the Inspiration of God, these early writers were well ahead of their time in recognizing that any part of our well being affects the whole. Stress, alone, can be very destructive.

- *cheerful heart is a good medicine—yet a crushed spirit dries up the bones.* Proverbs 17:22
- *a heart at peace vs. envy rots the bones* 14:30
- *a happy heart, happy face —heart ache crushes the spirit.* 15:13
- *a cheerful look rejoices the heart and a good report gives health to the bones.* 15:30

The Hebrew poetry writers often refer to their “bones” being affected in different ways. Bones then refer to a person’s whole being.

- *my bones are vexed (in agony).* Psalms 6:2
- *a wife a crown to her husband or a shameful wife is like rottenness to his bones.* Proverbs 12:4

Our spiritual being reflects our relationship to God and our response to His word.

- *keep commands, prolong life.* 3:1-2
- *impurity will waste you.* 5:7-14
- *fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom —days, many years added to life.* 9:10-11
- *fear of the Lord adds length to life, wicked cut short.* 10:27

★*Explain the cities of Refuge Numbers 35:12; Genesis 9:6

Do not be
wise in your
own eyes;
fear the
Lord
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This will
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health
to your
body and
nourishment
to your
bones. ★
Proverbs 3:7-8



The “heart” represents the inner man with his thoughts, desires, conscience and emotions. All that he is and does and thinks flows from his “heart.”

- *heart trouble* Psalms 25:16-18
- *no soundness—turmoil in the heart* Psalms 38:3-11
- *hope deferred makes the heart sick, longing fulfilled is a tree of life.* Proverbs 13:12
- *Anxious heart weighs down — kind word cheers up* 12:25
- *laughter even when the heart aches* 14:13
- *cheerful heart is a good medicine — crushed spirit dries up the bones* 17:22
- *wisdom is life and health to the whole body— guard heart, well spring of life* 4:22-23

Danger of secret festering or internalizing brings about the following:

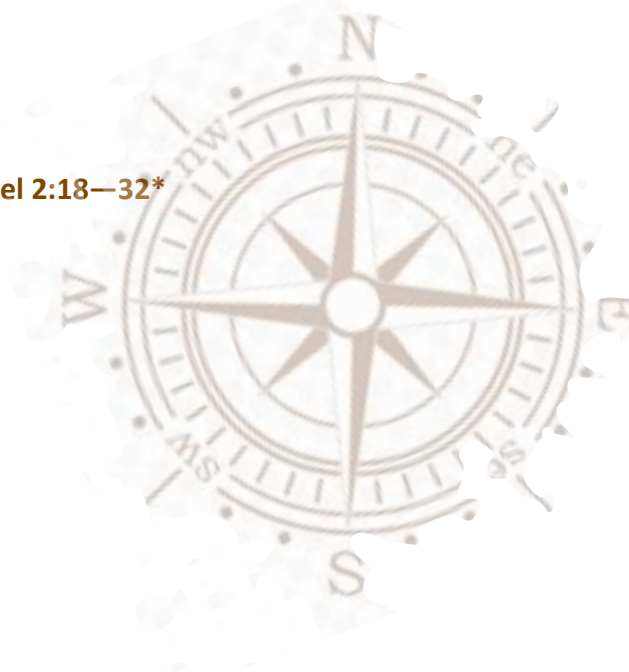
- *destruction of silent sin.* Psalms 32
- *secret slander* Psalms 102:3-7

See how the following people exhibited some of these traits & what they led to:

Cain Genesis 4

Joab 2 Samuel 3; 2 Samuel 2:18—32*

Absalom 2 Samuel 13



Meet the sluggard

Even the name itself tells you this isn't any ball of fire.

Solomon has a lot of fun with the sluggard. Well, you might say he wavers between absolute disgust and mocking sarcasm. The sluggard is a master at killing time, wishful thinking, ready excuses, endless schemes and he prizes his sleep above all. His "ship" is always going to come in one of these days. That ship sunk a long time ago.

It must be noted that there is a big difference someone who wants to work but is unable to work and the sluggard who has no desire whatsoever to work. This is also recognized in the New Testament. The Christian is to provide for his family or he is worse than an infidel. It is stated concisely that if a person won't work, he shouldn't eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8). This seems harsh, but again, we are speaking of a person who doesn't care to meet responsibilities for himself or for others. The value in work and handling responsibilities is giving glory to the Lord. It is an honorable calling.

"Go to the ant, you sluggard!" Here one of the smallest of God's creatures is held up as a prime example for the sluggard to learn how to be industrious. With no boss or overseer to tell the ants what to do, they provide their food supplies so they won't run out. The ants are always industrious— while the sluggard slumbers. Proverbs 6:6-9



The field of the lazy man is overgrown with thorns and the stone wall is broken down. 24:30 - 31

If you tried to encourage him to go out and take care of his property he would be horrified and claim "There's a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!" 22:13. He further does not plow because of winter and goes begging during the harvest and has nothing. 20:4

We are told the sluggard doesn't even roast his game from a hunt. It seems nothing short of a miracle to even get him to go hunting in the first place! Much less bring his prey home. He's too lazy to even bring food to his mouth to eat.

"As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed." What an image to describe this frustrating person! He simply turns one way or another but goes no where.

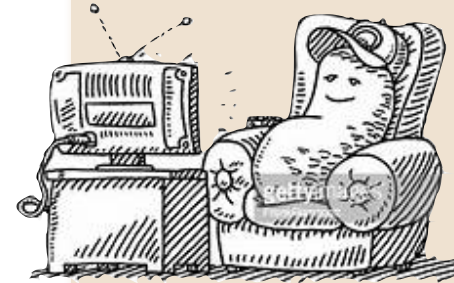
Bill Gates of Microsoft had an interesting take on this person. He said, "I will always choose a lazy person to do a difficult job, because, he will find an easy way to do it."

The sluggard substitutes wishing for working.

Notes &
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*"A little sleep,
a little slumber
A little folding of the hands
to sleep
So shall your poverty
come on you like a prowler..."
Proverbs 6:10-11*

