

# Proverbs 21 - The Sovereignty of God

## III. Solomon's Proverbs (Prov 10:1—22:16)

### (2) Proverbs promoting Godly living (Prov 16:1—22:16)

#### (C) Wise and wicked conduct (Prov 16:16—22:16)

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## Proverbs 21

(nn) Righteousness (21:1-3)

1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He pleases.

1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

1 A king's heart is a water stream that the LORD controls; he directs it wherever he pleases.

1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turns it whithersoever he will.

2 Every person's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD examines the hearts.

2 Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

2 Every man's lifestyle is proper in his own view, but the LORD weighs the heart.

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD ponders the hearts.

3 To do righteousness and justice Is preferred by the LORD more than sacrifice.

3 To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.

- 3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
- 3 To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

(oo) Pride (21:4)

- 4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.
  - 4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.
  - 4 A proud attitude, accompanied by a haughty look, is sin; they reveal wicked people.
  - 4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.
- [Prov 21:4,7,10,12,18,27,29]

(pp) Hastiness (21:5)

- 5 The plans of the diligent certainly *lead* to advantage, But everyone who is in a hurry certainly *comes* to poverty.
- 5 The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.
- 5 Plans of the persistent surely lead to productivity, but all who are hasty will surely become poor.
- 5 The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

(qq) Lying (21:6)

- 6 The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.
- 6 The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.
- 6 A fortune gained by deceit is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.
- 6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

(rr) Violence (21:7-8)

- 7 The violence of the wicked will sweep them away, Because they refuse to act with justice.
  - 7 The violence of the wicked will drag them away, Because they refuse to act with justice.
  - 7 Devastation caused by the wicked will drag them away because they refuse to do what is just.
  - 7 The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.
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- 8 The way of a guilty person is crooked, But as for the pure, his conduct is upright.
  - 8 The way of a guilty man is crooked, But as for the pure, his conduct is upright.
  - 8 The conduct of a guilty man is perverse, but the behavior of the pure is upright.

8 The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.

(ss) Argumentative wife (21:9,19)

9 It is better to live on a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

9 It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

9 It's better to live in a corner on the roof than to share a house with a contentious woman.

9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

[Prov 25:24]

(tt) Justice and injustice (21:10-15)

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor is shown no compassion in his eyes.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

10 The soul of the wicked craves evil; he extends no mercy to his neighbor.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil: his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

11 When the scoffer is punished, the naive becomes wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

11 When the scoffer is punished, the naive becomes wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

11 When a mocker is punished, the fool gains wisdom; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

12 The righteous one considers the house of the wicked, Bringing the wicked to ruin.

12 The righteous one considers the house of the wicked, Turning the wicked to ruin.

12 The righteous God considers the house of the wicked, bringing the wicked to ruin.

12 The righteous man wisely considers the house of the wicked: but God overthrows the wicked for their wickedness.

13 One who shuts his ear to the outcry of the poor Will also call out himself, and not be answered.

13 He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be answered.

13 Whoever refuses to hear the cry of the poor will also cry himself, but he won't be answered.

13 Whoso stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

14 A gift in secret subdues anger, And a bribe in an inside pocket, strong wrath.

14 A gift in secret subdues anger, And a bribe in the bosom, strong wrath.

14 Privately given gifts pacify wrath, and payments made secretly appease great anger.

14 A gift in secret pacifies anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

15 The exercise of justice is joy for the righteous, But terror to those who practice injustice.

15 The exercise of justice is joy for the righteous, But is terror to the workers of iniquity.

15 Administering justice brings joy to the righteous, but terror to those who practice iniquity.

15 It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

(uu) Wickedness (21:16-18)

16 A person who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.

16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.

16 Whoever wanders from the path of understanding? will end up where the dead are gathered.

16 The man that wanders out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

17 One who loves pleasure *will become* a poor person; One who loves wine and oil will not become rich.

17 He who loves pleasure *will become* a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.

17 Pleasure lovers become poor; loving wine and oil doesn't bring riches.

17 He that loves pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loves wine and oil shall not be rich.

18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, And the treacherous is in the place of the upright.

18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, And the treacherous is in the place of the upright.

18 The wicked are ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.

18 The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

- 19 It is better to live in a desert land Than with a contentious and irritating woman.
- 19 It is better to live in a desert land Than with a contentious and vexing woman.
- 19 It's better to live in the wilderness than to live with a contentious and irritable woman.
- 19 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

(vv) Prosperity of the wise (21:20-22)

- 20 There is precious treasure and oil in the home of the wise, But a foolish person swallows it up.
- 20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows it up.
- 20 Precious treasures and oil are found where the wise live, but a foolish man devours them.
- 20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up.
  
- 21 One who pursues righteousness and loyalty Finds life, righteousness, and honor.
- 21 He who pursues righteousness and loyalty Finds life, righteousness and honor.
- 21 Whoever pursues righteousness and gracious love finds life, righteousness, and honor.
- 21 He that follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.
  
- 22 A wise person scales the city of the mighty And brings down the stronghold in which they trust.
- 22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty And brings down the stronghold in which they trust.
- 22 A wise man attacks the city of the mighty, bringing down the fortress in which they trust.
- 22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and casts down the strength of the confidence thereof.

(ww) Speaking, pride, laziness (21:23-26)

- 23 One who guards his mouth and his tongue,? Guards his soul from troubles.
- 23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.
- 23 Whoever watches his mouth and tongue keeps himself from trouble.
- 23 Whoso keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.
  
- 24 "Proud," "Arrogant," "Scoffer," are his names, *One* who acts with insolent pride.
- 24 "Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names, *Who* acts with insolent pride.

24 The names "Proud," "Arrogant," and "Mocker" fit whoever acts with presumptuous conceit.

24 Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who deals in proud wrath.

25 The desire of the lazy one puts him to death,  
For his hands refuse to work;

25 The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, For his hands refuse to work;

25 What the lazy person craves will kill him, because his hands refuse to work.

25 The desire of the slothful kills him; for his hands refuse to labor.

26 All day long he is craving, While the righteous gives and does not hold back.

26 All day long he is craving, While the righteous gives and does not hold back.

26 All day long he continues to crave, while the righteous person gives without holding back.

26 He covets greedily all the day long: but the righteous gives and spares not.

(xx) Wickedness (21:27-29)

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, How much more when he brings it with evil intent!

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, How much more when he brings it with evil intent!

27 What the wicked person sacrifices is detestable— how much more when he offers it with vile motives!

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind?

28 A false witness will perish, But a person who listens will speak forever.

28 A false witness will perish, But the man who listens *to the truth* will speak forever.

28 A false witness will perish, but whoever listens will testify successfully.

28 A false witness shall perish: but the man that hears speaks constantly.

29 A wicked person displays a bold face, But as for the upright, he makes his way sure.

29 A wicked man displays a bold face, But as for the upright, he makes his way sure.

29 The wicked man puts up a bold appearance, but the upright thinks about what he is doing.

29 A wicked man hardens his face: but as for the upright, he directs his way.

(yy) The strength provided by God (21:30-31)

30 There is no wisdom, no understanding, And no plan against the LORD.  
30 There is no wisdom and no understanding And no counsel against the LORD.  
30 No wisdom, insight, or counsel can prevail against the LORD.  
30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But the victory belongs to the LORD.  
31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory belongs to the LORD.  
31 The horse may be prepared for the day of battle, but to the LORD goes the victory.  
31 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.