

Proverbs 24 - Benefits of Wisdom; Sayings of the Wise

IV. Sayings of the wise (Prov 22:17—24:34)

(1) Part 1: Thirty precepts of the wise (22:17—24:22)

(U) 19th precept: do not envy sinners (24:1-2)

(a) Warning (24:1)

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(V) 20th precept: be wise (24:3-4)

(a) Warning (24:3a)

(b) Reason: wisdom brings blessing (24:3b-4)

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(a) Warning (24:8)

(b) Reason: sin is an abomination (24:9)

(Z) 24th precept: do not be slack (24:10)

(a) Warning (24:10a)

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(AA) 25th precept: help victims (24:11-12)

(a) Warning (24:11)

(b) Reason: God judges (24:12)

(BB) 26th precept: get wisdom (24:13-14)

(a) Warning (24:13)

(b) Reason: those who possess wisdom have hope (24:14)

(CC) 27th precept: do not rob the godly (24:15-16)

(a) Warning (24:15)

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Proverbs 24

- (U) 19th precept: do not envy sinners (24:1-2)
 - (a) Warning (24:1)
 - 1 Do not be envious of evil people, Nor desire to be with them;
 - 1 Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them;
 - 1 Don't be envious of wicked men or wish you were with them,
 - 1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.
 - (b) Reason: their character is corrupt (24:2)
 - 2 For their minds plot violence, And their lips talk of trouble.
 - 2 For their minds devise violence, And their lips talk of trouble.
 - 2 because they plan violence, and they are always talking about trouble.

2 For their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

(V) 20th precept: be wise (24:3-4)

(a) Warning (24:3a)

(b) Reason: wisdom brings blessing (24:3b-4)

- 3 By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;
- 3 By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;
- 3 By wisdom a house is built; it is made secure through understanding.
- 3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

- 4 And by knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.
- 4 And by knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.
- 4 By knowledge its rooms are furnished with all sorts of expensive and beautiful goods.
- 4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

(W) 21st precept: get wisdom (24:5-6)

(a) Warning (24:5)

- 5 A wise man is strong, And a person of knowledge increases power.
- 5 A wise man is strong, And a man of knowledge increases power.
- 5 A wise man is strong, and a knowledgeable man grows in strength.
- 5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increases strength.

(b) Reason: Victory comes to the wise (24:6)

- 6 For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in an abundance of counselors there is victory.
- 6 For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory.
- 6 For through wise counsel you will wage your war, and victory lies in an abundance of advisors.
- 6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

(X) 22nd precept: do not be a fool (24:7)

(a) Warning (24:7a)

(b) Reason: fools lack influence (24:7b)

- 7 Wisdom is too exalted for a fool, He does not open his mouth at the gate.
- 7 Wisdom is too exalted for a fool, He does not open his mouth in the gate.
- 7 Wisdom lies beyond reach of the fool; he has nothing to say in court.
- 7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he opens not his mouth in the gate.

(Y) 23rd precept: do not scheme to sin (24:8-9)

(a) Warning (24:8)

- 8 One who plans to do evil, *People* will call a schemer.
- 8 One who plans to do evil, Men will call a schemer.
- 8 The person who plans on doing evil will be called a schemer.
- 8 He that devises to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

(b) Reason: sin is an abomination (24:9)

- 9 The devising of foolishness is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to humanity.
- 9 The devising of folly is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to men.
- 9 To devise folly is sin, and people detest a scoffer.
- 9 The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

(Z) 24th precept: do not be slack (24:10)

(a) Warning (24:10a)

(b) Reason: limited strength (24:10b)

- 10 *If* you show yourself lacking courage on the day of distress, Your strength is meager.
- 10 If you are slack in the day of distress, Your strength is limited.
- 10 If you grow weary when times are troubled, your strength is limited.
- 10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

(AA) 25th precept: help victims (24:11-12)

(a) Warning (24:11)

- 11 Rescue those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to the slaughter, Oh hold *them* back!
- 11 Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold *them* back.
- 11 Rescue those who are being led away to death, and save those who stumble toward slaughter.
- 11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

(b) Reason: God judges (24:12)

- 12 If you say, "See, we did not know this," Does He who weighs the hearts not consider *it*? And does He who watches over your soul not know *it*? And will He not repay a person according to his work?

12 If you say, "See, we did not know this," Does He not consider *it* who weighs the hearts? And does He not know *it* who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

12 If you say, "Look here, we didn't know about this," doesn't God, who examines motives, discern it? Doesn't the one who guards your soul know about it? Won't he repay each person according to what he has done?

12 If thou says, Behold, we knew it not; does not He that ponders the heart consider it? and He that keeps thy soul, does not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his works?

(BB) 26th precept: get wisdom (24:13-14)

(a) Warning (24:13)

13 My son, eat honey, for it is good; Yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste;

13 My son, eat honey, for it is good, Yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste;

13 My son, eat honey, because it's good for you; indeed, drippings from the honeycomb are sweet to your taste;

13 My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

(b) Reason: those who possess wisdom have hope (24:14)

14 Know *that* wisdom is the same for your soul; If you find *it*, then there will be a future, And your hope will not be cut off.

14 Know *that* wisdom is thus for your soul; If you find *it*, then there will be a future, And your hope will not be cut off.

14 Keep in mind that wisdom is like that for your soul; if you find it, there will be a future for you, and what you hope for won't be cut short.

14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou have found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

(CC) 27th precept: do not rob the godly (24:15-16)

(a) Warning (24:15)

15 Do not lie in ambush, you wicked person, against the home of the righteous; Do not destroy his resting place;

15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not destroy his resting place;

15 Don't lie in wait like an outlaw to attack where the righteous live;

15 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

(b) Reason: the righteous will rise (24:16)

16 For a righteous person falls seven times and rises again, But the wicked stumble in *time of* disaster.

16 For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, But the wicked stumble in *time of* calamity.

16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again, but the wicked stumble into calamity.

16 For a just man falls seven times, and rises up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

(DD) 28th precept: do not rejoice in your enemies' calamity (24:17-18)

(a) Warning (24:17)

17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart rejoice when he stumbles,

17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;

17 Don't rejoice when your enemy falls; don't let yourself be glad when he stumbles.

17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falls, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbles:

(b) Reason: the Lord will stop punishing your enemy (24:18)

18 Otherwise, the LORD will see and be displeased, And turn His anger away from him.

18 Or the LORD will see *it* and be displeased, And turn His anger away from him.

18 Otherwise the LORD will observe and disapprove, and he will turn his anger away from him.

18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

(EE) 29th precept: do not envy sinners (24:19-20)

(a) Warning (24:19)

19 Do not get upset because of evildoers Or be envious of the wicked;

19 Do not fret because of evildoers Or be envious of the wicked;

19 Don't be anxious about those who practice evil, and don't be envious of the wicked.

19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked:

(b) Reason: sinners have no future (24:20)

20 For there will be no future for the evil person; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

20 For there will be no future for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

20 For the wicked man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be extinguished.

20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

(FF) 30th precept: fear of the Lord (24:21-22)

(a) Warning (24:21)

21 My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not get involved with those of high rank,

21 My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those who are given to change,

21 My son, fear both the LORD and the king, and don't keep company with rebels.

21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

(b) Reason: those who do not fear God will come to ruin (24:22)

22 For their disaster will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin *that can come* from both of them?

22 For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin *that comes* from both of them?

22 They will be destroyed suddenly, and who knows what kind of punishment will come from these two?

22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knows the ruin of them both?

(2) Part two: six additional precepts of the wise (24:23-34)

(A) First saying: prohibition against partiality in court (24:23-25)

(a) Warning (24:23)

23 These also are *sayings* of the wise: To show partiality in judgment is not good.

23 These also are sayings of the wise. To show partiality in judgment is not good.

23 Here are some more proverbs from wise people: It isn't good to show partiality in judgment.

23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

(b) Reason: blessings upon impartial and curses upon partial (24:24-25)

24 One who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Peoples will curse him, nations will scold him;

24 He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him;

24 Whoever says to the wicked, "You're in the right," will be cursed by people and hated by nations.

24 He that says unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But for those who rebuke the *wicked* there will be delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.

25 But to those who rebuke the *wicked* will be delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.

25 But as for people who rebuke the wicked; a good blessing will fall upon them.

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

(B) Second saying: give honest answers (24:26)

(a) Warning (24:26a)

(b) Reason: honesty is pleasant (24:26b)

26 One who gives a right answer Kisses the lips.

26 He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.

26 A kiss on the lips— that's what someone who gives an honest answer deserves.

26 Every man shall kiss his lips that gives a right answer.

(C) Third saying: cultivate your field (24:27)

(a) Warning (24:27a)

(b) Reason: your field will subsidize your house (24:27b)

27 Prepare your work outside, And make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterward, then, build your house.

27 Prepare your work outside And make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house.

27 First do your outside work, preparing your land for yourself. After that, build your house.

27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

(D) Fourth saying: Prohibition against bearing false witness in court (24:28)

(a) Warning (24:28a)

(b) Reason: such behavior is deceptive (24:28b)

28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor for no reason, And do not deceive with your lips.

28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, And do not deceive with your lips.

28 Don't testify against your neighbor without a cause, and don't lie when you speak.

28 Be not a witness against thy neighbor without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

(E) Fifth saying: prohibition against avenging oneself (24:29)

(a) Warning (24:29a)

(b) Reason: God judges (24:29b)

29 Do not say, "I shall do the same to him as he has done to me; I will repay the person according to his work."

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."

29 Don't say, "I'll do to him like he did to me, I'll be sure to pay him back for what he did."

29 Say not, I will do so to him as he has done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

(F) Sixth saying: prohibition against laziness (24:30-34)

(a) Warning (24:30)

30 I passed by the field of a lazy one, And by the vineyard of a person lacking sense,

30 I passed by the field of the sluggard And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense,

30 I went by the field belonging to a lazy man, by a vineyard belonging to a senseless person.

30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

(b) Reason: laziness yields poverty (24:31-34)

31 And behold, it was completely overgrown with weeds; Its surface was covered with weeds, And its stone wall was broken down.

31 And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; Its surface was covered with nettles, And its stone wall was broken down.

31 There it was, overgrown with thistles, the ground covered with thorns, its stone wall collapsed.

31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

32 When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, *and* received instruction.

32 When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, *and* received instruction.

32 As I observed, I thought about it; I watched, and learned a lesson:

32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

33 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest,"

33 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest,"

33 "A little sleep! A little slumber! A little folding of my hands to rest!"

33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34 Then your poverty will come like a drifter, And your need like an armed man.

34 Then your poverty will come as a robber And your want like an armed man.

34 Then your poverty will come upon you like a robber, your need like an armed bandit.

34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travels; and thy want as an armed man.