

# Proverbs 27 - General Counsel

V. Solomon's proverbs that were either collected or copied by Hezekiah's scribes (Prov 25:1—29:27)

(1) Part one: sixteen groups of proverbs (Prov 25:1— 27:27)

(N) Related to interpersonal problems (27:1-5)

(O) Related to friendships (27:6-10)

(P) Related to personal relationships (27:11-22)

(Q) Related to stewardship (27:23-26)

## Proverbs 27

(N) Related to interpersonal problems (27:1-5)

1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring.

1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

1 Never brag about the day to come, because you don't know what it might bring.

1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

2 Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth;

a stranger, and never your own lips.

2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

[Prov 25:6-7]

3 A stone is heavy and the sand weighty, But the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.

3 A stone is heavy and the sand weighty, But the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.

3 Rocks are heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation outweighs them both.

3 A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

4 Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?

4 Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?

4 Wrath can be fierce and anger overwhelms but who can stand up to jealousy?

4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

- 5 Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed.
- 5 Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed.
- 5 An open rebuke is better than unspoken love.
- 5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.

(O) Related to friendships (27:6-10)

- 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.
- 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.
- 6 Wounds from someone who loves are trustworthy, but kisses from an enemy speak volumes.
- 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
  
- 7 A satisfied person despises honey, But to a hungry person any bitter thing is sweet.
- 7 A sated man loathes honey, But to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.
- 7 The person who is full spurns honey, but to a hungry person even the bitter seems sweet.
- 7 The full soul loathes an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.
  
- 8 Like a bird that wanders from its nest, So is a person who wanders from his home.
- 8 Like a bird that wanders from her nest, So is a man who wanders from his home.
- 8 Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who wanders away from his home.
- 8 As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man that wanders from his place.
  
- 9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, And a person's advice is sweet to his friend.
- 9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.
- 9 Ointments and perfume encourage the heart; in a similar way, a friend's advice is sweet to the soul.
- 9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so does the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.
  
- 10 Do not abandon your friend or your father's friend, And do not go to your brother's house on the day of your disaster; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.
- 10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, And do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.
- 10 Never abandon your friend nor your father's friend, and don't go to your brother's house in times of trouble. A neighbor who is near is better than a brother who lives far away.

10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.

(P) Related to personal relationships (27:11-22)

11 Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, So that I may reply to one who taunts me.

11 Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, That I may reply to him who reproaches me.

11 Be wise, my son, and make me happy, so I can reply to anyone who insults me.

11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproaches me.

12 A prudent person sees evil *and* hides himself; *But* the naive proceed, *and* pay the penalty.

12 A prudent man sees evil *and* hides himself, The naive proceed *and* pay the penalty.

12 Those who are prudent see danger and take refuge, but the naïve continue on and suffer the consequences.

12 A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

13 Take his garment when he becomes a guarantor for a stranger; And for a foreign woman seize a pledge from him.

13 Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger; And for an adulterous woman hold him in pledge.

13 Take the coat of anyone who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he cosigns for an immoral woman.

13 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

14 One who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, It will be considered a curse to him.

14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, It will be reckoned a curse to him.

14 A friend's loud blessing early in the morning will be thought of as a curse.

14 He that blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

15 A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a contentious woman are alike;

15 A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a contentious woman are alike;

15 A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike.

15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.  
16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.  
16 Trying to keep her in check is like stopping a wind storm or grabbing oil with your right hand.  
16 Whosoever hides her hides the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which betrays itself.

17 As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another.  
17 Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.  
17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens a friend's character.  
17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

18 One who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, And one who cares for his master will be honored.  
18 He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, And he who cares for his master will be honored.  
18 Whoever nurtures the fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever obeys his master will be honored.  
18 Whoso keeps the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waits on his master shall be honored.

19 As in water a face *reflects* the face, So the heart of a person *reflects the* person.  
19 As in water face *reflects* face, So the heart of man *reflects* man.  
19 Just as water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person.  
19 As in water face answers to face, so the heart of man to man.

20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of a person ever satisfied.  
20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.  
20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satiated, and neither are human eyes.  
20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

21 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, And each *is tested* by the praise accorded him.  
21 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, And each *is tested* by the praise accorded him.  
21 As the crucible tests silver, and the furnace assays gold; so praise received tests a man.  
21 As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

22 Though you pound the fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, His foolishness *still* will not leave him.

22 Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

22 Though you crush a fool in a mortar and pestle as someone might crush grain, his stupidity still won't leave him.

22 Though thou should bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

(Q) Related to stewardship (27:23-26)

23 Know well the condition of your flocks, *And* pay attention to your herds;

23 Know well the condition of your flocks, *And* pay attention to your herds;

23 Keep well informed of the condition of your flocks and pay attention to your herds,

23 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations.

24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations.

24 because riches don't endure forever, and crowns don't last from one generation to the next.

24 For riches are not for ever: and does the crown endure to every generation?

*There is no hotter crucible to test a man than when he is put through a fire of praise and adulation. To go on through evil report, cleaving to the Lord, and counting on Him to clear one's name is comparatively easy, though many faint in such circumstances; but to humbly pursue the even tenor of his way, undisturbed and unlifted up by applause and flattery, marks a man as being truly with God. — H.A. Ironside, Notes on the Book of Proverbs, pp. 390–391*

25 *When* the grass disappears, the new growth is seen, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,

25 *When* the grass disappears, the new growth is seen, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,

25 When the grass disappears, and new growth appears, the mountain spices will be harvested,

25 The hay appears, and the tender grass shews itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs *will be* for your clothing, And the goats *will bring* the price of a field,  
26 The lambs *will be* for your clothing, And the goats *will bring* the price of a field,  
26 the lambs will supply your clothing, and your goats the price of a field.  
26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And *there will be* enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And sustenance for your attendants.

27 And *there will be* goats' milk enough for your food, For the food of your household, And sustenance for your maidens.

27 You will have enough goat's milk to drink and to supply your household needs, as well as sustenance for your servant girls.

27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.