PROVERBS 21

- **REVIEW…**
  - Wise Sayings - **Proverbs 10:1-22:16**
    - A collection of sayings - laid out as individual truths [verses]
      - Often the statements are NOT connected – there is not much context or organization…
    - So we will look at and interpret each PROVERB individually!
      - Hebrew Poetry…
        - Proverbs is a book of Hebrew POETRY - which does not rhyme WORDS but IDEAS…

- CONTRASTING ideas [but] - COMPARING ideas [as - like] - COMPLIMENTING ideas [and]
- We will see a lot of this style of RHYMING as we come into the SECOND section!

Living Wisdom…

- **1st – Wise Finances…**
  - 1st - Not hasty… vs. 5
    - The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty.
    - But those of everyone who is hasty surely to poverty!
    - Those who THINK ahead - take the time to PLAN for the future - will PROSPER…
    - [וְ] - BUT those who REACT [do not plan] - will come to POVERTY!
    - If we buy an AIRLINE ticket months in advance - they are cheaper…
    - BUT if we buy them LAST minute - they cost a FORTUNE - because we have no OPTIONS!
    - A practical truth - the more time we have to make a CHOICE - the more OPTIONS we have…
    - We are far WISER to PLAN for the future - rather than make last minute RUSH decisions!
  - 2nd - No Guilt… vs. 6/8
    - Momentary wealth… vs. 6
      - Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death!
      - Those who try and get RICH by using LIES…
      - Will see their WEALTH disappear [niphal] like a puff of smoke [הֶבֶל]
      - What they are actually chasing after [piel] - is DEATH!
      - The mantra of the world - is WEALTH at any cost…
      - They will sell their SOUL to the devil - if it gets them another PESO…
      - But their MONEY only lasts for as long as they LIVE [like a vapor] - **James 4:14**
      - What they do NOT stop and consider - is what happens AFTER this life!
    - Clean conscience… vs. 8
      - The way of a guilty man is perverse. But as for the pure his work is right!
      - The man who is DISHONEST [crooked] - has a GUILTY [only here OT] conscience…
      - [וְ] - BUT those do good [יָשָׁר] WORK - have a CLEAN [זַךְ] conscience!
      - We were passing through Bacolod the others day - saw TANDUAY banners all over the city…
      - It hit me - I do not think I could live with myself if I owned that company…
      - They might be RICH - but think of how many lives they have DESTROYED!
      - Doing anything for MONEY does not just have a negative ETERNAL outcome…
      - Even in this life it means we will be burdened by a GUILTY conscience!
  - 3rd - No Help… vs. 13
    - Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard!
    - Anyone who does NOT listen to the PLEA for help from the POOR…

- ALSO [גַּם] will NOT be heard [niphal] when they need HELP!

- It is EASY to ignore the CRY for help from others when we have ALL we need…
- BUT how we treat others - is how we will inevitably be treated by them…
- And when the day comes we need HELP [and it will] - we will find we are also IGNORED…
- It is WISE to show kindness to others today - knowing one day we might need them tomorrow!

- 4th - No Bribes… vs. 14
  - A gift in secret pacifies anger - and a bribe behind the back - strong wrath!
  - It is true that a GIFT - or BRIBE [שֹׁחַד] given in secret can help to CALM someone who is ANGRY…
  - But that does NOT mean that it is the RIGHT way to deal with a problem!
  - The TRUTH is - the end NEVER justifies the means - we are NOT to give BRIBES…
  - The problem is we are trusting in ourselves to get things done – NOT in the Lord…
  - It is just as important HOW we get there – as WHERE we are going!
  - **Exodus 23:8** - "Take no bribes [שֹׁחַד]… A bribe makes even a righteous person twist the truth."
- 5th - No Love… vs. 17
  - He who loves pleasure will be a poor man. He who loves wine and oil will not be rich!
  - One of the foundations of our MODERN society - is the pursuit of HAPPINESS…
  - Yet Anyone who SEEKS [אָהַב] to be HAPPY [שָׂמֵחַ] in this life - will be POOR!
  - They can try WINE - but it will only make them HAPPY for a moment [then comes the hangover]
  - They can try FOOD - but it will only make them HAPPY while eating [then they step on the scale]
  - True RICHES are NOT found in LOVING [אָהַב] the things of this life - it is found in Jesus…
  - Because we were created to LOVE Him - and only in knowing Him can we be HAPPY!
- 6th - Not Lazy… vs. 25-26
  - Coveting… vs. 25-26
    - The desire of the lazy kills him for his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long!
    - The LAZY will DIE before he gets what he WANTS - because he REFUSES [piel] to WORK…
    - Instead - he just spends the WHOLE [כָּל] day COVETING!
    - I am often amused by the POSTS people make on SOCIAL media…
    - BIG houses - FANCY cars - EXPENSIVE toys - all the things they WANT…
    - All of them posted while they are sitting at home doing NOTHING!
  - Giving… vs. 26
    - But the righteous gives and does not spare!
    - [וְ] - BUT rather than COVETING what they do NOT have…

- The RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] do NOT hold back - they are constantly [imperfect] GIVING to others!
- People think they will be BLESSED if they have ALL the best toys…
- BUT the biggest BLESSING is working hard - so we can GIVE to others…
- There is no greater JOY - than to see the smile on the face of someone we are able to HELP!
- **Acts 20:35** - "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

- **2ND - WISE FAMILY…**
  - 1st - Angry wife… vs. 9/19
    - Housetop… vs. 9
      - Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop - than in a house shared with a contentious woman!
      - It is BETTER [טוֹב] to be ALONE - on the top corner of the HOUSE…
      - Than to stay inside the HOUSE - with a BITTER [מְדְיָן] wife!
      - Keep in mind - Solomon had a LOT [1000] of wives - which might be why they were ANGRY…
      - And even though he lived in a VERY large HOUSE - palace of the KING - **I Kings 7:1**
      - He would rather be ALONE - in a CORNER of the ROOF - than around these ANGRY women!
    - Wilderness… vs. 19
      - Better to dwell in the wilderness. Than with a contentious and angry woman!
      - Apparently things did NOT get better with TIME - they were now BITTER and ANGRY [כַּעַס]
      - Therefore - the ROOFTOP was NOT far enough away…
      - He would rather be move out to the DESERT - than stay with his wives!
      - Too many men think that if they IGNORE a problem - it will go away…
      - If their WIFE is not happy with them - they TURN on the cell phone - and TUNE her out…
      - But that NEVER works - ignoring the problem ONLY makes it WORSE...
      - The solution is to ADDRESS the issue - and if needed [and it is] - ask for FORGIVENESS!
  - 2nd - Not Wicked… vs. 12
    - The righteous *God* wisely considers the house of the wicked.
    - Overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness!
    - The word GOD is not in the Hebrew - but in context it does make sense…
    - Because it is a righteous [צַדִּיק] GOD - who knows what happens inside the HOME [hidden]
    - And if a person is WICKED - then GOD is the one who let it FALL apart [piel]!
    - Mormons are well known for having what looks like [outside] WHOLESOME families…
    - Yet there are studies that suggest the SUICIDE rate is much higher in Mormon homes…
    - NOT because they are MORMON - but because there is NO Jesus!
    - Being WICKED is not about what we do - it is about WHO we know…
    - We can try and make our HOME look as GOOD as we can…
    - Our kids can be well educated - well dressed - and respected outside the home…
    - BUT - if we do NOT have Jesus as the foundation - then it will fall apart!
  - 3rd - Wise Treasure… vs. 20

- There is desirable treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise. But a foolish man squanders it!
- Those who are WISE - have all the BEST treasures in their HOME…
- [וְ] - BUT the FOOLISH [כְּסִיל] man [אָדָם] WASTES [piel] what matters most!
- The most valuable TREASURE we will ever be given is our FAMILY…
- SADLY too many men FOOLISHLY chase after MONEY and miss that…
- They end up with a BITTER wife - and MESSED up kids - because they chased after a LIE!

- **3RD - WISE WORDS…**
  - 1st - No Trouble… vs. 23
    - Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles!
    - If we can KEEP our mouth shut - we will KEEP our SOUL [נֶפֶשׁ] from TROUBLE!
    - There is some great insight here on how we learn to live a Godly life…
    - If we are looking to overcome some SIN – or see victory in some area of our life…
    - The key is to find a way to control our MOUTH…
    - Not that our WORDS make us PERFECT– it is just the hardest thing to PERFECT…
    - So if we find out how guard our WORDS – we will find the key to overcoming all sin!
    - **James 3:2** - "If anyone does not stumble in word he is a perfect man…"
  - 2nd - No Lying… vs. 28
    - A false witness shall perish. But the man who hears him will speak endlessly!
    - Someone who LIES [false witness] - will be always [imperfect] SILENCED [אָבַד]
    - [וְ] - BUT the man who OBEYS [שָׁמַע] - will always [נָצַח] be allowed to SPEAK [piel]!
    - A man had TWO sons - whom the father told to go work in the vineyard - **Matthew 21:28**
    - One said NO but then went to work - the other said YES but did nothing…
    - Jesus pointed out it was the SECOND son who did the will of the FATHER!
    - It is easy to SAY that we are going to give our lives for the LORD…
    - But it does not matter what we SAY - it is about what we DO!

- **4TH - WISE LIFE…**
  - 1st - No Justice… vs. 7/15
    - Violent… vs. 7
      - The violence of the wicked will destroy them - because they refuse to do justice!
      - The RUINED [שֹׁד] lives of the WICKED [רְשָׁעִים] - sweep them away…

- [כִּי] - BECAUSE they REFUSE [piel] to do what is JUST [מִשְׁפָּט]
- I knew a wealthy man in Himamaylan - he had it all - even ran for city council…
- BUT he ended up having an AFFAIR - and LOST everything!
- God does NOT need to RUIN the lives of people who DISOBEY Him…
- The choices people make - do that all on their own!

▪ Joy… vs. 15

- It is a joy for the just to do justice. But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity!
- It is the JOY of the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] to do what is JUST [מִשְׁפָּט]
- [וְ] - BUT for those who LIVE [participle] in SIN [עָוֹן] - only TERROR [מְחִתָּה] waits for them!
- The reason why God allows our lives to fall apart when we SIN…
- Is to try and get our attention before it is TOO late…
- Because no one wants to have to face the LORD if they are NOT forgiven!
- **Hebrews 10:31** - "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

○ 2nd - No Evil… vs. 10

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

▪ The SOUL of an evil [רָשָׁע] man CRAVES [piel] to do more EVIL [רַע]

▪ Therefore [hophal] - even his FRIEND [רֵעַ] gives him no FAVORS [חָנַן]!

▪ Joseph Estrada was a VERY popular president - until he was NOT…

▪ The moment it came out he was CORRUPT [no surprise] - he was impeached [no favors]!

▪ People who insist on LIVING a corrupt life - will NOT have many friends…

▪ And when [not if] the DAY comes when they are caught - they will stand ALONE!

○ 3rd - No Mocking… vs. 11/24

▪ Teaching… vs. 11

- When the scoffer is punished the simple is made wise.
- And when the wise is instructed he receives knowledge!
- When the MOCKER faces consequences - it teaches the IGNORANT…
- [וְ] - AND when the WISE are taught - they get more UNDERSTANDING!
- The point is simple - it is good to TEACH everyone…
- The MOCKER might not be willing to LEARN - but people [ignorant] are watching…
- If they see they do NOT get away with their disrespectful words - they will NOT follow…
- And when we teach those who DO want to LEARN - they grow in WISDOM!

▪ Arrogant… vs. 24

- A proud and haughty man: Scoffer is his name. He acts with arrogant pride!
- As for the MOCKER - there is NOT much that can be done for him…
- His NAME [character] comes from his PRIDE [זֵד] and ARROGANCE [יָהִיר]
- All that he does [עָשָׂה] - he does out of an abundance [עֶבְרָה] of PRIDE!
- Pride was the first sin – the sin of satan…
- One day Satan decided he was as good as - equal to God - **Isaiah 14:14**
- The result was he was kicked out of heaven – thrown away - separated from God!
- PRIDE can be tricky – it is not always easy to see – but it always sets us up for a fall…
- PRIDE can be I think I know it all - I am never wrong - I do not need correction…

- PRIDE can also be – thinking I am nothing - being shy…
- Whether it is arrogance or false humility – if I am the focus - it is PRIDE!
- **Proverbs 16:18** – "Pride goes before destruction, an arrogant spirit before a fall."

- 4th - No Sacrifice… vs. 18/27
  - Ransom… vs. 18
    - The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous - and the unfaithful for the upright!
    - The WICKED [רָשָׁע] will pay the price [כֹּפֶר] for the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק]
    - [וְ] - AND the instead of the UPRIGHT [יְשָׁרִים] - the TRAITOR!
    - Jen does NOT like movies where the BAD buys get away in the end…
    - She wants to see JUSTICE served - she wants the GOOD guys to win!
    - The simple truth is - that in the END - the GOOD guys do win…
    - We know how the story finishes - and God is the one who gets the final VICTORY!
  - Abomination… vs. 27
    - The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination.
    - How much more when he brings it with wicked intent!
    - It is important to UNDERSTAND what makes a person GOOD [צַדִּיק]or BAD [רָשָׁע]
    - It is NOT what we do - it is the motive behind WHY we do it…
    - WICKED people bring SACRIFICES to the LORD - but He does NOT want them [abomination]
    - Because they are NOT coming to ask for FORGIVENESS…
    - Instead they had a WICKED motive - they want to HIDE their SIN!
    - Some people come to CHURCH - carry a BIBLE - sing PRAISE songs…
    - NOT because they know they need to be FORGIVEN - NOT to thank Him for His grace…
    - But because they want to LOOK good - and HIDE their sin…
    - Therefore - their worship [sacrifice] is NOT accepted by the LORD!

- **5TH – WISE CHOICES…**
  - 1st - Wise leader… vs. 1
    - The kings heart is in the hand of the LORD.
    - Like the rivers of water He turns it wherever He wishes!
    - The HEART of the KING [לֵב־מֶלֶךְ] is in the HAND [singular] of the LORD [יְהוָה]
    - Like a RIVER - He can turn it ANY [כָּל] way He chooses…
    - RIVERS seem unpredictable - they are constantly changing their course…
    - In the same way KINGS seem to be unpredictable - we never know what they will do!
    - When Nebuchadnezzar became ARROGANT because of the power of BABYLON…
    - The Lord warned him in a dream - because God gave it all to him - He could take it all away…
    - And after the KING went MAD for seven years - he had this to say about the LORD!
    - **Daniel 4:35** - "[God] does according to His will in… heaven - and [on] the earth."
    - The LORD is SOVEREIGN over both - the NATURAL and the POLITICAL…

- Which looking at the craziness of the world around us - is a VERY encouraging truth…
- It means that NO one - NO leader - NO nation can do anything apart from the will of God!

- 2nd - Wise motive… vs. 2-4
  - From the heart… vs. 2
    - Every way of a man is right in his own eyes - but the LORD weighs the hearts!
    - Whatever [כָּל] a MAN does seems RIGHT [יָשָׁר] to him…
    - BUT [וְ] - the LORD is the one who WEIGHS the MOTIVE [לִבָּה]!
    - The MAYOR made the decision to shut down LACSON street on Sunday mornings [exercise]
    - It SEEMED like a good decision to him - but made it HARD for people to come to church!
    - We are ALWAYS going to think our CHOICES are the BEST…
    - The PROBLEM is - we often make our decisions without thinking about God…
    - Meaning we make POOR choices - but convince ourselves our motives are right!
  - Right way… vs. 3
    - To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice!
    - Doing [עָשָׂה] what is RIGHT [צְדִיק] and JUST [מִשְׁפָּט] - is a better choice than SACRIFICE…
    - When King Saul disobeyed the command of the LORD [destroy all the Amalekites]
    - He offered LOTS of sacrifices to the LORD - but in the end he was REJECTED…
    - Because his SACRIFICES were done INSTEAD of obeying the LORD!
    - **I Samuel 15:22** - "Behold - to obey [do what is right] is better than sacrifice."
    - No matter what we THINK - the RIGHT thing to do is always to OBEY the LORD!
  - Wrong way… vs. 4
    - A haughty look - a proud heart - and the plowing of the wicked are sin!
    - It starts with an ARROGANT look - and a PROUD heart…
    - These open the DOOR [plow] for EVIL [רָשָׁע] and SIN [חַטָּאת] into our lives!
    - When we THINK we know BETTER than the LORD [pride]
    - That is what OPENS the door to all kinds of TROUBLE to come in…
    - The truth is we do NOT know - and we NEED Jesus every moment of our lives!
    - **II Corinthians 12:9** - "[His] strength is made perfect in [my] weakness."
- 3rd - Wise way… vs. 16/21-22/29
  - Wandering… vs. 16
    - A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead!
    - Anyone [אָדָם] who LEAVES the PATH of WISDOM…
    - Will end up in the CONGREGATION of those who are spiritually DEAD [רְפָאִים]!
    - We live in a DEMOCRATIC world: [δημο] people - [κρατικός] power…
    - Where if enough people agree one something - it makes it RIGHT!
    - Just because a LOT of people [congregation] believe something - does NOT make it true…
    - Unfortunately - MANY people are NOT going to heaven [broad way] - **Matthew 7:13**
    - Because the TRUTH is NOT democratic - it is THEOCRATIC: [θεο] God [κρατία] Power!
    - **Romans 3:4** - "Let God be true but every man a liar."
  - Following… vs. 21
    - He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life - righteousness - and honor!
    - BUT - anyone who follows RIGHTEOUSNESS [צְדִיק] - follows Jesus…

- Will find LIFE - because they become RIGHTEOUS [forgiven]
- And they will receive the HONOR [כָּבוֹד] of becoming a CHILD of God!
- **John 1:12** - "As many as received Him - to them He gave the right to become children of God."

▪ Upright… vs. 29

- A wicked man hardens his face. But as for the upright he establishes his way!
- The WICKED [רָשָׁע] will NOT follow - because they HARDEN their heart [face]
- BUT [וְ] - the man who walks the NARROW [יָשָׁר] path - **Matthew 7:14**
- He will have his ways DIRECTED [hiphil] by the LORD!
- When Joshua came to the CITY of Jericho - the LORD did not have Israel attack…
- Instead He had them MARCH around the city for SEVEN days…
- It did NOT make sense - but the people OBEYED the Word of the LORD - **Joshua 6:3-4**
- When we chose to FOLLOW the LORD - not what we THINK…
- He might ask us to do things we do NOT understand - but we still OBEY…
- Because when it is the LORD directing our STEPS - we know we are going the RIGHT way!

▪ Victory… vs. 22

- A wise man scales the city of the mighty - and brings down the trusted stronghold!
- The WISE man will climb up the walls of the MIGHTY city…
- And he will THROW down [hiphil] the IDEAS that they TRUSTED in!
- The people of Jericho thought they were SAFE behind their MIGHTY walls…
- But when the TRUMPET sounded - those WALLS came crashing down - **Joshua 6:20**

- When we follow the PATH of God - the world does NOT stand a chance…
- All of their foolish ideas [religion] - all of their arrogant arguments [evolution]
- Crumble as we see the Lord go before us and give us the VICTORY!
- **II Corinthians 10:5** - "Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God."

○ 4th - Gods Way… vs. 30-31

▪ Best counsel… vs. 30

- There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the LORD!
- This statement is EMPHATIC - it is meant to get our attention…
- There is NO [אִין] wisdom - NO [אִין] intelligence - NO [אִין] advice…
- That can STAND up against what the LORD [יְהוָה] has said!
- The BEST advice we can EVERY get - comes from the WORD of God…
- If we want to get answers - to ANY question - there is NO better place to go…
- Because EVERYTHING that God says - is going to be RIGHT answer!
- **II Corinthians 1:20** - "All the promises of God in Him are Yes - and in Him Amen."

▪ Delivered… vs. 31

- The horse is prepared for the day of battle - but deliverance is of the LORD!
- People prepare for the WAR - get their horse dressed for BATTLE…
- BUT [וְ] - the SALVATION [הַתְּשׁוּעָה] only comes from the LORD!
- Solomon had LOTS of money - but MONEY could NOT help him…
- Solomon had LOT of horses - but ARMIES could help save him…
- There was only ONE answer - ONE person he could depend on - the LORD!
- No matter what we are going through - what PROBLEM we are facing…
- There is only ONE answer - we just need to come to the LORD!

- **Psalms 20:7** - “Some trust in chariots - some in horses - but WE will remember the name of the LORD our God!”