PROVERBS 20

- **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!

Becoming Wise…

- **1st – Wise Leadership…**
  - 1st - Angry King… vs. 2
    - The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion.
    - Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life!
    - When a LION roars - it is saying it is in CHARGE…
    - In the same way the RAGE of a King [מֶלֶךְ] - is his way of saying he is in CHARGE…
    - Those who do NOT obey him [עָבַר] - SIN - and may lose their LIFE [נֶפֶשׁ]
    - **Romans 13:1 -** "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities."
    - We MUST obey the government - as long as they do NOT contradict the Word…
    - But this does NOT mean that governments are PERFECT [full of sinful men]
    - If governments were perfect – we would NEVER learn to look to and trust in God…
    - It is in the imperfections of our governments we SEE our need for the Lord…
    - It is NOT that all the governments are good – God just USES them all for our good!
  - 2nd - Just King… vs. 8/26
    - Judgment… vs. 8
      - A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes!
      - A leader [מֶלֶךְ] who is willing to JUDGE when people do EVIL - will cause EVIL to flee [זָרָה]
      - Driving in Bacolod is an adventure - there are NO rules…
      - At least - NO rules that anyone enforces - so people drive WILD!
      - It is NOT enough for a government to make RULE - they must be enforced…
      - Because if there are NO consequences - people will NOT fear when they break the LAW!
    - Zealous… vs. 26
      - A wise king sifts out the wicked - and brings the threshing wheel over them!
      - A WISE leader [מֶלֶךְ] - will [piel] chase away [זָרָה] the WICKED…
      - He will run them over [wheel] - then back up [שׁוּב] and run them over again!
      - We hope our leaders are PASSIONATE about doing what is RIGHT…
      - With ZEAL making sure that we live in a country that is safe from EVIL!
  - 4th - Loving King… vs. 28
    - Mercy and truth preserve the king - and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne!
    - A leader [מֶלֶךְ] is guarded by TWO things…
    - LOVE [חֶסֶד] - the MOTIVE by which a leader judges others…

- TRUTH [אֱמֶת] - the STANDARD of how a leader judges others…
- But of these TWO - the MOST important is LOVE [חֶסֶד] - it supports his throne!
- **I Corinthians 13:1-3** – "[Even if I give all I have] to feed the poor - [and] I give my body to be burned - but do not have LOVE - it profits me nothing."
- Even if we are RIGHT - and everything we say is TRUE…
- If we do not have the correct MOTIVE - in the end we are WRONG…
- LOVE must be the driving motive behind everything we DO…
- Because no matter what we DO – if it does NOT come from LOVE – it means NOTHING!

- **2ND – WISE FINANCES…**
  - 1st - No Laziness… vs. 4/13
    - No Harvest… vs. 4
      - The lazy man will not plow because of winter. He will beg during harvest and have nothing!
      - Harvest time in Israel takes place in the SPRING and early SUMMER [later rains]
      - Which is why they SOW [plow] seeds in the FALL and WINTER…
      - Yet the LAZY man does NOT want to be UNCOMFORTABLE [cold] - so refuses to PLANT…
      - But when it comes time to HARVEST - even if he begs [imperfect] - he will get NOTHING [אֵין]
      - We understand the principle of SOWING and REAPING [sow little get little]
      - But this truth is also SPIRITUAL - which is why we should be BUSY sowing for the LORD!
      - **II Corinthians 9:6** - "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly - and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."
    - Asleep… vs. 13
      - Do not love sleep - lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes and be satisfied with bread!
      - Also please [jussive] do NOT love to SLEEP - it will bring [niphal] POVERTY…
      - Instead OPEN [imperative] our eyes - and we will have ENOUGH to eat!
      - This is NOT saying we should NEGLECT our sleep [we need rest]
      - But we should NOT love to SLEEP - instead we should LOVE to SERVE…
      - One of the key characteristics of a believer - is HARD work!
      - **I Corinthians 15:10** - "I labored more abundantly than they all - yet not I - but the grace of God which was with me."
  - 2nd - No Cheating… vs. 10/23
    - Diverse weights and diverse measures. They are both alike - an abomination to the LORD.
    - Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD - and dishonest scales are not good!
    - Even in the days of Solomon - it was a common practice to take ADVANTAGE of others…
    - MERCHANTS would weight their scales - to CHEAT the buyers…
    - It is NOT good [לֹא־טוֹב] - and in the end it will NOT profit them - **Proverbs 11:1**
    - It is NEVER worth it to CHEAT people - and try and get a little EXTRA cash…

- Because eventually they are going to figure it out - and take their business elsewhere…
- And even if they do NOT know - GOD does - and He is NOT happy [abomination]

- 3rd - No Bartering… vs. 14
  - It is good for nothing cries the buyer. But when he has gone his way then he boasts!
  - The one who is buying - often says the item is really BAD [רַע רַע]
  - BUT [וְ] - the moment he walks away - he BOASTS how great a deal he got for it!
  - I was in Russia back in the early 90s and wanted to buy a chess set [souvenir]
  - I was haggling with the seller - and it came down to a couple of rubles…
  - He looked at me and said - what is that amount for you - to me it will feed my family!
  - There is nothing wrong with coming to a FAIR price…
  - But we cannot LIE - to try and barter the price down to get a better deal!
- 4th - No Loans… vs. 16
  - Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger.
  - And hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress!
  - If we give a LOAN - we MUST [imperative] take the COAT of a STRANGER [זוּר]
  - AND [וְ] - likewise some kind of a GUARANTEE if it is for a STRANGE woman [נָכְרִי]
  - We need to be VERY careful when it comes to lending MONEY…
  - Especially when it comes to UNBELIEVERS [strangers]
  - Because it might put us in awkward positions with unbelievers - **II Corinthians 6:14**
- 5th - No Lies… vs. 17
  - Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man - but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel!
  - People in the world have no PROBLEM [sweet] - LYING [שֶׁקֶר] to get what they want…
  - But what they MISS - is that in the END what they end up with ROCKS and not BREAD…
  - Because they are TRUSTING in themselves to provide - rather than the LORD!
  - When Jesus was in the WILDERNESS being TEMPTED by satan…
  - He told Jesus to turn STONES into BREAD - because satan could NOT - **Luke 4:3**
  - In contrast Jesus told us that our FATHER in heaven…
  - Would NOT give us STONES if we ask for BREAD - **Luke 11:11**
  - Because TRUE provision does NOT come from us - our crafty LIES - it ONLY comes from God!

- 6th - No Inheritance… vs. 21
  - An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end!
  - If someone is given [pual] an INHERITANCE when they are YOUNG…
  - It will NOT be a [pual] blessing [בָּרַךְ] in the END!
  - The PRODIGAL son got his inheritance from his father - **Luke 15:12**
  - But his FOOLISHLY spent all the money - and ended up in POVERTY!
  - The problem with an INHERITANCE - is that is seems like a SOLUTION…
  - People will WAIT - hoping for someone to DIE - so they can get their MONEY…
  - Because they have NOT yet learned that MONEY is solves nothing…
  - And MONEY that comes to easily - is likewise EASILY spent!
  - **Proverbs 13:11** - "Money that comes easily disappears quickly." [NCV]
- 7th - True Wealth… vs. 15
  - There is gold and a multitude of rubies - but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel!
  - There is a LOT [רֹב] of wealth [gold] in precious stones [rubies]
  - But [וְ] - the MOST valuable tool [כְּלִי] in life - is having the WORDS of TRUTH [דַּעַת]
  - Diamonds have great value - ONE karat can be worth up to ONE million pesos…
  - But the WORDS of TRUTH can give us far more - they can give us HEAVEN [streets of gold]
  - Therefore - we should treasure the WORD of God far above any worldly wealth!

- **3RD - WISE WORDS…**
  - 1st – No Drinking… vs. 1
    - Wine is a mocker. Strong drink is a brawler - and whoever is led astray by it is not wise!
    - Those who drink WINE - end up BOASTING [tipsy]
    - Those who drink HARD liquor - end up in FIGHTS [drunk]
    - Anyone [כָּל] who gets DECEIVED by them - is NOT [imperfect] wise!
    - The Bible does NOT say you cannot drink - it does say it is SIN to be drunk - **Ephesians 5:18**
    - Many people try and live by the POWER of alcohol - to get through the day...
    - Many drink to forget how terrible life is - but it makes you bitter in the end...
    - But the moment they sober up - the reality of their poor choice is there to greet them…
    - Because the alcohol has no power to change their lives!

- 2nd - No arguments… vs. 3
  - It is honorable for a man to stop striving since any fool can start a quarrel!
  - It is AMAZING [כָּבוֹד] when a man can STOP [שָׁבָת] a FIGHT - because any FOOL can START one…
  - FOOL [אֱוִיל] - someone who lives their life APART from God!
  - It takes NO effort to burst out in ANGER - be ruled by our emotions…
  - But it is a work of the HOLY spirit to control them…
  - Therefore the man who can control his words - shows the work of the SPIRIT in his life!
- 3rd - No Gossip… vs. 19
  - He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets.
  - Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips!
  - The person who is KNOWN [participle] as a GOSSIP [telling secrets]
  - Even if they say NICE things about us - are NOT [לֹא] to be TRUSTED [עָרַב]
  - There is an old saying - hurt me ONCE shame on you…
  - But if you hurt me TWICE - then shame on me [I should have known better]
  - We know Jesus can transform people - turn SINNERS into SAINTS…
  - But that does NOT mean we are IGNORANT - we need to be WISE - **Matthew 10:16**
  - If someone has a REPUTATION - until they have proven otherwise - use CAUTION!
- 4th - No Cursing… vs. 20
  - Whoever curses his father or his mother. His lamp will be put out in deep darkness!
  - Those who DESPISE [piel] their FATHER or MOTHER…
  - Will be put to DEATH - their lamp will be snuffed out - **Exodus 21:17**
  - Because the FIFTH of the TEN commandments was to HONOR our parents…
  - But the Bible does distinguish between TWO kinds of PARENTS [physical and spiritual]!
  - **Ephesians 6:1-2** - "Obey your parents in the Lord… [and] Honor your father and mother."
  - There have been a FEW of men in my life who have really had an impact...
  - My Father and my Pastor [Clark] - both have been instrumental in my life...
  - I am who I am in large part today because of the EXAMPLE they gave to me!
  - Not all of us have had PARENTS who love the LORD…
  - We are still to HONOR them - perhaps by our example they might get saved…

- And we are commanded to OBEY our [spiritual] parents that point us to the LORD!

- 5th - No Vengeance… vs. 22
  - Do not say - I will recompense evil. Wait for the LORD and He will save you!
  - Please [jussive] do NOT say that we want [cohortative] to bring [piel] VENGEANCE [שָׁלַם-רָע]
  - WAIT [imperative] for the LORD - and [וְ] He will [hiphil] deliver [יָשַׁע] us!
  - When we are HURT – we want JUSTICE – or better yet REVENGE…
  - If you take my eye – I want to take both of yours [and your ear and nose]
  - Therefore God is very clear – we are NEVER to seek JUSTICE – vengeance is His alone…
  - Because ONLY God can JUDGE fairly – giving out the VENGEANCE that is deserved!
  - **Romans 12:19** - "Do not avenge yourselves… Vengeance is Mine I will repay - says the Lord."
- 6th - No Vows… vs. 25
  - It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy - and afterward to reconsider his vows!
  - It is a TRAP for a man to [אָדָם] rashly DEDICATE [קֹדֶשׁ] something to the LORD…
  - Then AFTERWARDS stop and rethink the PROMISE he made to God…
  - Jephthah was the EIGHTH judge of Israel – **Judges 11:30-31**
  - He made a vow to the Lord before he went into battle against the Ammonites…
  - If God gave him victory - the FIRST thing out of his house - he would offer as a burnt offering!
  - When he returned home - his ONLY daughter ran out dancing to greet him!
  - Too often people speak - then take the time to think about what they said...
  - Better to think FIRST about what we are going to say - because God holds us to them...
  - Then have to REGRET our words - PROMISES we are wish we had not made!
  - **Proverbs 13:3** - "Those who speak rashly will come to ruin." [NIV]

- **4th - Wise Counsel…**
  - 1st – Deep water… vs. 5
    - Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water - but a man of understanding will draw it out!
    - The true MOTIVES [עֵצָה] of a man - lie DEEP in his heart [לֵב]
    - But someone who is WISE [תָּבוּן] - knows how to DRAW it out!
    - When I was in college - there was one student who believed in PURGATORY…
    - Everyone just ignored him - but I was curious…

- After spending some time with him - I found out his father had LEFT his family [affair]
- He still wanted his dad to go to HEAVEN - but he wanted to SUFFER for his sin!
- The TRUE motives of people are like water in a DEEP well…
- It does NOT come out easily - we need to INVEST time in their lives…
- Only then will we be able to find out what lies in their heart - and hopefully HELP them!

- 2nd - Wise War… vs. 18
  - Plans are established by counsel. By wise counsel wage war!
  - When we get GOOD advice [עֵצָה] - it confirms [niphal] our PLANS…
  - And ONLY when we get GOOD counsel [imperative] - should we agree to go to WAR!
  - Back in the early 2000s - the USA went to war with Iraq…
  - The pretext was because they were building NUCLEAR weapons [proven to be untrue]!
  - People will make all kinds of claims - what people said about us…
  - And our instinct might be to go and start a FIGHT - go to WAR…
  - But WISDOM is to VERIFY before we ATTACK - get good COUNSEL first!
- 3rd - Hidden way… vs. 24
  - A mans steps are of the LORD. How then can a man understand his own way?
  - The steps of a GODLY man [גֶּבֶר] are directed by the LORD [מֵיְהוָה]
  - But [וְ] - how is an UNSAVED man [אָדָם] supposed to know where to go!
  - ALL men have a PROBLEM - we cannot see TOMORROW…
  - Therefore we do NOT know for sure what the BEST way to go…
  - But those who have the LORD have an advantage…
  - We know the one who sees TOMORROW - and can direct our STEPS!
- 4th - The Heart… vs. 27
  - The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD searching all the inner depths of his heart!
  - The LIGHT of the LORD - is always searching [participle] the SPIRIT of a man [אָדָם]
  - It exposes even the DEEPEST secrets hidden in his heart!
  - I am VERY glad people cannot read minds…
  - There have been MANY times when what is in my head - should NEVER be said!
  - But NOTHING hidden from the LORD - every action - every word - **Proverbs 15:3**

- Even the THOUGHTS that are hidden in deep in our hearts…
- Because those THOUGHTS are important - they are where sin BEGINS - **James 1:14**
- Therefore we must check every THOUGHT that is contrary to Christ!
- **II Corinthians 10:5** - "Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

- **5TH - PATH OF WISDOM…**
  - 1st – The Problem… vs. 6/9/11-12
    - Not Good… vs. 6
      - Most men will proclaim each his own goodness - but who can find a faithful man?
      - MOST [רַב] people [אָדָם] will CLAIM they are GOOD [חֶסֶד]
      - But who can find a MAN who has FAITH [אֱמוּן]
      - Ask the average person on the street if they are GOOD or BAD…
      - The vast majority of them will answer GOOD - but they are WRONG - **Psalm 14:1**
      - People think they are GOOD because they compare themselves to others [their standard]
      - But the STANDARD of God is PERFECTION - which means NO one is good - **Matthew 5:48**
      - The only way to be GOOD - is to have FAITH in Jesus…
      - Because by FAITH we are FORGIVEN and SAVED from our SIN - **Ephesians 2:8**

    - Not Pure… vs. 9
      - Who can say -I have made my heart clean. I am pure from my sin?
      - Who can say [imperfect] they have a CLEANED [piel] their heart [לֵב]
      - Can anyone say they are PURE [perfect] and have NO sin!
      - When Hallel was young she used to like to write on her skin…
      - But one time she got a permanent maker - that we could not wash off!
      - This is the KEY problem in becoming a GOOD person…
      - We can do all the RIGHT things [required] - most of the time…
      - But what do we do about the WRONG things - all of us do some of the time…
      - SIN is like that permanent marker - it is a BLACK mark that will NOT go away!
    - The Proof… vs. 11-12
      - Even a child is known by his deeds - whether what he does is pure and right.
      - The hearing ear and the seeing eye - the LORD has made them both!
      - Even kids are KNOWN [hithpael] by what they DO…
      - The LORD has given us EARS to hear - and EYES to see…
      - All we have to do is look and listen - those who DO what is RIGHT are PURE!
      - If we ask a group of people to raise their hands if they are a GOOD person - all hands up…
      - Then we ask - who here has ever LIED [if they do not put their hand down - they are a liar]
      - We can also ask - who here has ever COVETED [every hand down] - **Romans 7:7**
      - Because that means it is NOT just about what we DO - but what we THINK!
      - If we are HONEST with ourselves - it is easy to SEE that we are NOT good…
      - But people do NOT want to admit it - because they FEAR the consequences!
      - **Romans 6:23** - "For the wages of sin is death!"
  - 2nd - The Solution… vs. 29-30
    - Learning… vs. 29

- The glory of young men is their strength - but the splendor of old men is their gray head!
- When we are YOUNG - we take pride in our STRENGTH…
- But [וְ] - when we get OLD [grey hair] we hopefully have learned…
- We are NOT strong enough to pay for our SIN on our own!

▪ Paying the debt… vs. 30

- Blows that hurt cleanse away evil - as do stripes the inner depths of the heart!
- The only way to cleanse [hiphil] EVIL - is by being BRUISED [חַבּוּרָה] and WOUNDED…
- It is through being BRUISED - we can have our heart CLEANED!
- This is NOT talking about us harming ourselves [self-flagellation]
- This is talking about what Jesus went through so we could be FORGIVEN…
- He paid a DEBT He did not owe [death] - because we owed a DEBT we could not pay!
- **Isaiah 53:5** - "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities - and by His stripes [חַבּוּרָה] we are healed."

○ 3rd - Blessed… vs. 7

▪ The righteous man walks in his integrity. His children are blessed after him!

▪ The man who LIVES the RIGHT [תֹּם] way - does so [hiphil] because he is RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק]

▪ And he sets an EXAMPLE for his children to follow - so they will ALSO be BLESSED…

▪ BLESSED - from the root verb [אָשַׁר] - to walk the STRAIGHT path!

▪ Being RIGHTEOUS is not something we DO - it is what God does…

▪ He makes us RIGHTEOUS - then we will become a GOOD person…

▪ And that blessing is NOT just for us - we get to pass it onto the NEXT generation!