PROVERBS 17

- **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!

Wise instructions…

- **1st – Wise House… vs. 1-6**
  - 1st – Peaceful house… vs. 1
    - Better is a dry morsel with quietness - than a house full of feasting with strife!
    - It is BETTER [טוֹב] to eat leftover [dry] bread crusts [tasteless] - in PEACE [שָׁלְוָה]
    - Then to be in a house FULL of SACRIFICES [זֶבַח] - but have FIGHTING!
    - The contrast is meant to show us what is really IMPORTANT in life…
    - We can have all the MONEY - a house filled with every kind of FOOD…
    - We can even have a very RELIGIOUS [sacrifices] home - but if there is NO peace…
    - Then it is NOT the kind of home we want to live in…
    - So how can we have a house filled with PEACE - just invite Him in!
    - **Ephesians 2:14** - "For [Jesus] Himself is our peace."
  - 2nd - Honorable house… vs. 2
    - A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame.
    - And will share an inheritance among the brothers!
    - WORKERS [עֶבֶד] are not the same as FAMILY…
    - But a WISE worker will be given RESPONSIBILITY - before a SON that causes [hiphil] shame…
    - The WORKER will end up being ADOPTED by the FAMILY because he is trustworthy…
    - He will end up sharing [imperfect] in the inheritance with the BROTHERS!
    - **John 15:15** – "No longer do I call you SERVANTS - for a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you FRIENDS - for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."
    - God can TELL us what to do - He is the BOSS and we are the WORKERS…
    - But if we are WISE - and live our lives for the LORD - we become FRIENDS…
    - The results is we get to share in the INHERITANCE of the KINGDOM of God…
    - But do NOT miss what we are given - all that Jesus HEARD [the word] from the Father…
    - Because the GREATEST treasure is NOT money - it is the TRUTH!
  - 3rd - Honorable women… vs. 3-4

- The Motive… vs. 3
  - The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold - but the LORD tests the hearts!
  - People use CRUCIBLES to refine SILVER - and HOT furnaces to refine GOLD…
  - BUT [וְ] - ONLY the LORD [יְהוָה] knows how to TEST the hearts of WOMEN [לִבּוֹת]!
  - Solomon seems uniquely qualified to make this statement…
  - He had 1000 opportunities [wives] to know the MOTIVE of the heart of a woman…
  - His conclusion - he had NO idea what they were thinking - but the Lord did!

- The Test…
  - The LORD allows us to go through various TRIALS - **I Peter 1:6**
  - TRIALS [πειρασμός] – maybe something that comes from – is allowed by – the LORD…
  - TEMPTATIONS [πειρασμός] – alternative translation – something from the world or satan…
  - To TEST [δοκίμιον] our faith - which is far more valuable than GOLD - **I Peter 1:6**
  - WHY do we go to church - are we looking for Jesus - or what we can get from Jesus…
  - Jesus puts us in the fiery TRIAL to TEST our FAITH - see what our MOTIVES are…
  - He ALREADY knows - but He wants us to SEE what is in our HEARTS!
- Bad example… vs. 4
  - An evildoer gives heed to false lips. A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue!
  - Why was it so important for Solomon to know the MOTIVES of women…
  - He wanted to know if they were TRUSTWORTHY to listen to…
  - Because if HE [masculine] was always listening [hiphil] to EVIL lips [feminine]
  - It would cause [hiphil] HIM to do EVIL - make him a LIAR [wise man with no wisdom]
  - Sadly - it was the many WIVES of Solomon who turned his heart from God - **I Kings 11:4**
  - This is a POWERFUL warning to be careful who we MARRY - **II Corinthians 6:14**
  - And equally a warning to be careful to who LISTEN to for advice…
  - We are going to become like those who spend the most time with!
  - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "Bad company corrupts good character." [NLT]

- 4th - Kind house… vs. 5
  - He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker. He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished!
  - Anyone who LAUGHS at those who are in NEED - insults [piel] the one who made him…
  - Because God created us all equally - none of us are BETTER than another - **Romans 2:11**
  - Therefore anyone who celebrates the misfortune of others - will be [niphal] PUNISHED!
  - When I was in India [caste system] - BRAHMINS [5%] thought they DESERVED their blessings…
  - And looked down on the untouchable DALITS [25%] with distain…
  - Justifying their blessings or suffering - were a result of a former life [reincarnation]!
  - We have nothing that we have not been given – so all the credit goes to God - **I Corinthians 4:7**
  - And if we have NOTHING - then what we have is the LORD!
  - **James 2:5** – "Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith."

- 5th - Rich house… 6
  - Children's children are the crown of old men - and the glory of children is their father!
  - The BEST thing a man can be given when he gets OLD - is GRANDCHILDREN…
  - And the JOY of the children - is to have a GODLY dad!
  - People waste their whole lives chasing after a SHADOW - after WIND [riches - beauty]
  - And too many come to the end of their lives EMPTY…
  - NO one has ever said in the end - I wish I had more money or to be beautiful…
  - The one thing that matters most is PEOPLE - they are the only thing we can take to HEAVEN!

- **2ND - WISE REBUKE… VS. 7-16**
  - 1st – Lying lips… vs. 7
    - Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool - much less lying lips to a prince!
    - An ABUNDANCE [יֶתֶר] of words does NOT help out a FOOL…
    - The more he says the more obvious it is that he is a FOOL…
    - In the same way POLITICIANS [prince] are made known by their LIES!
    - I find it somewhat comforting that while times change - people do NOT…
    - Politicians have always by long winded - they make LOTS of promises…
    - But in the end they are best known for what they are - LIARS…
    - Because God never intended governments - or men - to be the answer!
  - 2nd - Bribes… vs. 8
    - A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor. Wherever he turns he prospers!
    - A BRIBE is like a diamond [gem] in the eyes of ungodly MEN…
    - Men [בַּעַל] - used to describe false gods - and those who worship them…
    - They think wherever [כָּל] they go - it will cause [hiphil] them to be RICH [שָׂכַל]
    - The problem with BRIBES is they put our FAITH in corrupt and wicked MEN…
    - Thinking that somehow we can CHEAT - and come out ahead…
    - While that may work for a moment - it is a short term victory…
    - Because God will NEVER bless those who give or take BRIBES - **Exodus 23:8**
  - 3rd - Gossip… vs. 9
    - He who covers a transgression seeks love - but he who repeats a matter separates friends!

- The person who TRIES [piel] to hide the mistakes of others - shows [piel] his LOVE…
- BUT [וְ] - the one who GOSSIPS [repeats what he heard] - separates [hiphil] friends!
- We would NOT put water into a bucket that had holes [it leaks]
- In the same way we do not share our HEART with those who tell others [they leak]
- People who know how to keep personal things SECRET - will be loved by their friends…
- Those who rush out to share those SECRETS - will have NO friends!

- 4th - Need to rebuke… vs. 10-13
  - Correction… vs. 10
    - Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool!
    - If a person is WISE - they will receive [נָחַת] a REBUKE…
    - But a FOOL can be beaten a HUNDRED times - and still not understand why!
    - No one likes to be REBUKED - but all of us need it [some of us more than others]
    - But do NOT miss the point - God will KEEP on trying to teach us a lesson…
    - If it takes a HUNDRED times of repeating the BEATING - He will do it - **Hebrews 12:6**
    - The question is how many times does it take for us to learn!
  - The hard way… vs. 11
    - An evil man seeks only rebellion. Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him!
    - Choosing to continually [piel] REBEL against the LORD - makes someone an EVIL person…
    - BUT [וְ] - God will SEND [pual] to them a CRUEL angel [מַלְאָךְ]
    - Not because God wants to HARM them - but to HUMBLE them!
    - For the LORD - there is NO price too high to pay to get our attention…
    - He is willing to take away all of our MONEY - our HEALTH - our FAMILY [Job]
    - God can be appear very CRUEL - if that is what it takes to get us to REPENT!
  - Avoid the fool… vs. 12-13
    - Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs - rather than a fool in his folly.
    - Whoever rewards evil for good - evil will not depart from his house!
    - It would be BETTER to run into a BEAR who lost her cubs [deadly violent]
    - Than to have run into a FOOL in the midst of his FOLLY…
    - Because those who return EVIL for GOOD - will never have EVIL leave their house!
    - Korah rebelled against the leadership of Moses - and 250 princes stood with him…
    - When the earth opened and swallowed him - the princes also fell in - **Numbers 16:32**
    - Bears are on average FIVE to SIX times the strength of a full grown man…
    - They are HIGHLY protective - and will HUNT and KILL anything that endangers their young…
    - But those who CHOSE to REBEL against the LORD - refuse to LISTEN to Him…
    - FOOLS who no matter how many times God corrects them - will NOT learn…
    - Are far more dangerous to be around than a BEAR cub - because God is HUNTING them…
    - Therefore do not get too close - be careful who to stand next too!

- 5th - Avoid fights… vs. 14
  - The beginning of strife is like releasing water. Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts!

- Once you open up a DAM - there is no stopping the water…
- THEREFORE [וְ] - the moment we are tempted to start an ARGUMENT - STOP [imperative]!
- I saw a video where some kids dug a small trench from a river into the sea…
- Withing minutes what began as a small tickle - became a RAGING rapid!
- It is easy to START and argument - it is almost impossible to STOP one…
- So the wisdom is to cut it off before it even begins!

- 6th - Condemn evil… vs. 15
  - He who justifies the wicked - and he who condemns the just.
  - Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD!
  - The one who says that the WICKED [רָשָׁע] are RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק]
  - AND [וְ] - also says that the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] are WICKED [רָשָׁע]
  - BOTH ways are an ABOMINATION to the LORD!
  - All we hear about today is ABORTION rights - HOMOSEXUAL rights - TRANSGENDER rights…
  - And anyone who questions there RIGHTS - is painted as an EVIL person!
  - We live in a world that celebrates PERVERSE and WICKED things…
  - They want to make EVIL seem like it is GOOD – and make GOOD seem EVIL – **Isaiah 5:20**
  - And the only way we will be able to stand against them – is with the WISDOM of God!
- 7th - Priceless Wisdom… vs. 16
  - Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom since he has no heart for it?
  - There is NO amount of EDUCATION that can make a FOOL become WISE…
  - He might have the TUITION in his hand - enough money to pay for a degree…
  - But since his HEART [לֵב] is NOT in it - he will NEVER [אֵין] learn!
  - WISDOM does not come from a COLLEGE degree - or a DIPLOMA - **Romans 1:22**
  - There is NO amount of money that can CHANGE the heart…
  - The ONLY way to become WISE - it to realize we are NOT…
  - Then in HUMILITY we will come to the only one who can give WISDOM to us!

- **3RD - WISE SOLUTIONS… VS. 17-21**
  - 1st – Family problems… vs. 17
    - A friend loves at all times - and a brother is born for adversity!

- The [הָ] FRIEND - is Jesus who LOVES us ALL [כָּל] the time - **Hebrews 13:5**
- BUT [וְ] a BROTHER [אָח] is BORN [niphal] in times of NEED!
- When life is easy - it seems like we have LOTS of friends…
- But it is only when life falls apart - we can see who really cares for us!
- We use the term FRIEND very casually - referring to people who are just acquaintances…
- Yet the BIBLICAL definition of a FRIEND - is someone who is ALWAYS there for us…
- And the ONLY person who will ALWAYS be a FRIEND to us is Jesus…
- But He does give us BROTHERS [and sisters] who also LOVE us…
- They are NOT necessarily family - they are BORN when we have TRIALS…
- We know who they are because no matter what happens - they stand with us!

o 2nd - Financial problems… vs. 18

- A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge - and becomes surety for his friend!
- Only a godless MAN [אָדָם] - who has no HEART [לֵב]
- Is willing to give a LOAN - or guarantee the DEBT of a FRIEND!
- We need to be VERY careful when it comes to lending MONEY…
- Especially when it comes to FRIENDS - or FAMILY…
- Because MONEY is easy to give away - but VERY hard to collect [ruins friendships]

o 3rd - Pride problems… vs. 19

- He who loves transgression loves strife - and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction!
- Those who LOVE to REBEL [sin] - will end up in a FIGHT [with God]
- Because they are ARROGANT - they open [hiphil] the door [piel] to being BROKEN [שָׁבַר]!
- One of my favorite questions people ask is: WHY is this happening to me…
- Yet they are living a SINFUL life that is FAR from God - they are REBELLING!
- When we DISOBEY God - REBEL against the LORD - we are picking a FIGHT…
- We OPEN the door for God to come and CORRECT us…
- We are ASKING [piel] for God to BREAK us - so He can then give us His GRACE!
- **I Peter 5:5** - "God [does go war with] the proud - but gives grace to the humble."

o 4th - Lying problems… vs. 20

- He who has a deceitful heart finds no good - and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil!

- Someone who has a PERVERTED heart - will NEVER [imperfect] find GOOD [טוֹב]
- AND [וְ] the person with a LYING tongue will ALWAYS [imperfect] fall into EVIL…
- These two statements are CONNECTED [וְ] - giving us CAUSE and EFFECT…
- It is SIN in the HEART - that keeps people from coming to Jesus [good] - **John 3:19**
- And because there is NO good in their heart - they are full of LIES that show they are EVIL!
- While we cannot see the HEART - we do NOT know the MOTIVE…
- We can see if what people SAY - their mouth is a window into their soul…
- If we want to KNOW who someone is - listen to what they WORDS!
- **Matthew 12:34** - "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

○ 5th - Parenting problems… vs. 21

- He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow - and the father of a fool has no joy!
- Any FATHER who raises a child without teaching them the WORD [scoffer]
- [וְ] Chooses to make his child a FOOL [נָבָל] - someone who does NOT know Jesus…
- As a RESULT that father will have SORROW and no JOY!
- The world teaches us that the responsibility of DADS is to PROVIDE for their families…
- And that we are to TEACH our kids to get a good education - work hard!
- BUT that is NOT what the Bible tells us…
- The LORD is the one who provides for the family [though we have to work] - **Genesis 3:17**
- The responsibility of Dads is to TEACH their kids about Jesus - **Ephesians 6:4**
- Because the SADDEST thing would be for our kids to NOT be with us in HEAVEN!

● **4TH - GOOD WISDOM… VS. 22-28**

○ 1st – Good Medicine… vs. 22

- A merry heart does good like medicine - but a broken spirit dries the bones!
- HAPPINESS is like GOOD [hiphil] medicine for the heart [לֵב]
- [וְ] BUT - a BROKEN spirit [רוּחַ] will suck the life out of a person [dry bones]!
- STRESS is one of the most common - and deadly - problems we all face in life…
- It can affect our ATTITUDE - our EMOTIONS - and our HEALTH…
- Is it no wonder there is an old saying that the best medicine is laughter!

- If we stop and think about it - what do we have to STRESS about…
- We CANNOT change the past - and we have NO control over the future…
- The wisdom is to realize God FORGIVES our mistakes - and He is SOVEREIGN over tomorrow…
- So when we feel that anxiety building up - just LAUGH - because God is still on His THRONE!
- **Philippians 4:6** - "Be anxious for nothing… but pray about everything."

o 2nd - Good perspective… vs. 23-24

- A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.
- Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding.
- But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth!
- The WICKED [רָשָׁע] are always [imperfect] willing to take SECRET bribes…
- Because while the one who has WISDOM - knows it is WRONG…
- The FOOL only sees what is here on [ends] this EARTH!
- Republic act 3019 makes it a CRIME to accept BRIBES…
- More importantly - the Bible says it is a SIN - **Exodus 23:8**
- Though EVERYONE [world and the Word] knows BRIBES are wrong - they are common…
- Because BRIBES seem like a good idea - if people think NO one will ever know…
- They FOOLISHLY only consider the consequences here on earth…
- But the WISE man knows that NOTHING is hidden from the LORD - **Hebrews 4:13**

o 3rd - Good parenting… vs. 25-26

- A foolish son is a grief to his father - and bitterness to her who bore him.
- Also to punish the righteous is not good - nor to strike princes for their uprightness!
- There are THREE words commonly translated as FOOL…
- [כְּסִיל] - the person whose heart does NOT want to learn about God…
- [נָבָל] - becomes the person who does NOT know the LORD…
- [אֱוִיל] - is the person who lives in such a way it is obvious they are far from Jesus…
- Why would a CHILD not want to LEARN about the LORD - making them a FOOL…
- [גַּם] - if a FATHER punishes his CHILD for doing what is RIGHT [צַדִּיק]
- When a father attacks leaders [princes] who are doing what is RIGHT [יֹשֶׁר]!

- **Ephesians 6:4** - "Fathers do not provoke your children to wrath."
- If someone puts up a sign that says wet PAINT - do NOT touch…
- Even though we NEVER thought about touching it before - now we want to!
- The moment we are given a LAW [rule] - we want to disobey it…
- Because we are sinners – and the LAW stirs up our sinful nature…
- Yet often DADS want to lay down the LAW for their children…
- Tell them what to DO and what NOT to do – but that does NOT change their heart...
- By laying down the LAW we provoke our children - inspire them to REBEL against God…
- Making them bitter towards God - and that makes them a FOOL…
- Children do not need the LAW - they need to have a relationship with Jesus!

o 4th - Good silence… vs. 27-28

- He who has knowledge spares his words - and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.
- Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace.
- When he shuts his lips he is considered perceptive!
- The person who HOLDS back his words - KNOWS [יָדַע] how powerful they are…
- He is a man who has a COOL spirit [וקר־רוּחַ] - NOT ruled by his emotion…
- [גַּם] - Even a FOOL [אֱוִיל] - someone who lives a godless life…
- Can even be counted [niphal] as WISE if he does NOT speak…
- If he can SHUT his mouth - people will think he is SMART!
- It has been well said that God wisely designed us with TWO ears and ONE mouth…
- Because we should be listening at least TWICE as much as we are talking…
- The problem is that often open our MOUTHS – when we should be opening our EARS!
- Do not throw out words carelessly - it ends up costing us dearly…
- Better to think first about what we are going to say - the consequence of our words...
- It is easy to say something - it is almost impossible to take our words back!
- **James 1:19** - "You must all be quick to listen - slow to speak - and slow to get angry."