PROVERBS 19

- **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!

Choosing Wisdom…

- **1st – Finding Wisdom… vs. 1-9**
  - 1st – Rejecting God… vs. 1-3
    - Poor… vs. 1
      - Better is the poor who walks in integrity - than one who is perverse in his lips and is a fool!
      - It is GOOD [טָוֹב] to be poor - is a statement the world would NEVER say…
      - But if someone is POOR - yet continually walks [participle] with the LORD [integrity]
      - That is a LOT better than walking away from God [perverse] - and becoming a FOOL [כְּסִיל]!
      - God can do ANYTHING - so why does He NOT just make everyone RICH…
      - FIRST - if everyone was RICH - then no one would be RICH [comparatively]
      - But the problem with WEALTH - is it tends to make men FOOLS [not care about God]
      - And life is NOT about the short time we have here on earth - it is about a CHOICE…
      - Where do we spent eternity - therefore it is GOOD to be POOR!
      - **James 2:5** - "Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith."
    - Not good… vs. 2
      - Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge - and he sins who hastens with his feet!
      - ALSO [גַּם] - connecting this to the previous PROVERB…
      - If a person [soul] does NOT know [יָדַע] God - they will NOT be GOOD [טָוֹב]
      - We will KNOW they do NOT know God - because they will RUN [participle] towards SIN!
      - People are NOT sinners because they SIN - they SIN because they are SINNERS…
      - They CANNOT stop themselves - they RUN towards SIN - and God is NOT there to stop them…
      - The ONLY way to be FREE from SIN - is by KNOWING Jesus!
      - **Romans 6:18** - "[Though Christ we have] been set free from sin."
    - Angry… vs. 3
      - The foolishness of a man twists his way - but his heart frets against the LORD!
      - The UNBELIEVER [אָדָם] lives FOOLISHLY [אֱוִיל] - and it RUINS [piel] his life…
      - [וְ] BUT - rather than recognizing it is their FAULT…
      - Their heart [לֵב] is filled [imperfect] with ANGER towards the LORD!
      - When God asked Adam what he had done he blamed God - the women YOU gave me…
      - When God asked Eve she blamed God – it was the serpent HE made - **Genesis 3:12**
      - The world does NOT like to think about God - they want to live their life THEIR way…
      - But when their life then falls apart [piel] - they want to BLAME God…
      - They refuse to admit they are suffering from our own POOR decisions - SINFUL choices...
      - God is trying to get their attention - but rather than listening - they get ANGRY…
      - And rather than run to the answer - they move farther away!
  - 2nd - True Friend…vs. 4, 6-7
    - Many friends… vs. 4
      - Wealth makes many friends - but the poor is separated from his friend!
      - MONEY makes [hiphil] the RICH a LOT [רַב] of FRIENDS [רֵעַ]
      - [וְ] BUT - POVERTY drives [niphal] FRIENDS [רֵעַ] away!

- This seems to be an OBVIOUS statement - RICH people have more FRIENDS…
- And those who are POOR - tend to stand alone…
- But we need to ask the MOTIVE - why do people want to be the FRIEND of the RICH!

▪ Many Gifts… vs. 6

- Many entreat the favor of the nobility - and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts!
- A LOT [רַב] of people will come to meet a POLITICIAN…
- Because they assume the POLITICIAN [price] can give them something…
- And EVERYONE [כָּל] is the FRIEND [הֵרֵעַ] of a person who gives them GIFTS!
- When I was in Nepal - there were little LEACHES that lived in the grass…
- Inevitably as you walked around - they would find a way to latch onto you!
- The key word in this PROVERB is FRIEND [רֵעַ] - which can mean acquaintance…
- Because those who ONLY come around because of what they can get - are NOT true friends…
- The RICH tend to have a LOT of LEACHES - people who come to suck the life out of them…
- The POOR may not have LEACHES - but their FRIENDS are REAL!

▪ True Friend… vs. 7

- All the brothers of the poor hate him. How much more do his friends go far from him!
- He may pursue them with words - yet they abandon him!
- All [כָּל] of the relatives of the POOR hate them [they always needs something]
- How much more their FRIENDS will also stay FAR away from them…
- Even if they PLEADS [piel] with them for help - they will NOT [לֹא] listen!
- Solomon no doubt had a LOT of leaches - people who wanted his MONEY…
- His family was more tragic [executed Adonijah for trying to steal the throne] - **I Kings 2:24**
- Just because someone is FAMILY - does not make them a FRIEND…
- People who come around from what they can get - are NOT friends…
- TRUE friends are one of the greatest treasures we will ever get in this life!

○ 3rd - Best Friend… vs. 5, 8-9

▪ Liars… vs. 5/9

- A false witness will not go unpunished - and he who speaks lies will not escape.
- A false witness will not go unpunished - and he who speaks lies shall perish!
- HYPOCRITES [false witness] - who have ulterior motives - are NOT [לֹא] innocent…
- [וְ] AND - they will NOT [לֹא] escape - because those MOTIVES make [hiphil] them a LIAR…
- What is the PUNISHMENT - they will be DESTROYED [אָבַד] - OT word for HELL [אֲבַדּוֹן]!
- This may well tie into Solomon regretting having so many FALSE friends…
- Those who SAID they were TRUE - but LIED - and were there with SELFISH motives!
- When we think of BAD sins - being a LIAR is not at the top of the list…
- But being betrayed by someone who said they were a FRIEND - hurts…
- Is it no wonder why LYING is a SIN - one that men will be JUDGED for!
- **Revelation 21:8** - "All LIARS shall have their part in the lake [of] fire."

▪ Love… vs. 8

- He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding will find good!
- The person who gets a [new] HEART [לֵב] - is someone who LOVES his soul…
- As they continue [participle] to LEARN - they will find [infinitive] GOOD [טוֹב]!

- It is easy to look at the world around us - lying people with SELFISH motives - and JUDGE…
- But if we are HONEST - and look at our own lives - we are NO better…

- The answer is NOT for us to find better people - it is to get a NEW heart - **Ezekiel 36:26**
- When we get a NEW heart - we will then FIND the BEST [טָוֹב] friend - Jesus!
- **Proverbs 18:24** - "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

- **2ND - CHOOSING WISDOM… VS. 10-21**
  - 1st – Wise Wealth… vs. 10 / 14-17 / 24
    - Not right… vs. 10
      - Luxury is not fitting for a fool. Much less for a servant to rule over princes!
      - It is WRONG for a FOOL [כְּסִיל] to have an EASY life [wealthy]
      - Even MORE so [אַף] it is WRONG for a slave to RULE over his master!
      - Those who REJECT God [fool] - should NOT have a blessed life…
      - That does NOT mean they do NOT have wealth - but it should NOT happen…
      - Because it reinforces the thought - they [servant] do NOT need God [master]
      - When it is NOT God who need us - we are the ones who need God!
    - From the Lord… vs. 14
      - Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers - but a prudent wife is from the LORD!
      - Fathers can give MONEY and HOUSES to their sons [inheritance]
      - [וְ] BUT - only God can give them a GOOD [wise] wife!
      - We can give our kids and inheritance of MONEY - PROPERTY…
      - But choosing who they spend their life with [more important] - we CANNOT give them!
      - No amount of EDUCATION - no amount of MONEY - makes for a blessed life…
      - The MOST important things - ONLY come from the LORD!
      - **James 1:17** - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."
    - Hunger… vs. 15/24
      - Laziness casts one into a deep sleep - and an idle person will suffer hunger.
      - A lazy man buries his hand in [his armpit] - and will not so much as bring it to his mouth!
      - The LAZY [noun] - meaning this DEFINES their life…
      - Being LAZY causes [hiphil] a person to NEVER get any WORK done [deep sleep]
      - Their lack of WORK means they have no MONEY - but they are still [imperfect] HUNGRY…
      - Yet they are so LAZY they stick their hands in the armpits - and expect others to FEED them!
      - When God made Adam - he was commanded to WORK in the Garden - **Genesis 2:15**
      - WORK has ALWAYS been part of the plan of God for our lives…
      - The CURSE - is that when we WORK - it will NOT provide [thorns] - **Genesis 3:18**
      - Therefore - God promises to provide for us - give us food to eat - **Matthew 6:26**
      - And God can miraculously provide [manna] from heaven – when there is a NEED...
      - But that does not mean we get to sit down and wait [lazy] for the feast to arrive...
      - God commands us to WORK - then He will provide food on the table!
      - **II Thessalonians 3:10** - "If anyone will not work - neither shall he eat."
    - Generous… vs. 17
      - He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD - and He will pay back what he has given!
      - Those who want to GIVE to the LORD - give GRACE [חָנַן] to those who are POOR…
      - [וְ] AND - the LORD will give back to us what we have given [grace]!
      - We usually hear about TITHES to a church - as GIVING to the LORD…
      - But one of the BEST ways to GIVE to God - is to bless those who are POOR!
      - **Matthew 25:40** - "Inasmuch as you [helped] the least of these My brethren you did it to Me."
  - 2nd - Wise Emotion… vs. 11-12/19

- Forgiveness… vs. 11
  - The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger. His glory is to overlook a transgression!
  - The WISDOM [שֵׂכֶל] of a man [אָדָם] - causes [hiphil] him to be SLOW to anger…
  - They are RESPECTED [glory] because they overlook the SINS [פֶּשַׁע] of others!
  - If we focus on what how others have DONE to us – we become ANGRY...
  - But our problem is we are looking in the wrong direction...
  - When we consider all that Jesus has forgiven us – EVERYTHING…
  - How could we not FORGIVE someone what little they have done to us!
  - **Matthew 5:14** - "If [we] forgive men their trespasses - [we] …will be forgiven!"
- Humility… vs. 12
  - The kings wrath is like the roaring of a lion - but his favor is like dew on the grass!
  - When a LION roars - it is saying it is in CHARGE [challenge it to your own peril]
  - The RAGE of a King [מֶלֶךְ] - is his way of saying do NOT challenge him [at our own peril]
  - But the ACCEPTANCE [רָצוֹן] of a King [מֶלֶךְ] - brings LIFE [dew on the grass]!
  - God has put people in AUTHORITY [מֶלֶךְ] over our lives - **Romans 13:1**
  - To teach us HUMILITY - to submit to those who can BLESS or CURSE us…
  - So that we LEARN to by HUMBLE before the ULTIMATE authority - God…
  - Because the last thing anyone wants - is to hear Him ROAR - **Hebrews 10:31**
- Punishment… vs. 19
  - A man of great wrath will suffer punishment. If you rescue him you will have to do it again!
  - Some who gets REALLY angry - needs to be PUNISHED [עָנַשׁ]
  - Because [כִּי] if he is NOT - it will cause [hiphil] him to keep doing the same thing!
  - In the days of king Jehoahaz - Judah was very REBELLIOUS against the LORD…
  - So the LORD allowed Pharaoh Necho to conquer them - and PUNISH [עָנַשׁ] them!
  - People who are unwilling to SUBMIT to the LORD…
  - Will end up being PUNISHED by the LORD - He will let our lives fall apart…
  - Because He wants us to LEARN to obey Him - before it is too late!
  - **Hebrews 12:6** - "The Lord disciplines those he loves." [NLT]

○ 3rd - Wise Father… vs. 13/18

- Broken home… vs. 13
  - A foolish son is the ruin of his father - and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping!
  - A SON who does not want God [fool] - will be the RUIN of his father…
  - And a WIFE who always argues - is worse than a BROKEN faucet!
  - Men have been taught a LIE all of their lives - they must PROVIDE for their families…
  - But there is NOT one verse in the Bible that says that - **I Timothy 5:8** [is for widows]
  - Instead the Bible gives TWO commands - fathers TEACH their children - **Ephesians 6:4**
  - And husbands are to LOVE their wives - **Ephesians 5:25**
  - Because MEN are listening to the WORLD rather than the WORD…
  - They have BROKEN families - with FOOLISH children - and BITTER wives!
- Blessed home… vs. 18
  - Chasten your son while there is hope - and do not set your heart on his destruction!
  - A father MUST [imperative] discipline [piel] his kids while there is still HOPE…
  - Please [jussive] do NOT just accept that they will DIE [spiritually]!
  - Kids need to learn consequences - and DADS are the ones to teach them…
  - We are only given a FEW years - the time goes by FAST…

- Do NOT miss the opportunity to point them the LORD!
- **Proverbs 22:15** – "Sin is bound up in the heart of a child. The rod will drive it far from him."
- **Proverbs 23:13** – "Do NOT fail to correct your kids. They will NOT die if you spank them."

○ 4th - Wise God… vs. 16, 20-21

▪ Commandment… vs. 16

- He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul - but he who is careless of his ways will die!
- Anyone who HOLDS to the COMMAND [singular] of God - HOLDS onto their SOUL…
- [וְ] BUT - the one who is DESPISES the WAY - will DIE [spiritually]!
- There are 613 COMMANDS in the LAW – 248 positive – and 365 negative…
- Jesus was asked which COMMAND was the GREATEST – **Matthew 22:36-39**
- FIRST - LOVE the LORD with all your heart – soul – mind – **Deuteronomy 6:5**
- SECOND – LOVE your neighbor as yourself – **Leviticus 19:18**
- **Matthew 22:40** – "On these TWO commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
- Anyone who LOVES the LORD above all else - will also LOVE others - and LIVE…
- But the person who LOVES only themselves - will DIE!

▪ Wise Counsel… vs. 20

- Listen to counsel and receive instruction - that you may be wise in your latter days.
- We MUST [imperative] being willing to take the ADVICE of others…
- [וְ] AND - also receive [imperative] discipline when we make mistakes…
- So that we might become WISE in the END!
- When Paul had a VISION of man from Macedonia [Greece] - **Acts 16:9**
- He consulted with his friends [Timothy - Silas] - to decide if the vision was from the Lord!
- If we make DECISIONS without asking for ADVICE - it will often NOT end well…
- There is WISDOM in getting input from MULTIPLE people we trust…
- They may have EXPERIENCE - or INSIGHT - that we lack that can help GUIDE us!
- **Proverbs 11:14** - "In the multitude of counselors there is safety."

▪ Godly Counsel… vs. 21

- There are many plans in a mans heart. Nevertheless the counsel of the LORD will stand!
- People have LOTS of ideas - the have MANY opinions…
- [וְ] BUT - only the ideas of the LORD will for sure STAND!
- When I was in Bible college – I was given the opportunity to go Russia…
- I asked to TWO godliest men I knew – my Pastor and Father – looking for a SIGN…
- They both came back with a WORD from the LORD…
- My Pastor told me I was NOT to go – while my father told me a WAS to go!
- While there is WISDOM in getting counsel from others…
- In the end we do NOT trust in the wisdom of MEN - our ANCHOR is the WORD of God!
- **Hebrews 6:19** - "This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls."

- **3RD - BLESSINGS FROM WISDOM… VS. 22-29**

○ 1st – Blessed life… vs. 22-23

▪ Greed… vs. 22

- What is desired in a man is kindness - and a poor man is better than a liar!
- CONTRANYMS - are words with opposite meanings depending on CONTEXT…
- The light switch was turned OFF [not on] - the alarm went OFF [is on]!
- [248 - [חֶסֶד]x in OT - almost always translated as MERCY or KINDNESS…
- Yet in the context here it seems to take on its OPPOSITE meaning - SHAME…

- What a man [אָדָם] COVETS - will cause him to be put to SHAME [חָסַד]
- [וְ] BUT - it is better to be POOR than to live a LIE [deceived]!

- Over P42 TRILLION was spent on ADVERTISING in 2023…
- That breaks down to almost P5000 for every person on EARTH!
- The WORLD lies [deceives] to us - and tries to tell us THINGS will make us happy…
- But THINGS will NEVER make us happy - the more we have the more we want!
- **Hebrews 13:5** - "Be content with such things as you have."

▪ Contentment… vs. 23

- The fear of the LORD leads to life - and he who has it will abide in satisfaction.
- He will not be visited with evil!
- The FEAR the LORD is what gives us a BLESSED life [לְחַיִּים]
- Those who ABIDE in Him - will be SATISFIED [contrast to covet]
- Rather than being put to SHAME - nothing BAD [niphal] will happen to them!
- You can buy a watch for P500 - but a ROLEX will cost almost half a MILLION…
- Not because it is worth a THOUSAND times as much - it is a STATUS symbol…
- But the Graff Diamonds watch will set you back a staggering - P3 BILLION!
- The RICHEST man in the world is not the one with the MOST money…
- Because no matter how much they have - they still want MORE…
- But the person who ABIDES in the LORD - has everything that matters!
- **Ephesians 1:3** - "Who has blessed [past tense] us with every spiritual blessing."

○ 2nd - Blessed Son… vs. 25-27

▪ Correction… vs. 25

- Strike a scoffer and the simple will become wary.
- Rebuke one who has understanding and he will discern knowledge!
- If we PUNISH [strike] a MOCKER - those who are naïve will NOT follow them…
- If we REBUKE those who are WISE - they will only become WISER!
- Children are born SINNERS [that is why we spank them when they are born]
- They are NOT going to becoming GODLY by ACCIDENT…
- If we PUNISH [spank] a REBELLIOUS child - it teaches them [and their siblings] consequences
- If we take the time to INSTRUCT a child - they will grow wiser!

▪ Shame… vs. 26

- He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother.
- Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach!
- A son who HITS [piel] his father - will cause [hiphil] his mother to leave…
- Bringing [hiphil] SHAME and DISHONOR to the whole family!
- An out of control child - can come from TWO places…
- Either a FATHER who has NOT trained them when they were young…
- Or a REBELLIOUS youth [adult] who has rejected the LORD!

▪ Blessing… vs. 27

- Cease listening to instruction my son - and you will stray from the words of knowledge!
- Let us reword this so that is it in the POSITIVE - rather than NEGATIVE…
- STOP and LISTEN to correction - then you will not WALK away from words of TRUTH!
- I had an AMAZING Godly father - who told me about and showed me Jesus in his life…
- But that did NOT keep me from REBELLING - I had to make my own CHOICE!

- Once a FATHER has CORRECTS - TEACHES his kids about God - they still have to CHOOSE…
- And One of the hardest things for a parent to do - is NOTHING…
- Having to sit back and watch their children make POOR decisions…
- But the HOPE is that at some point the STOP - and REMEMBER - they know the ANSWER!
- **Proverbs 22:6** - "[Teach] a child in the way he should go - when he is old he will not depart."

- 3rd - Blessed Justice… vs. 28-29

  - Corrupt… vs. 28

    - A disreputable witness scorns justice - and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity!
    - Because a WITNESS is WORTHLESS - they [לוּץ] mock [hiphil] the justice system…
    - [וְ] AND - all they want to do is CONSUME more EVIL [עָוֹן]
    - The world is full of WORTHLESS people - who only live for EVIL…
    - They do NOT think the will ever have to stand accountable for their SINS!

  - Justice… vs. 29

    - Judgments are prepared for scoffers - and beatings for the backs of fools!
    - But a PUNISHMENT has been preprared [niphal] for these MOCKERS [לוּץ]
    - Their back will be BEATEN - because they are FOOLS [כְּסִיל]!
    - The JUDGMENT of those who MOCK God has already been prepared…
    - It might NOT come in this life - but it will happen…
    - If they do NOT repent - there will be a PRICE to PAY!
    - **Romans 12:19** - "Vengeance is Mine - I will repay."