

Proverbs 21

1. God Directs Everything (vv. 1–3).

God is not only aware of leaders and nations; He actively directs them.

- God can turn a king's heart like a stream of water (v.1)
- Men often justify themselves, but God weighs motives (v.2)
- God prefers obedience and justice over religious performance (v.3)

2. The Danger of Pride and Shortcut Living (vv. 4–8).

Pride and dishonest gain always lead to destruction.

- Pride is sin (v.4)
- Diligence leads to abundance; haste leads to lack (v.5)
- Any corrupt source of wealth collapses in the end (vv.6–7)
- God honors upright living (v.8)

3. Strife vs. Peace in Relationships (vv. 9, 19).

Peace is better than proximity without harmony.

- Better to live in a corner of an attic than in a house with a contentious wife

4. The Path of the Wicked vs. the Righteous (vv. 10–15).

Sin is not just behavior; it is a lifestyle and mindset.

- The wicked desire evil (v.10)
- The simple learn wisdom through correction (vv.11–12)
- Ignoring the poor brings spiritual consequences (v.13)
- Justice brings joy to the righteous (v.15)

5. Wisdom vs. Foolish Living (vv. 16–20).

Wisdom preserves life; foolishness wastes it.

- Straying from wisdom leads to death (v.16)
- Excess spending on pleasure leads to lack (v.17)
- The wise prepare and store; fools consume everything (v.20)

6. The Reward of Righteous Living (vv. 21–23).

Righteousness produces life, honor, and protection.

- Pursuing righteousness leads to life and honor (v.21)
- Wisdom is stronger than military strength (v.22)
- Guarding your mouth protects your life (v.23)

7. Laziness vs. Diligence (vv. 25–26).

Desire without discipline leads to frustration.

- The lazy person desires but refuses to work (v.25)
- The righteous gives generously (v.26)

8. Empty Religion vs. True Worship (v. 27).

God rejects worship that is paired with wickedness.

- Sacrifice without obedience is detestable when one has evil intent

9. Truth, Integrity, and Consequences (vv. 28–29)

Truth endures; lies collapse.

- False witnesses perish (v.28)
- The righteous is confident; the wicked is stubborn (v.29)

10. God's Sovereignty Over Human Plans (vv. 30–31).

Planning is real, but God has the final word.

- No wisdom or counsel can stand against the Lord (v.30)
- Preparation is required, but victory belongs to God (v.31)