

PROVERBS 14 vs 1

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The Proverbs were first read by the royal families; the House of Judah, who were the Praise of God; and the House of Israel those who claimed to be Ruled by God. The Proverbs are short, weighty sentences; most of them are two sentences in one verse, illustrating each other, but seldom is there any coherence between verses. Their purpose is to set before us what is right and what is wrong. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 girlfriends – among his royal responsibility – and ended his life saying he played the fool; his kingdom was taken from him and then he died – having done wrong in the sight of the Lord. The Proverbs still speak to the way of the wrong, as well as the way of the right.



¹ A wise woman builds her house: but a foolish woman tears it down with her hands.

² He who walks upright fears the LORD: but he who is crooked in his ways despises Him.

³ The talk of a fool brings a rod to his butt: but those with sense are safe with what they say.

⁴ Where no oxen are, the manger is clean: but much increase comes by the strength of the ox.

⁵ A honest witness will not lie: but a false witness speaks lies.

⁶ A scoffer seeks wisdom, and finds none: but knowledge is easy to one who understands.

⁷ Leave the presence of an impatient man, you will not find one word of sense in him.

⁸ The wisdom of the wise is to understand his way: but the folly of a fool leads him astray.

⁹ Fools mock at sin: but among the upright there is favor.

¹⁰ The heart knows its own bitterness; and no outsider shares its joy.

¹¹ The house of the wrong will be destroyed, but the home of the upright will flourish.

¹² There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

¹³ Even in laughter the heart may be aching; and joy may end in sorrow.

¹⁴ The one who goes wrong must take the consequences, but a good man is satisfied with his.

¹⁵ The simple believes every word he is told: but the wise watches where he goes.

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16 A man of sense fears, and turns from evil: but an arrogant fool rages, and is careless.

17 A quick-tempered man acts like a fool: but a wise man considers his steps.

18 The simple inherit foolishness: but the wise are crowned with knowledge.

19 The evildoer will bow down to the good; the wrongdoer at the gates of the upright.

20 The poor is hated even by his neighbor: but the rich has many friends.

21 A man sins who despises his neighbor: but he who is gracious to the poor, is blessed.

22 Those who devise evil go astray, but mercy and truth are for those who devise good.

23 In all labor there is profit: but mere talk leads only to poverty.

24 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the crown of fools is their own folly.

25 A true witness saves lives: but a deceitful witness only speaks lies.

26 In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and in it His children will find refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, and by it one avoids the snares of death.

28 When a nation gathers the king is honored: but a nation in need is due to its lack of leaders.

29 To be slow to anger, shows great sense: but the height of a fool is his quick-temper.

30 A sound heart is life and health: but envy is rottenness to the bones.

31 He who oppresses the poor insults his Maker: but he who is kind to the poor, honors Him.

32 The wrong is brought down by his wrongdoing: but the upright has hope in his death.

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³³ **Wisdom rests in the heart of the thoughtful:** but the heart of fools is thoughtless.

³⁴ **Doing right exalts a nation:** but sin is a disgrace to any people.

³⁵ **The king favors a wise servant:** but his anger is for the incompetent.

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