

PROVERBS 16 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 – ignoring 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 The plans may belong to man; but the answer is from the LORD.

² All the ways of man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weighs the motives.

³ Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

⁴ The LORD has made everything for its own end: yes, even the wrong for the day of evil.

⁵ All who are proud disgust the LORD: though hand join hand, he will not go unpunished.

⁶ By mercy and truth sin is removed: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

⁷ When the ways of man please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

⁸ Better is a little gain done right, than great revenues without justice.

⁹ A man's heart plans his way: but the LORD controls his course.

¹⁰ A divine decision is in the king's decree: his mouth should not err in judgment.

¹¹ A just balance and scale belong to the LORD: all the weights of the bag are His concern.

¹² Kings who are wrongdoers are repulsive: for the throne is only established on doing right.

¹³ Honest talk is the delight of kings; they love a man who speaks the truth.

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¹⁴ A deadly thing is the anger of a king: but a sensible man will try to pacify it.

¹⁵ When the king's face beams friendly all is well; his favor is like rain clouds in spring.

¹⁶ Better to get wisdom than gold! to choose understanding than silver!

¹⁷ The highway of the upright avoids evil: he who safeguards his way preserves his soul.

¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit comes before a fall.

¹⁹ Better to be humble in spirit with the poor, than to divide plunder with the proud.

²⁰ He who handles a matter wisely will find good: and whoever leans on the LORD, is content.

²¹ A wise man is admired for his discerning: and his friendly speech adds to his learning.

²² Understanding is a fountain of life to him who has it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

²³ Good sense makes men sensible in their talk, it adds discernment to what they say.

²⁴ Kind words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and healthy to the bone.

²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it is the way of death.

²⁶ A worker, labors for himself; for his hunger urges him on.

²⁷ A perverse man digs up evil: his words are like a scorching fire.

²⁸ A perverse man sows strife: and a whisperer separates intimate friends.

²⁹ A man of violence entices his neighbor, and leads him into the way that is not good.

³⁰ A backbiter devises perverse things: biting his lips only conceals his malice.

³¹ Gray hairs are a crown of glory, obtained along the path of the upright.

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³² **A patient man is better than a boxer; to rule one's self is better than to conquer a city.**

³³ **The lot is thrown into the lap by chance; but its every decision is only from the LORD.**

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Where Your Heart Is