

PROVERBS 20 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 – **losing 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 Wine means mockery, liquor means brawling; and those who are drunk by it are not wise.

² The threat of a king is like a roaring of a lion: he who provokes him endangers his own life.

³ It does one honor to keep clear of strife: but a fool meddles with everyone.

⁴ In the cold season a lazy man will not plow; yet he expects a crop harvest, and has nothing.

⁵ The heart of man may lie deep as water in a well; but a clever man will draw it out of him.

⁶ Many a person thinks he is kind: but a trustworthy man is a rare find.

⁷ The upright walk in integrity: because of him, his children are blessed.

⁸ A monarch seated on the throne of justice, scatters all crime with his look.

⁹ Who can say, I have washed my heart, I am clean and sinless?

¹⁰ Different weights and different measures, both the LORD abhors.

¹¹ By his deeds even a child is recognized, if his work is clean, and if it is right.

¹² The ear that hears, and the eye that sees, the LORD made both of them.

¹³ Do not love sleep, lest you fall into poverty; be awake, and you will have ample food.

¹⁴ It's nothing, it's nothing, says the buyer: but when he leaves, he boasts about his bargain.

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- ¹⁵ There is gold and rubies in abundance: but the word of the wise is a more precious jewel.
- ¹⁶ Seize his garment who is bail for a stranger: and hold him to what he has pledged.
- ¹⁷ Food won by fraud has a sweet taste; but later on his mouth gets filled with gravel.
- ¹⁸ Every plan is established by guidance: so have good advice when you make war.
- ¹⁹ He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets: so do not associate with a gossip.
- ²⁰ He who curses his father or his mother, his lamp of life will go out in obscure darkness.
- ²¹ An inheritance made quickly at the beginning; rarely is a blessing at the end.
- ²² Never say, I will repay the wrong; but wait on the LORD, and He will save you.
- ²³ **Different weights disgust the LORD; and a fake / false, crooked balance is not good.**
- ²⁴ The steps of a man are of the LORD; so how can a man fully understand his own way?
- ²⁵ It is perilous to rashly say: it is holy, and then afterward, to reconsider the vow.
- ²⁶ A wise king scatters the wrongdoers, and drives hard the threshing wheel over them.
- ²⁷ The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, enlightening the inner most parts of his being.
- ²⁸ Mercy and truth safeguard the king: and he upholds his throne on rightness.
- ²⁹ The boast of young men is their charm: and gray hair makes old men handsome.
- ³⁰ **The bruises that wound, clear away evil: and go deep into the inward parts of the soul.**
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