

PROVERBS 23 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 When you are sitting at a ruler's table, consider carefully how you eat:

² and put a knife to your throat, if you are a man with a large appetite.

³ Do not desire his delicacies: for it is deceptive food.

⁴ Do not toil to grow rich: cease from that consideration.

⁵ Wealth is no sooner seen than gone; it makes wings for itself, like an eagle flying skyward.

⁶ Do not dine with the stingy, do not desire his delicacies:

⁷ for he counts his dishes, even as he bids you: Eat and drink; but his heart is not with you.

⁸ You will vomit the morsel you have eaten, and waste your compliments.

⁹ Never talk to a fool: for he will despise your words of wisdom.

¹⁰ Do not move the ancient boundary; and do not encroach on the estate of the orphan:

¹¹ for they have a mighty Champion; and He will plead their case against you.

¹² Apply your mind to God's instruction, and attend to the words of knowledge.

¹³ Do not withhold correction from a child: for if you beat him with the rod, he will not die.

¹⁴ If you beat him with the rod, you will deliver his soul from hell.

¹⁵ My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will rejoice.

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¹⁶ Yes, my heart will be glad, to hear you speak right things.

¹⁷ **Do not envy sinners in your heart: but live in the fear of the LORD.**

¹⁸ For surely there is an end; and your hope will not be lost.

¹⁹ Listen my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.

²⁰ Do not sit down with the inebriated; or with gluttonous eaters of meat:

²¹ for the drunkard and glutton come to poverty: and carousing leaves men in rags.

²² **Listen to your father who gave you birth, and do not despise your mother when she is old.**

²³ Buy truth, and do not sell it; get wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

²⁴ The father of the right will rejoice: and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.

²⁵ **Let your father and your mother be glad, and she who gave you birth will rejoice.**

²⁶ My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes delight in my ways.

²⁷ For a whore is a very deep pit; an adulterous woman is a narrow well.

²⁸ Surely she lurks as a robber, and increases the faithless among men.

²⁹ Who moans? Who groans? Who contends? Who babbles? Who is bruised without cause?
Who has blurry eyes?

³⁰ Those who linger over a bottle of wine; those who relish mixed drinks.

³¹ So do not look on the wine so red, that sparkles in the cup, it glides down smoothly at first,

³² but in the end it bites like any snake, and stings like a viper.

³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say strange things.

³⁴ Yes, you will be like one asleep at sea, or swaying on the top mast in a storm,

³⁵ and you will say, I was hit, but not hurt; I was beaten but felt nothing. When will morning come? **I will seek another drink.**