

7 Types of Corrupted Man

Proverbs 25:28-26:28

Puritan Reformed Church - Pastor David Reece

Lord's Day February 26th, Anno Domini 2023

OUTLINE OF PROVERBS

1) **Collection I**¹ - Chapters 1-9

a) **Focus Audience:** Child / Youth

b) **Length:** 9 Chapters

c) **Purpose:** 1:2-3 - 2 To know wisdom [**Hokmah**] and instruction [**Musar**], To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction [**Musar**] of success [**Haskel**], Justice [**Sedeq** - righteousness / truth in judgment], judgment [**Mishpat** - decision, choice], and equity [**Maysharim** - order/smoothness/beauty];

d) **Thesis:** 1:7 - 7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

e) **Outline & Structure:**

1:1-7 - Introduction

A - 1:8-19 - The Father's Invitation vs. The Gang's Invitation

B - 1:20-33 - Wisdom Rebukes the simple

C - 2:1-22 - The Father Warns against evil men and the unchaste woman

D - 3:1-4:27 - The Father Commands that teaching be heeded

D' - 5:1-6:35 - The Father warns against the unchaste woman

C' - 7:1-27 - The Father Warns against the Woman Folly

B' - 8:1-36 - Wisdom's invitation to the simple

A' - 9:1-18 - Wisdom's Invitation vs. Folly's Invitation to the simple

2) **Collection II** - 10:1-22:16 - **The 375 Proverbs of Solomon**

a) **Focus Audience:** Young Man / Adult

b) **Length:** 12.5 Chapters

¹ Collection I outline Modified from Bruce Waltke NICOT: Proverbs - page 12

- 3) **Collection III - 22:17-24:22 - The Thirty Sayings of the Wise**
 - a) **Focus Audience:** Young Man / Adult
 - b) **Length:** 2 Chapters
- 4) **Collection IV - 24:23-34 - Further Sayings of the Wise**
 - a) **Focus Audience:** Young Man / Adult / Leader Transition
 - b) **Length:** 0.5 Chapters
- 5) **Collection V - 25:1-29:27 - More Proverbs of Solomon from Hezekiah's Men**
 - a) **Focus Audience:** Father / Leader
 - b) **Length:** 5 Chapters
 - c) **Outline & Structure:**

25:1 - Superscription

Part 1 - 25:2-27:27

Comparative Proverbs - Except Antithetical Proverbs in 25:2, 27:6,7,12

25:2-27 - Conflict Between the Righteous & Wicked in the Halls of Power

25:28-26:28 - 7 Types of Corrupted People

25:28 - The Undisciplined

26:1-12 - The Fool

26:13-16 - The Sluggard

26:17-19 - The Busybody & The Joker (Troublemaker)

26:20-22 - The Slanderer

26:23-28 - The Nemesis

27:1-22 - Friends & Friendship

27:23-27 - Capitalist Poetry - Managing Capital & Income Streams

Part 2 - 28:1-29:27 - Power, The Righteous, & The Wicked

33 Antithetical Contrast Proverbs - Pillars Contrasting Righteous and Wicked

A - 28:1 - Introduction

B - 28:2-11 - Instruction & Rule

C - 28:12 - Bridge

D - 28:13-27 - God, Rule, & Working for Gain

E - 28:28 - Bridge

F - 29:1 - Center Proverb

E' - 29:2 - Bridge

D' - 29:3-15 - Rulers interacting with the Poor & Humble

C' - 29:16 - Bridge

B' - 29:17-26 - God's means, the Ruler, & the Limits of power

A' - 29:27 - Conclusion

6) **Collection VI - 30:1-33 - The Sayings of Agur Son of Jakeh**

a) **Focus Audience:** Father / Leader

b) **Length:** 1 Chapter

7) **Collection VII - 31:1-31:31 - The Sayings of Lemuel**

a) **Focus Audience:** Father / Leader

b) **Length:** 1 Chapter

Proverbs 25:1-29:27 - Collection V - Solomon II

25:28-26:28- 7 Types of Corrupted People

25:28 - Type 1 - The Undisciplined

25:28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

- 1) Rule - restraint
- 2) Spirit - The Mind, the thoughts
- 3) Rule over his own spirit - Self Rule - restraint from doing things that are put in front of him
- 4) Point of similarity - A City Broken Down, without walls
 - a) Broken Down - breached
 - b) Without Walls - defenseless

26:1-12 - Type 2 - The Fool [Kesil - Morally Perverse by Reason of His Obtuseness]

26:1 As snow in summer and rain in harvest,

So honor is not fitting for a fool.

- 5) Although honor is a blessing it is not a blessing fitting to a fool

2 Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow,

So a curse without cause shall not alight.

- 6) Although curses are appropriate for some situations, if there is no just cause for a curse, then the curse will not stick to the target.

3 A whip for the horse,

A bridle for the donkey,

And a rod for the fool's back.

- 7) A Whip is a tool of pain - it makes a horse go - it causes faster work
- 8) A Bridle is a tool of pain - it makes directing a donkey easier by making the donkey more responsive to direction because of pain and the fear of increased pain and the desire to flee pain
- 9) A Rod is a tool of pain - It causes the fool to work (like a whip) and directs the fool where to go and where not to go (like a bridle).

**4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest you also be like him.**

**5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest he be wise in his own eyes.**

10) Do not answer a fool in such a way as to adopt his presuppositions to provide positive proof by his epistemology (his presuppositions - his folly) lest you adopt his presuppositions and start to follow out his conclusions and you become a fool by rejecting the beginning of wisdom and replacing it with folly.

11) Do answer a fool in such a way as to deconstruct his epistemology (his presuppositions - his folly) lest he think his presuppositions can identify what is good and how to get it.

**6 He who sends a message by the hand of a fool
Cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.**

**7 Like the legs of the lame that hang limp
Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.**

**8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling
Is he who gives honor to a fool.**

**9 Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard
Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.**

12) V. 6 - A Fool cannot be trusted to deliver a message well. If a Fool Carries a message, then the one who sends the fool is cutting off his own ability to act and avoid creating conflict (retreat), and the sending is drinking violence - taking in violence knowingly and without dilution.

13) V. 7 - Even concentrated words of wisdom (a proverb) are useless in the mouth of a Fool. A Fool will find ways to make the words unhelpful. A fool has the same level of power to use a proverb well as a lame man has to use His legs well.

14) V. 8 - Honor is useless and harmful when given to a fool - it loses the power of showing what will be rewarded - it also makes the slinger look like an idiot - awkward spinning above the head rather than flinging the stone into the enemy to effect. Point of analogy about casting fools out in order to be free of them vs keeping them attached to you and being continuously frustrated.

15) V. 9 - compare with V. 7, amplification. Useless and harmful.

**10 The great God who formed everything
Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.**

16) Hebrew difficult in v. 10; ancient and modern translators differ greatly

17) רַב מְחֹזְלֵל-כָּל וְשֵׂיכָר כְּסִיִּל וְשֵׂיכָר עַבְרִים:

18) Bruce Waltke - "An archer [rab] who pierces every passer-by, and one who hires a fool, and one who hires those who pass by."

19) NKJV would mean that God will repay Fools and the simple

20) Bruce Waltke's translation connects to the sling idea and suggests that one who hires fools or people of untested wisdom is like an archer who shoots at people without just cause or without discriminating between targets.

11 As a dog returns to his own vomit,

So a fool repeats his folly.

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.

21) Fools will not learn without discipline - they repeat the same idiot mistakes in degrading and disgusting ways over and over again.

22) A man who thinks he is wise, but is not is invincibly a fool because He will not take the time and trouble to seek for wisdom since he thinks he already has it.

26:13-16 - Type 3 - The Sluggard

13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road!

A fierce lion is in the streets [Or *plazas, squares*]!"

14 As a door turns on its hinges,

So does the lazy man on his bed.

15 The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl;

It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

16 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes

Than seven men who can answer sensibly.

23) V. 13 - Lazy people are cowards. Lazy people come up with absurd excuses. Lazy people train themselves to be cowards and to be more lazy by making problems sound bigger than they are rather than just overcoming problems.

24) V. 14 - restlessness accompanies worklessness

25) V. 15 - The Lazy man will not complete easy tasks even when the reward is right there and would give immediate gratification.

26) V. 16 - Lazy people think their laziness is a type of wisdom - look how smart I am for being able to avoid working!

26:17-19 - Type 4 & 5 - The Busybody & The Joker (Troublemaker)

17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own
Is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,

19 Is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, "I was only joking!"

26:20-22 - Type 6 - The Slanderer

20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out;

And where there is no talebearer [*gossip* or *slanderer*, lit. *whisperer*], strife ceases.

21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire,
So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

22 The words of a talebearer [*gossip* or *slanderer*] are like tasty trifles,
And they go down into the inmost body [Lit. *rooms of the belly*].

26:23-28 - Type 7 - The Nemesis

23 Fervent lips with a wicked heart
Are like earthenware covered with silver dross.

24 He who hates, disguises it with his lips,
And lays up deceit within himself;

25 When he speaks kindly [Lit. *his voice is gracious*], do not believe him,
For there are seven abominations in his heart;

26 Though his hatred is covered by deceit,
His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it,
And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it,
And a flattering mouth works ruin.