
Day 142 – May 22

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

Disharmony and Strife

Honesty

Justice

Readings: Proverbs

By Topic:

Disharmony and Strife:

- Solicitation to evil – 1:10-19; 16:29; 25:26; 27:3; 28:10
- Violence – 3:31-32; 21:7, 29
- Murderers – 28:17
- Causing Others Harm – 3:29-30
- Revenge – 20:22; 24:28-29
- Dissension and Strife – 6:16-19; 17:1; 18:18-19
- Meddling – 26:17

Honesty:

- Truthfulness – 12:20; 13:5; 24:26; 26:18-19
- Accurate Weights – 11:1; 16:11; 20:10; 20:23
- Boundary Stones – 22:28; 23:10-11
- Wrongfully Obtained Gains – 10:2; 13:11; 20:17, 21
- Bribery – 15:27; 17:8, 23; 21:14

Justice:

- False Witnesses – 12:17; 14:5, 25; 19:9, 28; 21:28; 25:18
- Open-mindedness – 18:17
- Judicial Justice – 17:15, 26; 18:5; 21:15; 24:11-12, 23-25; 28:5; 29:26

Reflections:

- In this section we see more expanded thoughts on justice and guarding against broken relationships. These proverbs help the reader understand an expanded view of the law and how to take a wise approach to maintaining healthy relationships and honoring the poor through true justice. We also find in here many of the proverbs have humor as a part of the hook to remember them. One of the elements of creating a good proverb is creating a mental hook or picture that will stick in the listener or reader's mind. "Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own."
- Justice in the courts was of particular importance. Remember there are no police reports, no lawyers, no libraries of case law, no detectives or investigators. There were judges and that was it. So it was critical that the larger community actively embraced the value of truth and justice or the powerful could exploit the poor endlessly. Here again we see God's heart for those who are weak and vulnerable. "Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you." (Proverbs 23:10,11)
- One small line in this section may pass by unnoticed but it should be noted. In referring to the rejection of violence it states, "Do not envy a violent man or choose any of this ways, for the Lord detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence." We see here that the way of peace and uprightness before God opens the way for more intimate relationship with him and having God speak to a person. We see this clearly in Abraham and Moses as they are friends with God. Again we see the seeds planted that will one day be revealed in fullness through Jesus!