

Wisdom for Life from Proverbs

(Lesson ten—Wisdom about Government)

Introduction: Solomon was given wisdom by God to govern the kingdom of Israel. His fame in government reached to faraway places. In the proverbs we are able to learn some of important principles concerning government that guided Solomon as king.

Lesson aim: To show the features of a just society.

The blessings of a society based on God's law

1. How did Solomon make clear the importance of a moral society? (14:34) How is a society effected when the righteous are rewarded and the wicked are punished? (11:10; 29:2)
2. What enables a city to be exalted? (11:11) In what does the increase in transgression result? (28:2)
3. Who does Solomon affirm will be happy? (29:18)
4. What did Solomon observe was not good in the administration of government? (17:26; 18:5) To what did he liken the wicked ruler? (28:15)

The importance and features of moral leadership

1. What does Solomon affirm will happen to a people without guidance? (11:14) What kind of decision is on the king's lips? (16:10) What kind of judgments should he render?
2. What does the just king do? (20:8) The wise king? (20:26)

3. What principles did Solomon suggest ought to characterize the rule of a king? (16:13; 20:28; 29:14)
4. Upon what foundation should a king's throne be established? (16:12) What will ensure a long reign for him? (28:16)
5. What does a king give to his land by just decisions? (29:4) What happens to the throne of the one who "takes the wicked from before the king"? (25:4)
6. What affect does the rise of wickedness have on a society? (28:28) What happens if a ruler pays attention to falsehood? (29:12)
7. What should a prince not have? (17:7) How will people respond to the ruler who justifies the wicked? (24:24-25)

Principles of just and wise government

1. What principles did Solomon teach would ensure success in battle? (20:18; 21:22; 21:31)
2. What principles enable a ruler to be just in making decisions? (25:2; 18:17; 19:9; 18:18; 24:23)
3. What other observations did Solomon make about governing others? (16:11; 19:10; 14:28)

Lessons for subjects of the government

1. What truths did subject need to know about their king? (21:1; 25:3)

2. What warnings did Solomon issue about provoking the king's wrath? (16:15; 16:14; 19:12; 20:2)
3. What did he urge subjects to do when invited to the king's table? (23:1-3) What principle is being taught here? What other principle did Solomon teach about dinner invitations? (25:6-7)
4. What kind of behavior did Solomon encourage to solicit the king's favor? (14:35; 22:11)
5. What advice did Solomon have about settling disputes with others? (25:8)
6. Though men tend to look to men for justice, from whom does ultimate justice come? (29:26)