

## Proverbs 21

### New King James Version (NKJV)

## Proverbs 21

1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD,  
Like the rivers of water;  
He turns it wherever He wishes.

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,  
But the LORD weighs the hearts.

3 To do righteousness and justice  
Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

4 A haughty look, a proud heart,  
And the plowing[a] of the wicked are sin.

5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,  
But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

6 Getting treasures by a lying tongue  
Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.[b]

7 The violence of the wicked will destroy them,[c]  
Because they refuse to do justice.

8 The way of a guilty man is perverse;[d]  
But as for the pure, his work is right.

9 Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop,  
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil;  
His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

11 When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made  
wise;  
But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

12 The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked,

Overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor  
Will also cry himself and not be heard.

14 A gift in secret pacifies anger,  
And a bribe behind the back,[e] strong wrath.

15 It is a joy for the just to do justice,  
But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding  
Will rest in the assembly of the dead.

17 He who loves pleasure will be a poor man;  
He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

18 The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous,  
And the unfaithful for the upright.

19 Better to dwell in the wilderness,  
Than with a contentious and angry woman.

20 There is desirable treasure,  
And oil in the dwelling of the wise,  
But a foolish man squanders it.

21 He who follows righteousness and mercy  
Finds life, righteousness, and honor.

22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty,  
And brings down the trusted stronghold.

23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue  
Keeps his soul from troubles.

24 A proud and haughty man—"Scoffer" is his name;  
He acts with arrogant pride.

25 The desire of the lazy man kills him,  
For his hands refuse to labor.

26 He covets greedily all day long,

But the righteous gives and does not spare.

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination;  
How much more when he brings it with wicked intent!

28 A false witness shall perish,  
But the man who hears him will speak endlessly.

29 A wicked man hardens his face,  
But as for the upright, he establishes[f] his way.

30 There is no wisdom or understanding  
Or counsel against the LORD.

31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle,  
But deliverance is of the LORD.