

PROVERBS: ALIGNING TO GOD'S FIXED MORAL ORDER

Part III: Displaying God's Fixed Moral Order

K. Viewing Specific Proverbs Of God's Fixed Moral Order

(Proverbs 20:1-30)

I. Introduction

- A. After motivating a young man to heed an observed fixed moral order, the literary genre of the Egyptian *sboyet* that the Book of Proverbs uses works to supply actual proverbs to reveal that order, cf. Bruce Waltke, "The Book of Proverbs and Ancient Wisdom Literature," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 136:543, p. 221-238.
- B. Solomon reveals that order to be **God's** order for his son to heed. We continue our study of that order:

II. Viewing Specific Proverbs Of God's Fixed Moral Order From Proverbs 20:1-30.

- A. A son must learn to avoid substance abuse as it mocks him and makes him unproductively combative, 1.
- B. A son must see it is to his welfare and aligning to God's order to avoid provoking influential people, 20:2.
- C. A son must learn that it is honorable and aligning to God's fixed moral order to avoid strife with others, 3.
- D. A son must see that reaping success in life's ventures involves foresight and labor even in hard times, 4.
- E. A son must learn that aligning to God's fixed moral order will equip him with counseling insight, 20:5.
- F. A son must learn to judge if another has loyal love for him by his **actions** rather than his **claims** of it, 6.
- G. A son must learn he can discern how upright one is by how upright are his children, for true uprightness makes one **consistently** upright so that his children *believe* his credibility and so **mimic** his life, 20:7.
- H. A son must see that those in oversight have unique insight into discerning evil by way of their position so that he is always best just going ahead and being **upright** to gain a ruler's approval, 20:8.
- I. A son must learn to reject all claims of sinlessness by men, for all men have sinned, Pr. 20:9. (Rom. 3:23)
- J. A son must learn that God's fixed moral order requires he align to totally just, fair business dealings, 10.
- K. A son must see he can discern if even a child is aligned to God's fixed moral order by his actions, 20:11.
- L. A son must learn that since **God** made his eyes and ears, **God** expects him to adopt as true what he himself senses by these *above* the views of others that conflict with what his senses reveal, Prov. 20:12.
- M. A son must see he must remain vigilant to identify so as to take advantage of life's opportunities, 20:13.
- N. A son must learn not to believe all he hears in the marketplace as statements there are tainted by greed, 14.
- O. A son must learn to speak with insight as doing so will be more productive than having rare jewels, 15.
- P. A son must learn if he loans money to financially untrustworthy folk, he must secure collateral, 20:16.
- Q. A son must learn not to make a living by fraud if he expects to enjoy his income long-term, 20:17!
- R. A son must see that it is to his advantage to get advice in making plans especially if he faces conflict, 18.
- S. A son must learn to keep a lid on his speech to avoid inadvertently betraying confidences as a gossip, 19.
- T. A son must see that cursing his parents will bring on God's greatest punishment: he must honor them, 20.
- U. A son must see it is to his advantage not to depend on gaining an inheritance, but to earn his own way, 21.
- V. A son must avoid even threatening revenge: if he waits for God, He will deliver him from abuses, 22!
- W. A son must see that God takes fairness in business dealings very seriously: he must be honest there, 23.
- X. A son should learn that as God directs even a male head-of-household's (*geber*) steps, he should not labor to understand his life's direction, for much of his life's steps are thus beyond his insight anyway, 20:24.
- Y. A son should see that it is better to think before acting if he would avoid serious trouble in life, 20:25.
- Z. A son should learn that to maintain order in leadership, he will need to detect and punish evil people, 26.
- AA. A son must see that God similarly maintains order in the world by detecting and punishing sin in them: thus, he had better view himself as accountable to God even as he leads others, Proverbs 20:27.
- BB. A son must learn to be loyal and loving to his subjects to builds their trust in him for his reign's good, 28
- CC. A son must learn to value the assets or value his culture places on his age in life to his advantage, 20:29.
- DD. A son must value punishment not as a destructive entity, but as a teaching tool to alter one's conduct, 30.

Lesson: From these proverbs, we learn that a youth is much better off learning from his parents that heeding God's ways is to his own distinct advantage in the adult world.

Application: (1) We parents must have the courage under God's leading to inform our maturing sons and daughters of the **VALUE** of heeding God's fixed moral order. (2) As maturing children or as adults ourselves, we can apply these truths to our own lives for eventual blessings.