**Proverbs 10:1 – 22:16**

**The Antithetical Collection & the Royal Collection**

**October 1, 2015**

**Outline:**

**Proverbs 10:1- 15:33 – The Antithetical Collection (Mutually Opposed Sayings)**

 10:1-8 – Introduction to the Antithetical Collection

 10:9-32 – Sayings on the Antithesis of Good and Evil

 11:1-31 – Further Sayings on the Antithesis of Good and Evil

 12:1-28 – Whoever Loves Discipline Loves Knowledge

 13:1-25 – On Listening to Wise Council

 14:1-35 – The Wise Woman Builds Her House

 15:1-33 – The End of the Antithetical Collection

**Proverbs 16:1-22:16 – The Royal Collection**

 16:1-33 – Introduction to the Royal Collection

 17:1-28 – Better a Dry Crust with Peace and Quiet

 18:1-24 – A Fool Takes No Pleasure in Understanding

 19:1-29 – Better a Poor Man Whose Walk is Blameless

 20:1-30 – Wine Is a Mocker, Strong Drink a Brawler

 21:1-31 – All Deeds are Right in the Sight of the Doer, but the Lord Weighs

 22:1-16 – The Royal Collection Concluded

**As you read through each chapter ask the following:**

What is one proverb that you find to be true? Why?

What is one proverb that you disagree with or find challenging? Why?

What Questions, Concerns, or Emotions do these proverbs raise?

**Notes from Enterthebible.org**

**Proverbs 11:1 – Honesty in Business Dealings**

**SUMMARY:** Be honest in your business dealings.

**ANALYSIS:** Here is a call for honesty in buying and selling. Archaeologists have discovered at some locations in ancient Israel different sets of weights for buying and for selling. The same concern is expressed with some variations in 16:11; 20:10, 23; and in Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Amos 8:5-6; and Micah 6:10-11. The issue is that the poor are being cheated in the marketplace.

**Proverbs 11:14 – God Bless Our Native Land**

**SUMMARY:** Leaders of nations need good advisors.

**ANALYSIS:** This is one of the rare proverbs concerned with the nation, not the individual. The warning is against the concentration of power in too few individuals or in one individual, or against leaders who do not take counsel with advisors. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," as Lord Acton is reported to have said in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887. This is the case for a system of checks and balances in governments.

**Proverbs 12:10 – Animal Rights**

**SUMMARY:** Animals are deserving of care.

**ANALYSIS:** This saying identifies care for animals as one of the marks of the one who is wise before God. This is also found in Proverbs 27:23, which says, "Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds"; see the continuation in 27:24-27.

**Proverbs 12:23 – A Time to Keep Silent**

**SUMMARY:** When one doesn't know what to say, the best advice is often to keep silent.

**ANALYSIS:** Here is an expression of the typical theme of the virtue of restraint in speaking. "Some people keep silent because they have nothing to say, while others keep silent because they know when to speak" (Sirach 20:6; see also the context. See also Proverbs 13:3; 17:28; 18:2; 29:20; Ecclesiastes 3:7b). Jewish tradition asks, "How is one to distinguish the silent sage from the silent fool?" The answer, "The sage doesn't mind being silent."

**Proverbs 12:25 – Do Not Worry about Your Life**

**SUMMARY:** Avoid anxiety and be of good cheer.

**ANALYSIS:** Anxiety takes its toll on the human heart and spirit. However, "a cheerful heart is a good medicine" (17:22a). Jesus spoke to worry and anxiety in his preaching (Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-32).

**Proverbs 14:31 – Just as You Did It to One of the Least of These**

**SUMMARY:** Care for the poor.

**ANALYSIS:** The way you treat the poor is the way you treat God. Jesus developed this theme in Matthew 25:31-46.

**Proverbs 16:9 – If You but Trust in God to Guide You**

**SUMMARY:** God will guide you.

**ANALYSIS:** This saying expresses the theme of God's guidance. See also Proverbs 19:21; 20:24; 27:1; Genesis 24 and 37-50. James 4:13-17 expresses the same "the Lord willing" attitude toward life. The message is taken up in George Neumark's seventeenth-century hymn, "If You But Trust in God to Guide You."

**Proverbs 19:14 – A Gift from the Lord**

**SUMMARY:** A good spouse is a gift of God.

**ANALYSIS:** While the amount of an inheritance can be calculated, a good wife or good husband comes as a gift from the Lord. The theme is that of God's guidance; see also the story of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24.