

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 174 – Proverbs Copied By Hezekiah's Men Through No Hasty Strife (Proverbs 25:1-8)

### 1. What king had Solomon's proverbs copied?

King Hezekiah of Judah: *"These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out"* (**Proverbs 25:1**).

- Solomon authored many proverbs and songs (**I Kings 4:30-32**).
- Hezekiah was a good king (**II Kings 18:1-8**) with the exception of his faith in man over God [Egypt] (**II Kings 18:21** and **Isaiah 36:4-6**; cf. **Proverbs 25:19**, **Isaiah 30:1-7**, and **Isaiah 31:3**).
- We know for sure that the prophets at the time of Hezekiah were Isaiah (**Isaiah 1:1**), Hosea (**Hosea 1:1**), and Micah (**Jeremiah 26:18** and **Micah 1:1**).
- Scribes were used to copy inspired writings (**Jeremiah 36:32**).
- Any wise king would want to have Solomon's proverbs on hand (**I Kings 4:29-30**, **I Kings 4:34**, **I Kings 5:7**, and **I Kings 10:23-24**).
- Too bad the same interest is not in the words of the KING (**Matthew 12:42**).

### 2. While kings should search out matters, does God reveal everything?

No: *"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter"* (**Proverbs 25:2**).

- God does not reveal everything to us (**Deuteronomy 29:29**, **Job 5:8-9**, **Job 11:7-9**, **Psalms 40:5**, **Psalms 139:4-6**, **Isaiah 55:8-9**, **John 20:30-31**, **John 21:24-25**, and **Romans 11:31-34**).
- What God has revealed is what we need to know (**II Peter 1:3-4**). He has fully equipped us so that we can do every good work (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).
- Kings want to search things out (**Ezra 4:12-19** and **Ezra 6:1**).

### 3. While kings may search out matters, is it easy to know what is in a king's heart?

No: *"The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable"* (**Proverbs 25:3**).

- What a king can hide from man he cannot hide from God (**Daniel 2:27-28**).

### 4. What should be done to silver to make it a fitting vessel for the refiner?

Take away the dirt: *"Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer"* (**Proverbs 25:4**).

- Silver has to be purified (**Psalms 12:6**, **Proverbs 17:3**, and **Malachi 3:3**).

5. Just as silver needs purified, what needs to be removed from before the king so that his throne can be established in righteousness?

The wicked need removed: *“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness”* (**Proverbs 25:5**).

- Righteous kings should scatter wickedness (**Proverbs 20:8**).
- Wickedness spreads (**Proverbs 13:20**, **I Corinthians 5:6**, and **I Corinthians 15:33**).
- The king needs mercy and truth to preserve his throne (**Proverbs 20:28** and **Proverbs 29:14**).

6. Should we seek to thrust ourselves into the presence of leaders where men of power stand?

No: *“Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men”* (**Proverbs 25:6**).

- We should recognize our place (**I Samuel 18:18** and **Proverbs 16:19**).
- We shouldn't seek out the “chief seats” (**Matthew 23:1-6**).
- We should not “toot our own horns” (**Proverbs 25:27** and **Proverbs 27:2**).
- We shouldn't make ourselves of the number (**II Corinthians 10:12**), but seek commendation of the Lord (**II Corinthians 10:18**).

7. Should we wait to be invited into the presence of leaders rather than exalting ourselves into their presence?

Yes: *“For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen”* (**Proverbs 25:7**).

- One cannot make the point any better than Jesus did: **Luke 14:7-11**
- You don't want to exalt yourself (**Luke 18:9-14**) so that you end up being humbled (**Isaiah 2:11**).
- Humility and true honor go hand in hand (**Proverbs 29:23**).

8. Knowing that we should not be people of strife to begin with (**Romans 13:13**, **Galatians 5:19-21**, and **Philippians 2:3**), should we go forth hastily to strive?

No: *“Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame”* (**Proverbs 25:8**).

- Strife is not easily ceased once you start it (**Proverbs 17:14**).
- Fools want to start “fights” (**Proverbs 18:6**).
- Think these things through (**Luke 14:31-32**).
- Jesus advises us to end these things quickly lest we lose in the end (**Matthew 5:25-26** and **Luke 12:58-59**).