

# Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 177 – Some Lessons About Fools (Proverbs 26:1-12)

1. Does it make sense for a fool to be honored?

No more than snow in summer or rain in a dry season: *“As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool”* (Proverbs 26:1).

- Verse 8; see also: **Psalms 49:20, Proverbs 13:18, and Proverbs 20:3.**

2. Would a curse without a cause land upon the person of whom it was intended?

No: *“As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come”* (Proverbs 26:2).

- **Numbers 23:8 and Nehemiah 13:1-2.**

3. What does a fool have in common with a horse and an ass?

*“A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back”* (Proverbs 26:3).

- **Psalms 32:9, Proverbs 10:13, Proverbs 17:10, and Proverbs 27:22.**

4. What two verses in our study is one of those unwinnable situations?

Paraphrased: Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.

Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes: *“(4) Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. (5) Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit [eyes]”* (Proverbs 26:4-5).

- You cannot miss the opportunity to reprove the fool (**Ephesians 5:11** and **II Timothy 4:2**), but arguing with him is like being in a puking contest with a buzzard (**Proverbs 1:7**; cf. **Proverbs 17:14, Proverbs 18:6-7, Proverbs 23:9, and Matthew 7:6**).
- Fools are wise in their own eyes (**Proverbs 12:15**). This is not good (**Isaiah 5:21**).

5. Is it wise to send a message by the hand of a fool?

No: *“He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage”* (Proverbs 26:6).

- Send a dependable messenger (**Proverbs 25:13**).

6. Could you say that a parable in the mouth of a fool is likened unto walking with a limp?

Yes: *“The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools”* (Proverbs 26:7).

- **26:9; Proverbs 15:2, Proverbs 17:7, and Ecclesiastes 10:12.**

7. What is tying a stone to a slingshot likened unto?

Giving honor unto a fool: *"As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool"* (**Proverbs 26:8**).

- **Proverbs 19:10.**

8. Can a parable in the mouth of fools cause harm?

Yes, like a thorn bush to a drunkard: *"As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools"* (**Proverbs 26:9**).

- A fool will get pricked when words that are too great for him come out of his mouth (cf. **James 3:1**). Sometimes people should shut up (**Proverbs 17:27-28**).

9. Will fools escape the judgment of God?

No: *"The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors"* (**Proverbs 26:10**).

- All will be judged (**Ecclesiastes 11:9, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 14:11-12, and II Corinthians 5:10**).
- Everyone reaps what you sow (**Job 4:8, Job 34:11, Proverbs 1:31, Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 14:14, Proverbs 22:8, Proverbs 24:12, Isaiah 3:10-11, Jeremiah 2:19, Jeremiah 4:16-18, Jeremiah 32:19, Hosea 8:7, and Galatians 6:7-8**).

10. Do fools return to their follies?

Yes: *"As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly"* (**Proverbs 26:11**).

- Fools keep going back to their foolishness (**II Peter 2:20-22**).

11. What type of a person has less hope than a fool?

A person wise in his own eyes: *"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him"* (**Proverbs 26:12**).

- See question 4; (26:4-5).
- Trusting in yourself makes you a fool (**Proverbs 28:26**).
- As we conclude this class about fools, let's be reminded that there is one type of a fool that we all should be (**I Corinthians 3:18**).
- We're commanded to be wise (**Ephesians 5:17**).