

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 24

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

## **A Portrait of the Wise**

Key Passage: Proverbs 24:21-22

Related Passages: Psalm 2:1-12

Sermon Date: March 16, 2008

### **Jesus Christ as our King and Redeemer.**

America's story is one of throwing off a king. Our Declaration of Independence denounces King George III for "repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states." In the American imagination, a king is usually a tyrant. The framers of our constitution went to great lengths to guard us against any future emergence of kingly authority.

How can modern people feel the joy that Bible writers felt in the notion that "God is our King?" We look on with dread when Israel actually *asks* for a king. (1 Samuel 8). We nod in sad agreement as Samuel lists for them all the terrible burdens a king would bring upon them (1 Samuel 8:11-19). And then, at last, the explanation comes: they want security and leadership, a true and loyal hero, "a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles," (1 Samuel 8:20).

Mankind's story is one of looking for hope and security in all the wrong places. We look to human systems that always break down or to human leaders who always disappoint. But God's answer for our needs and aspirations is the true and loyal hero, the condemned and executed Savior, God's reigning Son, Jesus the Anointed One.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>Key Verse Proverbs 24:21-22 (NIV)</b></p> <p><sup>24:21</sup> Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious,</p> <p><sup>24:22</sup> for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?</p> <hr/> <p><b>Psalm 2:1-12</b></p> <p><sup>2:1</sup> Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?</p> <p><sup>2:2</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.</p> <p><sup>2:3</sup> "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><sup>2:4</sup> The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.</p> <p><sup>2:5</sup> Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,</p> <p><sup>2:6</sup> "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."</p> <p><sup>2:7</sup> I will proclaim the decree of the LORD : He said to me, "You are my Son ;today I have become your Father.</p> <p><sup>2:8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.</p> <p><sup>2:9</sup> You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."</p> <p><sup>2:10</sup> Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.</p> <p><sup>2:11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.</p> <p><sup>2:12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him..</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. Proverbs 24:21 tells us to fear the Lord and king and not to join with the rebellious. Psalm 2:1-3 tells us that the nations conspire and people plot in vain. What or who are the nations and people conspiring and plotting against? Consider Luke 19:11-26 and Psalm 14:1-3.
5. Psalm 2:3 says “Let us break their chains and throw off their fetters”. What “chains and fetters” does the Lord restrain us with? Why do people want to throw off God’s restraints? Consider Psalm 5:4-6.
6. Psalm 2 is attributed to David as its author and David’s descendants were considered “anointed ones” by God to rule over the kingdom of Israel, see II Samuel 7:12-16. But the Psalm foretells the coming day when Jesus will be crowned King. What are some things David may have understood about the coming King of Kings? Consider Psalm 110:1, Acts 2:34-36 and Acts 13:32-34.
7. When Jesus came, what were some things about him that made him seem like the King? What were some things about him that would have seemed surprising for the King?
8. Psalm 2:12 says “kiss the Son, lest he be angry”. What is the cultural significance of “kissing the Son” ? Consider I Samuel 10:1, I Kings 19:18 and Luke 22:47-48
9. Jesus suggested that rulers typically amass and use authority in selfish ways. Jesus himself is the complete opposite of this type. What are some ways that his character could change our attitudes about having a King and Master? Consider Matthew 20:25-28 and Philippians 2:5-12.
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 24:21**

<sup>24:21</sup> Fear the LORD and the

king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious

Have you resisted God's rule over your life?

Man is constantly trying to get free from God's control, from His Law, from His rule, and to become independent. This is the heart of mankind's sin—a rejection of God's divine will in favor of our own finite and corrupted will.

The reality is that God the King is our only true refuge in a chaotic world.

Psalm 46:1-3 says:

God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.

God calls you to come find refuge and strength in him and escape the flood of wrath and punishment. Turn your life over to God. Ask Jesus to come into your heart as your Savior and King. Then devote yourself to following the King--studying God's word and learning more about how to walk with him daily.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studieditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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