

THE WICKED

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Lesson #21

Proverbs 4:14-19;
10:, 11:, 12:, 21:

Introduction: In our study in Proverbs we have looked at the "fool," the "violent," and the "froward" individual. In this study we will investigate what Solomon has written about the "wicked."

1. DEFINING WICKEDNESS (What is wickedness?)

Solomon uses three Hebrew words to help us understand what "wickedness" is.

A. Proverbs 2:14 "**wicked**" (Hebrew "ra/ra 'a") meaning "**evil, bad**, and sometimes may refer to distress, calamity and misery." This word is often defined by looking at the opposite of good. The root can either have a passive meaning such as "misfortune," "calamity" or in an active sense such as "wickedness." It can occur in profane contexts, "bad" or "repulsive" and moral contexts, "evil" or "wickedness." In the moral and religious realm of meaning, the verb denotes activity that is contrary to God's will. This word is used 7xs in Proverbs, 2:14; 11:21; 12:13; 14:32; 15:26; 21:12; 26:23. Also translated "evil" in Proverbs 4:14.

("ra" by G. Herbert Livingston in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 2, page 854)

B. Proverbs 2:22 "**wicked**" (Hebrew "rasha/resha") meaning "**wrong**." This word is often defined as the opposite of righteousness and righteous. The verb often means to be wrong, unjust, guilty, or to act wickedly. This word is found 83xs in Proverbs, 2:22; 3:25,33; 4:7,14,19; 5:22; 8:7; 9:7; 10:2,3,6,7,11,16,20,24,25, 27, 28,30,32; 11:5,7,8,10,11,18,23,31; 12:3,5,6,7,10,12,21,26; 13:5,6,9,17,25; 14:11, 19,32; 15:6,8,9,28,29; 16:12; 17:15,23; 18:3,5; 19:28; 20:26; 21:4,7,10,12,12,18, 27,29; 24:15,16,19,20,24; 25:5,26; 28:1,4,12,15,28; 29:2,7,12,16,27; .

("rasha" by G. Herbert Livingston in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 2, page 863)

C. Proverbs 6:12 "**wicked**" (Hebrew " 'awen") meaning "**trouble**, mischief, deception."

The primary meaning of the word seems to have two facets: a stress on trouble which moves on to wickedness, and an emphasis on emptiness which moves on to idolatry. This word is associated with deception, fraud and falseness. This word is found 2xs in Proverbs, 6:12,18.

(" 'awen" by G. Herbert Livingston in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 1, page 23)

D. Proverbs 12:2 "**wicked**" (Hebrew "zamam/mezimma") meaning "devise **evil**." When referring to men, both the verb and noun usually speak of evil plans and schemes. The book of Proverbs contains the broadest range of meaning relative to this term. There is a sharp division between the negative concept of "men who devise evil" and the positive notion of "discretion." This word is found 3xs in Proverbs, 12:2; 14:17; 21:27.

("zamam" by Herbert Wolf in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 1, page 244)

2. DANGER OF WICKEDNESS (Why should I be concerned about wickedness?)

A. Proverbs 4:16 = They live to do mischief.

B. Proverbs 9:7 = Reprove a wicked man and you will be insulted.

C. Proverbs 10:6 (10:11; 11:18; 12:5) = They practice deception.

D. Proverbs 12:26 (16:29; 21:10) = They make terrible neighbors.

E. Proverbs 15:6 = There is trouble surrounding the income of the wicked.

- F. Proverbs 21:10 = The wicked man's "soul" desires evil.
- G. Proverbs 21:7 = The wicked refuse to act with justice.
- H. Proverbs 28:28 = When wicked rule, good people tend to hide.
- I. Proverbs 29:16 = When the wicked increase, transgressions increase.
- J. Proverbs 29:27 = Wicked people cannot tolerate upright people.

3. DEMEANOR OF WICKED (How do the wicked behave?)

- A. Proverbs 4:19 (17:4) = Their way is darkness.
- B. Proverbs 6:12 (10:32; 19:28) = They speak with frowardness.
- D. Proverbs 10:6 (10:11) = They conceal their violence by their speech.
- C. Proverbs 11:18 (12:5) = They work deceitfulness.
- D. Proverbs 12:6 = They are murderers.
- E. Proverbs 12:10 = They are cruel to animals.
- F. Proverbs 12:12 = They desire other's goods.
- G. Proverbs 12:26 = They seduce their neighbors.
- H. Proverbs 15:28 = Their mouth pours out evil.
- I. Proverbs 17:23 = They receive bribes.
- J. Proverbs 21:10 = They desire evil.
- K. Proverbs 21:29 = They hardened their face (or show a bold face).
- L. Proverbs 29:7 = They do not care about the poor.

4. DESTINY OF THE WICKED (What will happen to the wicked?)

- A. Proverbs 2:22 = They shall be cut off from the earth.
- B. Proverbs 3:25 = They shall become desolate.
- C. Proverbs 3:33 = The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked.
- D. Proverbs 5:22 (11:5) = The wicked man will be caught by his own sin.
- E. Proverbs 10:3 = The Lord will not meet their needs.
- F. Proverbs 10:7 = The name of the wicked shall rot.

G. Proverbs 10:24 = The fear a wicked man has will come upon him
H. Proverbs 10:27 (13:9; 24:20) = The years of the wicked will be shortened.

I. Proverbs 10:28 (11:7) = The expectations of the wicked will perish.

J. Proverbs 10:30 = The wicked will not inherit the earth.

K. Proverbs 11:8 (12:21) = The wicked will fall into trouble.

L. Proverbs 11:21 = The wicked man will be punished.

M. Proverbs 14:11 = The house of the wicked shall be destroyed.

N. Proverbs 21:12 = The wicked will be overthrown.

5. DEGRADATION OF THE WICKED (How does God view the wicked?)

A. Proverbs 10:20 = The heart of the wicked is of little worth.

B. Proverbs 15:8 (21:27) = The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord.

C. Proverbs 15:9 = The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord.

D. Proverbs 15:26 = The thoughts (plans) of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord.

E. Proverbs 15:29 = The Lord is far from the wicked.

F. Proverbs 17:15 = Those that justify the wicked are an abomination to the Lord.

6. DELIVERANCE FROM WICKEDNESS (What should I do to avoid wickedness?)

A. Proverbs 4:14 = Do not enter the path of the wicked.

B. Proverbs 8:13 = Practice the fear of the Lord by hating evil.

C. Proverbs 18:5 = Do not accept the person of the wicked.

D. Proverbs 20:26 = Elect leaders that will deal correctly with the wicked.

E. Proverbs 24:19 = Do not fret or envy the wicked.

F. Proverbs 28:4 = Contend with the wicked by using God's Word.

Conclusion: The Lord has made even the wicked for His own purpose, Proverbs 16:4.