

# **A Study of the Wisdom Literature**

## **(OT Survey Lesson 289—Wisdom about Wealth)**

**Introduction:** The proverbs have a great deal to say about the universal pursuit of wealth. Solomon warns us of the dangers connected with a quest for wealth and teaches us to view and use it properly.

**Lesson aim:** To learn the danger connected with wealth and how to use it properly

### **Dangers connected with wealth**

#### **Warnings about how wealth is accumulated**

17:23 A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom To pervert the ways of justice.  
10:2 Ill-gotten gains do not profit, But righteousness delivers from death.  
15:27 He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.  
20:17 Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.  
20:21 An inheritance gained hurriedly at the beginning, Will not be blessed in the end.  
21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.  
28:8 He who increases his wealth by interest and usury, Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.  
22:16 He who oppresses the poor to make much for himself Or who gives to the rich, *will only come to poverty.*  
22:22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Or crush the afflicted at the gate; 23 For the LORD will plead their case, And take the life of those who rob them.  
28:3 A poor man who oppresses the lowly Is *like* a driving rain which leaves no food.

#### **Warnings concerning trusting in wealth**

18:11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city, And like a high wall in his own imagination.  
11:28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the *green* leaf.  
11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.  
11:6 The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the treacherous will be caught by *their own* greed.

#### **Warnings about pride over wealth**

28:11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes, But the poor who has understanding sees through him.  
22:2 The rich and the poor have a common bond, The LORD is the maker of them all.

#### **Warnings about greed or discontentment**

28:22 A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth, And does not know that want will come upon him.  
27:7 A sated man loathes honey, But to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.

### **The Lord blesses His people with wealth**

10:22 It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.  
13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.  
15:6 Much wealth is *in* the house of the righteous, But trouble is in the income of the wicked.  
22:4 The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.  
28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.  
14:24 The crown of the wise is their riches, *But* the folly of fools is foolishness.

### **The importance of generosity toward others**

#### **Those generous toward the poor will be blessed by God.**

11:25 The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

11:24 There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, but *it results* only in want.

22:9 He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor.

19:17 He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

28:27 He who gives to the poor will never want, But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.

11:26 He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells *it*.

#### **Gifts often can solicit the favor of others**

17:8 A bribe is a charm in the sight of its owner; Wherever he turns, he prospers.

18:16 A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

21:14 A gift in secret subdues anger, And a bribe in the bosom, strong wrath.

## **The priority of spirituality over earthly gain**

16:8 Better is a little with righteousness Than great income with injustice.

16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

22:1 A *good* name is to be more desired than great riches, Favor is better than silver and gold.

19:1 BETTER is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

28:6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, Than he who is crooked though he be rich.

## **Practical wisdom about wealth**

#### **Everyone wants to be a friend to the wealthy**

14:20 The poor is hated even by his neighbor, But those who love the rich are many.

19:4 Wealth adds many friends, But a poor man is separated from his friend.

#### **One cannot always tell who is wealthy by appearance**

13:7 There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing; *Another* pretends to be poor, but has great wealth.

#### **The importance of saving**

21:20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows it up.

#### **The dangers of borrowing**

22:7 The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower *becomes* the lender's slave.