

Dec 13 Proverbs 24-27

Chapter 24

Wisdom is more valuable than might in war. Vs. 10-12 recall so many responses to atrocities through the years. When the concentration camps were liberated in Nazi Germany, many ordinary Germans said that they had no idea what was actually going on, and that they were as shocked by the concentration camps as anyone else. These proverbs say that excuses for not aiding one's neighbor in times of injustice and struggle fall on deaf ears, for God sees and knows all –even that which is deepest in our hearts. Similarly, vs. 17-18 says that God even sees and knows how we feel when our enemies fall. We are not to gloat.

Verse 23 begins the appendix to the instructions, it focusses on the importance of justice. Vs. 29, do not take revenge.

Chapter 25

This chapter begins a new section, written during the reign of King Hezekiah (715-687 BC) to add on to an already existing collection of proverbs from Solomon (likely chapters 10-22). This chapter begins with proverbs relating to kings. Interestingly, Jesus used vs. 6-7 in his ministry (Luke 14: 8-10).

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 11, 12, 16, 21-22 (remember Romans 12:20)

Chapter 26

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 5, 14, 15, 17, 18-19.

Chapter 27

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 1 (reminiscent of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34), 10, 14 (even kind words will not be well received if shared noisily early in the morning), 17.

Vs. 23-27 is a traditional poem prizing flocks and fields above accumulated treasure, for flocks and fields are wealth that renew itself annually in the form of food and clothing. They are by far the wiser investment of time and energy.