

The Book of Proverbs

Chapter 27

General Counsel

Proverbs 27:1

(Pro 27:1 ISV*) ¶ Never brag about the day to come, because you don't know what it [Lit. *what a day*] might bring.

(Pro 27:1 KJV+) Boast not thyself^{H408 H1984} of to morrow;^{H3117 H4279} for^{H3588} thou knowest^{H3045} not^{H3808} what^{H4100} a day^{H3117} may bring forth.^{H3205}

(Pro 27:1 NASB) Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

(Pro 27:1 NIV) Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

This not only applies to one day ahead, but to all boasting of the future.

If one cannot know what will happen one day ahead how can he know what will happen beyond that?

Proverbs 27:2

(Pro 27:2 ISV*) ¶ Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth; a stranger, and never your own lips.

(Pro 27:2 KJV+) Let another man^{H2114} praise^{H1984} thee, and not^{H3808} thine own mouth,^{H6310} a stranger,^{H5237} and not^{H408} thine own lips.^{H8193}

(Pro 27:2 NASB) Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

(Pro 27:2 NIV) Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

[a stranger, and not thine own lips] Do things that will cause others to praise you but do not expect praise even then.

Self-praise is just a show of pride.

Proverbs 27:1

(Pro 27:1 NASB) Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Eight examples of not knowing tomorrow:

1. Jonathan (*1 Sam 23:17*)
2. Abner (*2 Sam 3:9-10*)
3. Benhadad (*1 Kings 20:3-31*)
4. Ahab (*1 Kings 22:26-37*)
5. Haman (*Est 5:12; 7*)
6. Nebuchadnezzar (*Dan 4:30-33*)
7. Belshazzar (*Dan 5:24-31*)
8. The rich fool (*Luke 12:20*)

Proverbs 27:2

(Pro 27:2 NASB) Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Five examples of praise from others:

1. Saul and Jonathan (**2 Sam 1:17-27**)
2. The centurion (**Matt 8:10**)
3. John (**Matt 11:11; John 5:35**)
4. Luke (**Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11**)
5. Epaphroditus (**Phil 2:25**)

Proverbs 27:3

(Pro 27:3 ISV*) ¶ Rocks are heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation outweighs them both.

(Pro 27:3 KJV+) A stone^{H68} is heavy,^{H3514} and the sand^{H2344} weighty;^{H5192} but a fool's^{H191} wrath^{H3708} is heavier^{H3515} than them both.^{H4480 H8147}

(Pro 27:3 NASB) A stone is heavy and the sand weighty, But the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.

(Pro 27:3 NIV) Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but provocation by a fool is heavier than both.

A fool's wrath is heavier than sand and stone.

Such an ill temper is injurious, but a fool does not have sense enough to know it. So, he suffers from it.

Proverbs 27:4

(Pro 27:4 ISV*) ¶ Wrath can be fierce and anger overwhelms but who can stand up to jealousy?

(Pro 27:4 KJV+) Wrath^{H2534} is cruel,^{H395} and anger^{H639} is outrageous;^{H7858} but who^{H4310} is able to stand^{H5975} before^{H6440} envy?^{H7068}

(Pro 27:4 NASB) Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?

(Pro 27:4 NIV) Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

Envy and jealousy are like a cyclone sweeping things before it.

[but who is able to stand before envy?] Question 37.

Next, **Prov 27:23.**

Proverbs 27:5

(Pro 27:5 ISV*) ¶ An open rebuke is better than unspoken love.

(Pro 27:5 KJV+) Open^{H1540} rebuke^{H8433} is better^{H2896} than secret^{H5641} love.^{H4480 H160}

(Pro 27:5 NASB) Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed.

(Pro 27:5 NIV) Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

An open rebuke demonstrates more love to a friend than a secret love which withholds rebuke when it should be given.

Proverbs 27:6

(Pro 27:6 ISV*) ¶ Wounds from someone who loves are trustworthy, but kisses from an enemy speak volumes.
[Lit. *enemy are profuse*]

(Pro 27:6 KJV+) Faithful^{H539} are the wounds^{H6482} of a friend;^{H157} but the kisses^{H5390} of an enemy^{H8130} are deceitful.^{H6280}

(Pro 27:6 NASB) Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

(Pro 27:6 NIV) Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Wounds from a friend are cutting and sharp, but they will do more good than the kisses of a treacherous, deceptive, crafty enemy.

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Proverbs 27:6

(Pro 27:6 NASB) Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Five examples of such faithfulness:

1. Nehemiah (***Neh 5:7-13***)
2. Jehu (***2 Chron 19:2-11***)
3. Jesus Christ (***Matt 23***)
4. Stephen (***Acts 7***)
5. Paul (***Acts 22-24***)

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Proverbs 27:7

(Pro 27:7 ISV*) ¶ The person [Lit. *soul*] who is full spurns honey, but to a hungry person even the bitter seems sweet.

(Pro 27:7 KJV+) The full^{H7649} soul^{H5315} loatheth^{H947} an honeycomb;^{H5317} but to the hungry^{H7457} soul^{H5315} every^{H3605} bitter thing^{H4751} is sweet.^{H4966}

(Pro 27:7 NASB) A sated man loathes honey, But to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.

(Pro 27:7 NIV) He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

Only the hungry are satisfied with what they have to eat.
To the full nothing tastes good.

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Proverbs 27:8

(Pro 27:8 ISV*) ¶ Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who wanders away from his home. [Lit. *place*]

(Pro 27:8 KJV+) As a bird^{H6833} that wandereth^{H5074} from^{H4480} her nest,^{H7064} so^{H3651} is a man^{H376} that wandereth^{H5074} from his place.^{H4480 H4725}

(Pro 27:8 NASB) Like a bird that wanders from her nest, So is a man who wanders from his home.

(Pro 27:8 NIV) Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

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Proverbs 27:8

**(Pro 27:8 NASB) Like a bird that wanders from her nest,
So is a man who wanders from his home.**

A restless and wandering man is no better than a wandering bird.

The bird leaving her own brood, places of retreat, and breeding ground behind, and going into strange places, exposes herself to many dangers.

Just so is the man who leaves his own home, family, and relatives to seek fortunes elsewhere will often find misery and hardships.

Proverbs 27:9

(Pro 27:9 ISV*) ¶ Ointments and perfume encourage the heart; in a similar way, a friend's advice is sweet to the soul. [So MT; LXX reads *heart*; but through misfortune the soul is torn apart]

(Pro 27:9 KJV+) Ointment^{H8081} and perfume^{H7004} rejoice^{H8055} the heart:^{H3820} so *doth* the sweetness^{H4986} of a man's friend^{H7453} by hearty counsel.^{H4480 H6098 H5315}

**(Pro 27:9 NASB) Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.**

(Pro 27:9 NIV) Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.

Proverbs 27:9

**(Pro 27:9 NASB) Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.**

Anointing of the head and certain parts of the body with aromatic oil was frequent in the East, and scenting the beards of guests at the end of an entertainment was extremely common.

All this seemed to refresh and rejoice the heart of vain men.

So also do the pleasant, kind, and assuring words of friendship or counsel from a true friend.

Hearty counsel means the sincere counsel of the soul.

Proverbs 27:10

(Pro 27:10 ISV*) ¶ Never abandon your friend nor your father's friend, and don't go to your brother's house in times of trouble. A neighbor who is near is better than a brother who lives far away.

(Pro 27:10 KJV+) Thine own friend,^{H7453} and thy father's^{H1} friend,^{H7453} forsake^{H5800} not;^{H408} neither^{H408} go^{H935} into thy brother's^{H251} house^{H1004} in the day^{H3117} of thy calamity:^{H343} for better^{H2896} is a neighbour^{H7934} that is near^{H7138} than a brother^{H4480} far off.^{H7350}

(Pro 27:10 NASB) Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, And do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.

(Pro 27:10 NIV) Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

Proverbs 27:10

(Pro 27:10 NASB) Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, And do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.

Do not forsake the old and valued friends of your family.
Never forget or neglect them for they are rare indeed who will stick by you in both adversity and prosperity.

In time of adversity do not go to a distant relative whose heart is far from your interests.

It is better to go to a close friend and neighbor.

Proverbs 27:12

(Pro 27:12 ISV*) ¶ Those who are prudent see danger and take refuge, but the naïve continue on and suffer the consequences.

(Pro 27:12 KJV+) A prudent^{H6175} *man* foreseeth^{H7200} the evil,^{H7451} *and* hideth himself;^{H5641} *but* the simple^{H6612} pass on,^{H5674} *and* are punished.^{H6064}

(Pro 27:12 NASB) A prudent man sees evil *and* hides himself, The naïve proceed *and* pay the penalty.

(Pro 27:12 NIV) The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

A prudent man foresees danger and escapes it, but the inexperienced and the young do not, so they suffer for it (**Prov 22:3**).

[simple] See note, **Prov 1:4**.

Proverbs 27:11

(Pro 27:11 ISV*) ¶ Be wise, my son, and make me happy, so I can reply to anyone who insults me.

(Pro 27:11 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} be wise,^{H2449} and make my heart^{H3820} glad,^{H8055} that I may answer^{H7725} ^{H1697} him that reproacheth^{H2778} me.

(Pro 27:11 NASB) Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, That I may reply to him who reproaches me.

(Pro 27:11 NIV) Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

My son, live as such an example of your righteous teaching that it will be a rebuke to those who reproach me.

You will make me happy when I can point to you as such an example.

Proverbs 27:13

(Pro 27:13 ISV*) ¶ Take the coat of anyone who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he cosigns for an immoral woman.

(Pro 27:13 KJV+) Take^{H3947} his garment^{H899} that^{H3588} is surety^{H6148} for a stranger,^{H2114} and take a pledge^{H2254} of him for^{H1157} a strange woman.^{H5237}

(Pro 27:13 NASB) Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger; And for an adulterous woman hold him in pledge.

(Pro 27:13 NIV) Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he does it for a wayward woman.

Proverbs 27:13

(Pro 27:13 NASB) Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger; And for an adulterous woman hold him in pledge.

Take sufficient security from strangers to make sure they meet their obligation and don't run away; and

take a pledge from him who has become security for a strange woman (**Prov 20:16**).

Proverbs 27:14

(Pro 27:14 NASB) He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, It will be reckoned a curse to him.

Be suspicious and wary of the man who always flatters you with a loud voice and goes out of the way to do so.

It will turn out to be a curse instead of a blessing.

[rising early in the morning] An idiom for excessive flattery. Extravagant public praise is always suspicious.

[it shall be counted a curse to him] Seldom does it fail that men who pretend to be great friends and boast of your friendship sooner or later turn out to be a curse and a disappointment.

Proverbs 27:14

(Pro 27:14 ISV*) ¶ A friend's loud blessing early in the morning will be thought of as a curse.

(Pro 27:14 KJV+) He that blesseth^{H1288} his friend^{H7453} with a loud^{H1419} voice,^{H6963} rising early^{H7925} in the morning,^{H1242} it shall be counted^{H2803} a curse^{H7045} to him.

(Pro 27:14 NASB) He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, It will be reckoned a curse to him.

(Pro 27:14 NIV) If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

Proverbs 27:15

(Pro 27:15 ISV*) ¶ A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike.

(Pro 27:15 KJV+) A continual^{H2956} dropping^{H1812} in a very rainy^{H5464} day^{H3117} and a contentious^{H4079} woman^{H802} are alike.^{H7737}

(Pro 27:15 NASB) A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a contentious woman are alike;

(Pro 27:15 NIV) A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day;

Three similitudes of a contentious woman:

1. She is like perpetual cloudbursts that are overwhelming and cannot be contained (**Prov 19:13**).
Her contentions engulf the soul and leave one in despair.
The Arabic denotes a rain poured out of buckets.
2. She is like the wind and storm that cannot be stopped or confined by a dam (**Prov 27:16**).
3. She is like the smell of aromatic oil which your hands have been anointed with.
It is impossible to hide. The oil betrays itself (**Prov 27:16**).
The statements in **Prov 27:16** show a man attempting to do the impossible.

Proverbs 27:17

(Pro 27:17 ISV*) ¶ Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens a friend's character. [Lit. *countenance*]

(Pro 27:17 KJV+) Iron^{H1270} sharpeneth^{H2300} iron;^{H1270} so a man^{H376} sharpeneth^{H2300} the countenance^{H6440} of his friend.^{H7453}

(Pro 27:17 NASB) Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.

(Pro 27:17 NIV) As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

As hard iron or steel will sharpen a knife, so a man may sharpen the intellect and the moral and spiritual life of another.

Proverbs 27:16

(Pro 27:16 ISV*) ¶ Trying to keep her in check is like stopping a wind storm or grabbing oil with your right hand.

(Pro 27:16 KJV+) Whosoever hideth^{H6845} her hideth^{H6845} the wind,^{H7307} and the ointment^{H8081} of his right hand,^{H3225} which bewrayeth^{H7121} itself.

(Pro 27:16 NASB) He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.

(Pro 27:16 NIV) restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.

Proverbs 27:18

(Pro 27:18 ISV*) ¶ Whoever nurtures the fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever obeys [Lit. *guards*] his master will be honored.

(Pro 27:18 KJV+) Whoso keepeth^{H5341} the fig tree^{H8384} shall eat^{H398} the fruit^{H6529} thereof: so he that waiteth^{H8104} on his master^{H113} shall be honoured.^{H3513}

(Pro 27:18 NASB) He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, And he who cares for his master will be honored.

(Pro 27:18 NIV) He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored.

Proverbs 27:18

(Pro 27:18 NASB) He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, And he who cares for his master will be honored.

Six examples of honoring servants:

1. Deborah (*Gen 35:8*)
2. Joseph (*Gen 39:2-23*)
3. Elisha (*2 Kings 3:11*)
4. Centurion's servant (*Luke 7:8*)
5. Disciples (*Luke 12:37*)
6. The soldier of Cornelius (*Acts 10:7*)

Proverbs 27:20

(Pro 27:20 ISV*) ¶ Sheol [i.e. the realm of the dead] and Abaddon [i.e. the realm of destruction in the afterlife] are never satiated, and neither are human eyes.

(Pro 27:20 KJV+) Hell^{H7585} and destruction^{H10} are never^{H3808} full,^{H7646} so the eyes^{H5869} of man^{H120} are never^{H3808} satisfied.^{H7646}

(Pro 27:20 NASB) Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.

(Pro 27:20 NIV) Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.

[Hell] Hebrew: **She'owl** (OT:7585), the place of souls and departed spirits.

Luke 12:5 Luke 16:19-31.

As hell and destruction are never full, so restless, lustful, and covetous eyes are never satisfied.

Proverbs 27:19

(Pro 27:19 ISV*) ¶ Just as water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person.

(Pro 27:19 KJV+) As in water^{H4325} face^{H6440} answereth to face,^{H6440} so^{H3651} the heart^{H3820} of man^{H120} to man.^{H120}

(Pro 27:19 NASB) As in water face reflects face, So the heart of man reflects man.

(Pro 27:19 NIV) As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

As in water the face is reflected, so the human heart reflects the disposition to be discerned by others.

Proverbs 27:21

(Pro 27:21 ISV*) ¶ As the crucible tests [The Heb. lacks tests] silver, and the furnace assays [The Heb. lacks assays] gold; so praise received tests [The Heb. lacks tests] a man.

(Pro 27:21 KJV+) As the fining pot^{H4715} for silver,^{H3701} and the furnace^{H3564} for gold;^{H2091} so is a man^{H376} to^{H6310} his praise.^{H4110}

(Pro 27:21 NASB) The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, And each is tested by the praise accorded him.

(Pro 27:21 NIV) The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.

As the refining pot and furnace test the gold and silver, so praise of a man tests his real character by the effect it has upon him.

His humility or self-exaltation is soon discovered and his true worth is thus known.

Proverbs 27:22

(Pro 27:22 ISV*) ¶ Though you crush a fool in a mortar and pestle as someone might crush grain, his stupidity still won't leave him.

(Pro 27:22 KJV+) Though^{H518} thou shouldst bray^{H3806} (H853) a fool^{H191} in a mortar^{H4388} among^{H8432} wheat^{H7383} with a pestle,^{H5940} yet will not^{H3808} his foolishness^{H200} depart^{H5493} from^{H4480} H5921 him.

(Pro 27:22 NASB) Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

(Pro 27:22 NIV) Though you grind a fool in a mortar, grinding him like grain with a pestle, you will not remove his folly from him.

Proverbs 27:22

(Pro 27:22 NASB) Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

Though one pounds, pulverizes, and mixes the fool in a mortar (a vessel in which substances are crushed or pounded) among wheat with a pestle (an instrument for crushing and mixing substances), yet it will be impossible to eradicate his foolishness from him.

Proverbs 27:23

(Pro 27:23 ISV*) ¶ Keep well informed of the condition of your flocks and pay attention to your herds,

(Pro 27:23 KJV+) Be thou diligent to know^{H3045} H3045 the state^{H6440} of thy flocks,^{H6629} and look^{H7896} H3820 well to thy herds.^{H5739}

(Pro 27:23 NASB) Know well the condition of your flocks, And pay attention to your herds;

(Pro 27:23 NIV) Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;

Don't just trust your flocks to the shepherd, but count them yourself and see that they are well tended and fed.

Flocks will multiply generation after generation, but other riches and even the crowns of kings are temporary and will soon pass away (**Prov 27:23-24**).

Proverbs 27:24

(Pro 27:24 ISV*) ¶ because riches don't endure forever, and crowns don't last from one generation to the next.

(Pro 27:24 KJV+) For^{H3588} riches^{H2633} are not^{H3808} for ever:^{H5769} and doth^{H518} the crown^{H5145} endure to every generation?^{H1755} H1755

(Pro 27:24 NASB) For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations.

(Pro 27:24 NIV) for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

Question 38. Next, **Prov 29:20**.

Proverbs 27:25

(Pro 27:25 ISV*) ¶ When the grass disappears, and new growth appears, the mountain spices will be harvested,

(Pro 27:25 KJV+) The hay^{H2682} appeareth,^{H1540} and the tender grass^{H1877} sheweth itself,^{H7200} and herbs^{H6212} of the mountains^{H2022} are gathered.^{H622}

(Pro 27:25 NASB) *When the grass disappears, the new growth is seen, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,*

(Pro 27:25 NIV) *When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in,*

Proverbs 27:25

(Pro 27:25 NASB) *When the grass disappears, the new growth is seen, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,*

Five admonitions to farmers:

1. Make hay to feed the stock for the winter (*Prov 27:25*).
2. Feed the flock on the new pasture in the spring (*Prov 27:25*).
3. Sell the lambs to buy clothes (*Prov 27:26*).
4. Sell the goats to pay for the farm or pay the rent (*Prov 27:26*).
5. Use the goats' milk for the whole household and to maintain the servants (*Prov 27:27*).

Proverbs 27:26

(Pro 27:26 ISV*) ¶ the lambs will supply your clothing, and your goats the price of a field.

(Pro 27:26 KJV+) The lambs^{H3532} are for thy clothing,^{H3830} and the goats^{H6260} are the price^{H4242} of the field.^{H7704}

(Pro 27:26 NASB) The lambs *will be* for your clothing, And the goats *will bring* the price of a field,

(Pro 27:26 NIV) the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field.

Proverbs 27:27

(Pro 27:27 ISV*) ¶ You will have enough goat's milk to drink and to supply your household needs, as well as sustenance for your servant girls.

(Pro 27:27 KJV+) And *thou shalt have* goats^{H5795} milk^{H2461} enough^{H1767} for thy food,^{H3899} for the food^{H3899} of thy household,^{H1004} and for the maintenance^{H2416} for thy maidens.^{H5291}

(Pro 27:27 NASB) And *there will be* goats' milk enough for your food, For the food of your household, And sustenance for your maidens.

(Pro 27:27 NIV) You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you and your family and to nourish your servant girls.

[milk enough for thy food] Milk here represents all the products necessary for the home.