

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH- Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Class

Popular Proverbial Phrases Inspired by Bible Passages

The Book of Proverbs:

The Old Testament book of Proverbs, mostly written by King Solomon, known for his God-given wisdom, serves as the inspiration for many of our popular proverbial phrases. These come especially from that portion of the book that contains Solomon's two-line wisdom sayings that are recorded not in any particular order or collected in any topical sections.

"Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child"

Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

"Pride Cometh Before the Fall" or "The Bigger They Are, the Harder They Fall"

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

"The Early Bird Gets the Worm"

Proverbs 6:10-11 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 20:13 Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

"The Hair of the Dog that Bit You"

Proverbs 23:35 "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink."

"What Goes Around, Comes Around"

Proverbs 17:13 If anyone returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.

Proverbs 26:27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling.

"Behind Every Good Man is a Great Woman"

Proverbs 31:11, 23 and 28 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain...Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land...Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

“You Only Hurt the Ones You Love”

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 28:23 Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

“A Friend in Need is a Friend in Deed”

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:10 Do not forsake your friend and 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 who is far away.

“Two Heads Are Better Than One”

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

“You Can’t Get Rich Quick”

Proverbs 12:11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 28:19 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Amos 5:18-20 “Out of the Frying Pan and Into the Fire”

Amos was a farmer and shepherd from Tekoa in the southern kingdom of Judah whom God sent to preach to the people in the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos was active during the reign of King Jeroboam II (786 BC to 746 BC). It was a time of great peace and prosperity. While the nation seemed politically, economically and religiously successful, it was rotten spiritually. The people did not love God with all their heart as evidenced by their shallow and false worship. They did not love their neighbors as themselves as evidence by the oppression of the poor by the rich. Their legal process was corrupt. Judges took bribes to decide court cases in favor of the wealthy.

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him,

or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

“What is “the day of the Lord” here? _____

How does Amos describe this day? _____ Will there be any escape? _____

Just when this man has gotten away from a lion, what does he come across? _____

Just when he thinks that he is in the safety of his own house, what happens? _____

What answer does the last question expect? _____ Amos has a blunt warning for Israel

here: It is not possible for unfaithful people to escape this punishment of God.