INTRODUCTION

Proverbs Chapter 10 is a chapter of contrasts. Note the word “but” 26 times.

1. Two Kinds of Sons (1)

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

2. Divine Providence (2)

Proverbs 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

3. The Diligent and the Lazy (3-5)

Proverbs 10:3 The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.
10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.
10:5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

4. The Just and the Unjust (6-7)

Proverbs 10:6 Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.
10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

5. Two Attitudes (8)

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

6. Two Walks (9)

Proverbs 10:9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

7. Contrasted Use of the Tongue (10-14)

Proverbs 10:10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating (talk foolishly or tediously about something) fool shall fall.
10:11 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.
10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
10:13 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.
10:14 Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

8. The Rich and the Poor (15)

Proverbs 10:15 The rich man’s wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.

9. Causes of Life and Death (16-17)

Proverbs 10:16 The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.
10:17 He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

10. Contrasted Use of the Tongue (18-21)

Proverbs 10:18 He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.
10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.
10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.
10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

11. God’s Blessings (22-24)

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.
10:23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.
10:24 The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

12. More Comparisons (25-26)

Proverbs 10:25 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.
10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

13. Four Contrasted Destinies (27-30) “...prolongeth days...gladness...strength....never be removed...” (enduring in eternity)

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.
10:28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.
10:29 The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.
10:30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.
14. Contrasted Use of the Tongue (31-32)

Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.
10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

Chapter 10 is a chapter of contrasts. Moral virtues are contrasted with their corresponding vices.

* vs. 6, 11 - “...but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked...” Just as love covers all sins, so the mouth of the wicked covers up all violence so you cannot spot it until its too late.

Proverbs 26:24 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;
26:25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

Also, everything a wicked man says issues in violence. Violence literally covers everything that comes out of his mouth, not in the sense of concealment, but in the sense of amount taken in by the word itself.

* v.10 - “...winketh with the eye causeth sorrow...” The wink of the eye is a sign of secret agreement, secret flirtation, lying.

* v.15 - “...rich man’s wealth is his strong city...” The rich man’s wealth is like a strong city because he can hide behind his money to defend himself with it, buy friends and protect himself against poverty and hunger.

Proverbs 21:22 A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

Proverbs 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Chapter 10 Vocabulary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>v.</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>heaviness</td>
<td>depression, grief, sorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>famish</td>
<td>starve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>slack</td>
<td>careless</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>prating</td>
<td>talk long and foolishly; a ready flow of inconsequential talk; nonsense</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>sport</td>
<td>laughter; merriment; a joke</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>sluggard</td>
<td>lazy</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>froward</td>
<td>obstinately self willed in refusing to concur, conform or submit</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>frowardness</td>
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