

Wisdom about leadership and government

1. Leadership – the basics

- *Leadership and God 24:21*
- *Leadership and God's wisdom 815-16*

2. Good Leadership means justice and righteousness

- *Just laws and administration – 8:15,1612, 20:8*
- *Protection of the vulnerable 31:8-9, 29:4*

3. Good Leadership means wise behaviour

- *Wisdom – 8:15-16*
- *Commitment 31:3-7*
- *Knowledge – 25:2*
- *Truthfulness – 25:2-3, 17:7*
- *Incorruptibility – 29:4, 29:12*

4. Good Leadership needs wise followers

- *Playing our part - 14:34-35, 25:15*
- *Taking responsibility for ourselves – 6:6-8*
- *God-centred Expectations - 29:26*
- *Christlikeness all round - 20:28*

Proverbs about Wise leadership and government

- 6:6-8** Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ⁷ It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸ yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.
- 8:15-16** Wisdom says: By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; by me princes govern, and nobles — all who rule on earth
- 14:34-35** Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath.
- 16:12** Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness.
- 17:17** Eloquent lips are unsuited to a godless fool - how much worse lying lips to a ruler!
- 20:8** When a king sits on his throne to judge, he winnows out all evil with his eyes.
- 20:28** Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.
- 24:21** Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious, for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?
- 25:2-3** It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. ³ As the heavens are high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.
- 25:15** Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.
- 29:4** By justice a king gives country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down. ¹⁴ If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will always be secure.
- 29:12** If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.
- 31:1-9** The sayings of King Lemuel--an oracle his mother taught him: ² Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb! Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers! ³ Do not spend your strength on women, your vigour on those who ruin kings. ⁴ "It is not for kings, O Lemuel--not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, ⁵ lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. ⁶ Let beer be for those who are perishing, wine for those who are in anguish! ⁷ Let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. ⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.