



**APOSTOLIC
PENTECOSTAL PREACHERS'
PULPIT COMMENTARY ON
PROVERBS 22**

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COMMENTARY ON PROVERBS 22

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Verse-by-verse commentary on Proverbs 22 verse by verse entry keeps: a short paraphrase, an Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation that names repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins, and baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:38) as the New Testament plan of salvation and the way believers are born again of water and the Spirit, a brief rabbinic/Midrashic note, and a pastoral/metaphorical application.

Proverbs 22:1 — “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...”

- Paraphrase: Character and testimony are more valuable than money.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: A believer's “good name” is the fruit of genuine conversion — repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins, and the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:38). This born-again life (born of water and the Spirit) produces a holy testimony that endures beyond material gain (cf. Matt. 6:19–21; Acts 2:38).
- Rabbinic note: Reputation and legacy are prized in Jewish wisdom tradition.
- Metaphor: Your testimony is a lamp—guard it by living out Acts 2:38.

Proverbs 22:2 — “The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.”

- Paraphrase: All people are Jehovah - Jesus creatures, regardless of status.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: In The Lord Jesus Christ (and by the New Testament plan of salvation), social distinctions are leveled: those born again of water and the Spirit stand equal before God (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:28). Apostolic Pentecostal Fivefold Ministers must reflect practical care for the poor as evidence of a true conversion.
- Rabbinic note: Emphasizes Jesus -Jehovah as creator of every soul.
- Metaphor: The Apostolic Pentecostal church table is set for both rich and poor.

Proverbs 22:3 — “A prudent man foreseeth the evil...”

- Paraphrase: Wisdom anticipates danger and takes precautions.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Spiritual discernment—cultivated by prayer, Scripture, and the Holy Ghost (received as in Acts 2:38)—protects the church. Born-again believers are called to vigilance and separation from compromise (2 Cor. 6:14–7:1).
- Rabbinic note: Prudence is piety.
- Metaphor: Wisdom is a watchman; the Spirit gives the warning.

Proverbs 22:4 — “By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.”

- Paraphrase: Humility and reverence bring true blessing.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Humility and fear of the Lord open the believer to the transforming work of repentance, baptism (Acts 2:38), and Spirit baptism. This posture invites the riches of God’s presence, honor in God’s sight, and abundant life born of water and the Spirit.
- Rabbinic note: Fear of the Lord is the root of wisdom.
- Metaphor: Humility is the key to heaven’s door.

Proverbs 22:5 — “Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward...”

- Paraphrase: The crooked fall into traps; the careful avoid them.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: A life shaped by Acts 2:38 (repentance, baptism, Spirit) learns to guard the soul. Sanctification—empowered by the Holy Ghost—keeps one away from moral snares.
- Rabbinic note: Avoid bad paths.
- Metaphor: Holiness clears the road ahead.

Proverbs 22:6 — “Train up a child in the way he should go...”

- Paraphrase: Early spiritual instruction endures.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Parents and the church must teach children the New Testament plan of salvation (repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name, and Holy Ghost baptism with tongues) so they learn how to be born again of water and the Spirit. Home discipleship and baptismal teaching form lasting faith (Eph. 6).
- Rabbinic note: Education of the young is vital.
- Metaphor: Plant the vine young where it will climb.

Proverbs 22:7 — “The rich ruleth over the poor...”

- Paraphrase: Wealth creates power; debt brings bondage.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Stewardship teaching in the church urges prudence so believers can serve freely after conversion (Acts 2:38) rather than be enslaved by debt. Financial wisdom protects testimony and ministry freedom.
- Rabbinic note: Debt's social dangers are warned against.
- Metaphor: Debt is a chain—live within means.

Proverbs 22:8 — “He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity...”

- Paraphrase: Wicked deeds bring empty results; anger fails.

- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: The Christian life—initiated by repentance and water baptism in Jesus’ name and sealed by the Holy Ghost—leads to sowing righteousness. Persistent sin leads to loss despite outward claims; Acts 2:38 invites true change and fruit.
- Rabbinic note: Sowing and reaping is a moral law.
- Metaphor: Actions plant seeds; reap accordingly.

Proverbs 22:9 — “He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed...”

- Paraphrase: Generosity toward the poor brings blessing.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Generosity flows from genuine conversion (Acts 2:38) and is evidence of the new birth. The church practices benevolence as part of New Testament holiness and witness (James 2; 2 Cor. 9).
- Rabbinic note: Charity is a religious duty.
- Metaphor: A generous eye is an overflowing cup.

Proverbs 22:10 — “Cast out the scorner...”

- Paraphrase: Remove mockers to restore peace.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Church discipline protects the flock and preserves the integrity of the gospel (Matt. 18; 1 Cor. 5). Those claiming conversion must show the fruit of Acts 2:38;

persistent scorers disrupting grace may be dealt with for restoration and good order.

- Rabbinic note: Harmony requires removing corrosive influences.
- Metaphor: Pull the weed to save the garden.

Proverbs 22:11 — “He that loveth pureness of heart...”

- Paraphrase: Inner purity and gracious speech win favor.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: A pure heart—evidenced in repentance, baptism in Jesus’ name, and Spirit-filled life—produces gracious speech and influence. The born-again witness opens doors for ministry and testimony.
- Rabbinic note: Inner purity yields honor.
- Metaphor: Purity is a magnet for favor.

Proverbs 22:12 — “The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge...”

- Paraphrase: God watches over truth and frustrates sinners.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: God guards those who embrace the New Testament gospel (Acts 2:38) and exposes the words of transgressors. Trust God’s providence in preserving His people and His truth.

- Rabbinic note: Divine oversight sustains the wise.
- Metaphor: God’s eyes are a lighthouse.

Proverbs 22:13 — “The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way...”

- Paraphrase: The lazy invent excuses.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Kingdom labor—evangelism, discipleship, and holy living—requires diligence. Those truly born again of water and the Spirit will not hide behind excuses but will go forth in boldness empowered by the Holy Ghost.
- Rabbinic note: Excuses for idleness are censured.
- Metaphor: The “lion” is an excuse; face your calling.

Proverbs 22:14 — “The mouth of strange women is a deep pit...”

- Paraphrase: Sexual temptation leads to ruin.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Holiness in sexual conduct is central to the born-again life. Acts 2:38 leads to moral transformation; the Spirit empowers believers to resist seduction and live in purity (1 Thess. 4).
- Rabbinic note: Warnings against seduction are frequent.
- Metaphor: Temptation is a pit—keep the ropes of accountability ready.

Proverbs 22:15 — “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child...”

- Paraphrase: Children need correction.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Discipline and instruction—rooted in Scripture and the truths of the New Testament plan of salvation—help form mature believers. Correction should be loving and aim to lead children toward repentance and ultimately the experience of being born again of water and the Spirit.
- Rabbinic note: Training children in Torah-like instruction prevents folly.
- Metaphor: Discipline is pruning for fruit.

Proverbs 22:16 — “He that oppressteth the poor...”

- Paraphrase: Exploiting the poor or pandering to the rich brings want.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Authentic conversion (Acts 2:38) produces justice and refuses corrupt gain. The church must protect the vulnerable and reject favoritism.
- Rabbinic note: Justice in commerce is stressed.
- Metaphor: Greed digs its own pit.

Proverbs 22:17 — “Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise...”

- Paraphrase: Listen and apply wisdom.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Hear and obey New Testament teaching about repentance, baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins, and receiving the Holy Ghost with tongues (Acts 2:38). Apply these truths to be truly born again of water and the Spirit and walk in power.
- Rabbinic note: Receptive listening is prized.
- Metaphor: Incline your ear like a disciple.

Proverbs 22:18 — “For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee...”

- Paraphrase: Internalized wisdom makes speech apt.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Internalize the gospel (Acts 2:38) so your testimony and witness are effective—your lips will be fitted to speak truth in season by the Spirit.
- Rabbinic note: Innerizing instruction yields eloquence.
- Metaphor: Hidden treasure becomes ready coins in your mouth.

Proverbs 22:19 — “That thy trust may be in the LORD...”

- Paraphrase: Instruction aims to build trust in God.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: The instruction of Proverbs and the New Testament (Acts

2:38) is designed to place your trust in the Lord. Trust leads to obedience in repentance, baptism, and Spirit-filled life.

- Rabbinic note: Instruction directs dependence on God.
- Metaphor: Wisdom is a bridge to faith.

Proverbs 22:20 — “Have not I written to thee excellent things...”

- Paraphrase: Valuable counsel has been given.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Value Scripture and apostolic teaching which lay out the plan of salvation (repentance, water baptism in Jesus’ name, and Holy Ghost baptism). Pastors should teach these excellences faithfully.
- Rabbinic note: The teacher’s role is affirmed.
- Metaphor: These writings are map and lamp.

Proverbs 22:21 — “That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth...”

- Paraphrase: So you may be grounded and able to answer others.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Be grounded in the certainties of the New Testament gospel (Acts 2:38) so you can defend and share the truth with those who ask. Equip the congregation in testimony, baptismal practice, and Spirit-baptism experience.

- Rabbinic note: Preparation to answer is a classic role of teachers.
- Metaphor: Be a soldier ready with an answer.

Proverbs 22:22 — “Rob not the poor...”

- Paraphrase: Do not exploit or oppress the vulnerable.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: The church, as a community born again of water and Spirit, must protect the weak and practice practical mercy. Benevolence is the fruit of true conversion (Acts 2:44–47 aligned with repentance and new life).
- Rabbinic note: Protect the weak at the gate.
- Metaphor: Church hands should be open, not clenched.

Proverbs 22:23 — “For the LORD will plead their cause...”

- Paraphrase: God defends the wronged and judges oppressors.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Trust God’s vindication while pursuing justice and mercy in the church. The one born again of water and the Spirit rests in God’s defense.
- Rabbinic note: God acts as defender.
- Metaphor: God is the courtroom advocate.

Proverbs 22:24 — “Make no friendship with an angry man...”

- Paraphrase: Avoid close ties with the hot-tempered.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Associations shape spiritual life; fellowship should encourage the fruit of the Spirit. Those born again of water and the Spirit must guard relationships that would draw them into sin.
- Rabbinic note: Choose companions wisely.
- Metaphor: Angry people are live wires—keep safe distance.

Proverbs 22:25 — “Lest thou learn his ways...”

- Paraphrase: Close contact may bring you into sin.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Guard Apostolic Pentecostal fellowship; protect your testimony and holiness received in repentance baptism—water baptism—in Jesus Name and sealed by his spirit with the sign of the spirit of sonship . Accountability in the Apostolic Pentecostal church helps prevent drift.
- Rabbinic note: Habits are contagious.
- Metaphor: Bad company is a spiritual contagion.

Proverbs 22:26 — “Be not thou one of them that strike hands...”

- Paraphrase: Don't be surety for debts rashly.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Practical stewardship protects family and ministry. Keep your witness and resources secure after conversion (Acts 2:38) so ministry is not hampered by foolish financial entanglements.
- Rabbinic note: Caution about co-signing is wise.
- Metaphor: Don't hitch your wagon to another's burden.

Proverbs 22:27 — “If thou hast nothing to pay...”

- Paraphrase: Don't risk losing what you have by guaranteeing others.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Prudence in financial commitments preserves the household and the church's testimony. Pastors teach responsibility to protect those they lead.
- Rabbinic note: Protect household security.
- Metaphor: Protect your foundation.

Proverbs 22:28 — “Remove not the old landmark...”

- Paraphrase: Respect boundaries and inheritance.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Defend the vulnerable and respect covenantal boundaries. The church protects orphans and upholds God's order. Teach respect for spiritual and material inheritance—traditions that reflect godliness and the gospel's fruit.

- Rabbinic note: Landmarks and orphan rights are frequently defended.
- Metaphor: Landmarks are sacred stones—do not move them.

Proverbs 22:29 — “Seest thou a man diligent in his business?...”

- Paraphrase: Diligence leads to influence and honor.
- Apostolic Pentecostal interpretation: Faithful service, shaped by true conversion (Acts 2:38) and empowered by the Holy Ghost, opens doors for influence. Encourage excellence in ministry and witness as evidence of the born-again life.
- Rabbinic note: Diligence earns respect.
- Metaphor: Diligence builds a stairway to influence.

Concluding Apostolic Pastoral Notes

- Acts 2:38 (repentance, water baptism in Jesus’ name for the remission of sins, and the baptism in the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues) is presented here as the New Testament plan of salvation and the means by which a person is “born again of water and the Spirit.” Wherever conversion, testimony, or new-life language appears in Proverbs 22, it is interpreted as flowing from that Apostolic experience.
- Practical emphases: teach Acts 2:38 clearly

in discipleship and family instruction; ensure benevolence ministries and church discipline reflect holiness and mercy; cultivate Spirit-empowered witness (testimonies, tongues, evangelism) as evidence of the new birth.

- Apologetic use: Show how Proverbs' calls to holiness, justice, and transformed life cohere with the Apostolic claim that true conversion brings practical change (repentance, baptism, Spirit) and produces a visible testimony in community life.

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