



**APOSTOLIC
PENTECOSTAL PREACHERS'
PULPIT COMMENTARY ON
PROVERBS 21**

ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER



THE APOSTOLIC
PENTECOSTAL
PREACHERS PULPIT
COMMENTARY—
PROVERBS 21

Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker

whpctuttle.com

Apostolic Pentecostal Preachers Pulpit Commentary
verse-by-verse expository study of Proverbs 21
from an Apostolic Pentecostal Pulpit perspective,
layered with Hebrew word-meanings, classical Jewish
(Rashi / Midrash-type) insights where relevant, and
application/apologetic angles that draw out “gems
and diamonds” beneath the surface. I keep each entry
compact so you can use these as sermon points, Bible
study notes, or apologetic talking-points. Where I
give Hebrew terms I use standard transliterations and
short glosses.

Proverbs 21:1

- Paraphrase: The king’s heart is like a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He pleases.
- Hebrew gems: lev (heart), melekh (king), be-yad YHWH (in the hand of Yahweh), ke-nachal mayim (like a channel/stream of water).
- Rabbinic insight (Rashi/Midrash): Jehovah - Jesus is sovereign even over rulers; human plans are ultimately subordinate to divine providence.
- Apostolic Pentecostal angle: Emphasize sovereignty of Yahweh over governments — prayer for leaders is not powerless; the Holy Spirit moves hearts supernaturally.
- Analogy/application: Like a shepherd diverting a stream to water different fields, God guides leaders’

decisions; pray with expectation that God can change a leader's heart.

Proverbs 21:2

- Paraphrase: A man may think his way is right, but the LORD weighs the heart.
- Hebrew gems: lev adam (man's heart), chochmah? not here — “YHWH yatzmor lev” (YHWH weighs the heart).
- Rabbinic insight: Outward actions can be misread; God's discernment penetrates motive.
- Apostolic Pentecostal emphasis: True repentance and faith are matters of the heart; visible religion without a transformed heart won't stand before God.
- Apostolic Pentecostal Application: Examine motives — our “rightness” can be self-deception; appeal to the Spirit for inner conviction.

Proverbs 21:3

- Paraphrase: To do righteousness (tzedeq) and justice (mishpat) is better to the LORD than sacrifice.
- Hebrew gems: asot tzedeq u-mishpat — more acceptable than zevach (sacrifice).
- Rabbinic insight: Ritual without ethical behavior is void; God values covenantal justice and mercy.
- Apostolic Pentecostal angle: Worship is spiritual and practical — obedience, justice, humility, and

mercy matter more than rituals. Sacrifice points to Christ; the cross compels righteous living.

- Apostolic Pentecostal Application: Ministries must couple worship with social righteousness and mercy.

Proverbs 21:4

- Paraphrase: Haughty eyes and a proud heart, and the stench of the wicked, are sin.
- Hebrew gems: *einei mashkeh/ruach gaavah?* (haughty eyes, proud heart), *re'a tachme'ah?* — “nose of wicked” figurative.
- Rabbinic insight: Pride corrupts and distances one from God and community.
- Apostolic Pentecostal emphasis: Humility is a fruit of the Spirit; pride blocks revival and repentance.
- Analogy: Smell indicates inner rot — what’s inside shows outwardly.

Proverbs 21:5

- Paraphrase: The plans of the diligent lead to abundance; haste leads to poverty.
- Hebrew gems: *chushavot* (plans), *aniyut?* — *shirqut?* — diligent (*chayil?*), *hevel* (vanity) in haste.
- Rabbinic insight: Wisdom (*chokhmah*) values careful planning and patience.
- Apostolic Pentecostal note: Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, stewardship) produce long-term fruit;

get-rich-quick schemes are spiritually dangerous.

- Apostolic Pentecostal Application: Teach stewardship, patience, faithful work; warn against instant-grace mentality that expects blessings without obedience.

Proverbs 21:6

- Paraphrase: A fortune gotten by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor for those who seek death.
- Hebrew gems: laban peh (lying tongue), nachal surat? — “treasure gotten by deceit” is transient.
- Rabbinic insight: Ill-gotten gain brings divine liability; thieves pay spiritually.
- Apostolic Pentecostal Apologetics: Integrity matters in witness; So called prosperity theology must be checked by Apostolic Pentecostal biblical ethics.
- Application: Ethical business is part of holiness.

Proverbs 21:7

- Paraphrase: Violence’s gain gives the wicked a livelihood; the innocent are deprived.
- Hebrew gems: chamas (violence), sharav? — violent profit helps the wicked; poor are robbed.
- Rabbinic insight: Societies that reward violence are judged.
- Apostolic emphasis: Social justice matters; the Church must protect the weak.

Proverbs 21:8

- Paraphrase: The way of the guilty (resha'im) is perverse; whoever is pure in conduct is upright.
- Hebrew gems: derech resha'im (way of the wicked), yashar (upright).
- Rabbinic insight: Righteousness is a way — a lifestyle not a one-off.
- Apostolic Pentecostal note: Sanctification is walking in God's way; call the flock to moral consistency.

Proverbs 21:9

- Paraphrase: It is better to live on a corner of the roof than with a quarrelsome wife in a wide house.
- Hebrew gems: godel bayit (big house), re'ah (contentious companion) — the proverb addresses household harmony.
- Rabbinic insight: Peace in the home is of great value; strife makes even abundance bitter.
- Apostolic Pentecostal application: Marriage ministry — cultivate peace, humility, forgiveness; Spirit produces gentleness.

Proverbs 21:10

- Paraphrase: The heart of the wicked covets evil; he does not delight in the LORD's goodness.
- Hebrew gems: lev resha covets ra (evil), lo yisnach

— absence of delight in God.

- Jewish insight: The wicked's heart is oriented away from Jehovah -Jesus ; covetous desire leads to action.
- Apostolic emphasis: Guard the heart; teach contentment in Christ as remedy for covetousness.

Proverbs 21:11

- Paraphrase: When the mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom; when the wise are taught, they increase knowledge.
- Hebrew gems: kozver?! (mock), pethi (simple), musar (discipline).
- Rabbinic insight: Correction has communal benefit; discipline instructs the naïve.
- Apostolic application: Church discipline, pastoral correction, and loving rebuke bring growth.

Proverbs 21:12

- Paraphrase: The Righteous considers the house of the wicked; brings down the wicked.
- Hebrew gems: tzaddik (righteous), bayit reshaim (house of the wicked).
- Rabbinic insight: The righteous observe and fear God, and ultimately God's justice falls on the wicked.
- Apostolic apologetics: The faithful need not resort to vengeance—God's justice will vindicate.

Proverbs 21:13

- Paraphrase: Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will cry himself and not be heard.
- Hebrew gems: al-tisa et-nekha'at dal (do not shut out poor's cry).
- Rabbinic insight: Charity (tzedakah) is central; ignoring it invites divine judgment.
- Apostolic application: Social ministry and compassion are gospel basics; neglect crawls back on the soul.

Proverbs 21:14

- Paraphrase: A gift in secret pacifies anger more than public bribes.
- Hebrew gems: matanah beseter (secret gift), pe'al (work).
- Rabbinic insight: Tzedakah given discretely is powerful; humility in giving honors God.
- Apostolic note: Secret prayer and giving align with Jesus' teaching; sometimes private intercession averts judgment.

Proverbs 21:15

- Paraphrase: Practicing justice is joy to the righteous, but to the evildoers it is terror.
- Hebrew gems: mishpat (justice), tza'ad tzaddikim

(joy), pachad le'reshaim (terror).

- Rabbinic insight: God's justice is a delight to those aligned with Him and frightful to those opposed.
- Apostolic application: Preach justice as Gospel fruit; call people from terror to joy through repentance.

Proverbs 21:16

- Paraphrase: The man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead.
- Hebrew gems: derech binah (way of understanding), kavod/beit-emeit (assembly of the dead).
- Rabbinic insight: Moral wandering leads to social and spiritual ruin.
- Apostolic application: Warning against being unequally yoked or drifting from church; call to return.

Proverbs 21:17

- Paraphrase: Whoever loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will not be rich.
- Hebrew gems: ahavta haqetzer? — love of pleasure (eshkolot?), yayin v'shemen (wine and oil).
- Rabbinic insight: Overindulgence squanders resources.
- Apostolic emphasis: Temperance and self-control are Spirit-fruits; pleasure-seeking undermines

stewardship.

Proverbs 21:18

- Paraphrase: The wicked earns deceitful wages but the one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.
- Hebrew gems: sechar meshuqer (deceitful wage), tochan tzedakah (sure reward).
- Rabbinic insight: God vindicates integrity over dishonest gain.
- Apostolic point: Encourage faithful sowing; God's economy honors righteousness.

Proverbs 21:19

- Paraphrase: It is better to live in a desert than with a contentious, angry woman; a corner on the roof than a quarrelsome house.
- Hebrew gems: d'or rechok (far dwelling), ishah m'qorah? — addresses domestic strife.
- Rabbinic insight: Peace valued over material comfort.
- Apostolic emphasis: Teach church how to cultivate peace and conflict resolution.

Proverbs 21:20

- Paraphrase: Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

- Hebrew gems: nechashim? — yes: precious things (hazak?), but the fool consumes wealth.
- Rabbinic insight: Prudence, saving, and stewardship are wise.
- Apostolic application: Teach wise stewardship and preparation; don't deplete spiritual/tangible resources.

Proverbs 21:21

- Paraphrase: Whoever pursues righteousness and mercy will find life, righteousness, and honor.
- Hebrew gems: darosh tzedakah v'chesed (seek righteousness and lovingkindness), chayim v'tzedakah v'kabod (life, righteousness, honor).
- Rabbinic insight: Holistic pursuit — ritual plus mercy.
- Apostolic emphasis: Pursue both truth and grace; spiritual integrity produces testimony and blessing.
- Application: Ministries that balance truth and mercy reflect God's heart and will be honored.

Proverbs 21:22

- Paraphrase: A wise man scales the city of the mighty and casts down the stronghold in which they trust.
- Hebrew gems: chacham (wise), yerushalayim? (city), migdal oz (strong tower of might).

- Rabbinic insight: Wisdom overcomes brute strength; God’s wisdom is a weapon.
- Apostolic application: Spirit-led strategy and wisdom overcome strongholds (spiritual warfare emphasis).

Proverbs 21:23

- Paraphrase: Whoever keeps his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.
- Hebrew gems: shamar peh v’lashon (guard mouth and tongue), nefesh (soul).
- Rabbinic insight: Power of speech is central in Jewish ethics (lashon hara cautions).
- Apostolic note: Tame the tongue as fruit of the Spirit; tongues and words are weapons—use to build up.

Proverbs 21:24

- Paraphrase: The proud and arrogant person—‘haughty is his name’—acts with insolent heart.
- Hebrew gems: ga’avah, yafeh shem? “ga’oh” - proud.
- Rabbinic insight: Pride is the root of many sins.
- Apostolic emphasis: Pride must be crucified; humility is imputed by grace.

Proverbs 21:25

- Paraphrase: The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.
- Hebrew gems: ishat onah? — apathy, laziness (atzlut).
- Rabbinic insight: Laziness leads to spiritual and material decay.
- Apostolic application: Discipline in church life; work evangelism—faith without works is dead.

Proverbs 21:26

- Paraphrase: The sluggard's desire is his death because his hands refuse to work.
- Note: 25–26 echo: craving without effort leads to ruin.
- Apostolic note: Call to faithful labor in kingdom tasks.

Proverbs 21:27

- Paraphrase: The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent!
- Hebrew gems: zevach resha'im to'eva (sacrifice of the wicked is abomination), mutar? — hypocrisy in worship.
- Rabbinic insight: God rejects worship from an unrepentant heart.
- Apostolic angle: Sacramental practices without

repentance and new birth are unacceptable; true sacrifice is a broken and contrite heart (Ps. 51).

Proverbs 21:28

- Paraphrase: The wicked are ensnared by their own words; the innocent escape from trouble.
- Hebrew gems: amanah? — “when the wicked perish, his mouth leads him to sin” — speech ensnares.
- Rabbinic insight: Speech carries legal and moral consequence.
- Apostolic application: Confession and testimony matter; misused words can bring judgment.

Proverbs 21:29

- Paraphrase: A wicked person puts up a bold face, but the upright one ponders his ways.
- Hebrew gems: yareh? — chutzpah of the wicked versus meditative heart of the upright.
- Rabbinic insight: Thoughtful self-examination marks the righteous.
- Apostolic application: Use spiritual disciplines (searching of heart, repentance) rather than brash confidence.

Proverbs 21:30

- Paraphrase: No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can stand against the LORD.
- Hebrew gems: ein chochmah, ein binah, ve-ein etzah neged YHWH.
- Rabbinic insight: God's sovereignty and wisdom exceed all human strategy.
- Apostolic emphasis: Resist secular absolutism in ethics/knowledge — ultimate truth is in God incarnate (Christ).
- Apostolic Pentecostal Apologetic angle: Humble epistemology — human wisdom is limited; point people to revelation in Christ and Scripture.

Proverbs 21:31

- Paraphrase: The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the LORD.
- Hebrew gems: sus le-yom milkhamah, v'shee'a b'YHWH.
- Rabbinic insight: Preparation is good, but ultimate deliverance is divine.
- Apostolic/Pentecostal application: Pray boldly and prepare (strategy), but trust the Spirit for victory; spiritual warfare requires both faith and action.
- Analogy: Army equips itself, but the Commander gives the win.

Concluding pastoral summary and tools for pulpit use

- Overarching themes: Divine sovereignty, heart-orientation over external ritual, integrity and mercy over mere sacrifice, the centrality of speech, the danger of pride and sloth, and the necessity of wisdom matched with humble dependence on God.
- Jewish/solomonic mindset: Proverbs reflects Israel's wisdom tradition — practical, heart-focused, and covenantal. Rashi and the Midrash stress God's providence, the ethical demands of the Torah, and how inner motives determine outcomes.
- Apostolic Pentecostal emphases to highlight in sermons:
 - The primacy of the heart: conversion, repentance, and Spirit-filled living.
 - Prayer that moves kings' hearts: expect corporate and governmental answers when God's people pray.
 - Word is the Spirit balance: Wisdom (logos) with holiness and the empowering of the Holy Ghost.
 - Holistic righteousness: Worship expressed in social justice, mercy, and domestic holiness.
 - Spiritual warfare: prepare (train, plan, equip) but remember victory is YHWH's.
 - Key Hebrew words to teach congregations often: lev (heart), tzedeq/tzedakah (righteousness/righteous giving), mishpat (justice), chesed (lovingkindness), nakah (purity/innocence), resha (wicked), yashar (upright), chochmah (wisdom), binah (understanding), yad (hand — indicating control/power).

- Sermon starters: Use Proverbs 21:1 & 31 together for a message on “Preparation and Providence”; combine verses 3, 13, 14 for a service on “True Worship: Mercy Over Ritual”; use verses 23–24 for a series on “Power in the Tongue vs. Pride.”

Written By Elder Keith Joel Walker