

BIBLE CLASS 13.02.2025 - PROVERBS 16.27 DIGGING UP EVIL

²⁵ There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death. ²⁶ He that labours for himself; for his mouth craves it of him. ²⁷ **An ungodly man digs up evil: and in his lips *there is as a burning fire.*** ²⁸ A froward man sows strife: and a whisperer separates chief friends. ²⁹ A violent man entices his neighbour, and leads him into the way *that is* not good. ³⁰ He shuts his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he brings evil to pass. ³¹ The hoary head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it be found in the way of righteousness. ³² *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that taketh a city. ³³ The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD. (Pro 16:25-33)

Firstly what did the word froward mean in King James 1st's day? In the Biblical use, the word "froward" meant **deceitful, perverse, or crooked**. It is used to describe people who are habitually disobedient and who have turned away from God's path. Dig is a word signifying in the Hebrew word "plotting" Doeg the Edomite is an example of the nasty use of this word:- "Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. (1Sa 22:9-10 KJV)

And so Dear Brothers and Sisters there seems to be a historical background to these proverbs, that focusses on human nature as they are recorded in the historical events during King David's reign. The actions of Absalom in his conspiracy against his father David who often spoke of his relatives as 'the sons of Belial' meaning "worthless men". The Phrase 'intimate friends (Heb. allup) occurs in only one other place in Psalm 55:12-14. ¹² For *it was* not an enemy *that* reproached me; then I could have borne *it*: neither *was it* he that hated me *that* did magnify *himself* against me; then I would have hid myself from him: ¹³ But *it was* thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together, *and* walked unto the house of God in company.

The historical account of the clear defection to Absalom's side is in 2 Samuel 15-12 ¹² And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom. ¹³ And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom. He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant. ²¹ *The words* of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war *was* in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet *were* they drawn swords. Psa 55:20-21 KJV)

⁶ And if he come to see *me*, he speaks vanity: his heart gathers iniquity to itself; *when* he goes abroad, he tells *it*. ⁷ All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.

⁸ An evil disease, *say they*, cleaves fast unto him: and *now* that he lies he shall rise up no more. ⁹ **Yes, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me. (Psa. 41:6-9)**

Absalom was a worthless man who had at some time previously **dug up the evil concerning** Bathsheba who was the daughter of Eliam and grand- daughter of Ahithophophel.

This is not the only example there are other examples of men and women who claim to be righteous and yet are guilty of destruction. They are mischief makers, they dig, spread strife, entice their neighbours, they devise perverse things. Their words are specifically designed to be a scorching fire gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, (Rom 1:24). Their words are specifically to be a scorching fire that is destructive. Brothers and Sisters who spend their lives striving to build up a community of faithful believers find their work being destroyed by the selfish adultery of trusted members who lie, cheat and steal what is not theirs, and lead others astray. Such were the words of Absalom who was a man of violence and was able to entice his neighbour and lead him a way that was not good.

Brothers and Sisters these records in the Bible are given that we might be able to conduct our affairs in a way that is acceptable to our Father in heaven as Paul teaches :-¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

¹² Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. ¹⁴ Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. Which includes adultery (1Co 10:11-14) The works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelling, and such like: of which I have told you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21)**

DHH