

## Fools in the Bible -

1. Nabal - 1 samuel 25
2. Balaam - Numbers 22:21-35
3. Ham - Gen 9:22
4. Samson -
5. Amnon - 2 Sam 13:7-21
6. Pharaoh -
- 7.

**The Psalmist's fool** is distinguished by moral depravity rather than by weakness of mind and will. He is, in short, a wicked man, who quite probably is clever, rich, and powerful. 'I was

---

envious at the foolish,' it is said, 'when I saw the prosperity of the wicked' --clearly implying thereby that the two classes are identical. In the Book of the Proverbs, it is true, there is also a distinct consciousness that bad men come within the definition--'fools make a mock at sin' but in the Psalms sinners are the main body, the fools *par excellence*.

And probably no more important announcement was ever made in the region of conduct than that the wicked man as such is a fool. For the discovery dealt at wrong-doing the deadly blow of turning the laugh against it. The difficulty was to prove it true to the whole range of human experience. Many sins and vices, it was easy to show, had the character of folly-sins of the flesh, notably, into which the weakling-fool easily and naturally glides. But it was not so clear that other violations of morality, as lying, dishonesty, oppression, left the doers thereof with the worst of the bargain. Especially was it not clear until the definite announcement of a future life and a final retributive judgment.

**The Fool in the teaching of Jesus** is chiefly distinguished by want of spiritual insight, or 'the imprudent ordering of the life in regard to salvation' (Mt 7<sup>26</sup> 23<sup>17</sup> 25<sup>2</sup>, Lk 11<sup>40</sup> 12<sup>20</sup>, 24<sup>25</sup>).

The epithet is applied to those who have perverted views of religion, or who fail to understand essential features of the faith and life of the gospel. And most appropriately of all does it apply to those who practically have no religion. Of the fools of the Old Testament he 'who saith in his heart there is no God' (Ps 141) seems to be fastened on by Jesus as most faithful to type.

In the twelfth chapter of Luke he is clothed with flesh and blood in the Parable of the Rich Fool (vv.16-21). This man has not the qualities of the weakling, for he is shown to have understanding of his business, to grow rich, and to make provision for the future. Nor is anything said as to his being dishonest or profligate. His claim to the title rests upon the fact that his life was bounded by the things of sense and time, and that he took no account of God and of the event which brings into the nearer presence of God.

## **Five Types of Fools**

### **simple, silly, sensual, scorning, and steadfast fools**

In the Old Testament, the word *fool* is actually a translation of five different Hebrew words that reflect subtle differences in “types” of fools. Unfortunately, the English translation makes it more difficult to identify the characteristics of five types of fools, but with a careful search of Scripture these differences can be distinguished.

Wise counselors—parents, pastors, friends, spouses—need to **understand the progression of rebellion that is reflected in the Bible’s description of fools**. If you learn to perceive the characteristics of a simple fool, silly fool, sensual fool, scorning fool, and steadfast fool, you will be equipped to identify and respond to such fools with wisdom and discernment.

#### *The Simple Fool*

The Hebrew word for “simple [fool]” is *pethîy* (peth-EE). The root word from which it is derived, *pâthâh*, implies extreme vulnerability, literally meaning “to be opened up.” **The simple fool opens his mind to any passing thought** and opens his arms to any passing stranger. In other words, he lacks discernment. He has an over-simplified view of life and fails to recognize the cause-and-effect sequences that affect every area of life. (See Proverbs 22:3.)

Because the simple fool is not discerning, he is easily captivated by all kinds of enticements and deceptions. **He is dangerously immature, extremely gullible, and intensely curious**. In the absence of instruction and

consistent discipline, the simple fool will naturally become more foolish. A simple fool is especially vulnerable to seduction, lacking an understanding of the irreversible consequences of moral failure. (See Proverbs 7:6–7.)

**The Proverbs provide instruction for the simple fool:** *“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel ... give subtlety to the simple [pethîy], to the young man knowledge and discretion”* (Proverbs 1:4).

Scorning fools will seek out simple fools and try to become their heroes. Therefore, to protect simple fools from the destructive influence of the scorning fool, it is critical to bring swift correction to scorning fools. *“Smite a scorner, and the simple [pethîy] will beware ...”* (Proverbs 19:25).

### *The Silly Fool*

The Hebrew word that refers to a “silly fool” is *'eviyl* (ev-EEL). Its definition is “to be perverse, silly.” **The mouth of a silly fool often gets him in trouble.** *“Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish [’eviyl] is near destruction”* (Proverbs 10:14; see also Proverbs 20:3). **When things go wrong for a silly fool, he becomes angry,** resulting in more damage. *“A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool’s [’eviyl] wrath is heavier than them both”* (Proverbs 27:3).

A silly fool believes that his own way of thinking is right (see Proverbs 12:15), so much so that **he reacts to instruction when it is offered:** *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools [’eviyl] despise wisdom and instruction”* (Proverbs 1:7; see also Proverbs 10:21). Argument, persuasion, and advice from well-meaning friends fail to convince silly fools of error. Proper correction by authorities, which publicly shames the silly fool, will more often be effective in helping him change his ways. (See Proverbs 29:9 and Proverbs 7:22.)

### *The Sensual Fool*

One who rejects the correction of parents or other authorities will become a sensual fool. This type of fool is identified in Scripture with the Hebrew word *keciyl* (kess-EEL), which means “fat, i.e. stupid or silly.” The word denotes a person who seems determined to make wrong choices. **He does not have a mental deficiency, but rather rejects the wisdom of God.**

The sensual fool’s focus is on that which brings him immediate pleasure. **He glories in that of which he should be ashamed.** *“It is as sport to a fool [keciyl] to do mischief ...”* (Proverbs 10:23; see also Proverbs 13:19–20).

**A sensual fool is unreasonable.** As a silly fool, his mouth got him into trouble. Now, as a sensual fool, his mouth gets him into more trouble. *“A fool’s [keciyl] lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes [blows]. A fool’s [keciyl] mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul”* (Proverbs 18:6–7).

Scripture gives more warnings about the sensual fool than about any other type of fool. **His motives and methods are subtle.** He should be avoided, because those who follow him will be led astray. *“... A companion of fools [keciyl] shall be destroyed”* (Proverbs 13:20). **Severe punishment is prescribed for the sensual fool:** *“A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool’s [keciyl] back”* (Proverbs 26:3, see also Proverbs 19:29).

## *The Scorning Fool*

The Hebrew word that denotes a “scorning fool” is *lûwts* (LOOTS). It means “to make mouths at, i.e. to scoff.” The scorning fool’s **facial expressions communicate the disdain and contempt he has in his heart toward his authorities**, including parents, civil authorities, and God.

This type of fool not only has rejected truth; **he also has embraced that which is abominable to God**. Psalm 1:1 describes the progression of foolishness, referring to a man who first walks “*in the counsel of the ungodly,*” then stands “*in the way of sinners,*” and finally sits “*in the seat of the scornful [lûwts].*” The scorning fool utterly detests people and ideas that contradict his false thinking, and **he expresses his scorn through derisive attitudes, behavior, and speech**.

**The scorning fool turns a deaf ear to rebuke:** “*A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner [lûwts] heareth not rebuke*” (Proverbs 13:1; see also Proverbs 14:6). Those who attempt to lead the scorning fool away from the path of destruction that he seems determined to follow will suffer his wrath. “*A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise*” (Proverbs 15:12). “*He that reproveth a scorner [lûwts] getteth to himself shame: ... Reprove not a scorner [lûwts], lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee*” (Proverbs 9:7–8).

**A scorner must be punished**—for his own sake and for the sake of those whom he can potentially influence. “*Smite a scorner [lûwts], and the simple [pethîy] will beware ...*” (Proverbs 19:25). “*When the scorner [lûwts] is punished, the simple [pethîy] is made wise ...*” (Proverbs 21:11; see also Proverbs 22:10).

## *The Steadfast Fool*

**The most dangerous type of fool is a steadfast fool.** The Hebrew word *nâbâl* (naw-BAWL), which means “stupid, wicked,” identifies this type of person. Elsewhere in the Old Testament, *nâbâl* also is translated as *vile person*.

**A steadfast fool totally rejects God and His ways.** “*The fool [nâbâl] hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good*” (Psalm 14:1). This type of fool is self-confident and close-minded. He is his own god, freely gratifying his lower nature. **It is his goal to draw as many others as possible into his evil ways.** Attempts to reprove him will be futile and bring frustration to the one who tries to influence him. Only God can successfully reprove a steadfast fool.

## *Choose Wisdom; Reject Foolishness*

In Proverbs 1:22, wisdom declares: “*How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you. I will make known my words unto you. ... The turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.*” Let us heed this declaration and “**walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise**” (Ephesians 5:15; see also Proverbs 1:7, 3:35).

---

## Quotes

“A wise man may look ridiculous in the company of fools.” Thomas Fuller

“Many have been the wise speeches of fools, though not so many as the foolish speeches of wise men.” Thomas Fuller

Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something. Plato

## Teaching them

1. Proverbs 18:2-3 **Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.** Doing wrong leads to disgrace, and scandalous behavior brings contempt.
2. Proverbs 1:5-7 Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles. Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, **but fools despise wisdom and discipline.**
3. Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: **but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.**

## The mouth of a fool.

4. Proverbs 10:18-19 He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool. In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.
5. Proverbs 12:22-23 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight. **A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.**
6. Proverbs 18:13 **Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.**
7. Proverbs 29:20 There is more hope for a fool **than for someone who speaks without thinking.**
8. Isaiah 32:6 **For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness,** to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink.
9. Proverbs 18:6-7 **Fools' words get them into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating.** The mouths of fools are their ruin; they trap themselves with their lips.

## **They continue in their foolishness.**

10. Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.

## **Arguing with them**

11. Proverbs 29:8-9 Mockers can get a whole town agitated, but the wise will calm anger. If a wise person takes a fool to court, there will be ranting and ridicule but no satisfaction.

12. Proverbs 26:4-5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. **Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.**

## **Trusting them**

13. Proverbs 26:6-7 **Trusting a fool to convey a message is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison!** A proverb in the mouth of a fool is as useless as a paralyzed leg.

14. Luke 6:39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: **“Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch?”**

## **The difference between an intelligent man and a fool.**

15. Proverbs 10:23-25 Doing wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the **sensible**. Doing wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible. When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away, but the godly have a lasting foundation.

16. Proverbs 15:21 **Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom:** but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

17. Proverbs 14:8-10 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. **Fools mock at making amends for sin,** but goodwill is found among the upright.

18. Ecclesiastes 10:1-3 As dead flies cause even a bottle of perfume to stink, so a little foolishness spoils great wisdom and honor. **A wise person chooses the right road; a fool takes the wrong one.** You can identify fools just by the way they walk down the street!

## **Fools say there is no God.**

19. Psalm 14:1 For the choir director: A psalm of David. **Only fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”** They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good!

20. Psalm 53:1 1 The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.

21. Psalm 74:18 Remember this, O LORD, that the enemy has reviled, And a foolish people has spurned Your name.

## **Can a Christian call someone a fool? This verse is speaking of unrighteous anger, which is a sin, but righteous anger is not a sin.**

22. Matthew 5:22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

## **Reminder**

23. Proverbs 28:26 **Those who trust in themselves are fools**, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.

24. Proverbs 29:11 **Fools vent their anger**, but the wise quietly hold it back.

## **Example**

25. Matthew 23:16-19 **“Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear ‘by God’s Temple,’ but that it is binding to swear ‘by the gold in the Temple. Blind fools!** Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? And you say that to swear ‘by the altar’ is not binding, but to swear ‘by the gifts on the altar’ is binding. How blind! For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred?”

---

**Proverbs 18:2** A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

**Proverbs 29:11** A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 18:6** A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.

**Proverbs 29:9** If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet.

**Proverbs 26:19** Is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"

**Proverbs 28:26** Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

**Matthew 5:22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire.

**Proverbs 26:3-12** A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools. Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. Whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless, is a proverb in the mouth of fools. ...

**Proverbs 18:7** A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

**Proverbs 10:23** Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

**Titus 3:1-11** Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ...

**Proverbs 14:7-9** Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge. The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving. Fools mock at the guilt offering, but the upright enjoy acceptance.

**Proverbs 17:28** Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

**Proverbs 14:16** One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

**Psalms 14:1** To the choirmaster. Of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.



**Proverbs 12:16** The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

**Proverbs 3:35** The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

**Proverbs 23:9** Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.

**Ecclesiastes 7:9** Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.

**Proverbs 13:20** Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

**Proverbs 14:15** The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.

**Proverbs 15:21** Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense, but a man of understanding walks straight ahead.

**Proverbs 15:20** A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

**Proverbs 15:2** The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

**Proverbs 10:8** The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

**Proverbs 20:3** It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.

**Proverbs 10:14** The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

**Proverbs 14:1** The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

**Proverbs 14:29** Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

**Proverbs 26:18-19** Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"

**Proverbs 10:18** The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.

**Titus 3:3** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

**Proverbs 17:25** A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.

**Psalms 53:1** To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath. A Maskil of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**Proverbs 1:22** "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

**James 2:20-24** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

**Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Ecclesiastes 4:5** The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

**Proverbs 15:7** The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.

**Proverbs 15:14** The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

**Psalms 107:17** Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

**1 Corinthians 1:27** But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

**Proverbs 9:6-8** Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

**Matthew 7:26** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

**Luke 12:16-20** And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

**Ecclesiastes 10:2** A wise man's heart inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left.

**Proverbs 17:24** The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

**Proverbs 9:13-17** The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” And to him who lacks sense she says, “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

**Luke 12:20** But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

**Proverbs 17:12** Let a man meet a she-bear robbed of her cubs rather than a fool in his folly.

**Proverbs 10:13** On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

**Proverbs 10:1** The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

**Proverbs 15:5** A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

**James 1:19-20** Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

**Proverbs 19:13** A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.

**Proverbs 14:9** Fools mock at the guilt offering, but the upright enjoy acceptance.

**Psalms 14:1-4** To the choirmaster. Of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?

**Mark 7:21-23** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

**Proverbs 13:16** In everything the prudent acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly.

**Proverbs 10:10**

Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

**Proverbs 26:11** Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

**Proverbs 26:4-5** Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

**Psalms 111:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**Proverbs 14:8** The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving.

**Ecclesiastes 10:15** The toil of a fool wearies him, for he does not know the way to the city.

**Romans 8:1-39** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ...

**Matthew 23:17** You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?

**Proverbs 12:23** A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.

**Isaiah 32:6** For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the Lord, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink.

**Ecclesiastes 10:11-15** If the serpent bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage to the charmer. The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is evil madness. A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him? The toil of a fool wearies him, for he does not know the way to the city.

**Proverbs 26:1-28** Like snow in summer or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight. A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools. Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. ...

**Proverbs 21:20** Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

**1 Corinthians 3:18** Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

**Luke 16:19-31** “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ...

**Proverbs 27:22** Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him.

**Proverbs 9:7** Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

