

ADVICE, ADVISE, ADVISED, ADVISEMENT, ADVISOR, ADVISORS, COUNSEL, COUNSELED, COUNSELLED, COUNSELS, INPUT, PRESCRIBING

The **advice** Joseph gave about how to prepare for the coming seven years of famine was good in the eyes of both Pharaoh and his servants.

- **Genesis 41:37:** "And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants."

Jethro told Moses that if he listened to his **advice**, God would be with him.

- **Exodus 18:19:** "Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:"

Moses did everything that Jethro **advised** him to do. (He appointed rulers to help him.)

- **Exodus 18:24:** "So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said."

Moses claimed he had been taking care of the Israelites all by himself. However, he had taken his father-in-law's **advice** to appoint people to help him, so this wasn't true. He also had both Aaron and the princes of Israel to help him. It seems his complaint was an exaggeration.

- **Numbers 11:14:** "I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me."

Balaam was the one who **counseled** the Midianites that if they got Israel to sin then God would curse the Israelites.

- **Numbers 31:16:** "Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD."

In the song that Moses taught the Israelites, Moses said that the Israelites were void of **counsel**. (In other words, they had no wisdom.)

- **Deuteronomy 32:28:** "For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them."

We must seek God's **counsel** instead of our own. It's a terrible mistake to ignore God and use our own judgment.

- **Joshua 9:14:** "And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD."

Those who saw the body parts of the Levite's dead concubine told one another to take **advice** about how to respond to this terrible deed.

- **Judges 19:30:** "And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds."

The Levite told the Israelites at Mizpeh to give their **counsel** about how to respond to the wicked thing that had been done to his concubine.

- **Judges 20:7:** "Behold, ye are all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel."

After David heard Abigail speak, he blessed the **advice** she gave him.

- **1 Samuel 25:33:** "And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand."

It seems David didn't seek the **advice** of any priests before transporting the Ark of the Covenant the first time, because he transported it on an ox cart (in violation of the Mosaic Law).

- **2 Samuel 6:3:** "And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart."

The princes of the Ammonites gave bad **advice**. They told Hanun to commit an act of war against David (a man who was at peace with Hanun and who wished him well).

- **2 Samuel 10:3:** "And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent

comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?"

When David heard that Ahithophel had joined Absalom's rebellion, he prayed that God would turn Ahithophel's **counsel** into foolishness.

- **2 Samuel 15:31:** "And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

David told Hushai to tell Absalom to pretend to serve Absalom so he could defeat Ahithophel's **counsel**. (In other words, even though David prayed that God would defeat Ahithophel's **counsel**, he still sent Hushai to take action against Ahithophel.)

- **2 Samuel 15:34:** "But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel."

It seems Absalom had a plan for what to do up to the point where he entered Jerusalem. After that happened he asked Ahithophel for **advice** about what to do next.

- **2 Samuel 16:20:** "Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do."

When Absalom asked Ahithophel for **counsel**, Ahithophel told him to publicly rape his father David's concubines (which was a horrific sin, and was punished by death under the Mosaic Law). Ahithophel was a wicked and vile man.

- **2 Samuel 16:21:** "And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong."

When Ahithophel **counseled** Absalom to publicly rape ten of David's concubines (which was punishable by death under the Mosaic Law), Absalom didn't refuse. Instead he did it.

- **2 Samuel 16:22:** "So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel."

Ahithophel gave Absalom the same quality of **counsel** that he gave to David. (In other words, he did his best for Absalom.)

- **2 Samuel 16:23:** "And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom."

People considered the **counsel** of Ahithophel to be on the same level as inquiring at the oracle of God. (However, Ahithophel's **counsel** was deeply evil and depraved.)

- **2 Samuel 16:23:** "And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel

both with David and with Absalom."

After Ahithophel gave Absalom **counsel** to hunt down and kill David immediately, Absalom didn't immediately implement that plan even though it pleased him. Instead he asked for another plan to be presented as well.

- **2 Samuel 17:5:** "Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith."

The reason Absalom and the elders of Israel decided Hushai's **counsel** was better than Ahithophel's was because God had appointed that Ahithophel's **counsel** should be defeated.

- **2 Samuel 17:14:** "And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom."

After the servants of Absalom returned to Jerusalem, Jonathan and Ahimaaz told David the **counsel** that Ahithophel had given (which was to rise up that night, hunt David down, and kill him immediately).

- **2 Samuel 17:21:** "And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said unto David, Arise, and pass quickly over the water: for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you."

Ahithophel believed that since Absalom didn't take his

counsel, Absalom's rebellion would fail. He responded to this news by killing himself (which was a wicked thing to do).

- **2 Samuel 17:23:** "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father."

The men of Israel told the men of Judah that they should have sought their **advice** before bringing David back over the Jordan river (which makes no sense).

- **2 Samuel 19:43:** "And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel."

The woman who spoke to Joab (while he was besieging the city of Abel) said that in old times, people used to say that those who needed **counsel** should ask at the city of Abel and that would settle the matter. It seems the city of Abel had a reputation for providing good **counsel**.

- **2 Samuel 20:18:** "Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter."

When Adonijah proclaimed himself to be king, Nathan gave Bathsheba **advice** about how to handle the situation.

- **1 Kings 1:12:** "Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee,

give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon."

Rehoboam was already the king of Israel when he asked the old men who had once served Solomon for **counsel**.

- **1 Kings 12:6:** "And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?"
- **2 Chronicles 10:6:** "And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people?"

When Rehoboam rejected the counsel of the old men who had once served Solomon, he then asked for **counsel** from the young men who served him.

- **1 Kings 12:8:** "But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:"
- **2 Chronicles 10:8:** "But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him."

When Jeroboam and the Israelites returned to Rehoboam on the third day, Rehoboam followed the **counsel** of the young men.

- **1 Kings 12:14:** "And spake to them after the counsel of

the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

- **2 Chronicles 10:14:** "And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

Someone gave **counsel** to Jeroboam and told him to make idols for the Israelites to worship, in order to stop them from going to Jerusalem to worshipping God.

- **1 Kings 12:28:** "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Jehoram asked Jehoshaphat for **advice** in the campaign against Moab.

- **2 Kings 3:8:** "And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom."

When the king of Syria fought against Israel, he took **counsel** with his servants.

- **2 Kings 6:8:** "Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp."

The king of Assyria told Hezekiah (through Rabshakeh) that Hezekiah was claiming he had the **counsel** he needed to wage

war against Assyria.

- **2 Kings 18:20:** "Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?"

Saul sought **counsel** from someone who had a familiar spirit. (That's listed as one of the reasons why God killed him.)

- **1 Chronicles 10:13:** "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;"

The mother of Ahaziah (Athaliah) **counseled** him to do evil things.

- **2 Chronicles 22:3:** "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly."

The house of Ahab **counselled** Ahaziah to do wicked things in the sight of God.

- **2 Chronicles 22:4-5:** "Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction. He walked also after their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramothgilead: and the Syrians smote Joram."

When the prophet who God sent to Amaziah told him the

words of God, Amaziah told him that he wasn't the king's **counsel**. (In other words, the king refused to listen to the prophet God had sent to him.)

- **2 Chronicles 25:16:** "And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel."

Someone gave Amaziah **counsel** that he should attack the kingdom of Israel. (It's not clear who gave him this advice.)

- **2 Chronicles 25:17:** "Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face."

Elkanah was a close **advisor** of Ahaz.

- **2 Chronicles 28:7:** "And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king."

Hezekiah had taken **counsel** to keep the Passover in the second month of the first year of his reign. (This is because the people weren't ready to keep it in the first month of the year, at the time when the Mosaic Law commanded it to be kept.)

- **2 Chronicles 30:2:** "For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month."

After the people celebrated the feast of unleavened bread for seven days during the first year of the reign of Hezekiah, the people took **counsel** to keep celebrating for another seven days.

- **2 Chronicles 30:23:** "And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept other seven days with gladness."

When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib intended to wage war against Jerusalem, he took **counsel** from his princes and mighty men.

- **2 Chronicles 32:3:** "He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him."

The punishment for not coming to Jerusalem (to deal with the sin of marrying pagan wives) was set by the **counsel** of the princes of Israel.

- **Ezra 10:8:** "And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away."

God was the one who ruined the plan of the enemies of the Jews to stop them from rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. The Lord brought their **counsel** to nothing.

- **Nehemiah 4:15:** "And it came to pass, when our enemies

heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work."

Ahasuerus surrounded himself with wise men who understood the times, and who knew the law and judgment. He wanted good and lawful **counsel**, and he wanted to be advised by people who knew what was going on.

- **Esther 1:13:** "Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:"

Eliphaz said God thwarts the **counsel** of the wicked (which isn't always true).

- **Job 5:13:** "He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong."

Job rebuked God for being in favor of the **counsel** of the wicked (which wasn't what God was doing).

- **Job 10:3:** "Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?"

Job said God gives people **counsel**.

- **Job 12:13:** "With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding."

Bildad said the **counsel** of the wicked would destroy him (but

that doesn't always happen).

- **Job 18:7:** "The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down."

Job said he rejected the **counsel** of the wicked.

- **Job 21:16:** "Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me."

Eliphaz claimed his **counsel** wasn't wicked. (However, he falsely accused Job of committing terrible crimes, which was a wicked thing to do).

- **Job 22:18:** "Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me."

Job asked Bildad how he **counseled** those who had no wisdom. (The three friends of Job claimed he lacked wisdom, and yet the things they said were foolish and wrong.)

- **Job 26:3:** "How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?"

Elihu said the water cycle operates based on the **counsels** of God. (In other words, God is the one who designed it and makes it function.)

- **Job 37:12:** "And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth."

God said that Job darkened **counsel**. (In other words, the things he said were bad.)

- **Job 38:2:** "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?"

Job said he had hidden **counsel** without knowledge. (In other words, he had spoken without knowledge, and talked about things in ignorance.)

- **Job 42:3:** "Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not."

We must not walk in the **counsel** of the ungodly. We should disregard the **counsel** of wicked people, and not do the things they tell us to do. Those who don't walk in ungodly **counsel** will be blessed.

- **Psalm 1:1:** "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

The psalmist prayed the wicked would be destroyed by their own **counsel**.

- **Psalm 5:10:** "Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee."

We should seek **counsel** from the Lord.

- **Psalm 16:7:** "I will bless the LORD, who hath given me

counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons."

There may be times when people take **counsel** against us.

- **Psalm 31:13**: "For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life."

The Lord brings the **counsel** of the wicked to nothing.

- **Psalm 33:10**: "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect."

The **counsel** of the Lord won't be defeated. It's stronger than the **counsel** of the wicked and will stand forever.

- **Psalm 33:11**: "The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."

David said the person who reproached him and magnified himself against him was someone he had taken sweet **counsel** with.

- **Psalm 55:14**: "We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

David prayed that God would hide him from the secret **counsel** of the wicked. (In other words, the wicked were secretly plotting to kill him and he prayed that God would save him.)

- **Psalm 64:2:** "Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:"

There may be times when our enemies take **counsel** together to harm us. When that happens, it's good to pray that God would make haste to help us.

- **Psalm 71:10-12:** "For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him. O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help."

We should listen to the **counsel** of God (because it guides us).

- **Psalm 73:24:** "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."

We must not walk in our own **counsel**.

- **Psalm 81:12:** "So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels."

It's not wrong to pray that God would take action when those who hate Him take **counsel** against His people.

- **Psalm 83:3:** "They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones."

Psalm 83 speaks of a time when other nations will take **counsel** to utterly destroy Israel.

- **Psalm 83:4:** "They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."

When the Hebrews tempted God in the desert, it showed they were unwilling to wait for His **counsel**.

- **Psalm 106:13-14:** "They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert."

When the Hebrews were in Canaan, they provoked God with their **counsel**.

- **Psalm 106:43:** "Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity."

Because the people rebelled against God and had contempt for His **counsel**, there was no one to help people when they fell.

- **Psalm 107:11-12:** "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help."

The testimonies of God are a source of **counsel** and guidance.

- **Psalm 119:24:** "Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors."

The proverbs provide us with wise **counsel**.

- **Proverbs 1:1-5:** "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."

The foolish mock the **counsel** of the wise. That leads to calamity.

- **Proverbs 1:25-26:** "But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;"

Those who reject wise **counsel** will suffer the terrible consequences of that choice.

- **Proverbs 1:30:** "They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof."

Wisdom gives good **counsel**.

- **Proverbs 8:14:** "Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength."

It's very bad to lack wise **counsel**.

- **Proverbs 11:14:** "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

The **counsel** of the wicked is intended to deceive. It can't be trusted.

- **Proverbs 12:5:** "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit."

The **counsel** of the wicked is to hunt and kill innocent people.

- **Proverbs 12:6:** "The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them."

There are times when we need wise **counsel** to set us straight.

- **Proverbs 12:15:** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

It's good to have **advisors**.

- **Proverbs 13:10:** "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."

Counsel is important. People need wisdom and input from others. In order to achieve a goal you need **counsel**.

- **Proverbs 15:22:** "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."
- **Proverbs 20:18:** "Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war."
- **Proverbs 24:6:** "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy

war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

If we listen to wise **counsel** then we will become wise.

- **Proverbs 19:20:** "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."

Those who are wise will investigate a person's **counsel** and draw it out.

- **Proverbs 20:5:** "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out."

In order to wage war you need wise **counsel**.

- **Proverbs 20:18:** "Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war."
- **Proverbs 24:6:** "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

There is no **counsel** or wisdom that can fight against God.

- **Proverbs 21:30:** "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."

We must listen to the **counsel** and wisdom that God has given us. We must learn it, memorize it, and walk in His ways.

- **Proverbs 22:20:** "Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,"

It's good to receive **counsel** from friends.

- **Proverbs 27:9:** "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."

God pronounced woe upon those who loved sin, and yet wanted to know His **counsel**.

- **Isaiah 5:18-19:** "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!"

The **counsel** that Pekah and Rezin took against Ahaz was evil in God's sight. (Their plan was to conquer Judah.)

- **Isaiah 7:5-6:** "Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee, saying, Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal:"

The **counsel** of nations can't overcome the counsel of God.

- **Isaiah 8:10:** "Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us."

The ability to give good **counsel** is a gift from God.

- **Isaiah 11:2:** "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon

him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"

Wisdom is different from **counsel**.

- **Isaiah 11:2:** "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"

The Messiah has the ability to give **counsel** to others.

- **Isaiah 11:1-2:** "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"

Counsel was given to the Moabites to hide the outcasts and not betray them. (This may be referring to hiding Jews during the tribulation period when the antichrist is hunting them down.)

- **Isaiah 16:1-4:** "Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon. Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be

thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land."

When the Lord arrived in Egypt, He was going to destroy the **counsel** of the Egyptians.

- **Isaiah 19:3:** "And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards."

The reason Egypt will be afraid of Judah is because that's the **counsel** of the Lord. He will bring it to pass because it's His will.

- **Isaiah 19:17:** "And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it."

God took **counsel** against Tyre.

- **Isaiah 23:8-9:** "Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth? The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth."

God's **counsels** from ancient times have been faithful and true.

- **Isaiah 25:1:** "O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I

will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

God's **counsel** is wonderful and excellent.

- **Isaiah 28:29:** "This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working."

God pronounced woe upon those who sought to hide their **counsel** from Him.

- **Isaiah 29:15:** "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?"

When we need **counsel** we should seek it from God. It's terrible thing to ignore what God has to say.

- **Isaiah 30:1:** "Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:"

God doesn't need our **counsel**.

- **Isaiah 40:13-14:** "Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?"

God performs the **counsel** of His messengers.

- **Isaiah 44:26:** "That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:"

God commanded the Jews to assemble and take **counsel** together so they might see that God was the one who told them what the future would hold.

- **Isaiah 45:21:** "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me."

The reason God's prophecies always come to pass is because He makes them come to pass. His **counsel** always stands.

- **Isaiah 46:10-11:** "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."

God said that He was going to call from a far country a man who would execute His **counsel**.

- **Isaiah 46:11:** "Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."

The Israelites rejected God and walked in their own **counsel**.

- **Jeremiah 7:24:** "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward."

The Jews didn't believe that **counsel** was going to perish from the wise (in spite of what God told them).

- **Jeremiah 18:18:** "Then said they, Come and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words."

Jeremiah told God that He knew people were taking **counsel** to kill him.

- **Jeremiah 18:23:** "Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger."

God said that in the valley of the son of Hinnom, He would make void the **counsel** of Judah and Jerusalem.

- **Jeremiah 19:7:** "And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth."

God asked who had stood in His **counsel**.

- **Jeremiah 23:18:** "For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?"

God said that if the false prophets had stood in His **counsel** and caused the Jews to hear His words then they could have turned the Jews away from their wickedness.

- **Jeremiah 23:21-22:** "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings."

The **counsel** of God is great.

- **Jeremiah 32:19:** "Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:"

Jeremiah told Zedekiah that if he gave him **counsel**, Zedekiah

would refuse to listen to him (which proved to be true).

- **Jeremiah 38:15:** "Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me?"

When God spoke against Edom, He asked if **counsel** was perished from those who were prudent.

- **Jeremiah 49:7:** "Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?"

God took **counsel** against Edom.

- **Jeremiah 49:20:** "Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them."

The reason the inhabitants of Hazor were commanded to flee was because Nebuchadnezzar had taken **counsel** against them.

- **Jeremiah 49:30:** "Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the LORD; for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you."

When God spoke against Babylon, He commanded people to hear the **counsel** He had taken against Babylon.

- **Jeremiah 50:45:** "Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them."

In the coming day of God's judgment, people wouldn't have access to visions, or the law, or **counsel**.

- **Ezekiel 7:26:** "Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients."

We must not give wicked **counsel**.

- **Ezekiel 11:2:** "Then said he unto me, Son of man, these are the men that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city:"

Nebuchadnezzar wanted his **advisors** to prove that they weren't liars by telling him the dream he had dreamed. (It seems he didn't trust his own people.)

- **Daniel 2:9:** "But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof."

When Nebuchadnezzar commanded that all the wise men of Babylon were to be executed (since none of them could tell him what he had dreamed), Daniel spoke to Arioch with **counsel** and wisdom.

- **Daniel 2:14:** "Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:"

When the Jews were in captivity, God arranged for a wise and godly Jew (Daniel) to be in charge of the province of Babylon, and be a trusted **advisor** of the king.

- **Daniel 2:48-49:** "Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king."

The children of Israel sought **counsel** from their idols. They asked false gods for guidance instead of the Lord.

- **Hosea 4:12:** "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God."

In the day when God removed the golden calf from Samaria, the children of Israel would be ashamed of their **counsel**.

- **Hosea 10:6:** "It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and

Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel."

The reason God was going to devour the nation of Israel was because of its wicked **counsel**.

- **Hosea 11:6:** "And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour them, because of their own counsels."

Those who speak against the Lord are giving evil **counsel**. (It's possible this wicked counselor is a reference to the antichrist.)

- **Nahum 1:11:** "There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor."

The **counsel** of the Messiah would be the counsel of peace.

- **Zechariah 6:13:** "Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

The chief priests took **counsel** with one another to decide what to do with the 30 pieces of silver that Judas returned to them. (They decided to buy a field with it.)

- **Matthew 27:7:** "And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in."

The chief priests and elders took **counsel** to decide how to cover up the truth about the resurrection of Jesus.

- **Matthew 28:12:** "And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,"

The Pharisees took **counsel** with the Herodians to look for a way to destroy Jesus.

- **Mark 3:6:** "And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him."

Those who seek to give **counsel** to others must first address the problems in their own life. Otherwise they're the blind leading the blind.

- **Luke 6:42:** "Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

When the Pharisees and lawyers rejected what Jesus had to say, they were rejecting the **counsel** of God.

- **Luke 7:29-30:** "And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."

Joseph hadn't consented with the **counsel** to execute Jesus.

- **Luke 23:51:** "(The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God."

When the rulers fought against Jesus, they were doing what God had foreordained they should do. Although the rulers didn't know it, they were carrying out God's **counsel**. (In other words, God the Father is the one who decided that Jesus should be crucified. It was done by His will.)

- **Acts 2:23:** "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:"
- **Acts 4:28:** "For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done."

Gamaliel told the council that if the disciples weren't from God then nothing would come of what they were doing, and therefore there was no reason to oppose them. (This was *spectacularly* terrible **advice**. Evil people can do all sorts of terrible harm if they're not stopped! Under no circumstances should evil people be left alone on the grounds that since they're not of God they'll eventually fail.)

- **Acts 5:38:** "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:"

Those who only preach part of the **counsel** of God, and deliberately keep part of it back, aren't free from the blood of all men. Instead they have guilt because they've hidden things that shouldn't be hidden.

- **Acts 20:26-27:** "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

Those who think they can correct God and give Him **counsel** are very wrong. God doesn't need our wisdom.

- **Romans 11:34:** "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?"

When Jesus returns He will reveal the **counsels** of people's hearts. People's true motives won't remain hidden forever.

- **1 Corinthians 4:5:** "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

There are times when Paul gives us the commandments of God. However, there are also times when Paul gives us his **advice**. (That being said, the recommendation of an apostle of God should carry a great deal of weight.)

- **1 Corinthians 7:12:** "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away."

When Paul was saved, he didn't seek anyone's **counsel**. Instead he went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus. He didn't go to Jerusalem until three years later.

- **Galatians 1:16-18:** "To reveal his Son in me, that I might

preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days."

God works all things according to the **counsel** of His own will.

- **Ephesians 1:11**: "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Our culture's reaction to the Bible must not impact our preaching. We must still preach the whole **counsel** of God regardless of how much the world hates it.

- **2 Timothy 4:2**: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

The reason our salvation is certain because God swore an oath, and because God can't lie. Since God's **counsel** is immutable, we can have full assurance of our salvation.

- **Hebrews 6:17-18**: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"