



Home Study - Planning for the Future

No doubt you've glanced once or twice at an astrologer's predictions in the newspaper. Even if you felt guilty or silly for doing it, you'd hardly fault yourself for wanting every possible advantage in planning your future. Planning for the future, after all, is a major industry. Hundreds of billions of dollars ride on the forecasts of economists, investment counselors, analysts of every sort, and even astrologers! Legions of advisors will sell you opinions on what will happen in the near term and long term; whether or not you take their advice, someone else will. And that person's actions may in turn affect your prosperity, health and happiness.

For all their focus on the here and now, the proverbs keep a canny eye on the future. Many proverbs, in fact, offer wisdom on how to make plans, why to make them, and what we can expect of the best plans we make. Read over the proverbs in this study to begin training for planning your future.

1. How often do you think about and plan for the future?

2. Read Proverbs 11:3; Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 16:9; Proverbs 21:5, 31; Proverbs 27:1. Based on these proverbs, why might your plans for the future fail?

Proverbs 11:3 (AMP) The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the willful contrariness *and* crookedness of the treacherous shall destroy them.

Proverbs 14:12 (KJV) There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Proverbs 15:22 (NASB) Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.

Proverbs 16:9 (RSV) A man's mind plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 21:5 (RSV) The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but every one who is hasty comes only to want.

Proverbs 21:31 (NCV) You can get the horses ready for battle, but it is the Lord who gives the victory.

Proverbs 27:1 (NASB) Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

3. The proverbs insist that *character* affects the success or failure of the plans a person makes. What character qualities hinder our efforts to plan for the future?

4. We usually evaluate a plan according to its merits, not on the basis of the character of the planner. Why does a planner's character make a difference?

5. What other insights did you gain from these verses?

Ultimately, it is the plans of God that will succeed. As you plan your future, pray to God that your plans are in line with His purpose (Proverbs 19:21).