

# Proverbs 24:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

## Analysis

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This verse describes the observer's response to what he saw. 'Then I saw, and considered it well' (אָנְכִי אָשִׁית לִבִּי/chaziti anokhi ashit libbi, I saw, I set my heart/mind) indicates intentional attention and reflection. 'I looked upon it, and received instruction' (רָאִיתִי לָקַחְתִּי מוֹסֵר/ra'iti laqachti musar, I looked, I took discipline/instruction) shows learning from observation. The wise learn from others' experiences—both successes and failures. This proverb doesn't merely describe the lazy man's field but extracts lessons. Proverbs repeatedly emphasizes learning from observation: 'Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise' (Proverbs 6:6). Paul wrote: 'these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition' (1 Corinthians 10:11). Biblical narratives function this way—recording others' lives for our instruction. Wise people apply observed lessons to their own lives.

## Historical Context

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Ancient wisdom tradition emphasized observational learning. Wisdom teachers used parables, proverbs, and examples to instruct students. Job observed nature to understand God (Job 12:7-9). Solomon studied plants and animals (1 Kings 4:33). Jesus taught through parables drawn from daily life. The biblical narrative itself functions as extended case studies—righteous and wicked lives demonstrating consequences. Church history provides similar lessons. Reading biographies of faithful saints instructs in godliness; studying heresies and schisms warns against error. The Puritan tradition particularly emphasized applying Scripture through

study of providence—observing God's hand in circumstances and history. Modern Christians have unprecedented access to others' experiences through books, media, and global connections. Wise believers learn from this wealth of examples rather than insisting on experiencing every mistake personally.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What examples—biblical, historical, contemporary—has God placed before you for instruction?
2. How can you cultivate the habit of 'seeing and considering well' rather than passively consuming information?
3. What lessons have you learned from observing others' lives, and are you applying them?

## Interlinear Text

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וָאֲחִי הִ	אֶנְכִי	אֲשֶׁר יֵת	לִבִּי	אֶיִתִּי	לִקְחֵתִי
<b>Then I saw</b>	H595	<b>and considered it well</b>	H3820	<b>I looked</b>	<b>upon it and received</b>
H2372		H7896		H7200	H3947

  

מוֹסֵר:
<b>instruction</b>
H4148

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 10:11** (Parallel theme): 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.

