

# Proverbs 30:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

## Analysis

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**For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat.** The first two intolerable inversions: eved (עֶבֶד, servant/slave) when he yimlokh (יִמְלֹךְ, reigns), and naval (נָבֵל, fool) when yisba lachem (יִשְׂבֵּעַ לַחֶם, filled with bread). The servant lacks governing experience, wisdom, or perspective; sudden authority without formation produces tyranny. History confirms: those who suffered oppression often become oppressors when power shifts (revolutionaries-turned-dictators).

The naval is not intellectually deficient but morally deficient—the biblical fool rejects God's wisdom (Psalm 14:1). When such a person gains abundance, prosperity amplifies folly. Lacking self-control or wisdom, the fool's wealth enables wickedness on larger scale. Proverbs 19:10 declares: "Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes." Both scenarios violate propriety—not because servants or fools are intrinsically worthless but because they lack preparation for these roles.

## Historical Context

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Old Testament examples abound. Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, received kingdom through divine judgment but led Israel into systematic idolatry, making golden calves at Dan and Bethel (1 Kings 12:25-33). His lack of spiritual maturity produced generational disaster. Nabal (whose name means "fool") demonstrated how abundance in foolish hands breeds arrogance (1 Samuel 25). Only Abigail's

## Related Passages

## Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 19:10** (Parallel theme): Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

**Ecclesiastes 10:7** (Kingdom): I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

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