

**This book contains many wise
things that King Solomon said.
We call this book
Proverbs**

The purpose of Proverbs

¹ These are the ◀proverbs/wise sayings▶ that come from Solomon, the King of Israel, who was the son of *King David*.

² ◀These proverbs [PRS] can teach people/
By studying these proverbs, people can learn▶ how to be wise
and how to obey what these proverbs teach them.

They will *also* help people to understand which teachings are wise.

³ These proverbs [PRS] will teach you how to discipline/control yourselves,
how to conduct your lives,
and how to do what is right and just [DOU].

⁴ They will show *people* who do not yet know much how to do things that are smart.
They will show young people how to become wise and how to make good plans/decisions.

⁵ Those who are wise should also pay attention *to these proverbs*,
in order to become more wise,
and those who understand *these teachings* will receive good advice/guidance.

⁶ Then they will be able to understand the meaning of proverbs and parables/metaphors, these wise sayings and ◀riddles/sayings that are difficult to understand▶.

⁷ If *you want to be* wise, you must begin by revering Yahweh.
Only foolish people despise wisdom and good advice/discipline.

Warnings about sinful people

⁸ My son, pay attention to what *I*, your father, am teaching you.

And do not reject what your mother teaches you.

⁹ What we teach you *will make you respected like* having a lovely turban around your head and *like* a *beautiful* necklace to put around your neck.

¹⁰ My son, if sinners tempt/entice you *to do what is wrong*, say “No” to them.

¹¹ They may say, “Come with us! Join us!
We will hide and then kill [MTY] someone *who passes by*.
We will ambush some helpless/innocent people.

¹² We will kill them [HYP] and get rid of them completely,
just like people who are buried in graves are gone forever.

While they are in good health, we will send them to the place where dead people are.

13 And we will seize all the things that they own.
We will fill our houses with these things!

14 So, come with us!

Join our group!

We will share with you the things that we steal."

15 My son, do not accompany them!

Do not walk on the roads with them!

16 They rush to do evil deeds!

They hurry to murder [MTY] people.

17 It is useless to put out a ◀trap/net to catch a bird▶ because when a bird sees it,
it stays away from it.

18 But those wicked people are not like the birds,
because they do not realize

that when they prepare to ambush someone
to kill him,
they will be killed themselves!

19 That is what happens to people who eagerly try
to get things *by violently attacking others.*
They will only destroy themselves!

Wisdom shouts in the streets

20 Wisdom [PRS] shouts to people in the streets,
and calls out to people in the ◀plazas/town squares▶.

21 Wisdom calls out in noisy places,
and at the entrances to cities.

22 *Wisdom says*, "How long will you stupid people
continue to enjoy doing foolish things
[RHQ]?"

How long will you people who ridicule God
enjoy doing that [RHQ]?

How long will you foolish people refuse to know *what things are right* [RHQ]?

23 If you pay attention to me when I rebuke you,
I will tell you what I am thinking in my inner
being;

I will give you some good advice.

24 But when I called to you, you refused to listen.
I beckoned to you to come to me,
but you ignored me.

25 I tried to advise you,
but you refused to listen to me.

I tried to correct you,
but you rejected what I told you.

26 So *now*, when you are experiencing troubles/
disasters,
I will laugh at you.

When things happen that cause you to be afraid,
I will make fun of you.

27 When calamities strike you like a big storm,
when disasters hit you like a violent wind,
when *all kinds of things* distress you and give you
trouble,
I will ridicule you!

28 *Wisdom also says*, "When foolish people call to
me *to help them*,

I will not answer them.

They will search for me diligently/everywhere,
but they will not find me.

29 They refused to know *what things are right*,
and they decided not to revere Yahweh.

30 They would not accept my advice,

- and they did not pay attention when I tried to correct them.
- 31 So they will endure what will result [MET, DOU] from the evil way they have lived/ behaved and the evil things they have planned to do.
- 32 Those who turn away from me are stupid/ foolish; they will die because of doing that.
- 33 But those who pay attention to me will live peacefully and safely, and they will not be afraid that something will harm them."

2

The results of wisdom

- 1 My son, listen to what I say, and *consider my instructions to be as valuable as* [MET] a treasure.
- 2 Pay attention to wisdom and try hard to understand it.
- 3 Call out *to God* to get insight; plead with him to help you to understand more of *what he wants you to know*.
- 4 Search *eagerly* for wisdom, like you would search for silver, like you would search for a treasure that someone has hidden.
- 5 If you do that, you will understand how to revere Yahweh, and you will succeed in knowing God.
- 6 Yahweh is the one who gives us wisdom.

- He is the one who tells us things that we need to know and understand.
- ⁷ He gives good advice to those who conduct their lives as they should.
He protects [MET] those who do what is right.
- ⁸ He guards those who act justly/fairly *toward others*,
and he watches over those who are faithful/
loyal *to him*.
- ⁹ *If you ask God for wisdom*, you will understand what is right and just [DOU] *to do*,
and *you will know* the right way to conduct your life,
- ¹⁰ because you will be wise in your inner being;
and knowing *what God wants you to know*
will cause you to be joyful.
- ¹¹ If you know [PRS] how to choose what is right to do
and if you understand *what God wants you to do*,
God will protect you and guard you and keep you safe.
- ¹² If you are wise [PRS], you will not do what evil people do,
and you will not *believe what* deceitful people say.
- ¹³ Deceitful people have stopped acting fairly/
justly *toward others*
and ◀walk on dark and evil paths/do what evil people do▶ [MET].
- ¹⁴ They enjoy doing what is wrong;
they like to do what is evil and to deceive *people*.

- 15 They ◀walk on crooked paths/always deceive others▶
and are always dishonest.
- 16 If you are wise [PRS], you will *also* be saved
from ◀immoral women/prostitutes▶;
you will not pay attention when adulterous
women try to ◀seduce/entice you by what
they say.▶
- 17 Those women have left the husbands whom
they married when they were young;
they have disregarded the solemn promise
they made to God *not to commit adultery*.
- 18 If you go into houses of women who are like
that,
you will die *when you are still young*;
the road *to their houses* leads to hell.
- 19 No man who ◀visits/sleeps with▶ a woman
like that will again *live harmoniously with
his family*.
He will never have a *happy* life again.
- 20 If *you are wise*, you should behave like good
men behave.
You should ◀stay on the paths that righteous
people walk on/do what godly people do▶
[MET],
- 21 because only godly people will live in this land
and receive God's blessings;
only those who have not done wrong will
stay here *for a long time*.
- 22 Wicked *people* will be expelled from this land,

and *people* who are not trustworthy will be
thrown {God will throw them} out of it.

3

More advice to Solomon's son

- ¹ My son, do not forget what I have taught you.
Keep my commands in your inner being,
² because *if you obey them* you will live a long
time and things will go well for you
- ³ Always faithfully love others and ◀be faithful/
do what you say that you will do▶;
doing those things *will cause others to be
pleased with you*;
it will be as though you are wearing a
beautiful necklace.
Keep those things in your mind/inner being.
- ⁴ If you do, God and people will approve of you
and think highly of you [MTY].
- ⁵ Trust in Yahweh completely,
and do not rely on what you yourself under-
stand.
- ⁶ Always allow him to lead you.
If you do that, he will ◀show you the right
path/direct your life▶.
- ⁷ Do not be proud of being wise.
Instead, revere Yahweh
and turn away from doing evil.
- ⁸ If you do that, your body will be healthy/strong;
it will be *like* medicine for you.

- 9 Honor Yahweh by *what you do with your money*;
and *by giving him* the first part of your harvest.
- 10 If you do that, *you will have a good harvest*.
Yahweh will fill your barns *with grain*,
and your vats/containers will be overflowing
with *grape juice for making wine*.
- 11 My son, when Yahweh disciplines/corrects you,
do not despise it,
and if he rebukes you, do not resent it.
- 12 *I say that* because it is the people whom
Yahweh loves that he corrects/reproves,
just like parents correct/reprove their sons
whom they love.
- 13 *Yahweh* is pleased with those who become wise
and have good understanding.
- 14 Being wise and having good understanding is
worth more than silver,
better than gold.
- 15 Being wise is more precious than ◀jewels/
precious stones▶;
there is nothing that you could desire *that*
would be as valuable as wisdom.
- 16 On the one hand, wisdom [PRS] enables *you* to
live a long life,
and on the other hand, wisdom enables *you*
to become rich and to be honored.
- 17 If *you* are wise, *your* life will be pleasant,
and things will go well *for you*.

- 18 Wisdom is *like* a tree that gives long life to those who *eagerly* take hold of it, and *Yahweh* is pleased with those who hold onto it tightly.
- 19 By his wisdom *Yahweh* created the earth, and by his understanding he put everything in the skies.
- 20 By his knowledge *he caused* the water that was beneath the earth to burst forth, and he caused rain to fall from the clouds.
- 21 My son, *always* keep doing things that are right and things that are smart.
If you do that,
- 22 you will live *many years* and be honored and respected {people will honor and respect you}.
- 23 If you do what is right and wise, you will *be able to* walk safely, and you will not ◀stumble/do things that are wrong▶ [MET].
- 24 You will *be able to* lie down *at night* and not be afraid *of anything*, and you will sleep peacefully.
- 25 You will not be afraid that something disastrous will happen to you or that storms that strike the wicked will strike you,
- 26 because you will be confident that *Yahweh will take care of you*.
He will not let your foot be caught in a trap/snare.

- 27 If you are able to help people who deserve it,
do not refuse to help them.
- 28 If you are able to help someone you interact
with,
do not say, "Come back later;
perhaps I can help you tomorrow."
- 29 Do not make plans to harm those you interact
with regularly,
because they live near you, and they trust
you.
- 30 If someone has not harmed you,
do not accuse him *by saying that he has
harmed you*.
- 31 Do not envy people who *obtain things by*
violent actions,
and do not imitate/do what they do.
- 32 *I say that* because Yahweh considers such
people to be abominable/detestable;
but he is a friend to *all* those who do what is
right.
- 33 Yahweh curses the families [MTY] of those who
are wicked,
but he blesses the families of those who are
good/righteous.
- 34 Yahweh makes fun of those who make fun of
others,
but he kindly helps those who are humble.
- 35 Wise *people* will be honored {people will
honor wise people},
but foolish people will be dishonored/dis-
graced.

4

Advice to young people

- ¹ My children, listen to what I am teaching you.
If you pay attention, you will understand
what is wise.
- ² What I am teaching you is good,
so do not turn away from it.
- ³ When I was a young boy, loved by my mother,
⁴ my father told me, "Remember my words;
if you obey my commandments,
you will live *a long time*."
- ⁵ Obtain wisdom and understanding,
and ◀do not abandon/hold fast to▶ [LIT]
what I have taught you.
- ⁶ Do not turn away from wisdom,
because if you are wise, you will be pro-
tected *from all evil/danger*.
If you love wisdom, wisdom [PRS] will guard you.
- ⁷ The most important thing that you can do is to
get wisdom.
Even if you obtain many other things,
the best thing is to know what things are
wise.
- ⁸ If you consider being wise to be very valuable,
people will think very highly of you.
If you cling to wisdom *like you would cling to a
woman you love*,
many people will honor you.
- ⁹ If you become wise, that will for you be *like*
a beautiful wreath that is put {someone
puts} on your head;
it will be *like* a king's glorious crown."
That is what my father told me.

- 10 *So now I say, "My son, heed what I say.
If you do that, you will live a *good* long life.*
- 11 *I am teaching you the way to live wisely;
I am showing you how to act justly *toward others.**
- 12 *If you live wisely,
when you decide to do something, you will
succeed [LIT].*
- 13 *Hold fast to the things I have taught you to do,
and do not let them go.
Guard them,
because they *will be the source of a good* life.*
- 14 *Do not do the things that wicked people do;
do not behave like they do;
do not even walk on the roads that evil
people walk on [MET].*
- 15 *Stay away from those roads;
turn aside and walk on other roads;*
- 16 *because evil people cannot sleep if they have
not done some evil deed *on that day.*
They cannot rest if they have not harmed
someone.*
- 17 *What they eat and what they drink are things
that they have obtained by acting wickedly
and violently."*
- 18 *The behavior of good/righteous *people* is like
the light *that begins to shine* at dawn
and then *continues to* shine brighter until the
brightest time of day.*
- 19 *But the behavior of wicked *people* is like deep/
thick darkness.
Because it is very *dark*, they cannot see the
things that cause them to stumble.*

- ²⁰ My son, pay attention to what I am saying.
Listen to my words carefully.
- ²¹ Keep them close to you;
let them penetrate your inner being,
²² because you will have [PRS] *a good life and good health if you search for them and find them.*
- ²³ It is very important that you be careful about
what you think,
because what you think controls [MET] the
things that you do.
- ²⁴ Do not say anything that deceives *others*
and never say what is not true.
- ²⁵ Keep looking straight ahead toward the events
that are before you,
and do not turn aside.
- ²⁶ Plan carefully where you will go and what you
will do,
and then stay on that road.
Then what you do will be right.
- ²⁷ Do not leave the straight road by turning to the
left or to the right.
Do only what is right
and keep yourself from *doing what is evil.*

5

A warning about adultery

- ¹ My son, listen carefully to some *more* wise
things that I will tell you.
Listen well to what I am going to teach you.
- ² If you do that, you will be able to choose wisely
what to do,

and you will know *the right things* to say
[MTY].

³ What an immoral woman says *to you may be* as
sweet as honey,
and sound smoother than olive oil *feels on*
your skin,

⁴ but the result *of being with her* will be bitter like
gall
and *injure you as badly*, like being cut with a
sharp two-edged sword.

⁵ If you go where she goes [MTY], you will go
down to where the dead people are.

Her steps will lead you straight to the grave.

⁶ She is not concerned about the roads that lead
to a *long* life.

She walks *down* a crooked path,
and she does not realize *that she is on the*
wrong road.

⁷ So now, my sons, listen to me.

◀Never turn aside from/ always remember▶
[LIT] what I am about to tell you.

⁸ Run away from immoral women!

Do not go near the doors of their houses!

⁹ If you enter the home of one of them, you will
lose your ◀self-respect/good reputation▶
and *that woman's husband* will not act
mercifully toward you;

he will *kill you and* take everything that you have
acquired during your life!

¹⁰ Foreigners will take your money,

and *all* the good things that you have worked for will ◀end up in their hands/become their possessions▶.

11 And when you are about to die,
you will groan *with severe pain*
because diseases *that you have gotten from being immoral* will be destroying your body.

12 Then you will say, "I hated it *when people tried to correct me*.
I despised *people when they reproved/rebuked me*.

13 I did not heed what my teachers said!
I paid no attention to those who *tried to teach me something about my behavior*.

14 Now I am almost ruined,
and I will be disgraced in public gatherings."

15 Like a man is refreshed by drinking water from his own well [MET],
enjoy *having sex* [EUP] only with your own wife.

16 Like you would not waste good water by pouring it into the street,
you should not have sex with other women.
[MET, EUP]

17 Enjoy *having sex* only with your wife;
do not *have sex with* other women.

18 Let your wife be a source of great pleasure to you.

◀Be happy/Enjoy sex▶ with the woman whom you married when you were both young.

19 She is as pretty and graceful *as a young female deer*.

- Allow her breasts to always satisfy you.
Allow her lovemaking to excite you.
- 20 My son, do not be [RHQ] captivated/charmed
by an immoral woman!
Do not fondle the breasts of another man's
wife!
- 21 *I say that* because Yahweh sees clearly every-
thing that we do;
he knows *where we are going on* the roads
that we walk on.
- 22 Evil men's sinful desires hold them fast;
their sins are *like* ropes that bind them.
- 23 Evil men *will* die because they are unable to
say "No" to their desires;
they *will* ◀go astray/be lost▶ because of the
foolish things that they do.

6

Warnings against foolish behavior

- 1 My son, if someone has borrowed money from
a friend or a stranger,
and if you have promised that you will pay
the money back if that person is unable to
pay back the money he borrowed,
- 2 you may be trapped by what you have agreed
to do,
*because if the one who borrowed the money
is not able to pay it back, you will have to
pay it.*
What you have said that you will do will be
like a snare to you.

³ So, my son, I will tell you what you should do
to escape from your difficulty,
so that the moneylender does not get control
over your *wealth*:

Humbly go to your friend and plead with him *to
cancel the agreement!*

⁴ Do not wait until tomorrow; *go immediately!*
Do not rest until you *go and talk with him*.

⁵ Save yourself,
like a deer that escapes from a deer hunter
or like a bird that flees from a bird hunter.

⁶ You lazy individual, learn something from
watching the ants.

Become wise from observing what they do.

⁷ They do not have a king or a governor or any
other person who rules them *and forces
them to work*,

⁸ *but* they work hard *all* during the summer,
gathering and storing food to eat during the
winter.

⁹ *But*, you lazy loafer, how long will you *continue
to sleep* [RHQ]?

Are you never going to get up from sleeping
and go to work?

¹⁰ You sleep a for a little time; *you say*, “*I will take
just a short nap.*”

You lie down and fold/lay your hands *across
your chest* and rest;

¹¹ and suddenly you will become poor.

It will be as though a bandit suddenly comes
and takes all that you have.

12 *I will describe for you what worthless and evil people are like.*

They constantly lie;

13 by winking their eyes and moving their feet and making signs with their fingers, they signal *to their friends what they are intending/planning to do.*

14 They plan to do evil things.

They constantly cause strife/trouble.

15 But disasters will hit them suddenly; they will be crushed/ruined and nothing will be able to heal them.

16 There are six, *maybe* seven, kinds of people that Yahweh hates. *They are:*

17 People who show by their eyes that they are very proud;

people who lie [MTY];

people [SYN] who kill others [SYN] who have done nothing wrong;

18 people who plan to do evil deeds;

people [SYN] who run quickly to do wrong things;

19 people who easily tell lies in court;

and people who cause strife between family members.

More warnings about adultery

20 My son, obey my commands, and do not ignore what your mother has taught you.

21 Remember the things that we have said.

Those things should be *like a beautiful necklace* around your neck.

- ²² *If you follow our advice, it will be as though* what we have taught you [PRS] will lead you, wherever you go.

When you sleep, they will protect you.

And when you wake up in the morning, they will teach/instruct you.

- ²³ These commands and what we teach you *will be like* a lamp to light your path [MET].

When we rebuke you and correct/punish you,
we will be showing you the road to having a *good* life.

- ²⁴ Heeding [PRS] these commands and things that we have taught you will enable you to keep away from immoral women
and from *listening to* the enticing words of an adulterous woman.

- ²⁵ *Even* if such a woman is beautiful and has lovely eyes, do not desire to go with her.

Do not let her persuade you to go with her
◀with her eyes/by the way she looks at you▶.

- ²⁶ *Do not forget that* you can hire a prostitute for only a loaf of bread,

but *if you sleep with* another man's wife, ◀it may cost you/you may lose▶ your life.

- ²⁷ Can you carry hot coals in your pocket and not be burned [RHQ]?

- ²⁸ Can you walk on burning coals and not scorch/burn your feet?

29 No! And in the same way, anyone who ◀sleeps with/has sex with▶ another man's wife will *suffer for doing that*.
He will certainly [LIT] be punished severely.

30 We do not despise a thief if he steals some food because he is very hungry.

31 But *if he steals something and then is caught by the police,*

he will have to pay back ◀seven times as much as/much more than▶ he stole.

He may need to sell everything that is in his house *to get enough money to pay it back.*

32 But a man who commits adultery with some woman is very foolish,
because he is destroying his own self/soul by what he is doing.

33 That woman's husband will wound him badly, and other people will despise him.

His shame will never end.

34 Because that woman's husband will ◀be jealous/not want anyone else to sleep with her▶, he will become furious,
and when he gets revenge, he will not act mercifully *toward the man who slept with his wife.*

35 And he will not accept any bribe/money, even if it is a big bribe, to ◀appease him/cause him to stop being angry▶.

7

More warnings about adultery

1 My son, heed my advice,

- and guard my instructions *as you would*
[MET] *guard* a treasure.
- ² Obey my commands,
and *as a result you will live a good life*.
Consider the things that I teach you *to be very*
precious;
guard them, *just* like you protect your eyes.
- ³ Tie my commands around your fingers *in order*
that they will remind you to obey them.
Always keep them in mind [MET].
- ⁴ Love wisdom *like you love* your sister.
Understand what is wise,
and let that be as dear to you as members of
your family.
- ⁵ If you are wise and if you understand what
is wise [PRS], you will not *sleep with* an
immoral woman;
you will not listen to a woman who tries to
entice you *to sleep with her* by what she
says.
- ⁶ One day, I was standing at the window inside
my house,
and I looked outside.
- ⁷ I saw some young men who did not have good
sense.
Among them was a man who was very
foolish.
- ⁸ He crossed the street near *the house of* an
immoral woman.
He was walking along the path toward her
house
- ⁹ at twilight, when it was getting dark [DOU].

- 10 Suddenly the woman came out to see/meet him.
She was dressed ◀seductively/like a prostitute▶, wanting to persuade him to sleep with her.
- 11 She was a loud talker, one who was rebellious; she [SYN] never stayed at home.
- 12 She often went into the city streets and plazas/markets,
waiting to trap some man.
- 13 *When she saw that young man*, she put her arms around him and kissed him.
Then without being a bit ashamed, she said,
- 14 “I have *some meat that is left over from a sacrifice that I made today to maintain fellowship with Yahweh*;
I have fulfilled/done what I promised him that I would do.
- 15 And now I have come out to meet/see you.
I was searching for you, and *now* I have found you!
- 16 I have put on my bed sheets/bedspreads that were made from *very fine* linen *that were imported {people brought}* from Egypt.
- 17 I have sprinkled *sweet-smelling* perfumes on my bed—
myrrh and aloes and cinnamon.
- 18 Come *with me*; let us enjoy having sex until *tomorrow* morning.
Let’s enjoy making love.
- 19 My husband is not at home;
he has gone away on a long journey.
- 20 He is carrying a wallet filled with money,

and he will not return until the middle of this month."

²¹ So she persuaded him by *her* enticing/tempting words.

She allured him by her smooth/sweet talk.

²² And he went with her immediately,
like an ox that was going to where it would
be slaughtered,
or like a deer (OR, a fool) that is stepping into
a noose/trap,

²³ where it will remain/stay until someone
shoots an arrow into its liver *and kills it*.
He was like a bird that flew into a trap.

He did not know that ◀it would cost him his
life/he would die as a result▶.

²⁴ My son, listen to what I say;
pay *careful* attention to my words.

²⁵ Do not allow anything to arouse/persuade you
to go with an immoral woman like that.
Do not go where she goes.

²⁶ She has caused many men to be ruined;
truly, no one can count the men she has
killed.

²⁷ The road to her house is the road to the grave.
Those who enter her bedroom [PRS] will die
as a result.

8

Wisdom calls to us

¹ It is as if wisdom, with great understanding of
many things, is calling [PRS] out *to people*.

² Wisdom stands on hilltops and at crossroads.

³ *Wisdom also stands* at the city gates and shouts loudly,

⁴ “I am calling to everyone!
I am shouting loudly to all people!

⁵ You people who do not know how to do things
that are smart to do, get sound judgment;
you foolish people, get good understanding!

⁶ Listen to me, because I have some excellent/
important things to say.
What I say is what is fair/right.

⁷ I speak what is true;
I detest speaking [MTY] what is false/deceptive.

⁸ Everything that I say is honest;
there is nothing that I say that deceives
people.

⁹ My words are clear to those who have good
sense;
those who are wise know that what I say is
right.

¹⁰ *If someone offers you the kind of teaching I give*
or offers you silver,
choose my teaching.

If he offers to show you how to be wise or offers
you gold,
choose to know how to be wise,

¹¹ because wisdom is more valuable than
jewels.

Nothing that you desire *is as valuable* as
being wise.

¹² I, wisdom, and understanding of what is smart
to do, cannot be separated.

We are like two people who live in the same house.

I know how to be wise and how to make smart decisions.

¹³ *All the people* who revere Yahweh hate evil.

I, wisdom, hate *people who are* proud and *people* who think they are more important *than others*.

I hate *people who* behave in an evil way and those who say things to deceive *others*.

¹⁴ I give *people* good advice and I enable them to do things that are wise.

I understand how things really are, and I am strong.

¹⁵ When kings are wise, they rule *well*;
and when rulers are wise, they make laws that are just/fair.

¹⁶ Rulers govern their people with the help of me, wisdom,
and those who have authority decide things fairly/just with my help.

¹⁷ I, *wisdom*, love *all* those who love me,
and *all* those who truly seek me *will* find me.

¹⁸ I enable *people* to become rich and to be honored;
I enable them to have wealth that will last and to be successful.

¹⁹ What I can give people is more valuable than fine/pure gold and the best silver.

²⁰ I always do what is righteous and just/fair.

²¹ I give wealth to those who love me;
I fill their houses with valuable things.

22 Yahweh created me, *wisdom*, when he began
to create the world;
he created me to do my work before he
created anything else.

23 He appointed me long ago, before he created
the earth.

24 I was born before the oceans were created,
when there were no springs from which
water flowed.

25 I was born before the hills and mountains
were formed;

26 I, *wisdom*, was born before Yahweh made the
earth,
before he made the fields and the soil on the
earth.

27 I was there when Yahweh put the sky in place,
when he marked the place in the distance
where the sky and the oceans seem to
come together.

28 I was there when Yahweh put the clouds above
the earth
and when he caused the water that is inside
the earth to be secure.

29 I was there when he fixed a boundary for the
seas,
so that the water in the seas would not go
past those boundaries,
and when he put down the foundations which
support the earth.

30 I was at the side of Yahweh, the master
worker (OR, as though I was his child).
I caused him to be happy every day, and I was
always rejoicing when I was with him.

31 I was delighted with the world that he created;

I was happy with the people whom he created, too.

³² So, *you people who are like my sons*, listen to me.

I am pleased with *all* those who obey my teachings.

³³ Listen *carefully* to what I teach you and become wise.

Do not reject my teaching!

³⁴ *I am* pleased with those who listen to me, those who are outside my house every day, waiting *for me to come out*.

³⁵ Those who find me will have *a long* life, and Yahweh *will* be pleased with them.

³⁶ But those who stray away from me *just* harm themselves.

All those who hate me, *it is as though* [IRO] they are loving death."

9

Being wise and being foolish

¹ *It is as though* wisdom is a woman who has built a *big* house for herself, and has set up seven columns *to support the roof*,

² and has slaughtered an animal *and cooked the meat*, and has mixed *nice spices* in the wine, and has put *the food* on the table.

³ *It is as though then* she sent out her servant women to call out from the highest place in the town,

4 “You people who need to understand more,
come in!”

And to those who are ignorant, *it is as though* she
calls out,

5 “Come and eat the food that I *have prepared*,
and drink the *good* wine that I have mixed!

6 ◀Leave/Go away from▶ *other* foolish people,
and *if you do that, you will continue to live*.
Walk on the road that will enable you to
◀have knowledge/know what is true and
what is not true▶.”

7 If you rebuke someone who will not allow
others to correct him, he will insult you.

If you reprove/scold an evil man, he will hurt
you.

8 Do not rebuke someone who will not allow
others to ◀correct him/tell him what he
has done is wrong▶, because he will hate
you for doing that.

But if you rebuke a wise person, he will
respect you.

9 If you give instruction to wise people, they will
become wiser.

And if you teach righteous people, they will
learn more.

10 If you want to be wise, you must start by
revering Yahweh,

and if you know God, the Holy One, you will
understand *which teachings are wise/true*.

11 If you become wise, you will live many years
[DOU].

- 12 If you are wise, you are the one who will benefit from it;
if you ridicule *becoming wise*, you are the one who will suffer.
- 13 Foolish women talk loudly;
they are ignorant and are never ashamed of *the wrong things that they do*.
- 14 They sit at the doors of their houses
or they sit on the top of *the hills* in the town,
- 15 and they call out to the men who are passing by,
who are trying to be concerned with their own affairs,
- 16 “You people who need to understand more,
come into *my house!*”
And to those who are ignorant, they call out,
- 17 “*Just as water which you have stolen tastes very good
and food that you eat by yourself tastes the best,
if you have sex secretly with someone to whom you are not married, you will enjoy it very much.*”
- 18 But men who go to those women’s houses do not know that those who have gone there are now dead;
they have descended down into the deepest parts of the place where dead people are.

10

Wise sayings from Solomon

¹ These *are more* proverbs/wise sayings from Solomon:

If children are wise, they cause their parents to be happy;

but if children are foolish, they cause their parents to be very sad.

² Money that you get by doing dishonest/wicked things will really not benefit you;

but by living righteously you will live for ◀a long time/many years▶.

³ Yahweh does not allow righteous *people* to starve,

but he will prevent wicked *people* from getting what they want.

⁴ Lazy people *soon* become poor;

it is those who work hard who become rich.

⁵ Those who are wise, harvest the crops when they are ripe;

it is shameful/disgraceful to sleep *and not work* during harvest time.

⁶ Righteous *people will* be blessed by God;

the nice things that wicked *people* say [MTY] *sometimes* conceal the fact that they *are planning to* act violently.

⁷ After righteous *people die*, other people are blessed as they remember *what those people did before they died*;

but we will soon forget wicked people [MTY]
after they die.

⁸ Wise people heed good instruction/advice,
but people who talk foolishly will ruin them-
selves.

⁹ Honest people will be safe,
but *others* (OR, God) will find out those who
are dishonest.

¹⁰ Those who signal with their eyes *that they are
about to do something that is wrong* cause
trouble,
but those who rebuke others truthfully cause
them to be peaceful.

¹¹ What righteous *people* say [MTY] is *like* a
fountain that ◀gives life/enables people to
live many years▶ [MET],
but what wicked *people* say [MTY] hides *the
fact* that they intend to act violently.

¹² When we hate others, it causes quarrels,
but if we love others, we forgive them *for the
wrong things that they do*.

¹³ Those who have good sense say [MTY] what is
wise,
but people who do not have good sense must
be punished.

¹⁴ Wise people continue to learn all that they can,

but when foolish people speak, they soon cause trouble.

- 15 The wealth that rich people have *protects them like a city is protected by a strong wall* around it [MET],
but people who are poor suffer much *because they have no one to help them*.

- 16 If you are righteous, your reward will be a good life,
but all that sinful people gain is to sin more.

- 17 Those who pay attention when others try to ◀correct them/teach them what they are doing that is wrong▶ will live ◀happily/for many years▶;
but those who reject being rebuked will not find the road to life (OR, cause others to go astray).

- 18 Those who will not admit that they hate *others* are liars,
and those who slander *others* are foolish.

- 19 When people talk a lot, that will lead them to sin a lot *by what they say*;
if you are wise, you will refuse to say very much.

- 20 What righteous/good *people* say [MTY] is as *valuable as pure silver* [MET];
what wicked *people* think is worthless.

- 21 What righteous *people* say [MTY] benefits many *people*,
but foolish people die because of the stupid
things that they do.
- 22 Yahweh blesses *some people* by enabling them
to become rich,
and working hard will not make them to
become richer (OR, and he will not also
cause them to become sad).
- 23 Foolish people ◀have fun/enjoy▶ doing what
is wrong,
but wise/sensible people enjoy doing what is
wise.
- 24 Righteous *people* will get the good things that
they want/desire,
but what wicked *people* are afraid of is what
will happen to them.
- 25 When storms come, the wicked will ◀be blown
away/never be safe▶,
but righteous *people will* be safe forever.
- 26 We do not like a lazy person who refuses to do
the job that he is given to do,
just like we do not like vinegar in our mouths
or smoke in our eyes.
- 27 If you revere Yahweh, you will live for a long
time;

but wicked *people* die before they become old.

²⁸ Righteous *people* confidently expect *that good things will happen to them*, and that causes them to be happy/joyful;

but when wicked *people* confidently expect something good to happen, it does not happen.

²⁹ Yahweh protects [MET] those who live righteously,
but he destroys those who do what is evil.

³⁰ Righteous *people* will always be secure [LIT],
but wicked people will be removed from their land (OR, from this earth).

³¹ Righteous people [MTY] say things that are wise,
but *God* will shut the mouths of people [MTY] who say what is not true.

³² Righteous people [MTY] know what to say that is acceptable,
but wicked *people* [MTY] are *constantly* saying things that are not true.

11

¹ Yahweh detests *people who use* scales that do not weigh correctly;
he is delighted with *those who use* correct weights on the scales.

- ² *People who are proud will eventually be disgraced;*
it is wise to be humble.
- ³ *People who are good are guided by doing what is honest;*
those who are not honest will be ruined
because of the wrong things that they do.
- ⁴ *Your money will not help you on the day that God judges and punishes people;*
but if you live righteously, you will live a long time.
- ⁵ When people are honest and good, that will
◀direct their paths/show them what is right for them to do▶;
but wicked *people will* experience disasters
because of the evil things that they do.
- ⁶ *God* rescues/protects righteous *people* because
they ▶are honest/do what is right▶,
but those who ▶are treacherous/cannot be trusted▶ will be trapped because of their
being greedy.
- ⁷ When wicked *people* die, they cannot confidently expect to receive anything *that is good*;
they expect that *their money* will help/save them, but it will not.

- 8 *Yahweh* rescues righteous *people* from their troubles/difficulties;
instead, it is the wicked who will have troubles.
- 9 Godless people can ruin others by what they say [MTY],
but righteous *people* will be saved by *their* ◀own good sense/being wise▶.
- 10 When things go well for righteous *people*, *the people in* [MTY] their city are happy,
and they shout joyfully when wicked *people* die.
- 11 When righteous *people request God to* bless a city, that city will become great,
but cities are ruined by what wicked *people* say [MTY].
- 12 It is foolish to despise others;
those who ◀have good sense/are wise▶ do not say anything *to criticize others*.
- 13 Those who ◀spread gossip/tell bad things about others▶ will tell your secrets *to others*,
but if there is someone whom you can trust,
you can trust him to not tell your secrets *to others*.
- 14 A nation will be destroyed/ruined if it does not have *leaders* who guide it *wisely*;

but if there are many *good* advisors, the nation remains secure.

- 15 If you promise a stranger that you will pay his debt *if he cannot pay it himself*, you will regret it.

You will be safe if you refuse to guarantee that you will pay someone else's debts.

- 16 *People* honor/respect women who are kind/gracious;
ruthless/violent people may get a lot of money, *but that is all that they will get*.

- 17 Those who are kind benefit themselves *because others will be kind to them*,
but those who are cruel will hurt themselves *because others will be cruel to them*.

- 18 If wicked people earn a lot of money, that will deceive them *because they will not keep it for very long*,
but those who do what is right will surely be rewarded *by God forever*.

- 19 Those who always do what is right will live *a long/happy life*,
but those who insist on doing what is wrong will not live *very long*.

- 20 Yahweh hates those who are always thinking about doing evil things,
but he is delighted with those who always do what is right.

- 21 It is certain that *Yahweh* will punish evil people and that righteous people will escape *from being punished*.
- 22 It is **◀unsuitable/not proper/disgusting▶** for a beautiful woman not to know what is right to do,
like [SIM] *it is unsuitable/disgusting* for a pig to have a gold ring in its snout/nose.
- 23 When the things that righteous people want happen, it brings good *to them and to others*,
but when the wicked get what they want, it causes everyone else to become angry.
- 24 Some people give *their money* generously to poor people, but they become richer *in spite of that*,
and some people hold tightly to their money, but they still become poor *in spite of that*.
- 25 Those who give generously *to others* will prosper;
if you help others, *they/someone* will help you, too.
- 26 People curse/despise someone who hoards his grain *and does not sell it*, waiting to get a higher/bigger price for it,
but they praise someone who sells it *when people need it, even when the price is not high*.

- 27 If you sincerely want to *do what is right*, *people* will respect you,
but if you are wanting to cause trouble,
trouble is what you will get.
- 28 Those who trust in their money will *disappear like the withered leaves that fall from the trees*,
but righteous *people* will keep going strong,
like green leaves *in the summer*.
- 29 Those who bring troubles to their families will inherit nothing [MET] *from them*,
and those who do foolish things *like that*
will *some day* become the servants of wise *people*.
- 30 Those who live righteously will live *for a long time*,
but *those who act* violently will destroy *their own* lives (OR, those who are wise will have many people come and live with them).
- 31 *Sometimes* righteous *people* are rewarded *here* on the earth,
but it is much more certain that very wicked people [DOU] *will be rewarded by being punished*.

12

- 1 Those who want to know *what is right to do*
want to be ◀disciplined/corrected▶ when

they do what is wrong;
it is foolish to not want to be ◀corrected/told
that what you did is wrong▶.

² Yahweh is pleased with good people,
but he condemns those who plan to harm
others.

³ People do not become secure/safe by doing
what is wicked;
righteous *people* will be very safe and secure
[LIT] like [MET] a tree that has deep roots.

⁴ A good wife is one who causes her husband to
be greatly honored,
but a wife who does things that cause her
husband to be ashamed *will destroy him*
like [SIM] cancer *destroys* his bones.

⁵ What righteous *people* want to do is *to treat*
people fairly;
what wicked *people* want to do is to deceive
people.

⁶ What wicked *people* say is like a trap [MET] that
kills [MTY] people *who pass by*,
but what righteous *people* say [MTY] rescues
those whom *wicked people threaten to*
harm.

⁷ Wicked *people* will die *before they become old*
and we will see them no more,

but righteous people will live *for many years*
and have many descendants.

⁸ *People will* praise those who have good sense,
but *people will* despise those ◀who are
always thinking about doing evil things/
whose thinking is twisted▶.

⁹ It is better to be a humble/ordinary person who
has only one servant
than to think that you are very important
while you have nothing to eat.

¹⁰ Righteous people take care of their domestic
animals,
but wicked people act cruelly *toward their
animals*.

¹¹ Farmers who work hard in their fields will
produce good crops that will give them
plenty to eat,
but those who waste their time working on
worthless projects are foolish.

¹² Wicked *people* desire to take away what *other*
evil people have,
but *Yahweh* enables righteous/godly *people*
to be steadfast and productive [MET].

¹³ Evil people are trapped by the evil things that
they say [MTY],
but righteous *people* escape from trouble.

- 14 People are rewarded for *the good things* that they say *to others*,
and people are *also* rewarded for the good work that they do [MTY].
- 15 Foolish people *always* think that what they are doing is right;
wise people heed *other people when they give them good* advice.
- 16 Foolish people quickly become angry when someone does something that they don't like;
but those who have good sense ignore it when others insult them.
- 17 *In the courtroom*, honest people say what is true,
but untruthful/dishonest people tell *nothing but* lies.
- 18 What some people say *hurts people badly*, as much as [SIM] a sword can;
but what wise *people* say ◀heals others' souls/comforts others▶.
- 19 When people tell [MTY] lies, others soon realize that what they said is not true [IDM];
but when people say what is true, others will remember that forever.
- 20 Those who plan to do what is evil are always wanting to deceive *others*,

but things will go well for those who plan to
do good things.

21 Bad things *usually* [HYP] do not happen to
righteous *people*,
but wicked *people* always have troubles.

22 Yahweh detests those [MTY] who tell lies,
but he is delighted with those who faithfully
do what they promise that they will do.

23 Those with good sense do not reveal *all* that
they know;
foolish people show *clearly* by what they say
that they ◀are ignorant/have not learned
much▶.

24 Those [SYN] who work hard become rulers *of*
others;
those who are lazy become slaves *of others*.

25 When people are anxious/worried, they be-
come depressed/dejected,
but when others speak kindly to them, it
causes them to be cheerful again.

26 Godly/Righteous people try to *give good advice*
to their friends (OR, try to make friends
with others),
but the manner in which wicked *people* live
misleads their friends.

- ²⁷ Lazy people do not even *cook the meat of the* animals that they catch/kill,
but those who work hard will acquire (OR,
are like) a valuable treasure.
- ²⁸ Those who ◀live righteously/continually do
what is right▶ are *walking* on the road to
a long life;
◀it is not a road to death/they will not die
when they are still young▶.

13

- ¹ Children who are wise ◀pay attention/heed
it▶ when their parents discipline/correct
them;
but foolish children do not pay attention
when someone rebukes them *for their bad
behavior*.
- ² Good people are rewarded [IDM] for the good
things [MET] that they say,
but those who desire to deceive others are
very eager to act violently.
- ³ Those who are *very* careful about what they say
[MTY] will live a long life;
those who talk ◀without thinking/ too
much▶ will ruin themselves.
- ⁴ People who are lazy want things very much, but
they will not get anything [HYP].
People who work hard will get all that they
want.
- ⁵ Righteous/Honest people hate/detest lies,

but what wicked people do ◀is very disgraceful/stinks▶ [DOU].

6 The behavior [PRS] of those who always do what is right will protect them,
but sinful *behavior will* ruin wicked people.

7 Some people who have nothing pretend to be rich,
but other people who are very rich pretend to be poor.

8 Rich people are able to pay people who want to kill them, *with the result that they will be protected, not killed*,
but poor people *do not have to worry about that because* no one threatens to kill them.

9 Righteous *people* are like a lamp [MET] that shines brightly,
but wicked *people* are like [MET] a lamp that will *soon* be extinguished.

10 *People* who are arrogant/proud *always* cause strife;
those who are wise ask *other people* for good advice.

11 Those who acquire a lot of money quickly *by doing what is wrong, probably* will lose it *quickly*,
but if people earn money slowly, the amount of money they have will increase.

- 12 When people do not receive the things that they are expecting to receive, ◀it causes them to despair/they become very sad▶; but if you receive what you are desiring to get, that *will be like a tree* [MET] *whose fruit gives you life* (OR, that will cause you to be joyful).
- 13 Those who despise *the good advice that others give them* are bringing ruin on themselves; those who pay attention to that advice will ◀be secure/succeed▶.
- 14 What wise *people* teach is *like* a fountain whose *water* gives life [MET]; what they teach you will help you to escape when something dangerous is threatening to kill you [MET].
- 15 *People* respect those who have good sense, but those who cannot be trusted are on the road to being ruined/destroyed (OR, will have a lot of difficulties/troubles).
- 16 Those who have good sense always think carefully/wisely before they do something; foolish people show *by what they say and do* that they are foolish.
- 17 Messengers who are not reliable cause trouble, but those who faithfully *deliver their messages* cause people to act peacefully.

- 18 Those who refuse to pay attention when others discipline/correct them will become poor and disgraced;
people respect those who accept it when they are rebuked *for their bad behavior*.
- 19 It is delightful to receive what we desire;
foolish people hate/refuse to turn away from doing evil.
- 20 Those who habitually associate with wise people become wise;
those who ◀are close friends of/associate with▶ foolish people will ◀regret it/be ruined▶.
- 21 Sinners have trouble [PRS] wherever they go,
but things will go well for righteous *people*.
- 22 When good people *die*, their grandchildren inherit their money;
but when sinners *die*, the money that they had will end up in the hands of righteous *people*.
- 23 *Sometimes* poor *people's* fields produce plenty of food,
but unjust people take away all that food.
- 24 Those who do not punish their children *for bad behavior* do not *really* love them;
those who love their children start to discipline them when the children are still young.

- ²⁵ Righteous *people* have enough food to eat and be satisfied,
but the stomachs of wicked *people* [SYN] are *always* empty.

14

- ¹ Wise women [PRS] hold their families together *by the wise things that they do*,
but foolish women ruin their families by the foolish things that they do.
- ² By *continually* behaving/acting righteously, *people show that they greatly* revere Yahweh;
those who ◀walk on crooked paths/always deceive others▶ *show that they* despise him.
- ³ Foolish people will be punished [MTY] for what they say,
but wise *people* will be protected by what they say [MTY].
- ⁴ If *a man has* no oxen to plow his field, he does not need to put grain in their feedbox,
but if *he has* oxen, they will enable him to produce an abundant crop.
- ⁵ Witnesses who are reliable *always* say what ◀is true/really happened▶,
but witnesses who are not reliable constantly tell lies *about what happened*.
- ⁶ Those who make fun of *being wise* will never become wise,

but those who understand *what is right* learn things easily.

⁷ Stay away from foolish people,
because they will not be able to teach you anything *useful*.

⁸ Those who have good sense are wise, so they know what they should do *and what they should not do*;
foolish people do not know what is right to do, but because they think that they do, they are deceiving themselves.

⁹ Foolish people make fun of their committing sins;
but God is pleased with those who do what is right.

¹⁰ If you are very sad or if you are joyful, only you know what you are experiencing;
no one else *can* know what you are feeling.

¹¹ Houses built by wicked *people* will be destroyed,
but houses built by good/righteous *people* will last for a long time.

¹² There are some kinds of behavior [MET] that *some people falsely* think are right,
but ◀walking on those roads/continually doing those things▶ causes *those people* to die.

- 13 Sometimes when people laugh, they are *really* sad,
and when they stop laughing, they are still sad.
- 14 Those who stubbornly continue to do what is wrong will get what they deserve,
and those who continually do what is good will *also* get what they deserve.
- 15 Foolish people believe everything *that people tell them*;
those who have good sense think carefully about what will be the result of their actions.
- 16 Wise people are careful and avoid *doing things that will give them* trouble;
foolish people are careless and act ◀too quickly/without thinking▶.
- 17 Those who quickly become angry [IDM] do foolish things;
people hate those who plan to do wicked things (OR, those who have good sense remain calm/patient).
- 18 Foolish people get what they deserve for doing foolish things;
those with good sense are rewarded [MET] by being able to learn a lot.

- 19 *Some day evil people will bow down in front of righteous people to show that they respect them;*
they will humbly stand at the gates of the houses of righteous people and request their help.
- 20 *No one likes poor people; even their friends/neighbors do not like them;*
rich people have many friends, but *only while the rich people still have money.*
- 21 It is sinful to despise your *poor* neighbors;
God is pleased with those who do kind things for the poor.
- 22 Those who plan to do things that are evil/wrong are walking on the wrong road;
people faithfully love, respect and are loyal to those who plan to do what is good.
- 23 If you work hard, you will ◀accomplish something good/get a good income▶,
but if all you do is to talk *and not work*, you will remain poor.
- 24 One of the rewards [MET] of being wise is to become rich;
the reward of acting foolishly is to become more foolish.

- 25 By saying *in court* what is true, you *can* save the life of the one who is being falsely accused;
if you tell lies, you are abandoning someone who needs your help to defend him.
- 26 Those who revere Yahweh are confident that he will protect them,
and their family will also be protected.
- 27 Having an awesome respect for Yahweh is like [MET] having a fountain that gives life;
it will help you to escape when something dangerous is threatening to kill you [MET].
- 28 If a king rules over many people, many people will be able to honor him;
if he has only a few people in his kingdom, he will have very little [HYP] power.
- 29 Those who do not quickly become angry are very wise;
by quickly becoming angry, people show that they are foolish.
- 30 Having a mind that is peaceful results in having a healthy body;
having a mind that is often in turmoil is like [MET] cancer in a person's bones.
- 31 Those who oppress poor people are insulting God, the one who made those poor people,

but acting kindly toward them is respecting God.

³² Wicked *people* ruin themselves by the evil things that they do,
but righteous/good *people* are kept safe/
protected even when they die (OR, because
of their continually doing what is right).

³³ Those who have good sense always think what
is wise;
foolish people do not know anything about
being wise.

³⁴ *When* the people of a nation *continually act*
righteously, it causes that nation to be
great;
continually doing what is evil causes a nation
to be disgraced.

³⁵ Kings are pleased with officials who do their
work competently/skillfully,
but they punish [MTY] those who *do their*
work in a manner that causes the kings to
be disgraced.

15

¹ When people are angry with you, reply to them
gently, and it will calm them;
but if you reply harshly to them, it causes
them to become more angry.

- ² When wise *people* speak [MTY], it causes those who hear what they say to want to know more;
foolish people continually say [MTY] what is foolish.
- ³ Yahweh sees [MTY] *what is happening* everywhere;
he observes what bad *people do* as well as what good *people do*.
- ⁴ Those who speak [MTY] kindly to people are *like* [MET] trees *whose fruit gives life*;
speaking what is false causes people to
◀despair/feel very discouraged▶.
- ⁵ Foolish children despise their parents when their parents correct/discipline them;
wise children accept it.
- ⁶ There are many valuable things in the houses of righteous *people*;
the wealth of wicked *people* causes them to have troubles/difficulties.
- ⁷ What wise *people* teach [MTY] causes others to know much more,
but foolish people cannot teach others what is useful.
- ⁸ Yahweh detests the sacrifices that are offered by wicked *people*;
what delights/pleases him very much are the prayers of righteous/good *people*.

- 9 Yahweh hates/detests the behavior of wicked *people*,
but he loves those who always do what is
righteous/just/fair.
- 10 Those who do what is wrong will be severely
punished;
those who do not want to be corrected will
die.
- 11 Yahweh knows *what is happening* in the place
where dead people [DOU] are,
so he certainly knows [RHQ] what people are
thinking.
- 12 Some people do not want to be corrected;
they never go to wise *people to seek good
advice from them*.
- 13 When people are happy, they have smiles on
their faces;
but when they are sad, *by looking at their
faces we can see that* they are sad.
- 14 Those who have good sense want to learn
more;
foolish people [MTY] are very satisfied with
being foolish/ignorant.
- 15 Those who are oppressed constantly have
difficulties,
but those who (OR, if they) are happy, *it is as
though* [MET] they are having a big feast
every day.

- 16 Being poor and revering Yahweh
is better than being rich and having a lot of
troubles.
- 17 Eating meals with *people whom you* love and
having only vegetables to eat
is better than eating with *people who* hate
each other and having lots of good meat to
eat.
- 18 Those who quickly become angry cause argu-
ments/quarreling,
but those who do not quickly become angry
cause people to act peacefully.
- 19 Lazy people constantly *have difficulties* [MET];
it is as though they are walking through
thorns;
but those who are honest and hard-working
will have few difficulties; it is as though they
are walking on a level highway [MET].
- 20 Children who are wise cause their parents to
be happy;
it is foolish children who despise their par-
ents.
- 21 Foolish people are happy to *continually* act
foolishly;
those who have good sense do what is right.
- 22 If there is no one to give us good advice, we
will not accomplish what we are planning
to do;

but when we have many *good* advisors, we will succeed.

23 People rejoice when they are able to reply well to what others have asked them;
truly, it is very delightful to be able to say the right thing at the right time.

24 Wise people walk on a road that leads up to a long life;
they do not walk on a road that leads down to the place where dead people are.

25 Yahweh tears down the houses of proud *people*,
but he protects the property of widows.

26 Yahweh detests what wicked *people* are thinking *about doing*;
but when people say what is kind, he considers those words to be pure.

27 Those who try hard to get money by acting dishonestly cause trouble for their family;
those who refuse to accept bribes will live *for a long time*.

28 Righteous/Good *people* think carefully before they answer *what others ask them*;
wicked *people* very quickly say what is evil.

29 Yahweh does not listen [MTY] to what wicked *people request him to do*;

he listens to righteous *people* when they pray.

³⁰ If people have a smile on their faces, it makes them/others happy,
and *when people hear* good news, it refreshes their spirits [MTY].

³¹ If people pay attention when *people* correct/warn them,
they will become wise.

³² If people refuse to listen *when others try* to correct them, they are despising/hurting themselves;
those who ◀pay attention/heed▶ when *others* warn them ◀become wiser/acquire good sense▶.

³³ If you revere Yahweh, you will learn how to become wise,
but *only* after you become humble will *people* honor you.

16

¹ People plan what they want to do,
but Yahweh is the one who decides [MTY]
what really will happen.

² People may think that their actions are right,
but Yahweh really knows why people do
what they do.

- 3 ◀Request/Rely on▶ Yahweh to direct what you plan to do;
if you do that, you will succeed in what you plan.
- 4 Yahweh knows why he does everything that he does;
he has even prepared the wicked for the time that he will punish them.
- 5 Yahweh hates/detests everyone who is proud [IDM];
you can be certain [IDM] that they will be punished [LIT].
- 6 Be loyal to Yahweh and faithfully *obey* him; if you do that, he will forgive you for having sinned.
If we revere him, nothing evil will happen to us (OR, he will prevent evil things from happening to us).
- 7 When our behavior pleases Yahweh,
he even causes our enemies to act peacefully toward us.
- 8 It is better to have a small amount of money that is earned honestly
than to have a lot of money that is acquired dishonestly.
- 9 People plan what they want to do,

but Yahweh directs/determines what they will *really* be able to do.

- ¹⁰ *If* God directs what a king says,
what he decides is *always* right/fair.
- ¹¹ Yahweh wants us to use scales that are correct;
the weights in his bag are correct, *because*
he made them.
- ¹² Kings detest those who do evil,
because *it is people doing what* is fair/right
that causes their governments to be [MTY]
strong.
- ¹³ Kings are delighted to hear people say [MTY]
what is true;
they love those who say what is right/honest.
- ¹⁴ If a king becomes angry, he *may* command that
someone be executed,
so wise people will *try to* cause him to be
calm.
- ¹⁵ If a king has a smile [MTY] on his face, he will
enable people to have a *long* life (OR, he
will not order people to be executed);
his being pleased *with people* is *as delightful*
as rain in the springtime *when seeds are*
planted.
- ¹⁶ Becoming wise is better than acquiring gold;
getting good understanding/insight is better
than acquiring silver.

- 17 Those whose behavior [MET] is good/right turn away from doing evil;
those who guard their conduct [MTY] protect their lives.
- 18 Being proud will ◀lead to your having/cause you to have▶ disasters;
despising others will result in your being ruined.
- 19 It is better to be humble and poor
than *to associate with proud people* and
to become rich by dividing with them
◀plunder/goods captured in a battle▶.
- 20 Those who heed good teaching/instruction will prosper;
happy are those who trust in Yahweh.
- 21 People say that those who are wise learn what is right/good behavior,
and those who talk pleasantly *are able to*
influence others *to do what is right*.
- 22 Being wise is *like having* a fountain that gives life [MET],
but foolish people are punished as a result
of their acting foolishly.
- 23 Those who are wise think carefully before they talk,
and as a result they are able to influence/
persuade others *to do what is right*.

- 24 Kind words are like honey [SIM]:
We enjoy them both, and both cause our
bodies to be healthy/strong.
- 25 There are some kinds of behavior [MET] that
people think are right,
but ◀walking on those roads [MET]/con-
tinually doing those things▶ causes those
people to die.
- 26 If a worker ◀has an appetite/is hungry▶, that
urges him to work hard
because he [SYN] wants to *earn money to buy
things to eat*.
- 27 Worthless people plan *ways to cause trouble
for others*,
and *even* what they say *injures people* like a
hot fire does [SIM].
- 28 Deceitful people cause strife/quarreling among
other people;
those who say false things about other
people cause people who are friends to
become enemies.
- 29 Those who act violently entice/encourage
others *to also act violently*
and lead them along a road that will end in
disaster.
- 30 People *sometimes* show with *one of* their eyes
to signal to their friends that they are

planning to do something to harm *others*;
they smirk when they are about to do
something evil.

³¹ Gray hair is *like* a glorious crown [MET]
that is given to people who have always
behaved righteously.

³² Those who do not become angry quickly are
better than those who are powerful;
it is better to ◀control your temper/keep
yourself from becoming very angry▶ than
to conquer a city.

³³ People ◀cast lots/throw marked stones▶ to
decide what should be done,
but God is the one who truly decides what
will happen.

17

¹ It is better *to eat* a dry piece *of bread* and not
have strife/quarrels
than to have a big feast in a house where
everyone is quarreling.

² A slave who acts wisely will *some day* be the
boss of his master's disgraceful son
and when his master dies, the slave will
receive part of his master's possessions.

³ *Workers put* silver and gold in a very hot
furnace *to burn out what is impure*,

and Yahweh *similarly* examines people's inner beings *to see if they are pure*.

⁴ Those who do what is evil pay attention to people who say [MTY] what is evil, and liars pay attention to *other people's* lies.

⁵ Those who make fun of poor *people* insult God, the one who made the poor *people*, and those who are happy when *someone else* has troubles will certainly be punished [LIT] *by God*.

⁶ Old *people* are *usually* proud of [MET] their grandchildren, *just like* children are *usually* proud of their parents.

⁷ Fine/Eloquent speech is not suitable for foolish people to say, *just like* lies are not suitable for rulers *to say*.

⁸ People think that a bribe is like a magic stone *to persuade someone to do what they want him to do*; they think that because of the bribe, that person will do whatever they want him to do.

⁹ If you want people to like/love you, forgive them for the wrong things that they do to you.

If you continue to remind them about those wrong things, they will no longer be your friends.

¹⁰ Rebuking people who have good sense will accomplish more for them than hitting them 100 times *with a stick*.

¹¹ *Because* wicked people are always trying to cause trouble, someone will be sent to severely punish them.

¹² A mother bear whose cubs have been taken away from her is dangerous, but it is more dangerous to confront a foolish person who is doing something foolish.

¹³ If someone does something evil in return for something good being done to him, evil/trouble will never leave that person's family.

¹⁴ Starting a quarrel is like allowing water to start to leak out of a dam; they both need to be stopped before they get worse.

¹⁵ There are two things that Yahweh hates:
◀Condemning innocent *people*/Saying that people who have done nothing wrong must be punished▶,
and declaring that people who have done wicked things should not be punished.

- 16 It is useless to allow foolish people [RHQ] to try to become wise by paying for it, because they do not have enough good sense to become wise.
- 17 Friends love *others* all the time, and relatives are able to help us when we have troubles.
- 18 *If someone borrows money from another person*, it is foolish for you to promise [IDM] that you will pay the money back if that other person is unable to pay back the money that he borrowed.
- 19 Those who like to sin *also* like to cause strife/trouble; and those who build fancy doors in their houses *to show that they are very wealthy* (OR, speak proudly) are inviting disaster.
- 20 Those who ◀have perverse minds/are always thinking about doing evil things▶ will not prosper; and disasters will happen to those who always tell lies.
- 21 Children who are foolish *soon* cause their parents to be very sad; their parents will not be joyful at all.
- 22 Being cheerful is *like swallowing* good medicine;

being discouraged/gloomy *all the time* will
◀drain away your energy/cause you to
become weak▶ [MTY].

23 Wicked people/judges accept bribes that are
given to them secretly,
and as a result they do not decide matters
justly/fairly.

24 Those who have good sense determine to do
what is wise,
but foolish people are always thinking about
many different things *and never decide
what they should do*.

25 Children who are foolish cause their father to
be sad
and *also* cause their mother to be very
sorrowful.

26 It is not right to force someone who has done
nothing wrong to pay a fine;
it is wrong to punish good/respected people.

27 Those who have good sense do not talk a lot,
and those who ◀control their tempers/keep
themselves from becoming very angry▶
are *truly* wise.

28 People *may* think that foolish people who do
not say anything are wise;
if foolish people ◀do not say anything/keep
their mouths shut▶, others will think that
they are *very* intelligent.

18

- ¹ Those who separate themselves *from other people* think *only* about those things that they are interested in;
if they would continually associate with those who have good judgment/sense, they would constantly disagree/quarrel with them.
- ² Foolish people do not want to understand *anything*;
they only want to ◀express their *own* opinions/say what they think▶ [IDM].
- ³ Whenever people do wicked things, others will despise them;
when people do things that cause themselves to no *longer* be honored, they will be disgraced *also*.
- ⁴ What wise people say is *like* a deep ocean *that you can never get to the bottom of* [MET],
and it *refreshes us like water from* a rapidly flowing stream.
- ⁵ It is not good *for a judge* to decide matters in favor of those who ◀are guilty/have done wicked things▶
and to not do what is just for those who ◀are innocent/have not done what is wrong▶.
- ⁶ When foolish people [SYN] start arguments,

it is as though they [SYN] are requesting/
inviting someone to flog/whip them.

⁷ What foolish people [MTY] say causes them to
be ruined;
their *own* words are *like* a trap [MET] *that*
catches/seizes them.

⁸ *People enjoy listening to* what gossips say like
[SIM] *they enjoy* tasty food;
they accept what gossips tell them like [MET]
they swallow tasty food.

⁹ People who are lazy while they work
are *just as bad* as [IDM] those who destroy
things.

¹⁰ Yahweh [MTY] is *like* a strong tower [MET];
righteous people *can* go to him and be safe
like they can run to a tower to be safe.

¹¹ Rich people *are protected because they have* a
lot of money [PRS]
like a city is protected because it has a high
wall surrounding it [SIM].

¹² Proud people are on the road to being ruined,
but being humble leads to being honored.

¹³ Those who reply to someone before that
person has finished speaking are foolish;
doing that is disgraceful.

- 14 A desire to *continue to* live can sustain someone when he is sick;
if he loses that desire, he ◀cannot endure it/
will become very discouraged▶ when he
is sick [RHQ].
- 15 Intelligent people *are always wanting to* learn
more;
wise people [SYN] are not content with what
they already know.
- 16 If you take a gift to an important person, that
will open the way to allow you to talk to
him.
- 17 The first person to present his case in court
seems right,
but when ◀someone else/his opponent▶
begins to ask him questions, *it may become
clear that what he said was not true.*
- 18 If two influential/important people are argu-
ing,
someone can settle the matter by ◀casting
lots/throwing marked stones to decide
who is right▶.
- 19 If you help relatives, they will *protect you* like
[SIM] a strong wall *protects a city*,
but if you quarrel with them, *that will
separate you from them* like bars on a city
gate *separate the city from those who want
to enter it* [MET].

- 20 People are happy when they hear others say
[MTY] something that is good,
like they are happy when they eat food that
is good [MET].
- 21 What you say can cause others to be killed or
it can cause them to *continue* to live;
so those who like *to talk a lot* must ◀accept
the consequences/realize that what they
say can cause much harm▶.
- 22 If you marry a *good* woman, that is *like* finding
a wonderful thing;
it shows that Yahweh is pleased with you.
- 23 *It is necessary for poor people* to speak politely
when they request *rich people to do some-*
thing for them,
but *rich people* reply very impolitely when
poor people speak to them.
- 24 There are *some* people who *only* pretend to be
friends *with us,*
but there are *some* friends who are more
loyal than members of our families.

19

- 1 Conducting our lives as we should *even though*
we are poor
is better than being foolish and telling lies.
- 2 Being enthusiastic but not thinking carefully
about what we are about to do is not good;

doing things hastily can cause us a lot of trouble [IDM].

³ Some people are ruined as a result of their *own* foolish actions,
and when that happens, they [SYN] angrily say that it is Yahweh's fault.

⁴ Those who are rich easily find people who want to be their friends,
but when *people become* poor, their friends *often* desert them.

⁵ Those who tell lies in court will surely be punished [LIT];
they will not escape it.

⁶ Many *people* try to persuade important people to do favors for them;
everyone *wants to* be a friend of those who give gifts.

⁷ *Even* the relatives of someone who becomes poor hate him,
and his friends certainly stay away from him, too;
even if he tries to talk with them, they will not be his friends *again*.

⁸ Those who become wise [IDM] are doing a favor for themselves;
those who get good sense will prosper.

- 9 Those who tell lies in court will certainly be punished [LIT];
they will be ruined.
- 10 It is not appropriate for foolish people to live
◀luxuriously/like rich people▶,
and it is even less appropriate for slaves to
rule important officials.
- 11 Those who have good sense do not quickly
become angry;
people respect those who ignore offensive
things that people say to them.
- 12 When a king is angry, *that causes people to be
afraid of him*, like the roar of a lion *causes
people to be afraid* [SIM],
but if he acts kindly toward people, *they like
it just like they like dew on the grass in the
morning.*
- 13 Foolish children *can* cause disasters to happen
to their parents.
A wife who constantly ◀nags/quarrels with▶
her husband is as annoying as water that
continually drips [MET].
- 14 We *can* inherit a house or money from our
parents *when they die*,
but only Yahweh *can* give someone a sensi-
ble wife.
- 15 Those who are lazy sleep soundly,

but if they are lazy, they will be hungry
because of not earning money to buy food.

16 Those who obey *God's* commandments will
remain alive *for a long time*;
those who despise/disobey them (OR, those
who do not control their own conduct) will
die *while they are still young*.

17 When we give things to poor *people*, *it is as*
though we are lending to Yahweh,
and he will ◀pay us back/reward us for what
we did▶.

18 Discipline your children while *they are young*,
while you still hope that *they will learn to*
behave as they should;
if you do not discipline them, you are helping
them to destroy *themselves*.

19 Those who ◀do not control their temper/
quickly become very angry▶ will have to
endure what happens as a result;
but if we rescue them *from those troubles*
once, we will have to continue rescuing
them.

20 Pay attention when *people give you good* advice
and learn from them,
in order that you will become wise for the
rest of your life.

21 People plan to do many *kinds of things*,

but what will happen is what Yahweh has decided will happen.

- 22 People want others to be loyal to them;
it is better to be poor than to tell a lie *to a judge in court in order to get money.*
- 23 *Those who have* an awesome respect for Yahweh will live *a long life*;
they rest peacefully and are not harmed *during the night.*
- 24 Some people are extremely lazy;
they put their hand in a dish *to take some food* but do not even lift the food up to their mouths.
- 25 If you punish someone who makes fun of those who are wise, those who ◀are naive/need to be instructed▶ will learn to do what is smart;
if you rebuke those who are wise, they will *listen to what you say and become wiser.*
- 26 Anyone who mistreats/abuses his father or forces his mother to leave the home is a child who is acting shamefully and disgracefully.
- 27 My son, if you stop learning things,
you will *soon* forget what *you already* know.
- 28 Worthless witnesses *in court* make fun of *judges who try to* make fair decisions,

and wicked people *enjoy* doing evil *like* they
enjoy eating *good food* [MET].

- ²⁹ *God* is ready to punish those who make fun of
him/religion;
those who do foolish things deserve to be
flogged/whipped.

20

- ¹ Drinking a lot of wine or *other* strong drinks
causes people to start fighting;
it is foolish to become drunk/intoxicated.
- ² Being afraid of a king when he is angry is like
[SIM] being afraid of a lion when it growls/
roars;
if you cause the king to become angry, he
may execute you.
- ³ *People* respect those who stay away from
disputes/arguments;
foolish people *love to quarrel*.
- ⁴ *If* a lazy man does not plow *his fields at the right/
proper time*,
he will look for *crops* at harvest *time*, but
there will be nothing there.
- ⁵ *Just* as it is difficult to bring up water from
a deep well, it is difficult to know what
people are thinking,

but someone who has good sense/insight
will be able to find out what people are
thinking.

⁶ Many people proclaim that they can be trusted
to do what they say that they will do,
but it is very difficult to find [RHQ] someone
who can really be trusted.

⁷ If parents conduct their lives as they should,
God blesses their children (OR, their children
are very happy/fortunate).

⁸ A king who sits on his throne to judge people
can *easily* [MTY] find out what things that
people have done are good and what
things are evil.

⁹ There is no one [RHQ] who can truthfully say,
“I do not know of any wrong things that I
have done;
I have ◀gotten rid of all my sinful behavior/
quit doing what is sinful▶.”

¹⁰ Yahweh detests people who use weights that
are not right
and measures that are not correct.

¹¹ Even children show by what they do whether
they are good or not;
they show whether ◀what they do/their
behavior▶ is honest and right *or not*.

- 12 Two of the things that Yahweh has created *for us*
are ears to hear things and eyes to see things.
- 13 If you want to sleep *all the time*, you will become poor;
if you stay awake *and work*, you will have plenty of food.
- 14 People *look at things that they are about to buy, and in order to get it for a lower price sometimes they say, "◀It is no good/It is poor quality▶,"*
but *after they buy it*, they go and boast *about having bought it for a cheap price*.
- 15 Gold and precious stones are *valuable*,
but wise words [MTY] are more valuable.
- 16 If you foolishly promise to a stranger that you will pay what he owes if he is unable to pay it [DOU],
you deserve to have someone take your coat from you.
- 17 People *may think that food that they acquire by doing what is dishonest will taste very good*,
but later *they will not enjoy what they have done any more than they would enjoy eating gravel/sand*.

- 18 When people give you good advice, *if you do what they suggest*, your plans will succeed; so be sure to get good advice from wise people before you start fighting a war.
- 19 Those who go around telling gossip are *always* telling secrets to *others*; so stay away from people who foolishly talk *too much*.
- 20 If someone curses his father or his mother, his life will be ended, *just* like a lamp is extinguished.
- 21 If you very quickly take the property that your parents promise will be yours after they die, you will not receive any good/blessing from it.
- 22 Do not say, "I will do evil to those who do evil to me;" wait for Yahweh *to do something about it*, and he will ◀help you/do what is right▶.
- 23 Yahweh detests *those who use* dishonest scales and weights that are not accurate/correct.
- 24 Yahweh is the one who has decided what will happen to us, so ◀how can we <understand/ know> what will happen before it happens?/we humans certainly cannot <understand/

know> what will happen before it happens.► [RHQ]

25 You should think carefully before you solemnly promise to dedicate something to God,
because later you might be sorry you have promised to do it.

26 Wise kings find out [MET] which people have done what is wrong,
and they punish them very severely [IDM].

27 Our consciences are *like* lamps that Yahweh *has given to us to enable us to know what we are thinking* [MET];
they reveal what is hidden deep in our
◀minds/inner beings►.

28 Kings will continue to rule as long as they faithfully love their people and are loyal to them
and as long as they rule righteously/fairly.

29 We honor/admire young people because they are strong,
but we respect [MTY] old people more because they are wise.

30 When we are beaten or whipped, it *can* cause us to quit doing what is evil in our lives;
when someone wounds us *by punishing us*,
it *can* cause our behavior to become good.

21

- ¹ Yahweh controls what kings do [MTY] *like* he controls how streams flow;
he causes kings to do just what he wants them to do.
- ² People always think that what they do is right,
but Yahweh judges our ◀motives/reasons for *doing things*▶ [MTY].
- ³ Doing what is right and fair is more acceptable
to Yahweh
than *bringing* sacrifices *to him*.
- ⁴ Being proud and arrogant [DOU] is *like* a lamp
[MTY] *that guides* wicked people;
being proud and arrogant characterizes
◀wicked people's whole behavior/every-
thing that wicked people do▶.
- ⁵ People who plan carefully will surely have
plenty *of what they need*;
those who act too quickly *to become rich* will
become poor.
- ⁶ Money that people acquire *by cheating others*
by lying [MTY] to them will soon disappear
like a mist,
and doing that will *soon* lead to their death.
- ⁷ Wicked *people* refuse to do what is right/just,
but they will be ruined because of the violent
things [PRS] that they do.

- 8 Guilty *people continually do what is evil; it is as though* [MET] they are walking on a crooked road;
but righteous/innocent people *always* do what is right.
- 9 It is better to live in the corner of an attic/housetop *by yourself*
than to live inside the house with a wife who is always nagging.
- 10 Wicked *people* [SYN] are always wanting *to do what is evil*;
they never act mercifully toward anyone.
- 11 When those who ridicule *others* are punished, *even* those who do not have good sense *see that, and* they become wise,
and when those who are wise are taught, they become wiser.
- 12 *God*, the one *who is completely* righteous, knows *what happens inside* the houses of wicked *people*,
and *he will cause* those people to be completely ruined/destroyed.
- 13 There are people who refuse to listen when poor people cry out *for help*;
but some day they themselves will cry out *for help*, and no one will hear them.
- 14 When someone is angry *with you*,

if you secretly give him a gift, he will stop being angry.

15 Good/Righteous *people* are happy when they *see others do* what is just/fair,
but those who do what is evil are terrified
when they think about what may happen to them.

16 Those who stop behaving like those who have good sense behave
will *soon* discover that they have gone to the place where dead people are.

17 Those who spend their money to buy ◀things that give them pleasure/things that cause them to feel happy▶ will become poor;
those who love *to spend money to buy* wine and nice/fancy food [MTY] will never become rich.

18 Wicked *people* bring on themselves the sufferings
that they were trying to cause righteous *people* to experience [DOU].

19 It is better to live *alone* in a desert
than *to live* with a wife who is *always* nagging and complaining.

20 Wise people have many valuable things in their houses,
but foolish people *quickly* spend/waste *all their money*.

- 21 Those who *always* try to act in a fair and kind way *toward others* will live *a long time* and be honored/respected.
- 22 A wise army commander *helps his troops* climb over a wall *to attack* a city that is defended by a strong army, with the result that they are able to ◀get over/destroy▶ the high walls that their enemies trusted *would protect them*.
- 23 Those who are very careful about what they say [MTY] are *able to* avoid trouble.
- 24 Those who make fun of *everything that is good* are proud and conceited [DOU]; they *always* act in an inconsiderate way *toward others*.
- 25 Lazy people, who refuse to work, *will die of hunger* because they [SYN] do not earn *money to buy food*.
- 26 All during the day *wicked people* desire to obtain things, but righteous *people* have plenty, *with the result that they are able to* give things generously to others.

- 27 *Yahweh detests the sacrifices that wicked people offer to him; but he detests it even more when they think that they will escape being punished for their evil deeds because of the sacrifices that they bring.*
- 28 Those who tell lies in court will be punished;
no one stops/silences witnesses who say what is truthful/reliable.
- 29 Wicked people pretend *that they know everything*,
but righteous people think carefully about *what will happen because of what they do.*
- 30 *Thinking that we are wise*, and that we understand many things, and that we have good insight,
does not help us if Yahweh is ◀acting against/not pleased with▶ us.
- 31 We *can* get horses ready to fight in a battle,
but Yahweh is the one who enables us to ◀win victories/defeat our enemies▶.

22

- 1 ◀Having a good reputation/Being honored by people▶ is better than having a lot of money;
being well respected is better than having plenty of gold or silver [DOU].

² There is one thing that is true about both rich people and poor people:
Yahweh is the one who created all of them.

³ Those who have good sense realize *that there is something* dangerous ahead, and they avoid it;
those who do not have good sense just keep going and later they will suffer because of doing that.

⁴ The reward that Yahweh gives to those who are humble and who revere him
is that he causes them to be rich and honored and to live for a long time.

⁵ Because of the things that wicked people do, *they have difficulties/troubles* that will be like thorns and traps on the roads that they walk on [MET];
people who are careful/cautious will be able to stay away from those difficulties.

⁶ If you train/teach children to do what is right, all during their life they will act/behave in that manner.

⁷ Rich people rule over poor people harshly, and those who borrow money become like slaves [MET] of the people who lend *money to them*.

⁸ *If you plant corn or rice, corn or rice will grow;*

similarly, if you act unjustly, you will have disasters [MET];
and if you try to harm/oppress people *because you are angry with them*,
you will not be able to harm them.

⁹ *God* will bless those who are generous [IDM],
those who give some of their food to poor *people*.

¹⁰ If you get rid of those who make fun of *everything that is good*,
there will no more arguing or quarreling or insulting *other people*.

¹¹ If you always act sincerely [IDM] and always speak kindly,
the king will be your friend.

¹² Yahweh [SYN] ◀watches over/takes care of▶ *those who have good understanding/sense*,
but he ruins the plans/affairs of those who always try to deceive others.

¹³ Lazy people *remain in their houses*;
they say, "A lion might attack me if I go out into the street *to go to work!*"

¹⁴ What ◀wives who commit adultery/immoral women▶ say to men [MTY] is *like a deep pit [MET] into which those men fall*;
those with whom Yahweh is angry will fall into that pit.

- 15 Children [SYN] naturally do things that are foolish,
but if you punish/spank them [PRS], they *will*
◀stop doing foolish things/learn to behave
as they should▶.
- 16 Those who oppress poor *people* in order to
become rich,
and those who give *a bribe* to rich *people in order*
that the rich people will do a favor for them,
will just lose their money.

Thirty wise sayings

- 17 Now listen [MTY] to what wise *people* have
said;
think carefully about what I am teaching
you.
- 18 It will be good to ▶keep these things in your
minds/always remember them▶,
because if you do that, you will be able to
quote/recite them *to others*.
- 19 *I want you to* trust in Yahweh,
and that is the reason that I am telling them
to you, now.
- 20 I have written [RHQ] 30 ▶sayings/things that
wise people have said▶
from which you will receive good advice and
you will be able you to know *many good/*
useful things.
- 21 From them, you will learn what is right and
what is true,

in order that you will be able to bring back
a good report to those who sent you *to
school* (OR, give a good answer *to those
who ask you questions*).

-1-

- ²² *It is easy to rob poor people who are helpless
and cannot defend themselves, but never do
that;*
and do not oppress in court those who are
needy/afflicted,
²³ because Yahweh will speak to defend them,
and he will punish those who steal things
from others—by causing them to die.

-2-

- ²⁴ Do not become friends with those who often
become angry,
and do not associate with those who cannot
control their temper/anger,
²⁵ because you might start to act like they do
and not be able to stop doing that.

-3-

- ²⁶ If someone borrows money,
do not be one of those who promises to pay
what that person owes
he cannot pay it back,
²⁷ because if you cannot pay it back,
people will surely [RHQ] *come and* take away
everything you own, even your bed.

-4-

28 Do not *steal some of your neighbors' land* by removing the boundary lines/markers that your ancestors placed/set.

-5-

29 Know/Learn [RHQ] this about those who do their work very skillfully:
They will quit working for ordinary people and will start working for kings
because the kings will want people like that to work for them.

23

-6-

1 When you sit down to eat a meal with a ◀government official/king▶,
think carefully about what (OR, who) is in front of you.

2 *Even* if you ◀have a big appetite/want to eat a lot of food▶,
restrain yourself.

3 Do not want to eat *a lot of* his fine food,
because he may be trying to trick you.

-7-

4 Do not *cause yourself to become very tired* by working very hard to become rich;
be wise and stop doing that,

5 because as soon as you look [MTY] at *all the money that you have acquired*, it will be gone;
it will *disappear as if it* suddenly grew wings [SIM]
and flew up into the sky like an eagle.

-8-

⁶ *If someone who is stingy invites you to a meal, do not eat a lot of his fine food,*

⁷ *because he will be thinking about how much the food cost that you are eating.*

He *will* say to you, "Eat and drink all that you want!", but that is not what he *will* really be thinking.

⁸ *When you realize what he is really thinking, it will cause you to want to vomit what you have eaten;*
and your kind words *telling him that you are enjoying the meal* will be wasted.

-9-

⁹ ◀Do not waste time by/It is useless▶ talking to foolish people;
they will *only* despise the wise things that you say.

-10-

¹⁰ Do not *steal someone's property* by removing a boundary marker that has been there for a long time,
and do not take for yourself the land that belongs to orphans,

¹¹ *because Yahweh is strong, and he is like a relative that has the responsibility to defend them,*
he will *stand up in court and* argue for them and against you.

-11-

¹² Pay attention to what *your teachers* teach you,

and try to learn from the wise things that they say.

-12-

- 13 Do not refuse to discipline your children;
if you punish/spank them, it will not cause them to die,
14 and it may save them from *going to* the place where dead people are.

-13-

- 15 My son/child, if you [SYN] become wise,
I [SYN] will be very happy.
16 I [SYN] will rejoice when I hear you [SYN] say what is right/wise.

-14-

- 17 Do not envy sinful people;
instead, revere Yahweh all of your life.
18 *If you do that*, you will be happy in the future,
and *God* will certainly *do for you what you*
are confidently expecting him to do.

-15-

- 19 My son/child, listen carefully to me and become wise,
and think about ◀all that you do/your behavior▶.
20 Do not associate with those who drink a lot of
◀wine/strong drink▶
or with those who ◀are gluttons/eat more than they should▶,
21 because drunkards and gluttons will become poor;

and if all that you do is eat and sleep, you will *soon* ◀be wearing rags/not have any money to buy clothes▶.

-16-

22 Pay attention to what your father tells you, and ◀do not neglect/take care of▶ [LIT] your mother when she is old.

23 Try to know/learn what is wise, and get good instruction and understanding; and do not throw those things away.

24 Righteous *children* will cause their parents to be very happy; those whose children are wise are proud of them.

25 *Do what will* cause your father to be glad and enable your mother *also* to be happy.

17

26 My son, heed what I say to you, and allow what I do to be an example for you.

27 Prostitutes and immoral women [DOU] are *like* [MET] a deep pit or a well *that you may fall into*.

28 They wait *for you* like robbers [SIM], and they cause many men to ◀be unfaithful to/have sex with women who are not▶ their wives.

-18-

29 I will tell you [RHQ] what kind of people are always miserable and sad.

I will tell you [RHQ] which people are always causing arguments/quarrels and who are always complaining.

I will tell you [RHQ] who are injured in fights
and whose eyes are always red/bloodshot.

³⁰ *It is those who drink a lot of wine,
who try drinking other kinds of strong
drinks.*

³¹ Do not look with pleasure at red wine that
looks nice, and which sparkles when it is
poured out into cups,
and which tastes good as you drink it,

³² because the next morning *you will feel like*
you have been bitten by a poisonous snake
[DOU].

³³ You [SYN] will *think that you are* seeing
strange/weird things,
and you [SYN] will not be able to think
clearly or speak clearly.

³⁴ You will think you are in a ship that is tossing
on the sea;
you be like [SIM] someone who is trying to
sleep when the ship is rolling from one
side to the other.

³⁵ You will say, "*I think that* someone struck me,
but he did not hurt me;
he hit me, but I did not feel it.

When will I ◀wake up/feel normal again▶
in order that I can drink some more wine?"

24

-19-

¹ Do not envy evil people;

do not desire to associate with them,

² because they are *constantly* thinking about
acting violently,

and whenever they speak [MTY], they talk about ◀causing trouble/hurting someone▶.

-20-

- ³ People make good houses (OR, families) by doing what is wise,
and they make their houses (OR, families) strong by *heeding* good advice.
- ⁴ By using good sense, *they are able to buy* valuable and beautiful things and put them in the rooms of their houses.

-21-

- ⁵ Being wise is better than being strong/powerful; those who know *many things can accomplish more* than those who are *very* strong.
- ⁶ Leaders can fight battles if they have wise advisors,
and they win those battles if they have many good advisors.

-22-

- ⁷ Foolish people cannot understand wise sayings/talk;
at public meetings they are not *able to say* anything *that is useful*.

-23-

- ⁸ Those who are *always* planning to do evil things will be called troublemakers.
- ⁹ It is sinful to plan to do foolish things,
and people hate those who make fun of *everything that is good*.

-24-

10 If you *act as though* you are helpless when you have troubles,
you are *truly very* weak.

-25-

11 If it is *unjustly decided* that someone must be executed, *try hard to* rescue them [DOU].

12 If you say, "I did not know anything about it, so *◀it is not my concern/I did not try to help him▶*,"

remember that God knows what we have done,
and he knows what we were thinking [IDM, RHQ],
and he will certainly [RHQ] repay us as we deserve for what we have done or for not doing what we should have done.

-26-

13 My child/son, eat honey, because it is good *for you*;
the honey that drips from honeycombs tastes very sweet.

14 Similarly, being wise is good for your soul;
if you become wise,
you will be *happy in* the future,
and God will certainly *do for you what you* are confidently expecting him to do [LIT].

-27-

15 Do not be like wicked people who *hide and* wait to break into the houses of righteous/good *people*
and rob/steal things.

16 *Even if* good people fall down seven/many times,

they *always* stand/get up again,
but when a disaster happens to wicked *people*,
it ruins/destroys them.

-28-

- 17 Do not be happy when something bad happens
to one of your enemies;
do not rejoice when he stumbles and falls,
18 because Yahweh will know what you are
thinking, and he will not like it,
and *as a result* he will not punish that enemy
of yours.

-29-

- 19 Do not become angry/upset about those who
do what is evil,
and do not [SYN] envy them,
20 because *nothing good* will happen to wicked
people;
they are *like* a lamp that will soon be
extinguished [MET].

-30-

- 21 My child/son, revere Yahweh and *also* honor
the king,
and do not associate with people who want
to rebel against either of them,
22 because those people will suddenly experience
disasters;
and no one knows [RHQ] what great dis-
asters that God or the king can cause to
happen to them.

More sayings from wise people

23 Here are more things that wise *people* have said:

It is wrong for judges to decide matters unfairly [IDM].

24 If they say to people who are guilty, “You ◀are innocent/have not done something that is wrong▶,”

even people in other nations will curse and despise them,

25 but if judges say that guilty people must be punished,

things will go well for those judges, and
◀they will receive blessings/God will bless them▶.

26 Those who answer others honestly show that they are truly their friends [IDM].

27 First, do the work *that needs to be done* outside
your house,

and prepare your fields, *and then plant things*,

and after you finish doing that, build your house.

28 *In the courtroom* do not testify against someone when you have no reason to do that, and do not *try to deceive people* by what you say [MTY].

29 Do not say, “I will do to him what he did to me; I will pay him back for *the bad things that he did to me*.”

30 One day I walked by the vineyards of a lazy man,

a man who did not have good sense.

³¹ I was surprised to see that the fields were full of all kinds of thorny bushes, and the stone wall *around the garden* had ◀collapsed/fallen down▶.

³² When I saw that, I thought about it, and I learned this:

³³ *If you spend a lot of time sleeping and napping and folding your hands while you rest,*

³⁴ *soon you will become poor;*
it will be as though [PRS, SIM] a bandit who had a weapon in his hand attacked you and stole all that you had.

25

More wise sayings from Solomon

¹ Here are more wise sayings/ words that Solomon *wrote*. Some men who worked for Hezekiah, the king of Judah, copied them *from a scroll that Solomon had written*.

² *We consider* God to be great because he ◀acts in mysterious ways/does things that we cannot understand▶;
we consider kings to be great because they explain things.

³ *It is not possible for anyone to measure* how high the sky is or how deep the earth/ocean is; likewise [SIM], it is not possible for us to know *all* that kings are thinking.

⁴ *If workers burn out the impure bits that are in silver,
a man who makes things from silver can make something beautiful from the silver.*

⁵ *Similarly, if wicked advisors are taken away from a king,
his government will remain secure, because the king will be able to act justly.*

⁶ *When you stand in front of a king, do not try to
◀impress him/honor yourself▶
and do not ◀act like you are important/ask to sit where important people sit;▶*

⁷ *it is better if someone tells you to sit closer to the king
than for someone to tell you, while the king is listening, to sit further away in order that someone who is more important may sit closer to the king.*

⁸ *Do not quickly go to a court to tell the judge about something that you have seen,
because another witness may later say something that proves that you are wrong, and as a result you will be disgraced/ashamed.
If that happens, ◀what will you do?/you will not know what to do.▶ [RHQ]*

⁹ *If you and someone else think differently about some matter,
settle it between yourselves, and do not tell others any secret that he has told you.*

¹⁰ *If others find out that you have told secrets,*

you will be ashamed,
and from that time on, ◀you will have a bad
reputation/people will think badly about
you▶.

11 Something that is said that is very appropriate
is *as delightful as seeing* [SIM] gold apples/
ornaments in a silver bowl.

12 When a wise person rebukes/warns someone
[SYN] who is willing to listen,
that is *as valuable as* [SIM] a gold ring or a
gold chain.

13 A messenger who ◀is reliable/tells someone
else exactly what he was told to say▶
refreshes *the spirits of* his bosses who sent
him
like [SIM] ◀snow/cold water▶ refreshes *the
ground* at the time that *people* harvest
crops.

14 When someone promises to give a gift to us
but never gives it,
that disappoints us as much as [SIM] clouds
and wind that come but do not bring any
rain.

15 If someone keeps requesting a ruler long
enough to do something, he will *often*
agree to do it;
similarly, by speaking [MTY] gently we can
often convince *others that what we say is
right* [IDM].

- 16 If you find some honey, do not eat a lot of it,
because doing that may cause you to vomit.
- 17 Do not go to your neighbor's house very often
to talk with him;
if you go *very* often, he will get tired of
listening to you and start to hate you.
- 18 To falsely accuse others *in court*
is like [SIM] *attacking them with* a war-club
or a sword or a sharp arrow.
- 19 Depending on unreliable people when you
have troubles
is *as bad as trying to eat when you have a*
bad/hurting tooth or trying to walk when
your foot is crippled.
- 20 Singing to someone who is depressed *just*
causes him to feel worse;
it is like [SIM] taking off clothes on a very
cold day
or like putting vinegar on a wound.
- 21 If your enemies are hungry, give them some-
thing to eat;
if they are thirsty, give them something to
drink;
- 22 doing that will cause them to feel ashamed
[IDM],
and Yahweh will reward you for doing that.
- 23 When wind blows from the right direction, it
will rain;

similarly [SIM], if we gossip about others,
that causes them to look at us very angrily.

24 It is better to live ◀*alone/by yourself*▶ in the
corner of an attic/housetop
than to live inside the house with a wife who
is *always* nagging.

25 Receiving good news from a country far away
refreshes our spirits
like [SIM] cold water refreshes us when we
are very thirsty.

26 When a righteous/good person ◀gives in/
yields▶ to wicked *people*,
that is *as bad* as [SIM] a spring that becomes
muddied or a fountain that becomes pol-
luted.

27 It is not good to eat too much honey,
and trying to get people to praise you is also
not good.

28 People who ◀cannot control their tempers/
quickly become very angry▶ *are unable to*
defend their behavior;
that is like *having* a city without a wall
around it, *with the result that no one can*
defend it.

26

1 Just *like* [SIM] *it is not appropriate for snow*
to fall in summer time, or rain *to fall* at

harvest time,
it is not appropriate to praise/honor foolish
people.

² Like [SIM] birds that fly by *and do not alight/
land on anything*,
if someone curses you, it cannot hurt you if
you ◀do not deserve them/have not done
to him what is wrong▶.

³ It is necessary to whip a horse and to put a
bridle on a donkey *to force them to go
where we want them to go*,
and similarly [SIM] *it is often necessary to
strike* foolish people with a stick *to cause
them to do what is right*.

⁴ If a foolish person asks a foolish question, *do
not answer him*,
because *if you answer his question*, you are
just as foolish as he is.

⁵ If you give a foolish answer to someone who
asks a foolish question,
he will realize that he is ◀not very wise/
foolish▶.

⁶ Anyone who asks a foolish person to take a
message to someone
*is himself doing something as foolish as
cutting off his own feet
or drinking poison*.

⁷ A lame man cannot use his legs,
and similarly [SIM] *it is useless for a foolish
person to speak [MTY] ◀proverbs/ wise
sayings▶*.

⁸ Tying a stone in a sling *so that it cannot be
thrown at a target*
is *as foolish as* [SIM] honoring a foolish
person.

⁹ If a drunk person waves some thorns/brambles
with his hand,
*he is not able to accomplish anything useful
by doing that (OR, he does not feel it when
a thorn sticks in his hand);*
similarly, if foolish people speak [MTY] proverbs,
they do not help anyone who hears them.

¹⁰ A man who shoots arrows *to try to wound
everybody who is near is foolish;*
similarly, anyone who hires a foolish person
who passes by is very foolish.

¹¹ A foolish person will foolishly do something
stupid a second time;
it is *like* [SIM] a dog returning to *eat* what it
has vomited.

¹² *God* can help/bless foolish people more easily
than he can help/bless people who are not
wise [RHQ], but think that they are wise.

- 13 Lazy people *just stay inside their houses and do nothing*;
they keep saying “I think there is a lion in the street!”
- 14 A door *continually* swings back and forth on its hinges *and does not go anywhere*;
similarly [SIM], lazy people *just continually turn over* in their beds *and never do anything*.
- 15 Some people are extremely lazy;
they put their hand in a dish *to get some food*
but do not *even* lift the food up to their mouths.
- 16 Lazy people think that they are wiser than seven/several people
who can answer *others’ questions* with good sense.
- 17 Anyone who ◀meddles/involves himself▶ in a quarrel that does not concern him
is *as foolish as* [SIM] someone who tries to grab a passing dog by its ears.
- 18 Crazy people who shoot burning arrows to kill people
19 are as foolish as those who deceive someone else
and *then* say, “I was only joking.”
- 20 If there is no *more* firewood *to put on the fire*,
the fire will go out;

similarly [SIM], if there are no people who
◀gossip/tell people things that are not
true▶, quarreling will end.

21 *Putting* charcoal on burning coals or *putting*
wood on a fire *causes the fire to keep*
burning;

similarly, people who like to quarrel cause
people to keep arguing.

22 People *enjoy listening to what gossips say about*
others just like [SIM] they enjoy tasty food;
they *enjoy listening to what gossips tell them*
like they enjoy swallowing tasty food.

23 People who say nice things when they are
thinking about doing evil things
are like a nice glaze/covering on a *cheap* clay
pot.

24 Those who hate someone and are saying [MTY]
something very different from what they
are thinking are hypocrites;
they are only planning *to harm that person*.

25 When they say nice things, do not believe
them,
because in their inner beings are many
things that *Yahweh* hates.

26 They try to deceive people to cause them to
think that they do not hate *that person*,
but in a public meeting, the people will find
out the evil things *that they have done*.

²⁷ Those who dig a deep pit *for other people to fall into* will fall into it themselves;
rocks will roll down on those who start to
cause rocks to roll down *to crush someone*.

²⁸ Those [MTY] who tell lies to others *really* hate
them,
and those who deceive *others* ruin them.

27

¹ Do not boast about *what you will do* tomorrow,
because you do not know what will happen
[PRS] on any day.

² Do not praise yourself [MTY, PRS]; allow others
to praise you.
If someone else praises you, that is okay.

³ *It causes pain to our bodies to carry heavy stones
or a pail full of sand,*
but doing something stupid/foolish *can cause
great pain to other people's spirits.*

⁴ It is cruel to be angry *with others*, and our being
angry sometimes destroys *others*,
but being jealous of someone is [RHQ] often
more cruel than that.

⁵ It is better to correct someone openly
than to show that you *don't love* that
person *by not correcting him*.

⁶ If a friend criticizes you, *he is a good friend and
you can trust him*;

but if one of your enemies kisses you, he is
probably wanting to deceive you.

⁷ When someone's stomach is full, he does not
want to eat honey;
but when someone is *very* hungry, he thinks
that *even* bitter things taste sweet.

⁸ Anyone who wanders *far* from his home/family
is like [SIM] a bird that is far from its nest.

⁹ *Putting olive* oil and perfume on a person's skin
causes him to feel good,
but having a friend *who gives* good advice is
even better.

¹⁰ Do not neglect your friends or your parents'
friends;
and at a time when you are experiencing a
disaster, do not go to a relative *who lives*
far away to request his help;
someone who lives near you can help you
more than relatives who live far away.

¹¹ My child/son, cause me to be happy by
becoming wise,
in order that I will *know how to* reply to
those who would criticize me *about your*
behavior.

¹² Those who have good sense will realize that
there is something dangerous ahead, and
they will hide;

those who do not have good sense *just* keep going, and later they will suffer because of *doing* that.

13 *You deserve to* have your property taken from you
if you *foolishly* promise to a stranger (OR, a strange woman) that you will pay what she owes if she is unable to pay it [DOU].

14 If you rise early in the morning and call out a greeting to your neighbor *while he is still sleeping*,
he will consider it to be a curse, *not a blessing*.

15 *Having* a wife that is *constantly* nagging
is as *bad as listening* to rain continually dripping on a rainy day.

16 *Trying* to restrain/stop her *from doing that* is as *difficult* [SIM] *as trying* to stop the wind or *trying* to hold oil in your hand.

17 *We can use one* iron tool to sharpen *another* iron tool;
similarly [SIM], *when one person shares* what he is thinking, it can help other people to *think more clearly*.

18 Those who take care of fig trees will have figs to eat;
similarly, servants who protect their master will be honored *by him*.

- 19 *When a person looks in the water, he sees his own face;*
similarly [SIM], *when we look at a person's behavior, we know what he is thinking.*
- 20 *It is as though the place where the dead people are is always wanting more people to die and come there;*
and humans [SYN] are always wanting to acquire more things, *too.*
- 21 *Workers put silver and gold in a very hot furnace to burn out what is impure,*
and [SIM] people learn *what we are really like when they see how we react when people praise us.*
- 22 Even if you beat/crush a fool severely *like* [MET] you pulverize grain with a pestle,
you *probably* will not be able to cause him to stop ◀being foolish/doing foolish things▶.
- 23 Take good care of your flocks of sheep
and herds of cattle,
24 because the money *that you acquired from selling animals previously* will not ◀last/stay with you▶ forever;
similarly [SIM], governments [MTY] certainly do not [RHQ] last forever.
- 25 After you cut the hay [DOU] and *store it to feed the animals in the winter while* a new crop of hay is growing,

- ²⁶ you will be able to *shear the sheep and make clothes from the wool*,
and you will get money from selling *some of the goats* to buy *more land*,
²⁷ and you will get enough milk from the *other goats*
for you and your family and your female servants.

28

- ¹ Wicked *people* run away *even* when no one is pursuing them,
but righteous/good *people are not afraid*;
they are as brave as lions.
- ² When *the people of* a nation sin, they will have one ruler after another;
but when their leaders are wise and have good sense, their government will last for a long time.
- ³ A poor person who oppresses *other poor people* is *like* [MET] a very heavy/hard rain that *destroys the crops*, with the result that there is no food *for people to eat*.
- ⁴ Those who reject/disobey *God's laws* always speak well of wicked *people*;
but those who obey *God's laws* *always* oppose what wicked people do.
- ⁵ Evil people do not understand what it means to act justly,

but those who try to obey/worship Yahweh understand that very well.

⁶ It is better to be honest *even* though you are poor
than to be dishonest *even* though you are rich.

⁷ Young people who obey the laws are wise [IDM];
parents whose children associate with those who ◀carouse/go to wild parties▶ are humiliated/disgraced because of what their children do.

⁸ When people become very rich by charging very high interest [DOU],
their money will *eventually* go to someone who does kind things for the poor.

⁹ If people do not obey [MTY] *God's* laws,
God ◀detests their prayers/considers that their prayers stink▶.

¹⁰ Those who cause honest/good *people* to do what is evil
will fall into their own pits/traps,
but good things will happen to those who ◀are innocent/have not done what is wrong▶.

¹¹ *Many* rich people think that they are wise,

but poor people who have good sense will find out whether rich people really are wise or not.

- 12 When righteous/ good *people* ◀succeed/ win *elections*▶, everyone ◀celebrates/ is happy▶;
but when wicked *people win*, everyone hides *because they are afraid of what the wicked people will do*.

- 13 Those who refuse to confess/admit their sins will not prosper,
but *God* acts mercifully/kindly toward those who confess their sins and turn away from their sinful behavior.

- 14 *God* is pleased with those who always revere him,
but those who are stubborn [IDM] will experience disasters.

- 15 Wicked people who *mistreat* poor people whom they rule
are *as dangerous to them as* [SIM] a lion roaring *at them* or a bear springing up to *attack them*.

- 16 Rulers who do not have good sense cruelly oppress *the people they rule*,
but rulers who do not want to become rich by cheating/deceiving *people* will live (OR, rule) for a long time.

- 17 Those who are guilty of murdering [MTY] another person will ◀be fugitives/keep running away▶ until they die;
do not help them to escape.
- 18 Those who *continually* do what is right will be safe/protected,
but those who are dishonest will *suddenly* be ruined.
- 19 Farmers who work *hard* in their fields will *produce good crops and always* have plenty of food *to eat*,
but those who spend all their time ◀on useless projects/doing things that do not benefit anyone▶ will become very poor.
- 20 *God* will greatly bless those who ◀are trustworthy/always do what they say that they will do▶,
but he will certainly punish [LIT] those who try to become rich quickly.
- 21 It is not good *for judges* to decide matters unfairly/unjustly,
but *some* people will do what is wrong *even* if they receive *only* a very small bribe [HYP] *for doing it*.
- 22 Selfish people [IDM] are very eager to become rich quickly;

they do not realize that they will *soon* become poor.

23 Those who rebuke someone will be appreciated/thanked more than those who *say nice things to others merely* to ◀flatter them/cause them to feel good▶.

24 Anyone who steals things from his father or his mother and says “That is not sinful” is as bad as a bandit.

25 Greedy people cause trouble/strife; those who trust in Yahweh will prosper [IDM].

26 Those who believe that what they think is *always right* are foolish; those who act wisely will ◀escape danger/be safe▶.

27 Those who give things to poor *people* will not become poor; but many *people* will curse those who refuse to help [IDM] poor people.

28 When wicked *people* become rulers, people hide *because they are afraid of what those wicked people will do*; but when wicked people are no longer rulers, good/righteous *people will* become the rulers.

29

- ¹ Some people remain stubborn [IDM] *even* though they are often reproved/warned *about doing what is wrong*,
but some day they will be crushed/ruined, and nothing will be able to heal them.
- ² When righteous *people* are rulers, people are happy,
but when wicked *people* rule, people ◀groan/
are miserable▶.
- ³ Those who are eager to become wise cause their parents to be glad;
those who spend their time with prostitutes will end up giving all their money to them.
- ⁴ When a king rules justly/fairly, he causes his nation to be strong,
but a king who is concerned *only* with getting more money from the people ruins his nation.
- ⁵ Those who ◀flatter others/say nice things to others *merely* to cause them to feel good▶ are really setting a trap for them (OR, for themselves) [SYN].
- ⁶ Evil people will be trapped by the sins that they commit,
but righteous/honest people will sing and be joyful/happy.

- ⁷ Righteous/Good people know that poor *people* should be treated fairly/justly, *but* wicked people ◀are not concerned about/do not pay attention to▶ those matters at all.
- ⁸ Those who make fun of *everything that is good say things that cause everyone in the city to* ◀be agitated/in turmoil▶; those who are wise enable *people* to remain calm.
- ⁹ If a wise person sues a foolish person, the foolish person merely laughs *at him* and yells *at him* and will not be quiet (OR, *the dispute will not be resolved*).
- ¹⁰ Those who murder others hate people who ◀are honest/always do what is right▶, but righteous *people* try to protect them.
- ¹¹ People who are wise are patient and restrain/control themselves when they are angry, but foolish people ◀quickly show others that they are very angry/do not restrain themselves at all▶.
- ¹² If a ruler ◀pays attention to/believes▶ *people who tell* lies, all his officials will *also* become wicked.
- ¹³ There is one thing that is true about both poor people and those who oppress them: Yahweh enables all of them to see.

- 14 If kings judge poor *people* fairly,
they will continue to rule for a long time.
- 15 If children are punished/spanked and re-
proved/warned,
they become wise;
but if they are allowed to do whatever they want
to do,
they *do things that* cause their mothers to be
ashamed of them.
- 16 When wicked *people* rule, there are more
crimes committed {people commit more
crimes},
but *some day* those wicked people will ◀be
defeated/no longer rule▶, and righteous
people will see that happen.
- 17 If you discipline your children, they will no
longer *do things that* will cause you to be
worried;
instead, they *will do things that* will delight
you [SYN].
- 18 When the people *of a nation* do not receive
messages that come directly from God,
they do not control their behavior.
God is pleased with those who obey his laws.
- 19 It is not possible to correct/discipline servants
only by talking to them;
they understand what you are saying, but
they do not pay attention to it.

20 *God* can help/bless foolish people more easily
[RHQ]
than he can help/bless people who speak
without thinking first.

21 If someone gives his servants everything that
they want, starting from when they are
young,
some day those servants will take from him
everything that he owns.

22 Those who *quickly* become angry cause *many*
arguments,
and they *also* commit many sins.

23 Proud people will be disgraced;
those who are humble will be respected.

24 Those who help thieves *to steal* only hurt
themselves;
when they are in court, they solemnly ask
God to curse them *if they do not tell the*
truth,

but they do not tell the truth *about the crime that*
was committed,
and as a result, God will curse them.

25 It is *like* a dangerous trap [MET] *for people* to
be ◀afraid of/worried about▶ what others
will think about them,
but those who trust in Yahweh are safe/
protected.

- ²⁶ Many *people* request rulers to do things to help them,
but Yahweh is *the only one* who surely does
for people what is fair/just.
- ²⁷ Righteous *people* hate/detest those who do
what is evil,
and wicked *people* hate *those whose behavior*
is always good.

30

Wise sayings from Agur

- ¹ These are sayings/messages that God gave to
Agur, the son of Jakeh.
Agur wrote them for Ithiel and Ucal.
- ² It seems that I am very stupid;
I do not deserve to be considered to be a
human;
I do not have the good sense that humans should
have.
- ³ I have not learned *how to become* wise
and I do not know *much* about God.
- ⁴ *But let me say this:*
No one [RHQ] has ascended to heaven *to find out*
what God is like and returned *to tell us*.
No one [RHQ] has gathered/held the wind in his
hand.
No one [RHQ] has wrapped the water *in the ocean*
in a piece of cloth,
and no one [RHQ] has established the bound-
aries of the earth.

*If you know who has done those things, tell me
[RHQ] his name, and the names of his
children [SAR]!*

*But you do not know who has done those things,
so you cannot speak with authority about
what God is like.*

⁵ Everything that God has said is true;
he is *like* a shield [MET] for all those who
request him to protect them.

⁶ Do not add to (OR, change) what God has said;
if you do that, he will rebuke you and show
that you are lying.

⁷ *God*, I ask you to do two things for me;
please do them before I die:

⁸ Help me never to lie or deceive *people*
and do not cause me to become poor or to
become rich.
Just give me the food that I need;

⁹ because if I become rich,
I might say that I do not [RHQ] know you and
that I do not need you;

and if I become poor,
I might dishonor you by stealing things.

More wise sayings

¹⁰ Do not ◀slander/say bad things about▶ a
worker to his boss;
if you do that, the worker will curse you, and
cause you to have trouble.

11 *I will list four kinds of evil things that people do:*

Some people curse their fathers and do not ask
God to bless their mothers.

12 Some people think that they are perfect,
but *really* they have never been cleansed
from their guilt for committing disgusting
sins.

13 Some people are very proud;
they think that they are very good and they
despise others.

14 Some people *act very cruelly toward others;*
it is as though [MET] *they have teeth that are*
like sharp knives;

they severely oppress poor *people*
and try to cause them to disappear from the
land.

15 *Leeches are always wanting more blood to suck;*
similarly, greedy people are always saying
"Give me some!" or "Give me more!"
[MET]

There are four things that are never ◀satisfied/
content with what they have▶;
they always want more [LIT]:

16 The place where the dead people are;
women who do not have any children;
ground that needs water/rain;
and a fire that always needs more wood.

17 Those who [SYN] make fun of their fathers
or refuse to obey their mothers (OR, despise
their aged mothers)

should *die and* have their eyes pecked out by crows,
and the *rest of their corpses should be* fed to the vultures.

18 There are four things that are wonderful to me,
but I do not understand any of them:

19 How eagles fly in the sky,
how snakes *are able to* move/crawl across a big rock,
how ships sail on the seas,
and how a man falls in love with a woman.

20 This is what a woman who *◀is not faithful to/ does not have sex only with▶* her husband does:
She commits adultery [EUP], and *then* bathes and says, "I have not done anything that is wrong!"

21 There are four things that no *one in* the world can tolerate:

22 *What* a slave *does who* becomes a king,
a foolish person eating *too much* food,

23 *what* a woman who is hated *does when she* gets married,
and *what* a female servant *does when she* becomes the boss instead of her mistress.

24 *There are* four animals on the earth that are small, but they are very wise:

25 Ants are not strong,
but they store up food during the summer *in order to have it during the winter*.

- 26 Rock badgers *also* are not strong,
but they make their homes among the rocks
where they will be safe.
- 27 Locusts do not have a king,
but they march like *the soldiers* in an army.
- 28 Lizards/Geckos *are very small* and you can hold
them in your hand,
but they are *cleverly able to get* inside kings'
palaces.
- 29 *There are* four animals that strut around
and look very impressive while they walk
[DOU]:
- 30 Lions, which are stronger than all other
animals
and are not afraid of any of them;
- 31 male goats, strutting roosters,
and kings who ◀parade/walk proudly back and
forth▶ in front of the people whom they
rule.
- 32 If you have acted foolishly, exalting yourself,
or if you been planning *to do something* evil,
stop it immediately [IDM]!
- 33 If you churn milk, it produces butter/curds,
and if you hit *someone hard on his* nose, *his*
nose bleeds;
similarly, if you do something to cause *people*
to become angry, strife *usually* results.

31

Wise sayings from King Lemuel

¹ These are sayings/messages that *God gave to* King Lemuel's mother, and which his mother taught him:

² You are my son; I gave birth to you [RHQ];
you are the son that *God gave me* in answer
to my prayers.

³ Do not exhaust your energy *having sex* [EUP]
with women *to whom you are not married*,
with women who ruin kings *by having sex*
with them.

⁴ Lemuel, kings should not be *constantly* drinking
wine
or *greatly desire to drink other* strong/alco-
holic drinks.

⁵ If they do that, they forget the laws *that they*
have made,
and they do not do what is right for poor/
afflicted *people*.

⁶ Give strong/alcoholic drinks to those who are
dying
and to those who are ◀greatly distressed/
suffering very much▶.

⁷ If they drink, they will forget that they are poor,
and they will not think about their distress/
troubles any more.

⁸ Speak [MTY] to defend people who are unable
to defend themselves;
speak to encourage others to do what is right
for those who are helpless.

- 9 Speak [MTY] ◀on their behalf/to help them▶
and try to cause judges to decide matters
fairly/justly;
try to cause others to do for poor and needy
people what should be done for them.

Praise for a good wife

- 10 It is very difficult *for a man* to [RHQ] find a
wife who is good and who is capable of
doing many things.
Any woman who is like that is worth more
than jewels.
- 11 Her husband completely trusts her,
and *because of her*, he has everything that he
needs [LIT].
- 12 She never does anything that would harm him;
she does good things for him all the days of
her life.
- 13 She finds wool and flax *in the market*,
and she enjoys spinning it *to make yarn*.
- 14 She is like [SIM] a ship that brings from far
away goods/merchandise to sell,
because she buys food that comes from far
away.
- 15 She gets up before dawn to prepare food for
her family.
Then she plans the work that her servant
girls will do on that day.
- 16 She *goes out and* looks at a field *that someone*
wants to sell;
and *if it is a good field*, she buys it.

She *buys* grapevines [MTY] with the money that she has earned,
and then she plants them.

17 She works very hard [IDM];
she makes her arms strong *by the work she does*.

18 She knows when she is getting a good profit from her business.

When it is necessary, she works [MTY] until it is late at night.

19 She holds the ◀spindle/rod which twists the thread that she is making▶,
and then she spins the thread [MTY] *that she will use*.

20 She generously helps [MTY] those who are poor and needy [DOU].

21 She is not worried that *the people in her house will be cold in the winter*,
because *she has made* warm clothes for all of them.

22 She makes bedspreads/quilts for the beds.
She wears fine linen clothes that are dyed purple, *like queens wear*.

23 Her husband is *well* known by the important people of the town;
he sits with the *other* town leaders in the meetings of the town council.

24 She makes clothes from linen cloth and sells them.
She sells sashes to shop owners.

25 She is strong in her character and respected/dignified,
and she ◀laughs at/is not afraid of▶ *what will happen in the future*.

- 26 When she speaks, she says what is wise.
When she gives instructions,
she speaks [MTY] kindly (OR, faithfully).
- 27 She watches over everything that is done in
her household,
and she [IDM] is never lazy.
- 28 Her children all together speak highly of her,
and her husband also praises her.
- 29 *He says to her, "There are many women who
do admirable things,
but you surpass them all!"*
- 30 Some women who are attractive *are not really
good women,
but they can deceive us regarding what they
are really like.*
- Furthermore, women's beauty does not last;
but women who revere Yahweh should be
honored.
- 31 Reward women who are like that,
and praise them in public [MTY] for what
they have done.

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