Proverbs

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king
of Israel:
2 To know wisdom and discipline;
to understand words of insight;
3 to receive instruction in wise conduct, in
righteousness, justice, and fairness;
4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and
discretion to the young.
5 Let the wise listen and increase in learning,
and let those with understanding gain
guidance,
6 to understand a proverb and a figure of speech,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and discipline.

8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and
do not forsake your mother's teaching,
9 for they are a graceful garland for your head
and necklaces for your neck.
10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.
11 If they say, "Come with us;
let us lie in wait for blood, let us ambush the
innocent without cause;
12 let us swallow them alive like Sheol, whole,
like those who go down to the pit.
13 We will find all kinds of precious wealth;
we will fill our houses with plunder.

14 Throw in your lot with us;
we will all share one purse,”
15 my son, do not walk in their way;
keep your foot from their path,
16 for their feet run to evil, and they hurry to
shed blood.
17 For a net is spread in vain in full view of any
bird,
18 but they lie in wait for their own blood;
they ambush their own lives.
19 Such are the ways of everyone who pursues
unjust gain;
it takes away the life of those who possess it.

20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street;
she raises her voice in the squares.
21 At the head of the noisy streets she calls out;
at the entrances to the city gates she speaks
her words:
22 “How long, you simple ones, will you love
being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
23 Turn at my correction.
Look, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.
24 Because I called and you refused, I stretched
out my hand and no one paid attention,
25 and you disregarded all my counsel and
would accept none of my correction,
26 I too will laugh at your calamity;
I will scoff when terror comes upon you,

27 when terror comes upon you like a storm and
your calamity arrives like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon
you.
28 Then they will call to me, but I will not
answer;
they will seek me earnestly, but they will not
find me.
29 Because they hated knowledge and did not
choose the fear of the LORD,
30 because they would accept none of my
counsel and despised all my correction,
31 they will eat the fruit of their way and be
filled with their own schemes.
32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill
them, and the complacency of fools will
destroy them.
33 But whoever listens to me will dwell securely
and be at ease, without fear of harm."

2

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure
my commandments within you,
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and
inclining your heart to understanding;
3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your
voice for understanding,
4 if you seek it like silver and search for it like
hidden treasures,
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and
understanding.

7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
8 guarding the paths of justice and watching
over the way of his faithful ones.
9 Then you will understand righteousness,
justice, and fairness—every good path.
10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and
knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
11 Discretion will watch over you;
understanding will guard you,
12 to deliver you from the way of evil, from the
man who speaks perverse things,
13 from those who leave the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,
14 who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the
perversity of evil,
15 whose paths are crooked and whose ways are
devious.
16 It will deliver you from the adulterous
woman, from the unfaithful woman with
her smooth words,
17 who forsakes the companion of her youth and
forgets the covenant of her God.
18 For her house sinks down to death, and her
paths lead to the departed.
19 None who go to her return or regain the paths
of life.
20 So you will walk in the way of the good and
keep to the paths of the righteous.
21 For the upright will dwell in the land, and
those with integrity will remain in it,
22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the faithless will be uprooted from it.

3

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your
heart keep my commandments,
2 for they will add length of days, years of life,
and peace to you.
3 Let kindness and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck, write them on
the tablet of your heart.
4 Then you will find favor and a good reputation
in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do
not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will
make your paths straight.
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
8 This will bring healing to your body and
refreshment to your bones.
9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the
firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and
your vats will overflow with new wine.

11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or resent his correction,
12 for the LORD corrects the one he loves, as a
father corrects the son in whom he
delights.
13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, the one
who gains understanding,
14 for her profit is better than the profit of silver,
and her yield is better than gold.

15 She is more precious than jewels;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths
are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of
her;
those who hold her fast are blessed.

19 By wisdom the LORD founded the earth;
by understanding he established the
heavens.
20 By his knowledge the depths were split open,
and the clouds drip with dew.
21 My son, do not let these things out of your
sight;
keep sound wisdom and discretion.
22 They will be life to your soul and an
adornment for your neck.
23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and
your foot will not stumble.
24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
you will lie down, and your sleep will be
sweet.
25 Do not fear sudden terror or the devastation
of the wicked when it comes,
26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will
keep your foot from being caught.
27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is
due when it is in your power to do it.
28 Do not say to your neighbor, “Go away and
come back;

tomorrow I will give it to you," when you
have it with you.
29 Do not plot harm against your neighbor while
he lives trustfully beside you.
30 Do not quarrel with anyone without cause, if
he has done you no harm.
31 Do not envy a violent man or choose any of
his ways,
32 for the devious are an abomination to the
LORD, but he shares his counsel with the
upright.
33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the
wicked, but he blesses the home of the
righteous.
34 He scoffs at scoffers, but gives grace to the
humble.
35 The wise will inherit honor, but fools are
raised to disgrace.

4

1 Listen, sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention, so that you may gain
understanding.
2 For I give you good instruction;
do not forsake my teaching.
3 When I was a son to my father, tender and the
only one in my mother's sight,
4 he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart
hold fast to my words;
keep my commandments and live.
5 Get wisdom, get understanding;
do not forget or turn aside from the words
of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will watch over
you;
love her, and she will guard you.
7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and with all you acquire, acquire
understanding.
8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you when you embrace her.
9 She will place a graceful garland on your head;
she will bestow on you a glorious crown."
10 Listen, my son, and receive my words, and the
years of your life will be many.
11 I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you along upright paths.
12 When you walk, your steps will not be
hindered;
when you run, you will not stumble.
13 Hold fast to instruction;
do not let go.
Guard her, for she is your life.
14 Do not enter the path of the wicked or walk in
the way of evil people.
15 Avoid it; do not travel on it.
Turn away from it and pass on.
16 For they cannot sleep unless they have done
evil;
they are robbed of sleep unless they make
someone stumble.
17 For they eat the bread of wickedness and
drink the wine of violence.
18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of
dawn, shining brighter and brighter until
full day.

19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know what makes them
stumble.

20 My son, pay attention to my words;
incline your ear to what I say.
21 Do not let them out of your sight;
keep them within your heart.
22 For they are life to those who find them and
healing to all their flesh.
23 Above all else, guard your heart, for from it
flow the springs of life.
24 Put crooked speech away from you, and keep
devious talk far from you.
25 Let your eyes look straight ahead and your
gaze be directed before you.
26 Consider well the path of your feet, and let all
your ways be firm.
27 Do not turn to the right or to the left;
turn your foot away from evil.

5

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
incline your ear to my understanding,
2 so that you may preserve discretion and your
lips may guard knowledge.
3 For the lips of an adulterous woman drip
honey, and her speech is smoother than
oil,
4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead to Sheol.

6 She does not consider the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

7 Now, sons, listen to me, and do not turn aside
from the words of my mouth.
8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go
near the door of her house,
9 lest you give your honor to others and your
years to someone cruel;
10 lest strangers feast on your strength, and your
toil go to the house of a foreigner;
11 and you groan at your end, when your flesh
and body are consumed,
12 and say, “How I hated discipline!
How my heart despised correction!
13 I did not obey the voice of my teachers or
incline my ear to those who instructed me.
14 I was on the brink of utter ruin in the midst of
the assembly and congregation.”
15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing
water from your own well.
16 Should your springs be scattered outside,
streams of water in the squares?
17 Let them be yours alone, and not shared with
strangers.
18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in
the wife of your youth,
19 a loving doe, a graceful wild goat.
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
be always intoxicated with her love.
20 Why, my son, should you be intoxicated with
an adulterous woman and embrace the
bosom of an unfaithful woman?

21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the
LORD, and he examines all his paths.
22 The wicked man's own iniquities will capture
him;
he will be held in the cords of his sin.
23 He will die for lack of discipline;
in his great folly he will go astray.

6

1 My son, if you have put up security for your
neighbor, if you have pledged your hand
for a stranger,
2 if you have been snared by the words of your
mouth, caught by the words of your
mouth,
3 then do this, my son, and free yourself, for you
have come into your neighbor's hand: Go,
humble yourself, and press your neighbor
urgently.
4 Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no
slumber.
5 Free yourself like a gazelle from a hunter's
hand, like a bird from the fowler's hand.

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider her ways and be wise.
7 She has no chief, overseer, or ruler,
8 yet she prepares her food in summer and
gathers her provisions at harvest.
9 How long will you lie there, sluggard?
When will you rise from your sleep?
10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of
the hands to rest,

11 and your poverty will come like a prowler,
your need like an armed man.

12 A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about
with crooked speech,
13 winking with his eyes, signaling with his feet,
pointing with his fingers.
14 With perversity in his heart he plots evil
continually;
he sows discord.
15 Therefore calamity will come upon him
suddenly;
in an instant he will be broken beyond
healing.

16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven
that are an abomination to him:
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed
innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that
hurry to run to evil,
19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one
who sows discord among brothers.

20 My son, keep your father's commandment,
and do not forsake your mother's
teaching.
21 Bind them on your heart always;
tie them around your neck.
22 When you walk, it will guide you;
when you lie down, it will watch over you;
when you awake, it will speak with you.

23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the
teaching is light, and the corrections of
discipline are the way of life,
24 to guard you from the evil woman, from the
smooth tongue of the unfaithful woman.
25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do
not let her capture you with her eyelashes.
26 For a prostitute brings a man down to a loaf of
bread, but a married woman hunts a
precious life.

27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his
clothes being burned?
28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet
being scorched?
29 So it is with the one who goes in to his
neighbor's wife;
no one who touches her will go unpunished.
30 People do not despise a thief if he steals to
satisfy his appetite when he is hungry.
31 But if he is caught, he must repay sevenfold;
he must give all the wealth of his house.
32 He who commits adultery with a woman lacks
sense;
whoever does it destroys his own life.
33 He will find wounds and dishonor, and his
disgrace will not be wiped away.
34 For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he
will show no mercy on the day of
vengeance.
35 He will accept no ransom;
he will not consent, though you multiply
your gifts.

7

1 My son, keep my words and treasure my
commandments within you.
2 Keep my commandments and live;
guard my teaching as the apple of your eye.
3 Bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call
understanding your close relative,
5 to guard you from the adulterous woman, from
the unfaithful woman with her smooth
words.
6 For at the window of my house I looked out
through my lattice,
7 and I saw among the simple, I noticed among
the youths, a young man who lacked
sense.
8 He was passing along the street near her
corner, walking toward her house,
9 at twilight, as evening fell, in the deep
darkness of night.
10 And there a woman came to meet him,
dressed as a prostitute, with hidden
intent.
11 She is loud and rebellious;
her feet do not stay at home.
12 Now in the street, now in the squares, she lies
in wait at every corner.
13 She seized him and kissed him;
with a brazen face she said to him,
14 “I owed peace offerings;
today I have fulfilled my vows.
15 That is why I came out to meet you, to seek
you eagerly, and I have found you.

16 I have spread coverings over my bed,
patterned linen from Egypt.
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes,
and cinnamon.
18 Come, let us drink our fill of love until
morning;
let us delight in love.
19 For my husband is not at home;
he has gone on a distant journey.
20 He took a bag of silver with him;
he will come home at the full moon."
21 With her abundant persuasion she swayed
him;
with her smooth lips she led him astray.
22 All at once he follows her, like an ox going to
slaughter, like a fool in fetters going to
punishment,
23 until an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird
rushing into a snare, not knowing that it
will cost him his life.

24 Now, sons, listen to me;
pay attention to the words of my mouth.
25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways;
do not stray into her paths.
26 For many are the slain she has brought down;
numerous are all those she has killed.
27 Her house is a road to Sheol, descending to the
chambers of death.

8

1 Does not wisdom call out?
Does not understanding raise her voice?

2 On the heights beside the road, where the
paths meet, she takes her stand.
3 Beside the gates, at the entrance to the city, at
the entryways she cries out:
4 “To you, O people, I call;
my voice is to all mankind.
5 You simple ones, learn prudence;
you fools, learn good sense.
6 Listen, for I will speak noble things;
when my lips open, they speak what is right.
7 For my mouth speaks truth, and wickedness is
an abomination to my lips.
8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
9 They are all plain to the discerning and upright
to those who find knowledge.
10 Receive my discipline rather than silver, and
knowledge rather than choice gold.
11 For wisdom is better than jewels, and nothing
desirable can compare with her.
12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find
knowledge and discretion.
13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil.
Pride, arrogance, the evil way, and perverse
speech I hate.
14 Counsel and sound wisdom are mine;
I am understanding;
strength is mine.
15 By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is
just.
16 By me princes rule, and nobles—all who judge
rightly.

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek
me earnestly will find me.
18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring
wealth and righteousness.
19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.
20 I walk in the path of righteousness, in the
midst of the ways of justice,
21 to give an inheritance of wealth to those who
love me, and to fill their treasuries.

22 The LORD possessed me at the beginning of
his way, before his works of old.
23 From everlasting I was established, from the
beginning, before the origins of the earth.
24 When there were no depths I was brought
forth, when there were no springs
abounding in water.
25 Before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
26 before he had made the earth and its fields, or
the first dust of the world.
27 When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the
deep,
28 when he made firm the clouds above, when
the springs of the deep grew strong,
29 when he set the sea its boundary, so that the
waters would not transgress his
command, when he marked out the
foundations of the earth,
30 then I was beside him as a master craftsman.

I was his delight day after day, rejoicing
before him at all times,
31 rejoicing in his inhabited world, and my
delight was with mankind.

32 Now, sons, listen to me;
blessed are those who keep my ways.
33 Listen to discipline and be wise;
do not disregard it.
34 Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching
daily at my doors, waiting beside my
doorposts.
35 For whoever finds me finds life and obtains
favor from the LORD.
36 But whoever sins against me harms his own
life;
all who hate me love death."

9

1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn out her seven pillars.
2 She has slaughtered her animals, mixed her
wine, and set her table.
3 She has sent out her young women;
she calls from the highest points of the city,
4 "Whoever is simple, turn in here!"
To the one who lacks sense she says,
5 "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I have
mixed.
6 Leave the simple behind and live;
walk in the way of understanding.
7 Whoever corrects a scoffer brings dishonor on
himself, and whoever rebukes a wicked
man receives abuse.

8 Do not rebuke a scoffer, lest he hate you;
rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.
9 Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still;
teach a righteous man, and he will increase
in learning.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One
is understanding.
11 For through me your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.
12 If you are wise, you are wise for your own
benefit;
if you scoff, you alone will bear it."
13 The woman Folly is loud;
she is simple and knows nothing.
14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat in
the heights of the city,
15 calling to those who pass along the road, who
go straight on their way,
16 "Whoever is simple, turn in here!"
To the one who lacks sense she says,
17 "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in
secret is pleasant."
18 But he does not know that the departed are
there, that her guests are in the depths of
Sheol.

10

1 The proverbs of Solomon.
A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish
son is a sorrow to his mother.

2 Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.
3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.
4 A slack hand makes one poor, but the hand of
the diligent makes rich.
5 He who gathers in summer is a prudent son;
he who sleeps at harvest is a son who brings
shame.
6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but
the mouth of the wicked conceals
violence.
7 The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but
the name of the wicked will rot.
8 The wise in heart accept commandments, but a
babbling fool will come to ruin.
9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but
whoever makes his ways crooked will be
found out.
10 Whoever winks with his eye causes sorrow,
and a babbling fool will come to ruin.
11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of
life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals
violence.
12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all
offenses.
13 Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning,
but a rod is for the back of the one who
lacks sense.
14 The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth
of a fool brings ruin near.
15 A rich man's wealth is his fortified city;
the poverty of the poor is their ruin.
16 The wages of the righteous lead to life;

the income of the wicked leads to sin.
17 Whoever heeds discipline leads the way to
life, but whoever forsakes correction
leads others astray.
18 Whoever conceals hatred has lying lips, and
whoever spreads slander is a fool.
19 When words are many, transgression is not
lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is
prudent.
20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;
the heart of the wicked is worth little.
21 The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools
die for lack of sense.
22 The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he
adds no sorrow with it.
23 Doing evil is like a game to a fool, and so is
wisdom to a person of understanding.
24 What the wicked fears will come upon him,
but the desire of the righteous will be
granted.
25 When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no
more, but the righteous is an everlasting
foundation.
26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the
eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send
him.
27 The fear of the LORD adds days, but the years
of the wicked will be cut short.
28 The hope of the righteous is joy, but the
expectation of the wicked will perish.
29 The way of the LORD is a stronghold for those
with integrity, but ruin for those who do
evil.

30 The righteous will never be shaken, but the
wicked will not dwell in the land.
31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth
wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be
cut off.
32 The lips of the righteous know what is
pleasing, but the mouth of the wicked
speaks perversity.

11

1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD,
but an honest weight is his delight.
2 When pride comes, disgrace comes, but
wisdom is with the humble.
3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but
the crookedness of the treacherous
destroys them.
4 Wealth does not profit on the day of wrath, but
righteousness delivers from death.
5 The righteousness of the blameless makes his
way straight, but the wicked falls by his
own wickedness.
6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them,
but the treacherous are caught by their
own craving.
7 When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes,
and expectation placed in strength
perishes.
8 A righteous person is delivered from distress,
and the wicked comes in his place.
9 With his mouth the godless man destroys his
neighbor, but through knowledge the
righteous are delivered.
10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices;

when the wicked perish, there are shouts of
joy.
11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn
down.
12 Whoever despises his neighbor lacks sense,
but a person of understanding keeps
silent.
13 A gossip reveals secrets, but one who is
faithful in spirit keeps a matter covered.
14 Without guidance a people falls, but in an
abundance of counselors there is safety.
15 Whoever puts up security for a stranger will
surely suffer, but whoever hates pledging
security is safe.
16 A gracious woman holds on to honor, and
ruthless men hold on to wealth.
17 A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man
harms his own flesh.
18 The wicked earns deceptive wages, but
whoever sows righteousness gains a sure
reward.
19 Surely righteousness leads to life, but whoever
pursues evil pursues his own death.
20 Those with crooked hearts are an
abomination to the LORD, but those
whose way is blameless are his delight.
21 Be assured, the evil man will not go
unpunished, but the offspring of the
righteous will escape.
22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful
woman without discretion.
23 The desire of the righteous is only good;
the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

24 One person gives freely and gains still more;
another withholds what is right, only to
come to want.
25 A generous soul will prosper, and whoever
waters others will himself be watered.
26 The people curse the one who withholds
grain, but blessing is on the head of the
one who sells it.
27 Whoever earnestly seeks good seeks favor, but
evil comes to the one who seeks it.
28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the
righteous will flourish like a leaf.
29 Whoever troubles his own household will
inherit the wind, and the fool will be a
servant to the wise in heart.
30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and
whoever wins souls is wise.
31 If a righteous person is repaid on earth, how
much more the wicked and the sinner!

12

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but
whoever hates correction is senseless.
2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but
he condemns a man of evil schemes.
3 No one is established through wickedness, but
the root of the righteous will never be
shaken.
4 A wife of noble character is her husband's
crown, but one who brings shame is like
rot in his bones.
5 The thoughts of the righteous are just;
the counsels of the wicked are deceit.
6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
but the mouth of the upright delivers
them.

7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more,
but the house of the righteous will stand.
8 A man is praised according to his good sense,
but one with a twisted heart will be
despised.
9 Better to be lightly esteemed and have a
servant than to honor yourself and lack
bread.
10 A righteous person knows the needs of his
animal, but even the compassion of the
wicked is cruel.
11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of
bread, but whoever pursues empty things
lacks sense.
12 The wicked covets the catch of evil men, but
the root of the righteous bears fruit.
13 An evil man is snared by the transgression of
his lips, but a righteous person comes out
of distress.
14 A man is satisfied with good by the fruit of his
mouth, and the work of his hands is paid
back to him.
15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but
whoever listens to counsel is wise.
16 A fool's anger is known at once, but the
prudent overlooks an insult.
17 Whoever speaks truth gives honest testimony,
but a false witness speaks deceit.
18 There is one whose rash words are like sword
thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings
healing.
19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying
tongue lasts only a moment.

20 Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil,
but those who counsel peace have joy.
21 No harm will befall the righteous, but the
wicked are filled with trouble.
22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,
but those who act faithfully are his
delight.
23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge to
himself, but the heart of fools proclaims
folly.
24 The hand of the diligent will rule, but the
slack will be put to forced labor.
25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a
good word makes it glad.
26 A righteous person is a guide to his neighbor,
but the way of the wicked leads them
astray.
27 The sluggard does not roast his game, but
diligence is a precious possession.
28 In the path of righteousness is life, and in its
pathway there is no death.

13

1 A wise son heeds his father's discipline, but a
scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
2 From the fruit of his mouth a man eats what is
good, but the appetite of the treacherous
is for violence.
3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life;
whoever opens his lips wide brings ruin on
himself.
4 The sluggard craves and has nothing, but the
appetite of the diligent is richly satisfied.

5 A righteous person hates falsehood, but a
wicked man brings disgrace and shame.
6 Righteousness guards the one whose way is
blameless, but wickedness overturns the
sinner.
7 One person pretends to be rich yet has nothing;
another pretends to be poor yet has great
wealth.
8 A man's wealth can ransom his life, but a poor
person hears no threat.
9 The light of the righteous shines joyfully, but
the lamp of the wicked will be put out.
10 Pride produces nothing but strife, but wisdom
is with those who take counsel.
11 Wealth gained easily dwindles, but whoever
gathers little by little increases it.
12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a
desire fulfilled is a tree of life.
13 Whoever despises the word will pay for it, but
whoever reveres the commandment will
be rewarded.
14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,
turning one away from the snares of
death.
15 Good sense wins favor, but the way of the
treacherous is hard.
16 Every prudent person acts with knowledge,
but a fool displays folly.
17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a
faithful envoy brings healing.
18 Poverty and disgrace come to the one who
disregards discipline, but whoever heeds
correction will be honored.

19 A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but
turning away from evil is an abomination
to fools.
20 Whoever walks with the wise will become
wise, but the companion of fools will
suffer harm.
21 Trouble pursues sinners, but the righteous
will be repaid with good.
22 A good person leaves an inheritance to his
children's children, but the sinner's
wealth is stored up for the righteous.
23 The fallow ground of the poor yields abundant
food, but there is loss through injustice.
24 Whoever spares his rod hates his son, but
whoever loves him is diligent to discipline
him.
25 A righteous person eats to satisfy his appetite,
but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

14

1 The wise woman builds her house, but the
foolish woman tears it down with her
own hands.
2 Whoever walks uprightly fears the LORD, but
whoever is crooked in his ways despises
him.
3 In a fool's mouth is a rod of pride, but the lips
of the wise protect them.
4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean,
but an abundant harvest comes through
an ox's strength.
5 A faithful witness does not lie, but a false
witness breathes out lies.

6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and finds none, but
knowledge comes easily to the discerning.
7 Leave the presence of a fool, for you will not
find knowledge on his lips.
8 The wisdom of a prudent person is to
understand his way, but the folly of fools
is deceit.
9 Fools mock guilt, but among the upright there
is goodwill.
10 The heart knows its own bitterness, and no
stranger shares its joy.
11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but
the tent of the upright will flourish.
12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but
its end is the ways of death.
13 Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy
may end in sorrow.
14 A man with a wayward heart will be filled
with his own ways, and a good man with
his own.
15 A simple person believes every word, but a
prudent person considers his steps.
16 A wise person is cautious and turns away from
evil, but a fool is reckless and confident.
17 A quick-tempered person acts foolishly, and a
scheming man is hated.
18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are
crowned with knowledge.
19 Evil people bow before the good, and the
wicked at the gates of the righteous.
20 A poor man is hated even by his neighbor, but
those who love the rich are many.

21 Whoever despises his neighbor sins, but
blessed is the one who is gracious to the
lowly.
22 Do not those who plot evil go astray?
But kindness and faithfulness belong to
those who plan good.
23 In all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads
only to want.
24 The crown of the wise is their wealth;
the folly of fools is folly.
25 A truthful witness delivers lives, but one who
breathes out lies is deceitful.
26 In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence,
and his children will have a refuge.
27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
turning one away from the snares of
death.
28 A multitude of people is a king's glory, but a
lack of people is a ruler's ruin.
29 Whoever is slow to anger has great
understanding, but whoever is impatient
exalts folly.
30 A tranquil heart gives life to the body, but
envy is rot in the bones.
31 Whoever oppresses the poor insults his Maker,
but whoever is gracious to the needy
honors him.
32 A wicked person is brought down by his evil,
but a righteous person has a refuge in his
death.
33 Wisdom rests in the heart of the discerning,
and among fools she becomes known.

34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a
reproach to peoples.
35 A king's favor is toward a prudent servant,
but his wrath is toward the one who
brings shame.

15

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh
word stirs up anger.
2 The tongue of the wise presents knowledge
well, but the mouth of fools pours out
folly.
3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
watching the evil and the good.
4 A healing tongue is a tree of life, but perversity
in it breaks the spirit.
5 A fool despises his father's discipline, but
whoever heeds correction becomes
prudent.
6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure,
but trouble is in the income of the wicked.
7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the
heart of fools does not do so.
8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination
to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright
is his delight.
9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the
LORD, but he loves the one who pursues
righteousness.
10 Severe discipline awaits the one who forsakes
the path;
whoever hates correction will die.
11 Sheol and Abaddon lie before the LORD;
how much more the hearts of mankind!

12 A scoffer does not love the one who corrects
him;
he will not go to the wise.
13 A joyful heart brightens the face, but sorrow
of heart breaks the spirit.
14 The heart of the discerning seeks knowledge,
but the mouth of fools feeds on folly.
15 All the days of the afflicted are hard, but a
cheerful heart has a continual feast.
16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD than
great treasure with turmoil.
17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is
love than a fattened ox with hatred.
18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but one
who is slow to anger quiets a quarrel.
19 The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns,
but the path of the upright is a highway.
20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish
man despises his mother.
21 Folly is joy to one who lacks sense, but a
person of understanding walks straight.
22 Without counsel plans fail, but with many
advisers they are established.
23 A man has joy in the answer of his mouth, and
a word in its season—how good it is!
24 The path of life leads upward for the prudent,
so that he may turn away from Sheol
below.
25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud,
but he makes the widow's boundary
secure.
26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD,
but pleasant words are pure.

27 Whoever pursues unjust gain troubles his
household, but whoever hates bribes will
live.
28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to
answer, but the mouth of the wicked
pours out evil things.
29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears
the prayer of the righteous.
30 The light of the eyes gladdens the heart, and
good news nourishes the bones.
31 Whoever listens to life-giving correction will
dwell among the wise.
32 Whoever disregards discipline despises his
own life, but whoever listens to correction
gains understanding.
33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.

16

1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the
answer of the tongue comes from the
LORD.
2 All a man's ways are pure in his own eyes, but
the LORD weighs the spirits.
3 Commit your works to the LORD, and your
plans will be established.
4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of calamity.
5 Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to
the LORD;
be assured, he will not go unpunished.

6 By kindness and faithfulness iniquity is atoned
for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns
away from evil.
7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes
even his enemies be at peace with him.
8 Better a little with righteousness than great
income without justice.
9 A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD
establishes his steps.
10 An oracle is on the lips of a king;
his mouth must not be unfaithful in
judgment.
11 Honest scales and balances belong to the
LORD;
all the weights in the bag are his work.
12 Doing wickedness is an abomination to kings,
for a throne is established by
righteousness.
13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and
they love the one who speaks uprightly.
14 A king's wrath is like messengers of death, but
a wise man will appease it.
15 In the light of a king's face is life, and his favor
is like a cloud of spring rain.
16 How much better to get wisdom than gold!
To get understanding is preferable to silver.
17 The highway of the upright is to turn away
from evil;
whoever guards his way preserves his life.
18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty
spirit before a fall.
19 Better to be humble in spirit with the lowly
than to divide plunder with the proud.

20 Whoever attends to the word will find good,
and blessed is the one who trusts in the
LORD.
21 A person wise in heart is called discerning,
and sweetness of speech increases
persuasion.
22 Good sense is a fountain of life to its possessor,
but the discipline of fools is folly.
23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth and
adds persuasion to his lips.
24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the
soul and healing to the bones.
25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but
its end is the ways of death.
26 The appetite of a laborer labors for him, for
his mouth drives him on.
27 A worthless man digs up evil, and on his lip is
a scorching fire.
28 A perverse man spreads strife, and a
whisperer separates close friends.
29 A violent man entices his neighbor and leads
him on a way that is not good.
30 Whoever narrows his eyes is plotting
perversity;
whoever presses his lips together has
carried out evil.
31 Gray hair is a glorious crown;
it is found in the way of righteousness.
32 One who is slow to anger is better than a
warrior, and one who rules his spirit than
one who captures a city.
33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every
decision comes from the LORD.

17

1 Better a dry morsel with quietness than a
house full of sacrificial feasts with strife.
2 A prudent servant will rule over a son who
brings shame and will share the
inheritance among the brothers.
3 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for
gold, but the LORD tests hearts.
4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips;
a liar gives ear to a malicious tongue.
5 Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker;
whoever rejoices at calamity will not go
unpunished.
6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and
fathers are the glory of their children.
7 Eloquent speech does not suit a fool, much less
lying lips a nobleman.
8 A bribe is a charm in the eyes of its owner;
wherever he turns, he succeeds.
9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but
whoever repeats a matter separates close
friends.
10 A rebuke goes deeper into a discerning person
than a hundred blows into a fool.
11 An evil man seeks only rebellion, and a cruel
messenger will be sent against him.
12 Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than
a fool in his folly.
13 If anyone repays evil for good, evil will not
depart from his house.
14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water,
so leave off the quarrel before it breaks
out.

15 Whoever acquits the wicked and whoever
condemns the righteous are both an
abomination to the LORD.
16 Why is there money in a fool's hand to buy
wisdom when he has no sense?
17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is
born for adversity.
18 A man who lacks sense pledges his hand and
puts up security in the presence of his
neighbor.
19 Whoever loves strife loves transgression;
whoever raises his doorway high seeks ruin.
20 One with a crooked heart finds no good, and
one with a perverse tongue falls into
trouble.
21 The one who fathers a fool has sorrow, and
the father of a senseless son has no joy.
22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken
spirit dries up the bones.
23 A wicked man accepts a bribe from the fold of
a garment to pervert the paths of justice.
24 Wisdom is before the discerning, but the eyes
of a fool are at the ends of the earth.
25 A foolish son is grief to his father and
bitterness to her who bore him.
26 To punish the righteous is not good, nor to
strike nobles for their uprightness.
27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge,
and one who is cool in spirit has
understanding.
28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered
wise;

when he shuts his lips, he is considered
discerning.

18

1 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;
he breaks out against all sound wisdom.
2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but
only in revealing his own heart.
3 When a wicked man comes, contempt comes
too, and with disgrace comes reproach.
4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;
the fountain of wisdom is a flowing stream.
5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked,
depriving the righteous of justice.
6 A fool's lips enter into strife, and his mouth
calls for blows.
7 A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a
snare for his life.
8 The words of a whisperer are like delicious
morsels;
they go down into the innermost parts of
the body.
9 Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to a
destroyer.
10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
the righteous run into it and are safe.
11 A rich man's wealth is his fortified city, like a
high wall in his imagination.
12 Before destruction a man's heart is haughty,
but humility comes before honor.
13 If anyone answers before he listens, it is folly
and shame to him.

14 A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but
who can bear a broken spirit?
15 The heart of the discerning acquires
knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks
knowledge.
16 A man's gift makes room for him and leads
him before the great.
17 The first to state his case seems right, until his
neighbor comes and examines him.
18 Casting lots puts an end to disputes and
decides between the mighty.
19 An offended brother is harder to win than a
fortified city, and quarrels are like the
bars of a fortress.
20 A man's belly is satisfied by the fruit of his
mouth;
he is satisfied by the yield of his lips.
21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.
22 Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing and
obtains favor from the LORD.
23 A poor man speaks with pleas, but a rich man
answers harshly.
24 A man of many companions comes to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer
than a brother.

19

1 Better a poor man who walks in integrity than
one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.
2 Desire without knowledge is not good, and
whoever hurries his feet misses the way.
3 A man's folly ruins his way, yet his heart rages
against the LORD.

4 Wealth adds many friends, but a poor man is
separated from his friend.
5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and
whoever breathes out lies will not escape.
6 Many seek the favor of a generous man, and
everyone is a friend to a giver of gifts.
7 All a poor man's brothers hate him;
how much more do his friends keep far
from him!
He pursues them with words, but they are
gone.
8 Whoever gains sense loves his own life;
whoever guards understanding will find
good.
9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and
whoever breathes out lies will perish.

10 Luxury does not suit a fool, much less a
servant ruling over princes.
11 A man's good sense makes him slow to anger,
and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
12 A king's wrath is like the roar of a young lion,
but his favor is like dew on the grass.
13 A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's
quarrels are a constant dripping.
14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers,
but a prudent wife is from the LORD.
15 Laziness casts one into deep sleep, and an idle
person will go hungry.
16 Whoever keeps the commandment preserves
his life, but whoever disregards his ways
will die.

17 Whoever is gracious to the poor lends to the
LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.
18 Discipline your son while there is hope;
do not set your heart on putting him to
death.
19 A man of great wrath bears the penalty;
if you rescue him, you will have to do it
again.
20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, so that
you may be wise in your latter days.
21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the
counsel of the LORD will stand.
22 What is desirable in a man is his kindness,
and a poor man is better than a liar.
23 The fear of the LORD leads to life;
one rests satisfied, untouched by harm.
24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and
will not even bring it back to his mouth.
25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn
prudence;
correct a discerning person, and he will gain
knowledge.
26 Whoever plunders his father and drives out
his mother is a son who brings shame and
disgrace.
27 Stop listening to discipline, my son, and you
will stray from words of knowledge.
28 A worthless witness mocks justice, and the
mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.
29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and
blows for the backs of fools.

20

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler;
whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
2 The terror of a king is like the roar of a young lion;
whoever provokes him endangers his own life.
3 It is an honor for a man to keep away from strife, but every fool breaks into a quarrel.
4 The sluggard does not plow in the cold season;
at harvest he will ask and have nothing.
5 Counsel in a man's heart is deep water, but a person of understanding draws it out.
6 Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a faithful man?
7 A righteous man walks in his integrity;
blessed are his children after him!
8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment winnows out all evil with his eyes.
9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean;
I am pure from my sin"?
10 Unequal weights and unequal measures—both are an abomination to the LORD.
11 Even a child is known by his actions, whether his conduct is pure and upright.
12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye—the LORD has made them both.
13 Do not love sleep, lest you become poor;
open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.
14 "Bad, bad!"
says the buyer, but when he goes away, then he boasts.

15 There is gold and an abundance of jewels, but
lips of knowledge are a precious treasure.
16 Take the garment of one who puts up security
for a stranger;
take a pledge from him on behalf of a
foreign woman.
17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but
afterward his mouth will be filled with
gravel.
18 Plans are established by counsel;
wage war with wise guidance.
19 A gossip goes about revealing secrets;
do not associate with one whose lips are
always open.
20 Whoever curses his father or his mother will
have his lamp put out in the deepest
darkness.
21 An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning
will not be blessed in the end.
22 Do not say, “I will repay evil.”
Wait for the LORD, and he will save you.
23 Unequal weights are an abomination to the
LORD, and a false balance is not good.
24 A man’s steps are from the LORD;
how then can a man understand his way?
25 It is a snare for a man to say rashly, “It is holy,”
and only afterward consider his vows.
26 A wise king winnows the wicked and drives
the threshing wheel over them.
27 The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD,
searching all the innermost parts of the
body.

28 Kindness and faithfulness guard a king, and
by kindness he upholds his throne.
29 The glory of young men is their strength, and
the splendor of the aged is gray hair.
30 Blows that wound scour away evil, and
beatings cleanse the innermost parts of
the body.

21

1 A king's heart is like channels of water in the
hand of the LORD;
he turns it wherever he desires.
2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
but the LORD weighs hearts.
3 To do righteousness and justice is more
acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of
the wicked, are sin.
5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to
abundance, but everyone who is hasty
comes only to want.
6 Gaining treasures by a lying tongue is a vapor
driven away;
those who do so seek death.
7 The violence of the wicked will drag them
away, because they refuse to do justice.
8 The way of a guilty man is crooked, but the
conduct of the pure is upright.
9 Better to live in a corner of the roof than to
share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
10 The soul of a wicked man craves evil;
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.

11 When a scoffer is punished, a simple person
becomes wise;
when a wise person is instructed, he gains
knowledge.
12 The righteous one considers the house of the
wicked, bringing the wicked to ruin.
13 Whoever stops his ear to the cry of the poor
will also cry out and not be answered.
14 A gift in secret quiets anger, and a bribe in the
fold of a garment, fierce wrath.
15 Doing justice is a joy to the righteous, but
terror to evildoers.
16 A man who wanders from the way of
understanding will rest in the assembly of
the departed.
17 Whoever loves pleasure will come to want;
whoever loves wine and oil will not become
rich.
18 A wicked person is a ransom for a righteous
person, and a treacherous one takes the
place of the upright.
19 Better to live in a desert land than with a
quarrelsome and irritable wife.
20 Precious treasure and oil are in the home of
the wise, but a foolish man devours them.
21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness
will find life, righteousness, and honor.
22 A wise man scales a city of warriors and
brings down the stronghold in which it
trusted.
23 Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue
guards his life from troubles.
24 “Scoffer” is the name of the proud, arrogant
man who acts with insolent fury.

25 The sluggard's desire kills him, for his hands
refuse to work.
26 All day long he craves greedily, but a righteous
person gives and does not hold back.
27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination;
how much more when he brings it with evil
intent!
28 A lying witness will perish, but a man who
listens will speak on.
29 A wicked man puts on a bold face, but an
upright person understands his way.
30 No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can
stand against the LORD.

31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but
victory belongs to the LORD.

22

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great
riches, and favor rather than silver and
gold.
2 The rich and the poor meet together;
the LORD is the Maker of them all.
3 A prudent person sees danger and hides, but
the simple pass on and suffer the penalty.
4 The reward of humility and the fear of the
LORD is riches, honor, and life.
5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the
crooked;
whoever guards his life keeps far from
them.
6 Train a child in his way;
even when he is old, he will not turn from it.

7 A rich man rules over the poor, and the
borrower is a servant to the lender.
8 Whoever sows injustice will reap trouble, and
the rod of his fury will come to an end.
9 A generous person will be blessed, for he
shares his bread with the poor.
10 Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out;
quarreling and disgrace will cease.
11 Whoever loves purity of heart and has
gracious speech will have the king as his
friend.
12 The eyes of the LORD guard knowledge, but he
overturns the words of the treacherous.
13 The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside!
I will be killed in the squares!”
14 The mouth of adulterous women is a deep pit;
the one under the LORD's anger will fall into
it.
15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but
the rod of discipline drives it far from
him.
16 Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his
wealth, and whoever gives to the rich,
comes only to want.
17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the
wise;
apply your heart to my knowledge.
18 For it is pleasant if you keep them within you,
if they are all ready on your lips.
19 So that your trust may be in the LORD, I have
made them known to you today, to you
yourself.

20 Have I not written to you before with counsel
and knowledge,
21 to teach you the certainty of truthful words, so
that you may give truthful answers to
those who sent you?

22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or
crush the afflicted at the gate,
23 for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of
life those who rob them.
24 Do not make friends with an angry man or go
with a man of wrath,
25 lest you learn his ways and take a snare for
your own life.
26 Do not be among those who pledge their
hands, those who put up security for
debts.
27 If you have nothing to pay, why should he take
your bed from under you?
28 Do not move the ancient boundary marker
that your fathers set.
29 Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will stand before kings;
he will not stand before obscure men.

23

1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider
carefully what is before you,
2 and put a knife to your throat if you are given
to appetite.
3 Do not crave his delicacies, for they are
deceptive food.
4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich;

have the sense to stop.
5 Will you set your eyes on it?
It is gone, for it surely makes wings for itself
and flies toward heaven like an eagle.

6 Do not eat the bread of a stingy man or crave
his delicacies,
7 for as he calculates within himself, so he is.
"Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart
is not with you.
8 You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten
and waste your pleasant words.
9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he
will despise the good sense of your words.
10 Do not move the ancient boundary marker or
enter the fields of the fatherless,
11 for their redeemer is strong;
he will plead their cause against you.
12 Apply your heart to discipline and your ears
to words of knowledge.
13 Do not withhold discipline from a child;
if you strike him with the rod, he will not
die.
14 You will strike him with the rod and deliver
his life from Sheol.
15 My son, if your heart is wise, my heart too will
rejoice.
16 My inmost being will rejoice when your lips
speak what is right.
17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but
continue in the fear of the LORD all day
long.

18 For surely there is a future, and your hope
will not be cut off.
19 Listen, my son, and be wise;
guide your heart in the way.
20 Do not be among those who drink too much
wine or gorge themselves on meat,
21 for the drunkard and the glutton will become
poor, and drowsiness will clothe a man in
rags.
22 Listen to your father who begot you, and do
not despise your mother when she is old.
23 Buy truth and do not sell it;
buy wisdom, discipline, and understanding.
24 The father of a righteous child will greatly
rejoice;
whoever fathers a wise child will have joy
in him.
25 Let your father and mother be glad;
let her who bore you rejoice.
26 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes
observe my ways.
27 For a prostitute is a deep pit, and an
adulterous woman is a narrow well.
28 She too lies in wait like a robber and increases
the unfaithful among mankind.
29 Who has woe?
Who has sorrow?
Who has strife?
Who has complaints?
Who has wounds without cause?
Who has bloodshot eyes?
30 Those who linger over wine, those who go to
seek out mixed wine.

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it
sparkles in the cup and goes down
smoothly.
32 In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like
a viper.
33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your
heart will speak perverse things.
34 You will be like one lying in the heart of the
sea, like one lying at the top of a mast.
35 “They struck me, but I was not hurt;
they beat me, but I did not feel it.
When will I awake?
I will seek it yet again.”

24

1 Do not envy evil men or desire to be with them,
2 for their heart devises violence, and their lips
speak of harm.
3 By wisdom a house is built, and by
understanding it is established.
4 By knowledge its rooms are filled with every
precious and pleasant treasure.
5 A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge
increases strength.
6 For by wise guidance you wage war, and in an
abundance of counselors there is victory.
7 Wisdom is too high for a fool;
at the gate he does not open his mouth.
8 Whoever plans to do evil will be called a
schemer.
9 The schemes of folly are sin, and a scoffer is an
abomination to people.

10 If you falter in the day of distress, your
strength is small.
11 Rescue those being taken away to death;
hold back those stumbling toward slaughter.
12 If you say, “Look, we did not know this,” does
not the one who weighs hearts
understand?
Does not the one who guards your life
know?
Will he not repay each person according to
his work?
13 Eat honey, my son, for it is good;
honey from the comb is sweet to your taste.
14 Know that wisdom is like this for your soul: If
you find it, there is a future, and your
hope will not be cut off.

15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the
home of the righteous;
do not plunder his resting place.
16 For a righteous person falls seven times and
rises again, but the wicked stumble in
calamity.
17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do
not let your heart be glad when he
stumbles,
18 lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and
turn his anger away from him.
19 Do not fret because of evildoers or envy the
wicked,
20 for the evil man has no future;
the lamp of the wicked will be put out.
21 My son, fear the LORD and the king;

do not associate with those who rebel,
22 for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who
knows the ruin of them both?

23 These also are sayings of the wise: To show
partiality in judgment is not good.
24 Whoever says to the wicked, “You are
righteous,” will be cursed by peoples and
denounced by nations.
25 But those who rebuke him will have delight,
and a good blessing will come upon them.
26 An honest answer is a kiss on the lips.
27 Prepare your work outside and get it ready for
yourself in the field;
afterward build your house.

28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor
without cause.
Would you deceive with your lips?
29 Do not say, “I will do to him as he has done to
me;
I will repay the man according to his work.”
30 I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the
vineyard of a man who lacked sense,
31 and there it was, all overgrown with thorns;
nettles covered its surface, and its stone
wall was broken down.
32 I saw it and took it to heart;
I looked and received instruction.
33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of
the hands to rest,
34 and your poverty will come like a prowler,
your need like an armed man.

25

1 These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the
men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.
2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and
the glory of kings to search out a matter.
3 As the heavens for height and the earth for
depth, so the heart of kings is
unsearchable.
4 Remove the dross from silver, and a vessel will
come forth for the silversmith.
5 Remove the wicked from a king's presence, and
his throne will be established in
righteousness.
6 Do not exalt yourself before a king or stand in
the place of the great,
7 for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than
to be humbled before a nobleman whom
your eyes have seen.
8 Do not rush out to bring a dispute, for what
will you do in the end when your
neighbor puts you to shame?
9 Argue your case with your neighbor, but do not
reveal another's secret,
10 lest the one who hears it shame you, and your
bad reputation never depart.
11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in
settings of silver.
12 Like a gold earring and an ornament of fine
gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
13 Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a
faithful messenger to those who send him;
he refreshes the soul of his masters.

14 Like clouds and wind without rain is a man
who boasts of a gift he does not give.
15 With patience a ruler is persuaded, and a
gentle tongue breaks a bone.
16 Have you found honey?
Eat only enough for yourself, lest you be
filled with it and vomit it up.
17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's
house, lest he grow tired of you and hate
you.
18 A man who bears false witness against his
neighbor is a club, a sword, and a sharp
arrow.
19 Confidence in a treacherous man on the day
of distress is like a bad tooth or a slipping
foot.
20 Like taking off a garment on a cold day, like
vinegar on soda, is singing songs to a
troubled heart.

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat;
if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
22 for you will heap burning coals on his head,
and the LORD will reward you.
23 The north wind brings forth rain, and a
backbiting tongue brings angry faces.
24 Better to live in a corner of the roof than to
share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news
from a distant land.
26 Like a muddied spring and a polluted fountain
is a righteous person who gives way
before the wicked.

27 Eating much honey is not good, nor is seeking
one's own glory glorious.
28 A man who has no restraint over his spirit is
like a city broken into and left without a
wall.

26

1 Like snow in summer and rain at harvest, so
honor is unfitting for a fool.
2 Like a sparrow flitting, like a swallow flying, an
undeserved curse does not alight.
3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,
and a rod for the backs of fools.
4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest
you too become like him.
5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be
wise in his own eyes.
6 Whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool
cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.
7 Like the legs that hang limp on a lame man is a
proverb in the mouth of fools.
8 Like tying a stone in a sling is giving honor to a
fool.
9 Like a thorn that goes into a drunkard's hand is
a proverb in the mouth of fools.
10 Like an archer who wounds everyone is one
who hires a fool or hires passersby.
11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit, a fool
repeats his folly.
12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.
13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!
A lion in the squares!"

14 As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard
turns on his bed.
15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
he is too weary to bring it back to his mouth.
16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than
seven who can give a sensible answer.
17 Like one who grabs a dog by the ears is a
passerby who meddles in a quarrel that is
not his.
18 Like a madman who shoots firebrands,
arrows, and death,
19 so is a man who deceives his neighbor and
says, “Was I not joking?”
20 Without wood a fire goes out, and without a
whisperer strife quiets down.
21 As charcoal is to embers and wood to fire, so
is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

22 The words of a whisperer are like delicious
morsels;
they go down into the innermost parts of
the body.
23 Burning lips and an evil heart are like silver
dross coating an earthen vessel.
24 One who hates disguises it with his lips, but
stores up deceit within.
25 When his voice is gracious, do not believe
him, for there are seven abominations in
his heart.
26 Though hatred is covered by deception, his
evil will be exposed in the assembly.
27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone
will roll back on the one who rolls it.

28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a
flattering mouth brings ruin.

27

1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not
know what a day will bring forth.
2 Let another praise you, and not your own
mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.
3 Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but a fool's
provocation is heavier than both.
4 Wrath is cruel and anger a flood, but who can
stand before jealousy?
5 Better an open rebuke than hidden love.
6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but
abundant are the kisses of an enemy.
7 A satisfied soul tramples on honey, but to a
hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.
8 Like a bird wandering from its nest is a man
wandering from his place.
9 Oil and incense gladden the heart, and the
sweetness of a friend comes from
heartfelt counsel.
10 Do not forsake your friend or your father's
friend, and do not go to your brother's
house on the day of your calamity.
Better a neighbor nearby than a brother far
away.
11 Be wise, my son, and gladden my heart, so that
I may answer the one who reproaches me.
12 A prudent person sees danger and hides;
the simple pass on and suffer the penalty.

13 Take the garment of one who puts up security
for a stranger;
take a pledge from him on behalf of a
foreign woman.
14 Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud
voice early in the morning will have it
counted as a curse.
15 A constant dripping on a rainy day and a
quarrelsome wife are alike.
16 Whoever restrains her restrains the wind and
grasps oil in his right hand.
17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens
another.
18 Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and
whoever attends his master will be
honored.
19 As water reflects a face, so a man's heart
reflects the man.
20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and
the eyes of man are never satisfied.
21 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for
gold, and a man is tested by the praise he
receives.
22 Even if you pound a fool in a mortar, among
crushed grain with a pestle, his folly will
not leave him.

23 Know well the condition of your flocks;
give your herds your attention,
24 for wealth does not last forever.
Does a crown endure from generation to
generation?

25 When the hay is removed and new grass
appears, and the grasses of the hills are
gathered,
26 the lambs will provide your clothing, and the
male goats the price of a field.
27 There will be enough goats' milk for your
food, for the food of your household, and
for the support of your servant girls.

28

1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the
righteous are bold as a young lion.
2 When a land rebels, its rulers are many, but
with a person of understanding and
knowledge, stability endures.
3 A poor man who oppresses the lowly is like a
sweeping rain that leaves no bread.
4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
but those who keep the law contend with
them.

5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those
who seek the LORD understand
everything.
6 Better a poor man who walks in integrity than
one who is crooked in his ways, though he
is rich.
7 Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but
a companion of gluttons brings shame to
his father.
8 Whoever increases his wealth by interest and
usury gathers it for one who is gracious to
the poor.

9 Whoever turns his ear away from hearing the
law—even his prayer is an abomination.
10 Whoever leads the upright astray in an evil
way will fall into his own pit, but the
blameless will inherit good.
11 A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor
person with understanding sees through
him.
12 When the righteous triumph, there is great
glory, but when the wicked rise, people
hide.
13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not
prosper, but whoever confesses and
forsakes them will receive mercy.
14 Blessed is the man who always fears, but
whoever hardens his heart will fall into
trouble.
15 Like a roaring lion and a charging bear is a
wicked ruler over a poor people.
16 A ruler who lacks understanding is a great
oppressor, but whoever hates unjust gain
will prolong his days.

17 A man burdened with human blood will flee
to the pit;
let no one support him.
18 Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved, but
whoever is crooked in his ways will fall at
once.
19 Whoever works his land will have plenty of
bread, but whoever pursues empty things
will have plenty of poverty.

20 A faithful man will abound in blessings, but
whoever hurries to get rich will not go
unpunished.
21 To show partiality is not good, yet a man will
transgress for a piece of bread.
22 A stingy man hurries after wealth and does
not know that want will come upon him.
23 Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find
more favor than one who flatters with his
tongue.
24 Whoever robs his father or his mother and
says, “It is no transgression,” is a
companion to a destroyer.
25 A greedy person stirs up strife, but whoever
trusts in the LORD will prosper.
26 Whoever trusts in his own heart is a fool, but
whoever walks in wisdom will escape.
27 Whoever gives to the poor will not lack, but
whoever closes his eyes will have many
curses.
28 When the wicked rise, people hide;
when they perish, the righteous increase.

29

1 A man who hardens his neck after many
rebukes will suddenly be broken beyond
healing.
2 When the righteous increase, the people
rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, the
people groan.
3 A man who loves wisdom gladdens his father,
but a companion of prostitutes destroys
his wealth.

4 By justice a king establishes a land, but a man
who exacts gifts tears it down.
5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net
for his feet.
6 In an evil man's transgression there is a snare,
but a righteous person sings and rejoices.
7 A righteous person knows the cause of the
poor;
a wicked man does not understand such
knowledge.
8 Scoffers inflame a city, but the wise turn away
anger.
9 When a wise man goes to court with a fool,
whether there is rage or laughter, there is
no rest.
10 Bloodthirsty men hate a blameless man, but
the upright seek to preserve his life.
11 A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise
person holds it back.
12 If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his servants
are wicked.
13 The poor man and the oppressor meet
together;
the LORD gives light to the eyes of them
both.
14 A king who judges the poor faithfully will
have his throne established forever.
15 The rod and correction give wisdom, but a
child left to himself brings shame to his
mother.
16 When the wicked increase, transgression
increases, but the righteous will see their
downfall.
17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest;

he will give delight to your soul.

18 Where there is no prophetic vision, the people
cast off restraint, but blessed is the one
who keeps the law.
19 A servant is not corrected by words alone;
though he understands, he does not
respond.
20 Do you see a man hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.
21 Whoever pampers his servant from youth will
have him become a son in the end.
22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a man of
wrath abounds in transgression.
23 A man's pride will bring him low, but one who
is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.
24 Whoever shares with a thief hates his own
life;
he hears the oath's curse but does not tell.
25 The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever
trusts in the LORD will be safe.
26 Many seek a ruler's favor, but a man's justice
comes from the LORD.
27 An unjust man is an abomination to the
righteous, and one whose way is upright
is an abomination to the wicked.

30

1 The words of Agur son of Jakeh, the oracle.
The declaration of the man to Ithiel, to Ithiel and
Ucal:
2 Surely I am more senseless than any man, and
I lack human understanding.

3 I have not learned wisdom, nor do I have
knowledge of the Holy One.
4 Who has ascended to heaven and come down?
Who has gathered the wind in his fists?
Who has wrapped the waters in a garment?
Who has established all the ends of the
earth?
What is his name, and what is his son's
name, if you know?
5 Every word of God is refined;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in
him.
6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you
and you be found a liar.

7 Two things I ask of you;
do not deny them to me before I die:
8 Keep falsehood and lying words far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with my allotted bread,
9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the
LORD?"
Or lest I become poor and steal and profane
the name of my God.

10 Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he
curse you and you bear the guilt.
11 There is a generation that curses its father and
does not bless its mother.
12 There is a generation pure in its own eyes, yet
not washed of its filth.
13 There is a generation—how haughty its eyes,
how high its eyelids are raised!

14 There is a generation whose teeth are swords
and whose fangs are knives, to devour the
poor from the earth and the needy from
among mankind.

15 The leech has two daughters: “Give!
Give!”
Three things are never satisfied, four never
say, “Enough”:
16 Sheol, the barren womb, land never satisfied
with water, and fire that never says,
“Enough!”
17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns
obedience to a mother will be pecked out
by the ravens of the valley and eaten by
young eagles.

18 Three things are too wonderful for me, four I
do not understand:
19 the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a
serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the
heart of the sea, and the way of a man
with a young woman.
20 This is the way of an adulterous woman: She
eats, wipes her mouth, and says, “I have
done no wrong.”

21 Under three things the earth trembles, and
under four it cannot bear up:
22 under a servant when he becomes king, and a
fool when he has his fill of bread;

23 under an unloved woman when she marries,
and a servant girl when she takes the
place of her mistress.

24 Four things are small on the earth, yet they
are exceedingly wise:
25 the ants are a people without strength, yet
they prepare their food in summer;
26 the hyraxes are a people without power, yet
they make their home in the rocks;
27 the locusts have no king, yet they all march
out in ranks;
28 the lizard can be caught with the hands, yet it
is in kings' palaces.

29 Three things have a stately stride, four walk
well:
30 the lion, mighty among beasts, which does not
turn back before anything;
31 the one with girded loins, or a male goat, and
a king with his troops.
32 If you have been foolish in exalting yourself,
or if you have plotted evil, put your hand
over your mouth.
33 For churning milk brings forth butter,
pressing the nose brings forth blood, and
pressing anger brings forth strife.

31

1 The words of King Lemuel, an oracle his
mother taught him:
2 "What, my son?
What, son of my womb?

What, son of my vows?
3 Do not give your strength to women or your
ways to what destroys kings.
4 It is not for kings, Lemuel, not for kings to
drink wine, or for rulers to say, ‘Where is
strong drink?’
5 lest they drink and forget what has been
decreed, and pervert the rights of all the
afflicted.
6 Give strong drink to the one who is perishing,
and wine to those bitter in soul.
7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, and
remember his misery no more.
8 Open your mouth for those who cannot speak,
for the cause of all who are passing away.
9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and
defend the cause of the poor and needy.”

10 A wife of noble character—who can find her?
Her worth is far above jewels.
11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he
will lack no gain.
12 She does him good and not evil all the days of
her life.
13 She seeks wool and flax and works willingly
with her hands.
14 She is like merchant ships;
she brings her food from afar.
15 She rises while it is still night and gives food
to her household and a portion to her
servant girls.
16 She considers a field and buys it;

from the fruit of her hands she plants a
vineyard.
17 She girds her waist with strength and makes
her arms strong.
18 She perceives that her trade is profitable;
her lamp does not go out at night.
19 She reaches her hands to the distaff, and her
palms hold the spindle.
20 She opens her palm to the poor and reaches
out her hands to the needy.
21 She does not fear snow for her household, for
all her household are clothed in scarlet.
22 She makes coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is known at the gates, where he
sits with the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies sashes to the merchant.
25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she
laughs at the day to come.
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the
teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children rise and call her blessed;
her husband also praises her:
29 “Many women have acted nobly, but you
surpass them all.”
30 Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but
a woman who fears the LORD is to be
praised.
31 Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her
works praise her at the gates.

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