



PROVERBS



WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE | AMERICAN EDITION

PROVERBS

1

¹ The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel:

- ² to know wisdom and instruction;
to discern the words of understanding;
- ³ to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- ⁴ to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young man—
- ⁵ that the wise man may hear, and increase in
learning;
that the man of understanding may attain to sound
counsel;
- ⁶ to understand a proverb and parables,
the words and riddles of the wise.

⁷ The fear of Yahweh[‡] is the beginning of
knowledge,
but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸ My son, listen to your father’s instruction,
and don’t forsake your mother’s teaching;
⁹ for they will be a garland to grace your head,
and chains around your neck.

¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you,
don’t consent.

¹¹ If they say, “Come with us.
Let’s lie in wait for blood.
Let’s lurk secretly for the innocent without cause.

¹² Let’s swallow them up alive like Sheol,[‡]
and whole, like those who go down into the pit.

¹³ We’ll find all valuable wealth.
We’ll fill our houses with plunder.

¹⁴ You shall cast your lot among us.
We’ll all have one purse” —

¹⁵ my son, don’t walk on the path with them.
Keep your foot from their path,

¹⁶ for their feet run to evil.
They hurry to shed blood.

¹⁷ For the net is spread in vain in the sight of any
bird;

¹⁸ but these lay in wait for their own blood.
They lurk secretly for their own lives.

¹⁹ So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for
gain.

It takes away the life of its owners.

Notes

†1:7 “Yahweh” is God’s proper Name, sometimes rendered “LORD” (all caps) in other translations.

‡1:12 Sheol is the place of the dead.

§1:23 “Behold”, from “הִנֵּה”, means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

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²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud in the street.
She utters her voice in the public squares.
²¹ She calls at the head of noisy places.
At the entrance of the city gates, she utters her words:
²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery,
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ Turn at my reproof.
Behold,^s I will pour out my spirit on you.
I will make known my words to you.
²⁴ Because I have called, and you have refused;
I have stretched out my hand, and no one has paid attention;
²⁵ but you have ignored all my counsel,
and wanted none of my reproof;
²⁶ I also will laugh at your disaster.
I will mock when calamity overtakes you,
²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when your disaster comes on like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come on you.
²⁸ Then they will call on me, but I will not answer.
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me,
²⁹ because they hated knowledge,
and didn't choose the fear of Yahweh.
³⁰ They wanted none of my counsel.
They despised all my reproof.
³¹ Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way,
and be filled with their own schemes.
³² For the backsliding of the simple will kill them.
The careless ease of fools will destroy them.
³³ But whoever listens to me will dwell securely,
and will be at ease, without fear of harm."

2

¹ My son, if you will receive my words,
and store up my commandments within you,
² so as to turn your ear to wisdom,
and apply your heart to understanding;
³ yes, if you call out for discernment,
and lift up your voice for understanding;
⁴ if you seek her as silver,
and search for her as for hidden treasures;
⁵ then you will understand the fear of Yahweh,
and find the knowledge of God.[†]
⁶ For Yahweh gives wisdom.

[†]2:5 The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

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and he will make your paths straight.

⁷ Don't be wise in your own eyes.

Fear Yahweh, and depart from evil.

⁸ It will be health to your body,
and nourishment to your bones.

⁹ Honor Yahweh with your substance,
with the first fruits of all your increase;

¹⁰ so your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will overflow with new wine.

¹¹ My son, don't despise Yahweh's discipline,
neither be weary of his correction;

¹² for whom Yahweh loves, he corrects,
even as a father reproves the son in whom he
delights.

¹³ Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gets understanding.

¹⁴ For her good profit is better than getting silver,
and her return is better than fine gold.

¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies.

None of the things you can desire are to be
compared to her.

¹⁶ Length of days is in her right hand.

In her left hand are riches and honor.

¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness.

All her paths are peace.

¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her.

Happy is everyone who retains her.

¹⁹ By wisdom Yahweh founded the earth.

By understanding, he established the heavens.

²⁰ By his knowledge, the depths were broken up,
and the skies drop down the dew.

²¹ My son, let them not depart from your eyes.

Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

²² so they will be life to your soul,
and grace for your neck.

²³ Then you shall walk in your way securely.

Your foot won't stumble.

²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid.

Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be

sweet.

²⁵ Don't be afraid of sudden fear,

neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it
comes;

²⁶ for Yahweh will be your confidence,

and will keep your foot from being taken.

²⁷ Don't withhold good from those to whom it is
due,

when it is in the power of your hand to do it.

²⁸ Don't say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again;

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- ¹⁴ Don't enter into the path of the wicked.
Don't walk in the way of evil men.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it, and don't pass by it.
Turn from it, and pass on.
- ¹⁶ For they don't sleep unless they do evil.
Their sleep is taken away, unless they make
someone fall.
- ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the dawning
light
that shines more and more until the perfect day.
- ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like darkness.
They don't know what they stumble over.
- ²⁰ My son, attend to my words.
Turn your ear to my sayings.
- ²¹ Let them not depart from your eyes.
Keep them in the center of your heart.
- ²² For they are life to those who find them,
and health to their whole body.
- ²³ Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it is the wellspring of life.
- ²⁴ Put away from yourself a perverse mouth.
Put corrupt lips far from you.
- ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead.
Fix your gaze directly before you.
- ²⁶ Make the path of your feet level.
Let all of your ways be established.
- ²⁷ Don't turn to the right hand nor to the left.
Remove your foot from evil.

5

- ¹ My son, pay attention to my wisdom.
Turn your ear to my understanding,
- ² that you may maintain discretion,
that your lips may preserve knowledge.
- ³ For the lips of an adulteress drip honey.
Her mouth is smoother than oil,
⁴ but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood,
and as sharp as a two-edged sword.
- ⁵ Her feet go down to death.
Her steps lead straight to Sheol.[†]
- ⁶ She gives no thought to the way of life.
Her ways are crooked, and she doesn't know it.
- ⁷ Now therefore, my sons, listen to me.
Don't depart from the words of my mouth.
- ⁸ Remove your way far from her.
Don't come near the door of her house,
- ⁹ lest you give your honor to others,

[†]5:5 Sheol is the place of the dead.

and your years to the cruel one;
¹⁰ lest strangers feast on your wealth,
and your labors enrich another man's house.
¹¹ You will groan at your latter end,
when your flesh and your body are consumed,
¹² and say, "How I have hated instruction,
and my heart despised reproof.
¹³ I haven't obeyed the voice of my teachers,
nor turned my ear to those who instructed me!
¹⁴ I have come to the brink of utter ruin,
among the gathered assembly."

¹⁵ Drink water out of your own cistern,
running water out of your own well.
¹⁶ Should your springs overflow in the streets,
streams of water in the public squares?
¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone,
not for strangers with you.
¹⁸ Let your spring be blessed.
Rejoice in the wife of your youth.
¹⁹ A loving doe and a graceful deer —
let her breasts satisfy you at all times.
Be captivated always with her love.
²⁰ For why should you, my son, be captivated with
an adulteress?
Why embrace the bosom of another?
²¹ For the ways of man are before Yahweh's eyes.
He examines all his paths.
²² The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him.
The cords of his sin hold him firmly.
²³ He will die for lack of instruction.
In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.

6

¹ My son, if you have become collateral for your
neighbor,
if you have struck your hands in pledge for a
stranger,
² you are trapped by the words of your mouth;
you are ensnared with the words of your mouth.
³ Do this now, my son, and deliver yourself,
since you have come into the hand of your
neighbor.
Go, humble yourself.
Press your plea with your neighbor.
⁴ Give no sleep to your eyes,
nor slumber to your eyelids.
⁵ Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the
hunter,
like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

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- ⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard.
Consider her ways, and be wise;
⁷ which having no chief, overseer, or ruler,
⁸ provides her bread in the summer,
and gathers her food in the harvest.
⁹ How long will you sleep, sluggard?
When will you arise out of your sleep?
¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to sleep—
¹¹ so your poverty will come as a robber,
and your scarcity as an armed man.
- ¹² A worthless person, a man of iniquity,
is he who walks with a perverse mouth,
¹³ who winks with his eyes, who signals with his
feet,
who motions with his fingers,
¹⁴ in whose heart is perverseness,
who devises evil continually,
who always sows discord.
¹⁵ Therefore his calamity will come suddenly.
He will be broken suddenly, and that without
remedy.
- ¹⁶ There are six things which Yahweh hates;
yes, seven which are an abomination to him:
¹⁷ arrogant eyes, a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are swift in running to mischief,
¹⁹ a false witness who utters lies,
and he who sows discord among brothers.
- ²⁰ My son, keep your father's commandment,
and don't forsake your mother's teaching.
²¹ Bind them continually on your heart.
Tie them around your neck.
²² When you walk, it will lead you.
When you sleep, it will watch over you.
When you awake, it will talk with you.
²³ For the commandment is a lamp,
and the law is light.
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,
²⁴ to keep you from the immoral woman,
from the flattery of the wayward wife's tongue.
²⁵ Don't lust after her beauty in your heart,
neither let her captivate you with her eyelids.
²⁶ For a prostitute reduces you to a piece of bread.
The adulteress hunts for your precious life.
²⁷ Can a man scoop fire into his lap,
and his clothes not be burned?

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to diligently seek your face,
and I have found you.

¹⁶ I have spread my couch with carpets of tapestry,
with striped cloths of the yarn of Egypt.

¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and
cinnamon.

¹⁸ Come, let's take our fill of loving until the
morning.

Let's solace ourselves with loving.

¹⁹ For my husband isn't at home.

He has gone on a long journey.

²⁰ He has taken a bag of money with him.

He will come home at the full moon."

²¹ With persuasive words, she led him astray.

With the flattering of her lips, she seduced him.

²² He followed her immediately,

as an ox goes to the slaughter,

as a fool stepping into a noose.

²³ Until an arrow strikes through his liver,

as a bird hurries to the snare,

and doesn't know that it will cost his life.

²⁴ Now therefore, sons, listen to me.

Pay attention to the words of my mouth.

²⁵ Don't let your heart turn to her ways.

Don't go astray in her paths,

²⁶ for she has thrown down many wounded.

Yes, all her slain are a mighty army.

²⁷ Her house is the way to Sheol,[†]

going down to the rooms of death.

†7:27 Sheol is the place of the dead.

8

¹ Doesn't wisdom cry out?

Doesn't understanding raise her voice?

² On the top of high places by the way,
where the paths meet, she stands.

³ Beside the gates, at the entry of the city,
at the entry doors, she cries aloud:

⁴ "I call to you men!

I send my voice to the sons of mankind.

⁵ You simple, understand prudence!

You fools, be of an understanding heart!

⁶ Hear, for I will speak excellent things.

The opening of my lips is for right things.

⁷ For my mouth speaks truth.

Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

⁸ All the words of my mouth are in righteousness.

There is nothing crooked or perverse in them.

⁹ They are all plain to him who understands,
right to those who find knowledge.

¹⁰ Receive my instruction rather than silver,

knowledge rather than choice gold.

¹¹ For wisdom is better than rubies.

All the things that may be desired can't be compared to it.

¹² "I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling.

Find out knowledge and discretion.

¹³ The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil.

I hate pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth.

¹⁴ Counsel and sound knowledge are mine.

I have understanding and power.

¹⁵ By me kings reign,
and princes decree justice.

¹⁶ By me princes rule,
nobles, and all the righteous rulers of the earth.

¹⁷ I love those who love me.

Those who seek me diligently will find me.

¹⁸ With me are riches, honor,
enduring wealth, and prosperity.

¹⁹ My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold,
my yield than choice silver.

²⁰ I walk in the way of righteousness,
in the middle of the paths of justice,

²¹ that I may give wealth to those who love me.
I fill their treasuries.

²² "Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his
work,

before his deeds of old.

²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning,
before the earth existed.

²⁴ When there were no depths, I was born,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was born;

²⁶ while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the
fields,

nor the beginning of the dust of the world.

²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there.

When he set a circle on the surface of the deep,

²⁸ when he established the clouds above,
when the springs of the deep became strong,

²⁹ when he gave to the sea its boundary,
that the waters should not violate his
commandment,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰ then I was the craftsman by his side.

I was a delight day by day,
always rejoicing before him,

³¹ rejoicing in his whole world.

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My delight was with the sons of men.

³² “Now therefore, my sons, listen to me,
for blessed are those who keep my ways.

³³ Hear instruction, and be wise.

Don’t refuse it.

³⁴ Blessed is the man who hears me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting at my door posts.

³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life,
and will obtain favor from Yahweh.

³⁶ But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul.
All those who hate me love death.”

9

¹ Wisdom has built her house.

She has carved out her seven pillars.

² She has prepared her meat.

She has mixed her wine.

She has also set her table.

³ She has sent out her maidens.

She cries from the highest places of the city:

⁴ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

As for him who is void of understanding, she says
to him,

⁵ “Come, eat some of my bread,

Drink some of the wine which I have mixed!

⁶ Leave your simple ways, and live.

Walk in the way of understanding.”

⁷ One who corrects a mocker invites insult.

One who reproves a wicked man invites abuse.

⁸ Don’t reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you.

Reprove a wise person, and he will love you.

⁹ Instruct a wise person, and he will be still wiser.

Teach a righteous person, and he will increase in
learning.

¹⁰ The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom.

The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied.

The years of your life will be increased.

¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself.

If you mock, you alone will bear it.

¹³ The foolish woman is loud,
undisciplined, and knows nothing.

¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house,
on a seat in the high places of the city,

¹⁵ to call to those who pass by,
who go straight on their ways,

¹⁶ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here.”

As for him who is void of understanding, she says
to him,
17 "Stolen water is sweet.
Food eaten in secret is pleasant."
18 But he doesn't know that the departed spirits are
there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.[†]

10

¹ The proverbs of Solomon.
A wise son makes a glad father;
but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.
² Treasures of wickedness profit nothing,
but righteousness delivers from death.
³ Yahweh will not allow the soul of the righteous to
go hungry,
but he thrusts away the desire of the wicked.
⁴ He becomes poor who works with a lazy hand,
but the hand of the diligent brings wealth.
⁵ He who gathers in summer is a wise son,
but he who sleeps during the harvest is a son who
causes shame.
⁶ Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.
⁷ The memory of the righteous is blessed,
but the name of the wicked will rot.
⁸ The wise in heart accept commandments,
but a chattering fool will fall.
⁹ He who walks blamelessly walks surely,
but he who perverts his ways will be found out.
¹⁰ One who winks with the eye causes sorrow,
but a chattering fool will fall.
¹¹ The mouth of the righteous is a spring of life,
but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.
¹² Hatred stirs up strife,
but love covers all wrongs.
¹³ Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has
discernment,
but a rod is for the back of him who is void of
understanding.
¹⁴ Wise men lay up knowledge,
but the mouth of the foolish is near ruin.
¹⁵ The rich man's wealth is his strong city.
The destruction of the poor is their poverty.
¹⁶ The labor of the righteous leads to life.
The increase of the wicked leads to sin.
¹⁷ He is in the way of life who heeds correction,
but he who forsakes reproof leads others astray.
¹⁸ He who hides hatred has lying lips.
He who utters a slander is a fool.

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†9:18 Sheol is the place of the dead.

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- ¹⁹ In the multitude of words there is no lack of disobedience,
but he who restrains his lips does wisely.
- ²⁰ The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver.
The heart of the wicked is of little worth.
- ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many,
but the foolish die for lack of understanding.
- ²² Yahweh's blessing brings wealth,
and he adds no trouble to it.
- ²³ It is a fool's pleasure to do wickedness,
but wisdom is a man of understanding's pleasure.
- ²⁴ What the wicked fear will overtake them,
but the desire of the righteous will be granted.
- ²⁵ When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more;
but the righteous stand firm forever.
- ²⁶ As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes,
so is the sluggard to those who send him.
- ²⁷ The fear of Yahweh prolongs days,
but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.
- ²⁸ The prospect of the righteous is joy,
but the hope of the wicked will perish.
- ²⁹ The way of Yahweh is a stronghold to the upright,
but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.
- ³⁰ The righteous will never be removed,
but the wicked will not dwell in the land.
- ³¹ The mouth of the righteous produces wisdom,
but the perverse tongue will be cut off.
- ³² The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,
but the mouth of the wicked is perverse.

11

- ¹ A false balance is an abomination to Yahweh,
but accurate weights are his delight.
- ² When pride comes, then comes shame,
but with humility comes wisdom.
- ³ The integrity of the upright shall guide them,
but the perverseness of the treacherous shall
destroy them.
- ⁴ Riches don't profit in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.
- ⁵ The righteousness of the blameless will direct his
way,
but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.
- ⁶ The righteousness of the upright shall deliver
them,
but the unfaithful will be trapped by evil desires.
- ⁷ When a wicked man dies, hope perishes,
and expectation of power comes to nothing.
- ⁸ A righteous person is delivered out of trouble,
and the wicked takes his place.

⁹ With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor,
but the righteous will be delivered through knowledge.

¹⁰ When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices.
When the wicked perish, there is shouting.

¹¹ By the blessing of the upright, the city is exalted,
but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

¹² One who despises his neighbor is void of wisdom,
but a man of understanding holds his peace.

¹³ One who brings gossip betrays a confidence,
but one who is of a trustworthy spirit is one who keeps a secret.

¹⁴ Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls,
but in the multitude of counselors there is victory.

¹⁵ He who is collateral for a stranger will suffer for it,
but he who refuses pledges of collateral is secure.

¹⁶ A gracious woman obtains honor,
but violent men obtain riches.

¹⁷ The merciful man does good to his own soul,
but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

¹⁸ Wicked people earn deceitful wages,
but one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

¹⁹ He who is truly righteous gets life.
He who pursues evil gets death.

²⁰ Those who are perverse in heart are an abomination to Yahweh,
but those whose ways are blameless are his delight.

²¹ Most certainly, the evil man will not be unpunished,
but the offspring[†] of the righteous will be delivered.

²² Like a gold ring in a pig's snout,
is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.

²³ The desire of the righteous is only good.
The expectation of the wicked is wrath.

²⁴ There is one who scatters, and increases yet more.
There is one who withholds more than is appropriate, but gains poverty.

²⁵ The liberal soul shall be made fat.
He who waters shall be watered also himself.

²⁶ People curse someone who withholds grain,
but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

²⁷ He who diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but he who searches after evil, it shall come to him.

²⁸ He who trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf.

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†11:21 or, seed

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- ²⁹ He who troubles his own house shall inherit the wind.
The foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart.
- ³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.
He who is wise wins souls.
- ³¹ Behold, the righteous shall be repaid in the earth,
how much more the wicked and the sinner!

12

- ¹ Whoever loves correction loves knowledge,
but he who hates reproof is stupid.
- ² A good man shall obtain favor from Yahweh,
but he will condemn a man of wicked plans.
- ³ A man shall not be established by wickedness,
but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.
- ⁴ A worthy woman is the crown of her husband,
but a disgraceful wife is as rotteness in his bones.
- ⁵ The thoughts of the righteous are just,
but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.
- ⁶ The words of the wicked are about lying in wait
for blood,
but the speech of the upright rescues them.
- ⁷ The wicked are overthrown, and are no more,
but the house of the righteous shall stand.
- ⁸ A man shall be commended according to his
wisdom,
but he who has a warped mind shall be despised.
- ⁹ Better is he who is little known, and has a servant,
than he who honors himself and lacks bread.
- ¹⁰ A righteous man respects the life of his animal,
but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- ¹¹ He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread,
but he who chases fantasies is void of
understanding.
- ¹² The wicked desires the plunder of evil men,
but the root of the righteous flourishes.
- ¹³ An evil man is trapped by sinfulness of lips,
but the righteous shall come out of trouble.
- ¹⁴ A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of
his mouth.
The work of a man's hands shall be rewarded to
him.
- ¹⁵ The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but he who is wise listens to counsel.
- ¹⁶ A fool shows his annoyance the same day,
but one who overlooks an insult is prudent.
- ¹⁷ He who is truthful testifies honestly,
but a false witness lies.
- ¹⁸ There is one who speaks rashly like the piercing
of a sword,
but the tongue of the wise heals.

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to turn from the snares of death.
¹⁵ Good understanding wins favor,
but the way of the unfaithful is hard.
¹⁶ Every prudent man acts from knowledge,
but a fool exposes folly.
¹⁷ A wicked messenger falls into trouble,
but a trustworthy envoy gains healing.
¹⁸ Poverty and shame come to him who refuses
discipline,
but he who heeds correction shall be honored.
¹⁹ Longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul,
but fools detest turning from evil.
²⁰ One who walks with wise men grows wise,
but a companion of fools suffers harm.
²¹ Misfortune pursues sinners,
but prosperity rewards the righteous.
²² A good man leaves an inheritance to his
children's children,
but the wealth of the sinner is stored for the
righteous.
²³ An abundance of food is in poor people's fields,
but injustice sweeps it away.
²⁴ One who spares the rod hates his son,
but one who loves him is careful to discipline him.
²⁵ The righteous one eats to the satisfying of his
soul,
but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

14

¹ Every wise woman builds her house,
but the foolish one tears it down with her own
hands.
² He who walks in his uprightness fears Yahweh,
but he who is perverse in his ways despises him.
³ The fool's talk brings a rod to his back,
but the lips of the wise protect them.
⁴ Where no oxen are, the crib is clean,
but much increase is by the strength of the ox.
⁵ A truthful witness will not lie,
but a false witness pours out lies.
⁶ A scoffer seeks wisdom, and doesn't find it,
but knowledge comes easily to a discerning person.
⁷ Stay away from a foolish man,
for you won't find knowledge on his lips.
⁸ The wisdom of the prudent is to think about his
way,
but the folly of fools is deceit.
⁹ Fools mock at making atonement for sins,
but among the upright there is good will.
¹⁰ The heart knows its own bitterness and joy;
he will not share these with a stranger.

Notes

and is even made known in the inward part of fools.

³⁴ Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

³⁵ The king's favor is toward a servant who deals wisely, but his wrath is toward one who causes shame.

15

¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

² The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools gush out folly.

³ Yahweh's eyes are everywhere, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

⁴ A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit.

⁵ A fool despises his father's correction, but he who heeds reproof shows prudence.

⁶ In the house of the righteous is much treasure, but the income of the wicked brings trouble.

⁷ The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so with the heart of fools.

⁸ The sacrifice made by the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

⁹ The way of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh,

but he loves him who follows after righteousness.

¹⁰ There is stern discipline for one who forsakes the way.

Whoever hates reproof shall die.

¹¹ Sheol[†] and Abaddon are before Yahweh—how much more than the hearts of the children of men!

¹² A scoffer doesn't love to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.

¹³ A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but an aching heart breaks the spirit.

¹⁴ The heart of one who has understanding seeks knowledge,

but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted are wretched, but one who has a cheerful heart enjoys a continual feast.

¹⁶ Better is little, with the fear of Yahweh, than great treasure with trouble.

¹⁷ Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is, than a fattened calf with hatred.

¹⁸ A wrathful man stirs up contention, but one who is slow to anger appeases strife.

[†]15:11 Sheol is the place of the dead.

¹⁹ The way of the sluggard is like a thorn patch,
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 is void of wisdom,
but a man of understanding keeps his way straight.
²² Where there is no counsel, plans fail;
but in a multitude of counselors they are
established.
²³ Joy comes to a man with the reply of his mouth.
How good is a word at the right time!
²⁴ The path of life leads upward for the wise,
to keep him from going downward to Sheol.[†]
²⁵ Yahweh will uproot the house of the proud,
but he will keep the widow's borders intact.
²⁶ Yahweh detests the thoughts of the wicked,
but the thoughts of the pure are pleasing.
²⁷ He who is greedy for gain troubles his own
house,
but he who hates bribes will live.
²⁸ The heart of the righteous weighs answers,
but the mouth of the wicked gushes out evil.
²⁹ Yahweh is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
³⁰ The light of the eyes rejoices the heart.
Good news gives health to the bones.
³¹ The ear that listens to reproof lives,
and will be at home among the wise.
³² He who refuses correction despises his own soul,
but he who listens to reproof gets understanding.
³³ The fear of Yahweh teaches wisdom.
Before honor is humility.

16

¹ The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the answer of the tongue is from Yahweh.
² All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes,
but Yahweh weighs the motives.
³ Commit your deeds to Yahweh,
and your plans shall succeed.
⁴ Yahweh has made everything for its own end—
yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.
⁵ Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination
to Yahweh;
they shall certainly not be unpunished.
⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for.
By the fear of Yahweh men depart from evil.
⁷ When a man's ways please Yahweh,
he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
⁸ Better is a little with righteousness,
than great revenues with injustice.

Notes

[†]15:24 Sheol is the place of the dead.

Notes

- ⁹ A man's heart plans his course,
but Yahweh directs his steps.
- ¹⁰ Inspired judgments are on the lips of the king.
He shall not betray his mouth.
- ¹¹ Honest balances and scales are Yahweh's;
all the weights in the bag are his work.
- ¹² It is an abomination for kings to do wrong,
for the throne is established by righteousness.
- ¹³ Righteous lips are the delight of kings.
They value one who speaks the truth.
- ¹⁴ The king's wrath is a messenger of death,
but a wise man will pacify it.
- ¹⁵ In the light of the king's face is life.
His favor is like a cloud of the spring rain.
- ¹⁶ How much better it is to get wisdom than gold!
Yes, to get understanding is to be chosen rather
than silver.
- ¹⁷ The highway of the upright is to depart from evil.
He who keeps his way preserves his soul.
- ¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction,
and an arrogant spirit before a fall.
- ¹⁹ It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor,
than to divide the plunder with the proud.
- ²⁰ He who heeds the Word finds prosperity.
Whoever trusts in Yahweh is blessed.
- ²¹ The wise in heart shall be called prudent.
Pleasantness of the lips promotes instruction.
- ²² Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has
it,
but the punishment of fools is their folly.
- ²³ The heart of the wise instructs his mouth,
and adds learning to his lips.
- ²⁴ Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
- ²⁵ There is a way which seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.
- ²⁶ The appetite of the laboring man labors for him,
for his mouth urges him on.
- ²⁷ A worthless man devises mischief.
His speech is like a scorching fire.
- ²⁸ A perverse man stirs up strife.
A whisperer separates close friends.
- ²⁹ A man of violence entices his neighbor,
and leads him in a way that is not good.
- ³⁰ One who winks his eyes to plot perversities,
one who compresses his lips, is bent on evil.
- ³¹ Gray hair is a crown of glory.
It is attained by a life of righteousness.
- ³² One who is slow to anger is better than the
mighty;
one who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city.

Notes

¹⁹ He who loves disobedience loves strife.
One who builds a high gate seeks destruction.
²⁰ One who has a perverse heart doesn't find prosperity,
and one who has a deceitful tongue falls into trouble.

²¹ He who becomes the father of a fool grieves.
The father of a fool has no joy.

²² A cheerful heart makes good medicine,
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

²³ A wicked man receives a bribe in secret,
to pervert the ways of justice.

²⁴ Wisdom is before the face of one who has understanding,
but the eyes of a fool wander to the ends of the earth.

²⁵ A foolish son brings grief to his father,
and bitterness to her who bore him.

²⁶ Also to punish the righteous is not good,
nor to flog officials for their integrity.

²⁷ He who spares his words has knowledge.
He who is even tempered is a man of understanding.

²⁸ Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is counted wise.
When he shuts his lips, he is thought to be discerning.

18

¹ A man who isolates himself pursues selfishness,
and defies all sound judgment.

² A fool has no delight in understanding,
but only in revealing his own opinion.

³ When wickedness comes, contempt also comes,
and with shame comes disgrace.

⁴ The words of a man's mouth are like deep waters.
The fountain of wisdom is like a flowing brook.

⁵ To be partial to the faces of the wicked is not good,
nor to deprive the innocent of justice.

⁶ A fool's lips come into strife,
and his mouth invites beatings.

⁷ A fool's mouth is his destruction,
and his lips are a snare to his soul.

⁸ The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels:
they go down into a person's innermost parts.

⁹ One who is slack in his work
is brother to him who is a master of destruction.

¹⁰ Yahweh's name is a strong tower:
the righteous run to him, and are safe.

¹¹ The rich man's wealth is his strong city,
like an unscalable wall in his own imagination.

¹² Before destruction the heart of man is proud,

but before honor is humility.
13 He who answers before he hears,
that is folly and shame to him.
14 A man's spirit will sustain him in sickness,
but a crushed spirit, who can bear?
15 The heart of the discerning gets knowledge.
The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
16 A man's gift makes room for him,
and brings him before great men.
17 He who pleads his cause first seems right—
until another comes and questions him.
18 The lot settles disputes,
and keeps strong ones apart.
19 A brother offended is more difficult than a
fortified city.
Disputes are like the bars of a fortress.
20 A man's stomach is filled with the fruit of his
mouth.
With the harvest of his lips he is satisfied.
21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue;
those who love it will eat its fruit.
22 Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing,
and obtains favor of Yahweh.
23 The poor plead for mercy,
but the rich answer harshly.
24 A man of many companions may be ruined,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a
brother.

19

1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity
than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool.
2 It isn't good to have zeal without knowledge,
nor being hasty with one's feet and missing the
way.
3 The foolishness of man subverts his way;
his heart rages against Yahweh.
4 Wealth adds many friends,
but the poor is separated from his friend.
5 A false witness shall not be unpunished.
He who pours out lies shall not go free.
6 Many will entreat the favor of a ruler,
and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.
7 All the relatives of the poor shun him;
how much more do his friends avoid him!
He pursues them with pleas, but they are gone.
8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul.
He who keeps understanding shall find good.
9 A false witness shall not be unpunished.
He who utters lies shall perish.
10 Delicate living is not appropriate for a fool,

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Notes

- much less for a servant to have rule over princes.
- ¹¹ The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger. It is his glory to overlook an offense.
- ¹² The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.
- ¹³ A foolish son is the calamity of his father. A wife's quarrels are a continual dripping.
- ¹⁴ House and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from Yahweh.
- ¹⁵ Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep. The idle soul shall suffer hunger.
- ¹⁶ He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is contemptuous in his ways shall die.
- ¹⁷ He who has pity on the poor lends to Yahweh; he will reward him.
- ¹⁸ Discipline your son, for there is hope; don't be a willing party to his death.
- ¹⁹ A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you must do it again.
- ²⁰ Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end.
- ²¹ There are many plans in a man's heart, but Yahweh's counsel will prevail.
- ²² That which makes a man to be desired is his kindness.
A poor man is better than a liar.
- ²³ The fear of Yahweh leads to life, then contentment;
he rests and will not be touched by trouble.
- ²⁴ The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.
- ²⁵ Flog a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge.
- ²⁶ He who robs his father and drives away his mother
is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.
- ²⁷ If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge.
- ²⁸ A corrupt witness mocks justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down iniquity.
- ²⁹ Penalties are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

20

- ¹ Wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.
- ² The terror of a king is like the roaring of a lion. He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.
- ³ It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.

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- ²⁷ The spirit of man is Yahweh's lamp,
searching all his innermost parts.
- ²⁸ Love and faithfulness keep the king safe.
His throne is sustained by love.
- ²⁹ The glory of young men is their strength.
The splendor of old men is their gray hair.
- ³⁰ Wounding blows cleanse away evil,
and beatings purge the innermost parts.

21

- ¹ The king's heart is in Yahweh's hand like the
watercourses.
He turns it wherever he desires.
- ² Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
but Yahweh weighs the hearts.
- ³ To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to Yahweh than sacrifice.
- ⁴ A high look and a proud heart,
the lamp of the wicked, is sin.
- ⁵ The plans of the diligent surely lead to profit;
and everyone who is hasty surely rushes to
poverty.
- ⁶ Getting treasures by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor for those who seek death.
- ⁷ The violence of the wicked will drive them away,
because they refuse to do what is right.
- ⁸ The way of the guilty is devious,
but the conduct of the innocent is upright.
- ⁹ It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop
than to share a house with a contentious woman.
- ¹⁰ The soul of the wicked desires evil;
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.
- ¹¹ When the mocker is punished, the simple gains
wisdom.
When the wise is instructed, he receives
knowledge.
- ¹² The Righteous One considers the house of the
wicked,
and brings the wicked to ruin.
- ¹³ Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor,
he will also cry out, but shall not be heard.
- ¹⁴ A gift in secret pacifies anger,
and a bribe in the cloak, strong wrath.
- ¹⁵ It is joy to the righteous to do justice;
but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.
- ¹⁶ The man who wanders out of the way of
understanding
shall rest in the assembly of the departed spirits.
- ¹⁷ He who loves pleasure will be a poor man.
He who loves wine and oil won't be rich.
- ¹⁸ The wicked is a ransom for the righteous,

Notes

yes, quarrels and insults will stop.

¹¹ He who loves purity of heart and speaks gracefully

is the king's friend.

¹² Yahweh's eyes watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

¹³ The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I will be killed in the streets!"

¹⁴ The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit. He who is under Yahweh's wrath will fall into it.

¹⁵ Folly is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

¹⁶ Whoever oppresses the poor for his own increase and whoever gives to the rich, both come to poverty.

¹⁷ Turn your ear, and listen to the words of the wise. Apply your heart to my teaching.

¹⁸ For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you,

if all of them are ready on your lips.

¹⁹ I teach you today, even you, so that your trust may be in Yahweh.

²⁰ Haven't I written to you thirty excellent things of counsel and knowledge,

²¹ To teach you truth, reliable words, to give sound answers to the ones who sent you?

²² Don't exploit the poor because he is poor; and don't crush the needy in court;

²³ for Yahweh will plead their case, and plunder the life of those who plunder them.

²⁴ Don't befriend a hot-tempered man.

Don't associate with one who harbors anger,

²⁵ lest you learn his ways and ensnare your soul.

²⁶ Don't you be one of those who strike hands, of those who are collateral for debts.

²⁷ If you don't have means to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

²⁸ Don't move the ancient boundary stone which your fathers have set up.

²⁹ Do you see a man skilled in his work?

He will serve kings.

He won't serve obscure men.

- ¹ When you sit to eat with a ruler,
consider diligently what is before you;
² put a knife to your throat
if you are a man given to appetite.
³ Don't be desirous of his dainties,
since they are deceitful food.
⁴ Don't weary yourself to be rich.
In your wisdom, show restraint.
⁵ Why do you set your eyes on that which is not?
For it certainly sprouts wings like an eagle and flies
in the sky.
⁶ Don't eat the food of him who has a stingy eye,
and don't crave his delicacies,
⁷ for as he thinks about the cost, so he is.
"Eat and drink!" he says to you,
but his heart is not with you.
⁸ You will vomit up the morsel which you have
eaten
and waste your pleasant words.
- ⁹ Don't speak in the ears of a fool,
for he will despise the wisdom of your words.
- ¹⁰ Don't move the ancient boundary stone.
Don't encroach on the fields of the fatherless,
¹¹ for their Defender is strong.
He will plead their case against you.
- ¹² Apply your heart to instruction,
and your ears to the words of knowledge.
¹³ Don't withhold correction from a child.
If you punish him with the rod, he will not die.
¹⁴ Punish him with the rod,
and save his soul from Sheol.[†]
- ¹⁵ My son, if your heart is wise,
then my heart will be glad, even mine.
¹⁶ Yes, my heart will rejoice
when your lips speak what is right.
¹⁷ Don't let your heart envy sinners,
but rather fear Yahweh all day long.
¹⁸ Indeed surely there is a future hope,
and your hope will not be cut off.
¹⁹ Listen, my son, and be wise,
and keep your heart on the right path!
²⁰ Don't be among ones drinking too much wine,
or those who gorge themselves on meat;
²¹ for the drunkard and the glutton shall become
poor;

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[†]23:14 Sheol is the place of the dead.

Notes

and drowsiness clothes them in rags.
²² Listen to your father who gave you life,
and don't despise your mother when she is old.
²³ Buy the truth, and don't sell it.
Get wisdom, discipline, and understanding.
²⁴ The father of the righteous has great joy.
Whoever fathers a wise child delights in him.
²⁵ Let your father and your mother be glad!
Let her who bore you rejoice!
²⁶ My son, give me your heart;
and let your eyes keep in my ways.
²⁷ For a prostitute is a deep pit;
and a wayward wife is a narrow well.
²⁸ Yes, she lies in wait like a robber,
and increases the unfaithful among men.

²⁹ Who has woe?
Who has sorrow?
Who has strife?
Who has complaints?
Who has needless bruises?
Who has bloodshot eyes?
³⁰ Those who stay long at the wine;
those who go to seek out mixed wine.
³¹ Don't look at the wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup,
when it goes down smoothly.
³² In the end, it bites like a snake,
and poisons like a viper.
³³ Your eyes will see strange things,
and your mind will imagine confusing things.
³⁴ Yes, you will be as he who lies down in the
middle of the sea,
or as he who lies on top of the rigging:
³⁵ "They hit me, and I was not hurt!
They beat me, and I don't feel it!
When will I wake up? I can do it again.
I will look for more."

24

¹ Don't be envious of evil men,
neither desire to be with them;
² for their hearts plot violence
and their lips talk about mischief.
³ Through wisdom a house is built;
by understanding it is established;
⁴ by knowledge the rooms are filled
with all rare and beautiful treasure.
⁵ A wise man has great power.
A knowledgeable man increases strength,
⁶ for by wise guidance you wage your war,

Notes

²⁵ but it will go well with those who convict the guilty,
and a rich blessing will come on them.

²⁶ An honest answer
is like a kiss on the lips.

²⁷ Prepare your work outside,
and get your fields ready.
Afterwards, build your house.

²⁸ Don't be a witness against your neighbor without
cause.

Don't deceive with your lips.

²⁹ Don't say, "I will do to him as he has done to me;
I will repay the man according to his work."

³⁰ I went by the field of the sluggard,
by the vineyard of the man void of understanding.

³¹ Behold, it was all grown over with thorns.

Its surface was covered with nettles,
and its stone wall was broken down.

³² Then I saw, and considered well.

I saw, and received instruction:

³³ a little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to sleep,

³⁴ so your poverty will come as a robber
and your want as an armed man.

25

¹ These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the
men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

² It is the glory of God to conceal a thing,
but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

³ As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.

⁴ Take away the dross from the silver,
and material comes out for the refiner.

⁵ Take away the wicked from the king's presence,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

⁶ Don't exalt yourself in the presence of the king,
or claim a place among great men;

⁷ for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up
here,"

than that you should be put lower in the presence
of the prince,

whom your eyes have seen.

⁸ Don't be hasty in bringing charges to court.

What will you do in the end when your neighbor
shames you?

⁹ Debate your case with your neighbor,
and don't betray the confidence of another,

¹⁰ lest one who hears it put you to shame,
and your bad reputation never depart.

¹¹ A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
¹² As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine
gold,
so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear.
¹³ As the cold of snow in the time of harvest,
so is a faithful messenger to those who send him;
for he refreshes the soul of his masters.
¹⁴ As clouds and wind without rain,
so is he who boasts of gifts deceptively.
¹⁵ By patience a ruler is persuaded.
A soft tongue breaks the bone.
¹⁶ Have you found honey?
Eat as much as is sufficient for you,
lest you eat too much, and vomit it.
¹⁷ Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,
lest he be weary of you, and hate you.
¹⁸ A man who gives false testimony against his
neighbor
is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow.
¹⁹ Confidence in someone unfaithful in time of
trouble
is like a bad tooth or a lame foot.
²⁰ As one who takes away a garment in cold
weather,
or vinegar on soda,
so is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.
²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat.
If he is thirsty, give him water to drink;
²² for you will heap coals of fire on his head,
and Yahweh will reward you.
²³ The north wind produces rain;
so a backbiting tongue brings an angry face.
²⁴ It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop
than to share a house with a contentious woman.
²⁵ Like cold water to a thirsty soul,
so is good news from a far country.
²⁶ Like a muddied spring and a polluted well,
so is a righteous man who gives way before the
wicked.
²⁷ It is not good to eat much honey,
nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.
²⁸ Like a city that is broken down and without walls
is a man whose spirit is without restraint.

26

¹ Like snow in summer, and as rain in harvest,
so honor is not fitting for a fool.
² Like a fluttering sparrow,
like a darting swallow,
so the undeserved curse doesn't come to rest.

Notes

Notes

- ³ A whip is for the horse,
a bridle for the donkey,
and a rod for the back of fools!
- ⁴ Don't answer a fool according to his folly,
lest you also be like him.
- ⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes.
- ⁶ One who sends a message by the hand of a fool
is cutting off feet and drinking violence.
- ⁷ Like the legs of the lame that hang loose,
so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
- ⁸ As one who binds a stone in a sling,
so is he who gives honor to a fool.
- ⁹ Like a thorn bush that goes into the hand of a
drunkard,
so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
- ¹⁰ As an archer who wounds all,
so is he who hires a fool
or he who hires those who pass by.
- ¹¹ As a dog that returns to his vomit,
so is a fool who 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 fierce lion roams the streets!"
- ¹⁴ As the door turns on its hinges,
so does the sluggard on his bed.
- ¹⁵ The sluggard buries his hand in the dish.
He is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.
- ¹⁶ The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
than seven men who answer with discretion.
- ¹⁷ Like one who grabs a dog's ears
is one who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not
his own.
- ¹⁸ Like a madman who shoots torches, arrows, and
death,
- ¹⁹ is the man who deceives his neighbor and says,
"Am I not joking?"
- ²⁰ For lack of wood a fire goes out.
Without gossip, a quarrel dies down.
- ²¹ As coals are to hot embers,
and wood to fire,
so is a contentious man to kindling strife.
- ²² The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels,
they go down into the innermost parts.
- ²³ Like silver dross on an earthen vessel
are the lips of a fervent one with an evil heart.
- ²⁴ A malicious man disguises himself with his lips,
but he harbors evil in his heart.
- ²⁵ When his speech is charming, don't believe him,
for there are seven abominations in his heart.

Notes

†27:20 Sheol is the place of the dead.

- ¹⁷ Iron sharpens iron;
so a man sharpens his friend's countenance.
- ¹⁸ Whoever tends the fig tree shall eat its fruit.
He who looks after his master shall be honored.
- ¹⁹ Like water reflects a face,
so a man's heart reflects the man.
- ²⁰ Sheol[†] and Abaddon are never satisfied;
and a man's eyes are never satisfied.
- ²¹ The crucible is for silver,
and the furnace for gold;
but man is refined by his praise.
- ²² Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle
along with grain,
yet his foolishness will not be removed from him.
- ²³ Know well the state of your flocks,
and pay attention to your herds,
- ²⁴ for riches are not forever,
nor does the crown endure to all generations.
- ²⁵ The hay is removed, and the new growth appears,
the grasses of the hills are gathered in.
- ²⁶ The lambs are for your clothing,
and the goats are the price of a field.
- ²⁷ There will be plenty of goats' milk for your food,
for your family's food,
and for the nourishment of your servant girls.

28

- ¹ The wicked flee when no one pursues;
but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
- ² In rebellion, a land has many rulers,
but order is maintained by a man of understanding
and knowledge.
- ³ A needy man who oppresses the poor
is like a driving rain which leaves no crops.
- ⁴ Those who forsake the law praise the wicked;
but those who keep the law contend with them.
- ⁵ Evil men don't understand justice;
but those who seek Yahweh understand it fully.
- ⁶ Better is the poor who walks in his integrity
than he who is perverse in his ways, and he is rich.
- ⁷ Whoever keeps the law is a wise son;
but he who is a companion of gluttons shames his
father.
- ⁸ He who increases his wealth by excessive interest
gathers it for one who has pity on the poor.
- ⁹ He who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
even his prayer is an abomination.
- ¹⁰ Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil
way,
he will fall into his own trap;

Notes

³ Whoever loves wisdom brings joy to his father;
but a companion of prostitutes squanders his
wealth.

⁴ The king by justice makes the land stable,
but he who takes bribes tears it down.

⁵ A man who flatters his neighbor
spreads a net for his feet.

⁶ An evil man is snared by his sin,
but the righteous can sing and be glad.

⁷ The righteous care about justice for the poor.
The wicked aren't concerned about knowledge.

⁸ Mockers stir up a city,
but wise men turn away anger.

⁹ If a wise man goes to court with a foolish man,
the fool rages or scoffs, and there is no peace.

¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate a man of integrity;
and they seek the life of the upright.

¹¹ A fool vents all of his anger,
but a wise man brings himself under control.

¹² If a ruler listens to lies,
all of his officials are wicked.

¹³ The poor man and the oppressor have this in
common:

Yahweh gives sight to the eyes of both.

¹⁴ The king who fairly judges the poor,
his throne shall be established forever.

¹⁵ The rod of correction gives wisdom,
but a child left to himself causes shame to his
mother.

¹⁶ When the wicked increase, sin increases;
but the righteous will see their downfall.

¹⁷ Correct your son, and he will give you peace;
yes, he will bring delight to your soul.

¹⁸ Where there is no revelation, the people cast off
restraint;

but one who keeps the law is blessed.

¹⁹ A servant can't be corrected by words.
Though he understands, yet he will not respond.

²⁰ Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

²¹ He who pampers his servant from youth
will have him become a son in the end.

²² An angry man stirs up strife,
and a wrathful man abounds in sin.

²³ A man's pride brings him low,
but one of lowly spirit gains honor.

²⁴ Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy
of his own soul.

He takes an oath, but dares not testify.

²⁵ The fear of man proves to be a snare,
but whoever puts his trust in Yahweh is kept safe.

Notes

†30:16 Sheol is the place of the dead.

¹⁵ "The leech has two daughters:

'Give, give.'

"There are three things that are never satisfied;
four that don't say, 'Enough!':

¹⁶ Sheol,[†]

the barren womb,

the earth that is not satisfied with water,

and the fire that doesn't say, 'Enough!'

¹⁷ "The eye that mocks at his father,
and scorns obedience to his mother,
the ravens of the valley shall pick it out,
the young eagles shall eat it.

¹⁸ "There are three things which are too amazing for
me,

four which I don't understand:

¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the air,

the way of a serpent on a rock,

the way of a ship in the middle of the sea,

and the way of a man with a maiden.

²⁰ "So is the way of an adulterous woman:

She eats and wipes her mouth,

and says, 'I have done nothing wrong.'

²¹ "For three things the earth trembles,

and under four, it can't bear up:

²² For a servant when he is king,

a fool when he is filled with food,

²³ for an unloved woman when she is married,

and a servant who is heir to her mistress.

²⁴ "There are four things which are little on the
earth,

but they are exceedingly wise:

²⁵ The ants are not a strong people,

yet they provide their food in the summer.

²⁶ The hyraxes are but a feeble folk,

yet make they their houses in the rocks.

²⁷ The locusts have no king,

yet they advance in ranks.

²⁸ You can catch a lizard with your hands,

yet it is in kings' palaces.

²⁹ "There are three things which are stately in their
march,

four which are stately in going:

³⁰ The lion, which is mightiest among animals,

and doesn't turn away for any;

³¹ the greyhound;
the male goat;
and the king against whom there is no rising up.

³² “If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself,
or if you have thought evil,
put your hand over your mouth.

³³ For as the churning of milk produces butter,
and the wringing of the nose produces blood,
so the forcing of wrath produces strife.”

31

¹ The words of King Lemuel—the revelation which
his mother taught him:

² “Oh, my son!

Oh, son of my womb!

Oh, son of my vows!

³ Don’t give your strength to women,
nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

⁴ It is not for kings, Lemuel,
it is not for kings to drink wine,
nor for princes to say, ‘Where is strong drink?’

⁵ lest they drink, and forget the law,
and pervert the justice due to anyone who is
afflicted.

⁶ Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish,
and wine to the bitter in soul.

⁷ Let him drink, and forget his poverty,
and remember his misery no more.

⁸ Open your mouth for the mute,
in the cause of all who are left desolate.

⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously,
and serve justice to the poor and needy.”

¹⁰ †Who can find a worthy woman?

For her value is far above rubies.

¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her.

He shall have no lack of gain.

¹² She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

¹³ She seeks wool and flax,
and works eagerly with her hands.

¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships.
She brings her bread from afar.

¹⁵ She rises also while it is yet night,
gives food to her household,
and portions for her servant girls.

¹⁶ She considers a field, and buys it.

With the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷ She arms her waist with strength,

Notes

†31:10 Proverbs 31:10-31 form an
acrostic, with each verse starting with
each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in
order.

Notes

and makes her arms strong.

¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp doesn't go out by night.

¹⁹ She lays her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor;
yes, she extends her hands to the needy.

²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household,
for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

²² She makes for herself carpets of tapestry.
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

²³ Her husband is respected in the gates,
when he sits among the elders of the land.

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them,
and delivers sashes to the merchant.

²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing.
She laughs at the time to come.

²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom.
Kind instruction is on her tongue.

²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household,
and doesn't eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed.
Her husband also praises her:

²⁹ "Many women do noble things,
but you excel them all."

³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain;
but a woman who fears Yahweh, she shall be
praised.

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands!
Let her works praise her in the gates!

