

## Proverbs

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young-- Let the

5 wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head, and

10 pendants for your neck. My child, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us wantonly ambush the innocent; like Sheol let us swallow them alive and whole, like those who go down to the Pit. We shall find all kinds of costly things; we shall fill our houses with booty. Throw in your lot among us; we will all

15 have one purse"-- my child, do not walk in their way, keep your foot from their paths; for their feet run to evil, and they hurry to shed blood. For in vain is the net baited while the bird is looking on; yet they lie in wait--to kill themselves! and set an ambush--for their own lives! Such is the end of all who are greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its possessors. Wisdom

20 cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest

corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long,  
O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight  
in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will  
pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because  
5 I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one  
heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none  
of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic  
strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes  
like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will  
10 call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will  
not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of  
the LORD, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof,  
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own  
devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools  
15 destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at  
ease, without dread of disaster." My child, if you accept my words and  
treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to  
wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for  
insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and  
20 search for it as for hidden treasures-- then you will understand the fear of

the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound  
wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,  
guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones.

5 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good  
path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant  
to your soul; prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard  
you. It will save you from the way of evil, from those who speak  
perversely, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of  
10 darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil;  
those whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. You will  
be saved from the loose woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words,  
who forsakes the partner of her youth and forgets her sacred covenant; for  
her way leads down to death, and her paths to the shades; those who go to  
15 her never come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. Therefore walk in  
the way of the good, and keep to the paths of the just. For the upright will  
abide in the land, and the innocent will remain in it; but the wicked will be  
cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it. My child,  
do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for  
20 length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do

not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good  
repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the LORD with all your  
heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge  
5 him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own  
eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your  
flesh and a refreshment for your body. Honor the LORD with your substance  
and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled  
with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. My child, do not  
10 despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD  
reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. Happy  
are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income  
is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious  
than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in  
15 her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of  
pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who  
lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy. The LORD by  
wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by  
his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. My  
20 child, do not let these escape from your sight: keep sound wisdom and

prudence, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.

Then you will walk on your way securely and your foot will not stumble. If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden panic, or of the storm that strikes the

5 wicked; for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it" --when you have it with you. Do not plan harm against your neighbor who lives trustingly beside you. Do not quarrel

10 with anyone without cause, when no harm has been done to you. Do not envy the violent and do not choose any of their ways; for the perverse are an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence. The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the abode of the righteous. Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he shows

15 favor. The wise will inherit honor, but stubborn fools, disgrace. Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight; for I give you good precepts: do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, and my mother's favorite, he taught me, and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and

20 live. Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words

of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown." Hear, my child, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered; and if you run, you will not stumble. Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what they stumble over. My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked

speech, and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly  
forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Keep straight the path of your  
feet, and all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the  
left; turn your foot away from evil. My child, be attentive to my wisdom;  
5 incline your ear to my understanding, so that you may hold on to prudence,  
and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a loose woman drip  
honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as  
wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her  
steps follow the path to Sheol. She does not keep straight to the path of life;  
10 her ways wander, and she does not know it. And now, my child, listen to  
me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far  
from her, and do not go near the door of her house; or you will give your  
honor to others, and your years to the merciless, and strangers will take their  
fill of your wealth, and your labors will go to the house of an alien; and at  
15 the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are  
consumed, and you say, "Oh, how I hated discipline, and my heart despised  
reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my  
instructors. Now I am at the point of utter ruin in the public assembly."  
Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.  
20 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let

them be for yourself alone, and not for sharing with strangers. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. May her breasts satisfy you at all times; may you be intoxicated always by her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, by another woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? For human ways are under the eyes of the LORD, and he examines all their paths. The iniquities of the wicked ensnare them, and they are caught in the toils of their sin. They die for lack of discipline, and because of their great folly they are lost. My child, if you have given your pledge to your neighbor, if you have bound yourself to another, you are snared by the utterance of your lips, caught by the words of your mouth. So do this, my child, and save yourself, for you have come into your neighbor's power: go, hurry, and plead with your neighbor. Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; save yourself like a gazelle from the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O lazybones? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior. A scoundrel and a



villain goes around with crooked speech, winking the eyes, shuffling the feet,  
pointing the fingers, with perverted mind devising evil, continually sowing  
discord; on such a one calamity will descend suddenly; in a moment, damage  
beyond repair. There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an  
5 abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed  
innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to  
evil, a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a  
family. My child, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your  
mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart always; tie them around your  
10 neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will  
watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the  
commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of  
discipline are the way of life, to preserve you from the wife of another,  
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. Do not desire her beauty in your  
15 heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; for a prostitute's fee  
is only a loaf of bread, but the wife of another stalks a man's very life. Can  
fire be carried in the bosom without burning one's clothes? Or can one walk  
on hot coals without scorching the feet? So is he who sleeps with his  
neighbor's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. Thieves are not  
20 despised who steal only to satisfy their appetite when they are hungry. Yet if

they are caught, they will pay sevenfold; they will forfeit all the goods of  
their house. But he who commits adultery has no sense; he who does it  
destroys himself. He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not  
be wiped away. For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he shows no  
5 restraint when he takes revenge. He will accept no compensation, and refuses  
a bribe no matter how great. My child, keep my words and store up my  
commandments with you; keep my commandments and live, keep my  
teachings as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers, write them on  
the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call  
10 insight your intimate friend, that they may keep you from the loose woman,  
from the adulteress with her smooth words. For at the window of my house  
I looked out through my lattice, and I saw among the simple ones, I  
observed among the youths, a young man without sense, passing along the  
street near her corner, taking the road to her house in the twilight, in the  
15 evening, at the time of night and darkness. Then a woman comes toward  
him, decked out like a prostitute, wily of heart. She is loud and wayward;  
her feet do not stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, and at  
every corner she lies in wait. She seizes him and kisses him, and with  
impudent face she says to him: "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have  
20 paid my vows; so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly,

and I have found you! I have decked my couch with coverings, colored  
spreads of Egyptian linen; I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and  
cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight  
ourselves with love. For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long  
5 journey. He took a bag of money with him; he will not come home until  
full moon." With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth  
talk she compels him. Right away he follows her, and goes like an ox to the  
slaughter, or bounds like a stag toward the trap until an arrow pierces its  
entrails. He is like a bird rushing into a snare, not knowing that it will cost  
10 him his life. And now, my children, listen to me, and be attentive to the  
words of my mouth. Do not let your hearts turn aside to her ways; do not  
stray into her paths. for many are those she has laid low, and numerous are  
her victims. Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of  
death. Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On  
15 the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the  
gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To  
you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn  
prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble  
things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter  
20 truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth

are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all  
straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. Take  
my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for  
wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare  
5 with her. I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and  
discretion. The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and  
the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. I have good advice and sound  
wisdom; I have insight, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree  
what is just; by me rulers rule, and nobles, all who govern rightly. I love  
10 those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Riches and  
honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than  
gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of  
righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who  
love me, and filling their treasuries. The LORD created me at the beginning  
15 of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the  
first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was  
brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the  
mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth-- when he  
had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he  
20 established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of

the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the  
fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the  
waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the  
foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I  
5 was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited  
world and delighting in the human race. And now, my children, listen to me:  
happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do  
not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my  
gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains  
10 favor from the LORD; but those who miss me injure themselves; all who  
hate me love death." Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven  
pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has  
also set her table. She has sent out her servant girls, she calls from the  
highest places in the town, "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those  
15 without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I  
have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."  
Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets  
hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked,  
will love you. Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;  
20 teach the righteous and they will gain in learning. The fear of the LORD is

the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For  
by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. If  
you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.  
The foolish woman is loud; she is ignorant and knows nothing. She sits at  
5 the door of her house, on a seat at the high places of the town, calling to  
those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, "You who are  
simple, turn in here!" And to those without sense she says, "Stolen water is  
sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." But they do not know that the  
dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol. The proverbs of  
10 Solomon. A wise child makes a glad father, but a foolish child is a mother's  
grief. Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers  
from death. The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts  
the craving of the wicked. A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the  
diligent makes rich. A child who gathers in summer is prudent, but a child  
15 who sleeps in harvest brings shame. Blessings are on the head of the  
righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. The memory of the  
righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot. The wise of  
heart will heed commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.  
Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever follows perverse  
20 ways will be found out. Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, but the one

who rebukes boldly makes peace. The mouth of the righteous is a fountain  
of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. Hatred stirs up strife,  
but love covers all offenses. On the lips of one who has understanding  
wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of one who lacks sense. The  
5 wise lay up knowledge, but the babbling of a fool brings ruin near. The  
wealth of the rich is their fortress; the poverty of the poor is their ruin. The  
wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin. Whoever  
heeds instruction is on the path to life, but one who rejects a rebuke goes  
astray. Lying lips conceal hatred, and whoever utters slander is a fool. When  
10 words are many, transgression is not lacking, but the prudent are restrained  
in speech. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the mind of the  
wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die  
for lack of sense. The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no  
sorrow with it. Doing wrong is like sport to a fool, but wise conduct is  
15 pleasure to a person of understanding. What the wicked dread will come  
upon them, but the desire of the righteous will be granted. When the tempest  
passes, the wicked are no more, but the righteous are established forever.  
Like vinegar to the teeth, and smoke to the eyes, so are the lazy to their  
employers. The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked  
20 will be short. The hope of the righteous ends in gladness, but the expectation

of the wicked comes to nothing. The way of the LORD is a stronghold for the upright, but destruction for evildoers. The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not remain in the land. The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked  
5 what is perverse. A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but an accurate weight is his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. Riches do not profit in the day  
10 of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless keeps their ways straight, but the wicked fall by their own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright saves them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their schemes. When the wicked die, their hope perishes, and the expectation of the godless comes to nothing. The righteous are  
15 delivered from trouble, and the wicked get into it instead. With their mouths the godless would destroy their neighbors, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. Whoever belittles  
20 another lacks sense, but an intelligent person remains silent. A gossip goes



about telling secrets, but one who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a confidence.

Where there is no guidance, a nation falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. To guarantee loans for a stranger brings trouble, but there is safety in refusing to do so. A gracious woman gets honor, but she who hates

5 virtue is covered with shame. The timid become destitute, but the aggressive gain riches. Those who are kind reward themselves, but the cruel do themselves harm. The wicked earn no real gain, but those who sow righteousness get a true reward. Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but whoever pursues evil will die. Crooked minds are an abomination to

10 the LORD, but those of blameless ways are his delight. Be assured, the wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will escape. Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without good sense. The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath. Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due,

15 and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. The people curse those who hold back grain, but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it. Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to the one who searches for it. Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

20 Those who trouble their households will inherit wind, and the fool will be

servant to the wise. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but violence takes lives away. If the righteous are repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner! Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but those who hate to be rebuked are stupid. The good obtain favor from the LORD,  
5 but those who devise evil he condemns. No one finds security by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved. A good wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones. The thoughts of the righteous are just; the advice of the wicked is treacherous. The words of the wicked are a deadly ambush, but the speech  
10 of the upright delivers them. The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand. One is commended for good sense, but a perverse mind is despised. Better to be despised and have a servant, than to be self-important and lack food. The righteous know the needs of their animals, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. Those who till their land  
15 will have plenty of food, but those who follow worthless pursuits have no sense. The wicked covet the proceeds of wickedness, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. The evil are ensnared by the transgression of their lips, but the righteous escape from trouble. From the fruit of the mouth one is filled with good things, and manual labor has its reward. Fools think their  
20 own way is right, but the wise listen to advice. Fools show their anger at

once, but the prudent ignore an insult. Whoever speaks the truth gives honest  
evidence, but a false witness speaks deceitfully. Rash words are like sword  
thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure  
forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. Deceit is in the mind of  
5 those who plan evil, but those who counsel peace have joy. No harm  
happens to the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. Lying lips  
are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his  
delight. One who is clever conceals knowledge, but the mind of a fool  
broadcasts folly. The hand of the diligent will rule, while the lazy will be  
10 put to forced labor. Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word  
cheers it up. The righteous gives good advice to friends, but the way of the  
wicked leads astray. The lazy do not roast their game, but the diligent obtain  
precious wealth. In the path of righteousness there is life, in walking its path  
there is no death. A wise child loves discipline, but a scoffer does not listen  
15 to rebuke. From the fruit of their words good persons eat good things, but  
the desire of the treacherous is for wrongdoing. Those who guard their  
mouths preserve their lives; those who open wide their lips come to ruin.  
The appetite of the lazy craves, and gets nothing, while the appetite of the  
diligent is richly supplied. The righteous hate falsehood, but the wicked act  
20 shamefully and disgracefully. Righteousness guards one whose way is upright,

but sin overthrows the wicked. Some pretend to be rich, yet have nothing;  
others pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth. Wealth is a ransom for a  
person's life, but the poor get no threats. The light of the righteous rejoices,  
but the lamp of the wicked goes out. By insolence the heedless make strife,  
5 but wisdom is with those who take advice. Wealth hastily gotten will  
dwindle, but those who gather little by little will increase it. Hope deferred  
makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. Those who  
despise the word bring destruction on themselves, but those who respect the  
commandment will be rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of  
10 life, so that one may avoid the snares of death. Good sense wins favor, but  
the way of the faithless is their ruin. The clever do all things intelligently,  
but the fool displays folly. A bad messenger brings trouble, but a faithful  
envoy, healing. Poverty and disgrace are for the one who ignores instruction,  
but one who heeds reproof is honored. A desire realized is sweet to the soul,  
15 but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools. Whoever walks with  
the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm. Misfortune  
pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous. The good leave an  
inheritance to their children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for  
the righteous. The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept  
20 away through injustice. Those who spare the rod hate their children, but

those who love them are diligent to discipline them. The righteous have  
enough to satisfy their appetite, but the belly of the wicked is empty. The  
wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own  
hands. Those who walk uprightly fear the LORD, but one who is devious in  
5 conduct despises him. The talk of fools is a rod for their backs, but the lips  
of the wise preserve them. Where there are no oxen, there is no grain;  
abundant crops come by the strength of the ox. A faithful witness does not  
lie, but a false witness breathes out lies. A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but  
knowledge is easy for one who understands. Leave the presence of a fool,  
10 for there you do not find words of knowledge. It is the wisdom of the  
clever to understand where they go, but the folly of fools misleads. Fools  
mock at the guilt offering, but the upright enjoy God's favor. The heart  
knows its own bitterness, and no stranger shares its joy. The house of the  
wicked is destroyed, but the tent of the upright flourishes. There is a way  
15 that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death. Even in  
laughter the heart is sad, and the end of joy is grief. The perverse get what  
their ways deserve, and the good, what their deeds deserve. The simple  
believe everything, but the clever consider their steps. The wise are cautious  
and turn away from evil, but the fool throws off restraint and is careless.  
20 One who is quick-tempered acts foolishly, and the schemer is hated. The

simple are adorned with folly, but the clever are crowned with knowledge.

The evil bow down before the good, the wicked at the gates of the  
righteous. The poor are disliked even by their neighbors, but the rich have  
many friends. Those who despise their neighbors are sinners, but happy are  
5 those who are kind to the poor. Do they not err that plan evil? Those who  
plan good find loyalty and faithfulness. In all toil there is profit, but mere  
talk leads only to poverty. The crown of the wise is their wisdom, but folly  
is the garland of fools. A truthful witness saves lives, but one who utters  
lies is a betrayer. In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and  
10 one's children will have a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of  
life, so that one may avoid the snares of death. The glory of a king is a  
multitude of people; without people a prince is ruined. Whoever is slow to  
anger has great understanding, but one who has a hasty temper exalts folly.  
A tranquil mind gives life to the flesh, but passion makes the bones rot.

15 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to  
the needy honor him. The wicked are overthrown by their evil-doing, but the  
righteous find a refuge in their integrity. Wisdom is at home in the mind of  
one who has understanding, but it is not known in the heart of fools.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. A servant  
20 who deals wisely has the king's favor, but his wrath falls on one who acts

shamefully. A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it

5 breaks the spirit. A fool despises a parent's instruction, but the one who heeds admonition is prudent. In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked. The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the minds of fools. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

10 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves the one who pursues righteousness. There is severe discipline for one who forsakes the way, but one who hates a rebuke will die. Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, how much more human hearts! Scoffers do not like to be rebuked; they will not go to the wise. A glad heart makes a

15 cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. The mind of one who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is

20 than a fatted ox and hatred with it. Those who are hot-tempered stir up

strife, but those who are slow to anger calm contention. The way of the lazy  
is overgrown with thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway. A  
wise child makes a glad father, but the foolish despise their mothers. Folly is  
a joy to one who has no sense, but a person of understanding walks straight  
5 ahead. Without counsel, plans go wrong, but with many advisers they  
succeed. To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone, and a word in season,  
how good it is! For the wise the path of life leads upward, in order to avoid  
Sheol below. The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but maintains  
the widow's boundaries. Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD, but  
10 gracious words are pure. Those who are greedy for unjust gain make trouble  
for their households, but those who hate bribes will live. The mind of the  
righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out  
evil. The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the  
righteous. The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes  
15 the body. The ear that heeds wholesome admonition will lodge among the  
wise. Those who ignore instruction despise themselves, but those who heed  
admonition gain understanding. The fear of the LORD is instruction in  
wisdom, and humility goes before honor. The plans of the mind belong to  
mortals, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All one's ways  
20 may be pure in one's own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. Commit



your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. All those who are arrogant are an abomination to the LORD; be assured, they will not go unpunished. By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,

5 and by the fear of the LORD one avoids evil. When the ways of people please the LORD, he causes even their enemies to be at peace with them. Better is a little with righteousness than large income with injustice. The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps. Inspired decisions are on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin in judgment.

10 Honest balances and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are his work. It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness. Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves those who speak what is right. A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and whoever is wise will appease it. In the light of a king's face there is life,

15 and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain. How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their way preserve their lives. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the

20 spoil with the proud. Those who are attentive to a matter will prosper, and

happy are those who trust in the LORD. The wise of heart is called  
perceptive, and pleasant speech increases persuasiveness. Wisdom is a  
fountain of life to one who has it, but folly is the punishment of fools. The  
mind of the wise makes their speech judicious, and adds persuasiveness to  
5 their lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and  
health to the body. Sometimes there is a way that seems to be right, but in  
the end it is the way to death. The appetite of workers works for them; their  
hunger urges them on. Scoundrels concoct evil, and their speech is like a  
scorching fire. A perverse person spreads strife, and a whisperer separates  
10 close friends. The violent entice their neighbors, and lead them in a way that  
is not good. One who winks the eyes plans perverse things; one who  
compresses the lips brings evil to pass. Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is  
gained in a righteous life. One who is slow to anger is better than the  
mighty, and one whose temper is controlled than one who captures a city.  
15 The lot is cast into the lap, but the decision is the Lord's alone. Better is a  
dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife. A slave who  
deals wisely will rule over a child who acts shamefully, and will share the  
inheritance as one of the family. The crucible is for silver, and the furnace  
is for gold, but the LORD tests the heart. An evildoer listens to wicked lips;  
20 and a liar gives heed to a mischievous tongue. Those who mock the poor

insult their Maker; those who are glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their parents. Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is false speech to a ruler. A bribe is like a magic stone in the eyes of those who give it;

5 wherever they turn they prosper. One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend. A rebuke strikes deeper into a discerning person than a hundred blows into a fool. Evil people seek only rebellion, but a cruel messenger will be sent against them.

Better to meet a she-bear robbed of its cubs than to confront a fool

10 immersed in folly. Evil will not depart from the house of one who returns evil for good. The beginning of strife is like letting out water; so stop before the quarrel breaks out. One who justifies the wicked and one who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD. Why should fools have a price in hand to buy wisdom, when they have no mind to learn? A

15 friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity. It is senseless to give a pledge, to become surety for a neighbor. One who loves transgression loves strife; one who builds a high threshold invites broken bones. The crooked of mind do not prosper, and the perverse of tongue fall into calamity. The one who begets a fool gets trouble; the parent of a fool

20 has no joy. A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries

up the bones. The wicked accept a concealed bribe to pervert the ways of justice. The discerning person looks to wisdom, but the eyes of a fool to the ends of the earth. Foolish children are a grief to their father and bitterness to her who bore them. To impose a fine on the innocent is not right, or to flog  
5 the noble for their integrity. One who spares words is knowledgeable; one who is cool in spirit has understanding. Even fools who keep silent are considered wise; when they close their lips, they are deemed intelligent. The one who lives alone is self-indulgent, showing contempt for all who have sound judgment. A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in  
10 expressing personal opinion. When wickedness comes, contempt comes also; and with dishonor comes disgrace. The words of the mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a gushing stream. It is not right to be partial to the guilty, or to subvert the innocent in judgment. A fool's lips bring strife, and a fool's mouth invites a flogging. The mouths of fools are their ruin,  
15 and their lips a snare to themselves. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. One who is slack in work is close kin to a vandal. The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe. The wealth of the rich is their strong city; in their imagination it is like a high wall. Before  
20 destruction one's heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor. If one

gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame. The human spirit will endure sickness; but a broken spirit--who can bear? An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. A gift opens doors; it gives access to the great. The one who first states a case seems  
5 right, until the other comes and cross-examines. Casting the lot puts an end to disputes and decides between powerful contenders. An ally offended is stronger than a city; such quarreling is like the bars of a castle. From the fruit of the mouth one's stomach is satisfied; the yield of the lips brings satisfaction. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who  
10 love it will eat its fruits. He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD. The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly. Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin. Better the poor walking in integrity than one perverse of speech who is a fool. Desire without knowledge is not good, and one who  
15 moves too hurriedly misses the way. One's own folly leads to ruin, yet the heart rages against the LORD. Wealth brings many friends, but the poor are left friendless. A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will not escape. Many seek the favor of the generous, and everyone is a friend to a giver of gifts. If the poor are hated even by their kin, how much more are  
20 they shunned by their friends! When they call after them, they are not there.

To get wisdom is to love oneself; to keep understanding is to prosper. A false witness will not go unpunished, and the liar will perish. It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, much less for a slave to rule over princes. Those with good sense are slow to anger, and it is their glory to overlook an offense. A king's anger is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass. A stupid child is ruin to a father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain. House and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD. Laziness brings on deep sleep; an idle person will suffer hunger. Those who keep the commandment will live; those who are heedless of their ways will die. Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and will be repaid in full. Discipline your children while there is hope; do not set your heart on their destruction. A violent tempered person will pay the penalty; if you effect a rescue, you will only have to do it again. Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future. The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established. What is desirable in a person is loyalty, and it is better to be poor than a liar. The fear of the LORD is life indeed; filled with it one rests secure and suffers no harm. The lazy person buries a hand in the dish, and will not even bring it back to the mouth. Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove the

intelligent, and they will gain knowledge. Those who do violence to their  
father and chase away their mother are children who cause shame and bring  
reproach. Cease straying, my child, from the words of knowledge, in order  
that you may hear instruction. A worthless witness mocks at justice, and the  
5 mouth of the wicked devours iniquity. Condemnation is ready for scoffers,  
and flogging for the backs of fools. Wine is a mocker, strong drink a  
brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. The dread anger of a  
king is like the growling of a lion; anyone who provokes him to anger  
forfeits life itself. It is honorable to refrain from strife, but every fool is  
10 quick to quarrel. The lazy person does not plow in season; harvest comes,  
and there is nothing to be found. The purposes in the human mind are like  
deep water, but the intelligent will draw them out. Many proclaim themselves  
loyal, but who can find one worthy of trust? The righteous walk in integrity-  
- happy are the children who follow them! A king who sits on the throne of  
15 judgment winnows all evil with his eyes. Who can say, "I have made my  
heart clean; I am pure from my sin"? Diverse weights and diverse measures  
are both alike an abomination to the LORD. Even children make themselves  
known by their acts, by whether what they do is pure and right. The hearing  
ear and the seeing eye-- the LORD has made them both. Do not love sleep,  
20 or else you will come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty

of bread. "Bad, bad," says the buyer, then goes away and boasts. There is gold, and abundance of costly stones; but the lips informed by knowledge are a precious jewel. Take the garment of one who has given surety for a stranger; seize the pledge given as surety for foreigners. Bread gained by

5 deceit is sweet, but afterward the mouth will be full of gravel. Plans are established by taking advice; wage war by following wise guidance. A gossip reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a babbler. If you curse father or mother, your lamp will go out in utter darkness. An estate quickly acquired in the beginning will not be blessed in the end. Do not say, "I will

10 repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will help you. Differing weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good. All our steps are ordered by the LORD; how then can we understand our own ways? It is a snare for one to say rashly, "It is holy," and begin to reflect only after making a vow. A wise king winnows the wicked, and drives the wheel over

15 them. The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD, searching every innermost part. Loyalty and faithfulness preserve the king, and his throne is upheld by righteousness. The glory of youths is their strength, but the beauty of the aged is their gray hair. Blows that wound cleanse away evil; beatings make clean the innermost parts. The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand

20 of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. All deeds are right in the sight



of the doer, but the LORD weighs the heart. To do righteousness and justice  
is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. Haughty eyes and a proud  
heart-- the lamp of the wicked--are sin. The plans of the diligent lead surely  
to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want. The getting of  
5 treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death. The  
violence of the wicked will sweep them away, because they refuse to do  
what is just. The way of the guilty is crooked, but the conduct of the pure  
is right. It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house  
shared with a contentious wife. The souls of the wicked desire evil; their  
10 neighbors find no mercy in their eyes. When a scoffer is punished, the  
simple become wiser; when the wise are instructed, they increase in  
knowledge. The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked; he casts  
the wicked down to ruin. If you close your ear to the cry of the poor, you  
will cry out and not be heard. A gift in secret averts anger; and a concealed  
15 bribe in the bosom, strong wrath. When justice is done, it is a joy to the  
righteous, but dismay to evildoers. Whoever wanders from the way of  
understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead. Whoever loves pleasure  
will suffer want; whoever loves wine and oil will not be rich. The wicked is  
a ransom for the righteous, and the faithless for the upright. It is better to  
20 live in a desert land than with a contentious and fretful wife. Precious

treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it. Whoever  
pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor. One wise person  
went up against a city of warriors and brought down the stronghold in which  
they trusted. To watch over mouth and tongue is to keep out of trouble. The  
5 proud, haughty person, named "Scoffer," acts with arrogant pride. The craving  
of the lazy person is fatal, for lazy hands refuse to labor. All day long the  
wicked covet, but the righteous give and do not hold back. The sacrifice of  
the wicked is an abomination; how much more when brought with evil  
intent. A false witness will perish, but a good listener will testify  
10 successfully. The wicked put on a bold face, but the upright give thought to  
their ways. No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel, can avail against the  
LORD. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory  
belongs to the LORD. A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in  
15 common: the LORD is the maker of them all. The clever see danger and  
hide; but the simple go on, and suffer for it. The reward for humility and  
fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life. Thorns and snares are in the  
way of the perverse; the cautious will keep far from them. Train children in  
the right way, and when old, they will not stray. The rich rules over the  
20 poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. Whoever sows injustice

will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous  
are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Drive out a scoffer, and  
strife goes out; quarreling and abuse will cease. Those who love a pure heart  
and are gracious in speech will have the king as a friend. The eyes of the  
5 LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the  
faithless. The lazy person says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in  
the streets!" The mouth of a loose woman is a deep pit; he with whom the  
LORD is angry falls into it. Folly is bound up in the heart of a boy, but  
the rod of discipline drives it far away. Oppressing the poor in order to  
10 enrich oneself, and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss. The words of  
the wise: Incline your ear and hear my words, and apply your mind to my  
teaching; for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them  
are ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the LORD, I have  
made them known to you today--yes, to you. Have I not written for you  
15 thirty sayings of admonition and knowledge, to show you what is right and  
true, so that you may give a true answer to those who sent you? Do not rob  
the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the  
LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them. Make  
no friends with those given to anger, and do not associate with hotheads, or  
20 you may learn their ways and entangle yourself in a snare. Do not be one of

those who give pledges, who become surety for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you? Do not remove the ancient landmark that your ancestors set up. Do you see those who are skillful in their work? they will serve kings; they will not serve  
5 common people. When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you have a big appetite. Do not desire the ruler's delicacies, for they are deceptive food. Do not wear yourself out to get rich; be wise enough to desist. When your eyes light upon it, it is gone; for suddenly it takes wings to itself, flying like an  
10 eagle toward heaven. Do not eat the bread of the stingy; do not desire their delicacies; for like a hair in the throat, so are they. "Eat and drink!" they say to you; but they do not mean it. You will vomit up the little you have eaten, and you will waste your pleasant words. Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, who will only despise the wisdom of your words. Do not remove  
15 an ancient landmark or encroach on the fields of orphans, for their redeemer is strong; he will plead their cause against you. Apply your mind to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge. Do not withhold discipline from your children; if you beat them with a rod, they will not die. If you beat them with the rod, you will save their lives from Sheol. My child, if  
20 your heart is wise, my heart too will be glad. My soul will rejoice when

your lips speak what is right. Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always  
continue in the fear of the LORD. Surely there is a future, and your hope  
will not be cut off. Hear, my child, and be wise, and direct your mind in  
the way. Do not be among winebibbers, or among gluttonous eaters of meat;  
5 for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will  
clothe them with rags. Listen to your father who begot you, and do not  
despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy  
wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will  
greatly rejoice; he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. Let your  
10 father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice. My child, give me  
your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. For a prostitute is a deep  
pit; an adulteress is a narrow well. She lies in wait like a robber and  
increases the number of the faithless. Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who  
has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has  
15 redness of eyes? Those who linger late over wine, those who keep trying  
mixed wines. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the  
cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings  
like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind utter  
perverse things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea,  
20 like one who lies on the top of a mast. "They struck me," you will say,

"but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I  
awake? I will seek another drink." Do not envy the wicked, nor desire to be  
with them; for their minds devise violence, and their lips talk of mischief.  
By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by  
5 knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Wise  
warriors are mightier than strong ones, and those who have knowledge than  
those who have strength; for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and  
in abundance of counselors there is victory. Wisdom is too high for fools; in  
the gate they do not open their mouths. Whoever plans to do evil will be  
10 called a mischief-maker. The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an  
abomination to all. If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength being  
small; if you hold back from rescuing those taken away to death, those who  
go staggering to the slaughter; if you say, "Look, we did not know this"--  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch  
15 over your soul know it? And will he not repay all according to their deeds?  
My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are  
sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it,  
you will find a future, and your hope will not be cut off. Do not lie in wait  
like an outlaw against the home of the righteous; do no violence to the place  
20 where the righteous live; for though they fall seven times, they will rise

again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity. Do not rejoice when your enemies fall, and do not let your heart be glad when they stumble, or else the LORD will see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from them. Do not fret because of evildoers. Do not envy the wicked; for the evil have  
5 no future; the lamp of the wicked will go out. My child, fear the LORD and the king, and do not disobey either of them; for disaster comes from them suddenly, and who knows the ruin that both can bring? These also are sayings of the wise: Partiality in judging is not good. Whoever says to the wicked, "You are innocent," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations;  
10 but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them. One who gives an honest answer gives a kiss on the lips. Prepare your work outside, get everything ready for you in the field; and after that build your house. Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips. Do not say, "I will do to  
15 others as they have done to me; I will pay them back for what they have done." I passed by the field of one who was lazy, by the vineyard of a stupid person; and see, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little  
20 slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon

you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior. These are other proverbs  
of Solomon that the officials of King Hezekiah of Judah copied. It is the  
glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things  
out. Like the heavens for height, like the earth for depth, so the mind of  
5 kings is unsearchable. Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith  
has material for a vessel; take away the wicked from the presence of the  
king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. Do not put yourself  
forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is  
better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a  
10 noble. What your eyes have seen do not hastily bring into court; for what  
will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your  
case with your neighbor directly, and do not disclose another's secret; or else  
someone who hears you will bring shame upon you, and your ill repute will  
have no end. A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of  
15 silver. Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise rebuke to a  
listening ear. Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest are faithful  
messengers to those who send them; they refresh the spirit of their masters.  
Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of a gift never given.  
With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue can break bones.  
20 If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, or else, having too much,



you will vomit it. Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,  
otherwise the neighbor will become weary of you and hate you. Like a war  
club, a sword, or a sharp arrow is one who bears false witness against a  
neighbor. Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is trust in a faithless person in  
5 time of trouble. Like vinegar on a wound is one who sings songs to a heavy  
heart. Like a moth in clothing or a worm in wood, sorrow gnaws at the  
human heart. If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat; and if they  
are thirsty, give them water to drink; for you will heap coals of fire on their  
heads, and the LORD will reward you. The north wind produces rain, and a  
10 backbiting tongue, angry looks. It is better to live in a corner of the  
housetop than in a house shared with a contentious wife. Like cold water to  
a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. Like a muddied spring or  
a polluted fountain are the righteous who give way before the wicked. It is  
not good to eat much honey, or to seek honor on top of honor. Like a city  
15 breached, without walls, is one who lacks self-control. Like snow in summer  
or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. Like a sparrow in its  
flitting, like a swallow in its flying, an undeserved curse goes nowhere. A  
whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.  
Do not answer fools according to their folly, or you will be a fool yourself.  
20 Answer fools according to their folly, or they will be wise in their own

eyes. It is like cutting off one's foot and drinking down violence, to send a message by a fool. The legs of a disabled person hang limp; so does a proverb in the mouth of a fool. It is like binding a stone in a sling to give honor to a fool. Like a thornbush brandished by the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. Like an archer who wounds everybody is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard. Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who reverts to his folly. Do you see persons wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for fools than for them. The lazy person says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!" As a door turns on its hinges, so does a lazy person in bed. The lazy person buries a hand in the dish, and is too tired to bring it back to the mouth. The lazy person is wiser in self-esteem than seven who can answer discreetly. Like somebody who takes a passing dog by the ears is one who meddles in the quarrel of another. Like a maniac who shoots deadly firebrands and arrows, so is one who deceives a neighbor and says, "I am only joking!" For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. As charcoal is to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are smooth lips with an evil heart. An enemy dissembles in speaking

while harboring deceit within; when an enemy speaks graciously, do not believe it, for there are seven abominations concealed within; though hatred is covered with guile, the enemy's wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on the one  
5 who starts it rolling. A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin. Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. Let another praise you, and not your own mouth-- a stranger, and not your own lips. A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both. Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but  
10 who is able to stand before jealousy? Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Well meant are the wounds a friend inflicts, but profuse are the kisses of an enemy. The sated appetite spurns honey, but to a ravenous appetite even the bitter is sweet. Like a bird that strays from its nest is one who strays from home. Perfume and incense make the heart glad, but the soul is torn by  
15 trouble. Do not forsake your friend or the friend of your parent; do not go to the house of your kindred in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is nearby than kindred who are far away. Be wise, my child, and make my heart glad, so that I may answer whoever reproaches me. The clever see danger and hide; but the simple go on, and suffer for it. Take the  
20 garment of one who has given surety for a stranger; seize the pledge given

as surety for foreigners. Whoever blesses a neighbor with a loud voice, rising  
early in the morning, will be counted as cursing. A continual dripping on a  
rainy day and a contentious wife are alike; to restrain her is to restrain the  
wind or to grasp oil in the right hand. Iron sharpens iron, and one person  
5 sharpens the wits of another. Anyone who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,  
and anyone who takes care of a master will be honored. Just as water  
reflects the face, so one human heart reflects another. Sheol and Abaddon are  
never satisfied, and human eyes are never satisfied. The crucible is for silver,  
and the furnace is for gold, so a person is tested by being praised. Crush a  
10 fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, but the folly will  
not be driven out. Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention  
to your herds; for riches do not last forever, nor a crown for all generations.  
When the grass is gone, and new growth appears, and the herbage of the  
mountains is gathered, the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats  
15 the price of a field; there will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the  
food of your household and nourishment for your servant girls. The wicked  
flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. When a  
land rebels it has many rulers; but with an intelligent ruler there is lasting  
order. A ruler who oppresses the poor is a beating rain that leaves no food.  
20 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law

struggle against them. The evil do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely. Better to be poor and walk in integrity than to be crooked in one's ways even though rich. Those who keep the law are wise children, but companions of gluttons shame their parents. One who  
5 augments wealth by exorbitant interest gathers it for another who is kind to the poor. When one will not listen to the law, even one's prayers are an abomination. Those who mislead the upright into evil ways will fall into pits of their own making, but the blameless will have a goodly inheritance. The rich is wise in self-esteem, but an intelligent poor person sees through the  
10 pose. When the righteous triumph, there is great glory, but when the wicked prevail, people go into hiding. No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Happy is the one who is never without fear, but one who is hard-hearted will fall into calamity. Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over  
15 a poor people. A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor; but one who hates unjust gain will enjoy a long life. If someone is burdened with the blood of another, let that killer be a fugitive until death; let no one offer assistance. One who walks in integrity will be safe, but whoever follows crooked ways will fall into the Pit. Anyone who tills the land will have  
20 plenty of bread, but one who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of

poverty. The faithful will abound with blessings, but one who is in a hurry  
to be rich will not go unpunished. To show partiality is not good-- yet for a  
piece of bread a person may do wrong. The miser is in a hurry to get rich  
and does not know that loss is sure to come. Whoever rebukes a person will  
5 afterward find more favor than one who flatters with the tongue. Anyone  
who robs father or mother and says, "That is no crime," is partner to a thug.  
The greedy person stirs up strife, but whoever trusts in the LORD will be  
enriched. Those who trust in their own wits are fools; but those who walk in  
wisdom come through safely. Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing,  
10 but one who turns a blind eye will get many a curse. When the wicked  
prevail, people go into hiding; but when they perish, the righteous increase.  
One who is often reprov'd, yet remains stubborn, will suddenly be broken  
beyond healing. When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but  
when the wicked rule, the people groan. A child who loves wisdom makes a  
15 parent glad, but to keep company with prostitutes is to squander one's  
substance. By justice a king gives stability to the land, but one who makes  
heavy exactions ruins it. Whoever flatters a neighbor is spreading a net for  
the neighbor's feet. In the transgression of the evil there is a snare, but the  
righteous sing and rejoice. The righteous know the rights of the poor; the  
20 wicked have no such understanding. Scoffers set a city aflame, but the wise

turn away wrath. If the wise go to law with fools, there is ranting and  
 ridicule without relief. The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, and they seek the  
 life of the upright. A fool gives full vent to anger, but the wise quietly  
 holds it back. If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.

5 The poor and the oppressor have this in common: the LORD gives light to  
 the eyes of both. If a king judges the poor with equity, his throne will be  
 established forever. The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a mother is  
 disgraced by a neglected child. When the wicked are in authority,  
 transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall.

10 Discipline your children, and they will give you rest; they will give delight  
 to your heart. Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint, but  
 happy are those who keep the law. By mere words servants are not  
 disciplined, for though they understand, they will not give heed. Do you see  
 someone who is hasty in speech? There is more hope for a fool than for

15 anyone like that. A slave pampered from childhood will come to a bad end.  
 One given to anger stirs up strife, and the hothead causes much  
 transgression. A person's pride will bring humiliation, but one who is lowly  
 in spirit will obtain honor. To be a partner of a thief is to hate one's own  
 life; one hears the victim's curse, but discloses nothing. The fear of others

20 lays a snare, but one who trusts in the LORD is secure. Many seek the

favor of a ruler, but it is from the LORD that one gets justice. The unjust  
are an abomination to the righteous, but the upright are an abomination to  
the wicked. The words of Agur son of Jakeh. An oracle. Thus says the man:  
I am weary, O God, I am weary, O God. How can I prevail? Surely I am  
5 too stupid to be human; I do not have human understanding. I have not  
learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the holy ones. Who has ascended  
to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in the hollow of the  
hand? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established  
all the ends of the earth? What is the person's name? And what is the name  
10 of the person's child? Surely you know! Every word of God proves true; he  
is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or  
else he will rebuke you, and you will be found a liar. Two things I ask of  
you; do not deny them to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood  
and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I  
15 need, or I shall be full, and deny you, and say, "Who is the LORD?" or I  
shall be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God. Do not slander a  
servant to a master, or the servant will curse you, and you will be held  
guilty. There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their  
mothers. There are those who are pure in their own eyes yet are not  
20 cleansed of their filthiness. There are those--how lofty are their eyes, how



high their eyelids lift! There are those whose teeth are swords, whose teeth  
are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among  
mortals. The leech has two daughters; "Give, give," they cry. Three things  
are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough": Sheol, the barren womb, the  
5 earth ever thirsty for water, and the fire that never says, "Enough." The eye  
that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be pecked out by the  
ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures. Three things are too  
wonderful for me; four I do not understand: the way of an eagle in the sky,  
the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the  
10 way of a man with a girl. This is the way of an adulteress: she eats, and  
wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wrong." Under three things the  
earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up: a slave when he becomes king,  
and a fool when glutted with food; an unloved woman when she gets a  
husband, and a maid when she succeeds her mistress. Four things on earth  
15 are small, yet they are exceedingly wise: the ants are a people without  
strength, yet they provide their food in the summer; the badgers are a people  
without power, yet they make their homes in the rocks; the locusts have no  
king, yet all of them march in rank; the lizard can be grasped in the hand,  
yet it is found in kings' palaces. Three things are stately in their stride; four  
20 are stately in their gait: the lion, which is mightiest among wild animals and

does not turn back before any; the strutting rooster, the he-goat, and a king  
striding before his people. If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if  
you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth. For as pressing  
milk produces curds, and pressing the nose produces blood, so pressing anger  
5 produces strife. The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught  
him: No, my son! No, son of my womb! No, son of my vows! Do not give  
your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. It is not for  
kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to desire  
strong drink; or else they will drink and forget what has been decreed, and  
10 will pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to one who is  
perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their  
poverty, and remember their misery no more. Speak out for those who  
cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the poor and needy. A capable wife who can find? She  
15 is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and  
he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the  
days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She  
is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She  
rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for  
20 her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her

hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her  
arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does  
not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold  
the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to  
5 the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her  
household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing  
is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his  
seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
10 and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and  
the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her  
household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and  
call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: "Many women have  
done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is  
15 vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a share  
in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates. \*

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