

# PROVERBS

## **Conversational Version**

# 1:1 Proverbs of Solomon Son of David, King of Israel

- <sup>2</sup>for knowing wisdom and instruction,  
    for understanding words that give insight,
- <sup>3</sup>for receiving instruction in smart living,  
    goodness, justice, and equity;
- <sup>4</sup>for giving prudence to the simple,  
    and knowledge and discretion to the young;
- <sup>5</sup>for increasing learning in the wise  
    and gaining skill at understanding;
- <sup>6</sup>for understanding proverbs and wise sayings,  
    riddles and profound speech.

<sup>7</sup>Respect for the LORD is the first thing about being wise;  
foolish people despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup>Listen, son, to your father's instruction;  
    don't leave your mother's teaching;  
<sup>9</sup>they'll be a crown for your head  
    and a garland for your neck. Prov 1:7-9

**10**Son, if sinners tempt you, don't give in to them.

<sup>11</sup>If they say, “Come on,  
let’s lie in wait to shed blood  
and ambush innocent people for fun.

<sup>12</sup>*Let's swallow them alive and whole like Sheol,  
like people that go down to the Pit.*

<sup>13</sup>*We'll get precious wealth  
and fill our houses with plunder.*

<sup>14</sup>Throw in your lot with us,  
and we'll share the take"—

**15**don't go with them;  
stay off that road.

<sup>16</sup>They hurry to do harm;  
they run to shed blood.

Prov 1:10-16

<sup>17</sup>There's no point in spreading a net  
while the bird's watching.

<sup>18</sup>Sinners lie in wait for their own blood;  
they ambush their own lives.

<sup>19</sup>That's how it is with people that profit from violence;  
it steals their own lives.

**Prov 1:17-19**

<sup>20</sup>Wisdom shouts in the street;  
it raises its voice in the marketplace.

<sup>21</sup>It cries out from the top of the wall  
and says at the city gate:

<sup>22</sup>"How long, simpletons, will you like being simpletons,  
and you scoffers delight in scoffing,  
and you foolish people hate knowledge?"

<sup>23</sup>Pay attention when I correct you;  
I'll pour out my spirit on you  
and tell you what you need to know.

<sup>24</sup>I called and you wouldn't listen;  
I held out my hand, and you paid no attention.

<sup>25</sup>You ignored my advice;  
you didn't want me to correct you.

<sup>26</sup>So I'll laugh at your misfortune  
and mock you when panic strikes,  
<sup>27</sup>when what you dread comes like a tornado,  
when distress come crashing down on you.

**Prov 1:20-27**

<sup>28</sup>Then you'll call out to me, and I won't answer;  
you'll look for me, but not find me

<sup>29</sup>because you disregarded knowledge  
and chose not to respect the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>You wouldn't accept my advice;  
you despised being corrected;

<sup>31</sup>so you'll eat the fruit of how you lived  
founder on your own schemes.

<sup>32</sup>The waywardness of simpleminded people gets them killed;  
the complacency of fools destroys them.

<sup>33</sup>But the ones that listen to me, live securely;  
they're at ease without dreading misfortune."

**Prov 1:28-33**

**2:1**Son, if you accept what I say  
     and value my commandments,  
**2**if you're attentive to wisdom  
     and inclined to understanding,  
**3**if you cry out for insight  
     and call out for comprehension,  
**4**if you look for it like silver  
     and search for it like treasure—  
**5**then you'll understand *the importance of* reverence for the LORD  
     and find out what it means to know God.

**Prov 2:1-5**

**6**The LORD gives wisdom;  
     knowledge and insight come from him.  
**7**He stores up wisdom for godly people  
     and shields those who maintain integrity  
         **8**and guard justice.  
     He preserves his saints.

**9**Then you'll understand goodness and justice,  
     equity and every proper course of action.

**10**Wisdom will come into your heart,  
     and knowledge will be pleasant to you.

**Prov 2:6-10**

**11**Discretion will come to you;  
     knowledge will watch over you  
         **12**to deliver you from the evil way,  
             from people that say perverse things,  
         **13**who leave the paths of godliness  
             to walk in the dark,  
         **14**who enjoy sinning  
             and revel in its perversity,  
         **15**whose paths are crooked,  
             whose ways are treacherous;  
         **16**to deliver you from immoral women,  
             from the seductive woman  
                 **17**that leaves the husband of her youth  
                     and forgets her covenant with God,  
                 **18**whose house lies on the road to death,

whose footprints lead to the dead.

**19**No man that enters her house ever comes back;

they don't reach the paths that lead to life.

**Prov 2:11-19**

**20**Follow the road good people take;

keep to the paths they follow,

**21**because the godly will live in the land;

the blameless will stay here.

**22**But sinners will be removed from the land;

the treacherous will be uprooted from their country. **Prov 2:20-22**

**3:1**Son, don't forget what I've taught you;

take my commandments to heart;

**2**they'll add peace and length to your life.

**3**Don't let kindness and truth slip away from you;

tie them around your neck;

write them on your heart.

**4**That way you'll find blessing

and have a good reputation with God and people.

**5**Trust in the LORD with all your heart;

don't rely on your own perception.

**6**Acknowledge him in everything you do,

and he'll make straight paths for you to follow.

**7**Don't get the idea that you're smart;

respect the LORD and turn your back on sin.

**8**It will heal your body and refresh your very bones. **Prov 3:1-8**

**9**Honor the LORD with your substance,

the firstfruits of your crops.

**10**Your barns will be full;

your vats will overflow with new wine. **Prov 3:9-10**

**11**Son, don't reject the LORD's discipline

or give up when he corrects you;

**12**he corrects the ones he cares about,

like a father that *disciplines* a son he delights in.

**13**They are blessed who find wisdom,

that gain insight.

<sup>14</sup>It's more profitable than silver;  
it brings greater gains than fine gold.

<sup>15</sup>It's more precious than jewels;  
nothing you desire can compare with it.

<sup>16</sup>Its left hand holds wealth and honor;  
long life is in its right hand.

<sup>17</sup>Its ways are pleasant;  
its paths are peaceful.

<sup>18</sup>It's a life-giving tree for people that pick its fruit;  
everybody that holds onto it is happy.

**Prov 3:11-18**

<sup>19</sup>The LORD founded the earth with wisdom  
and established the heavens with understanding;

<sup>20</sup>he broke up the depths with his knowledge  
and caused dew to settle from the sky.

**Prov 3:19-20**

<sup>21</sup>Son, keep sound wisdom and discretion nearby;  
don't let them out of your sight.

<sup>22</sup>They'll refresh your soul  
and adorn your neck.

<sup>23</sup>You'll walk along your road  
surefooted without stumbling.

<sup>24</sup>When you lie down, you won't feel afraid;  
when you go to bed, your sleep will be sweet.

<sup>25</sup>Don't be afraid of sudden panic  
or the ruin that sinful people may bring,  
<sup>26</sup>because you'll have confidence with the LORD;  
he'll keep your foot out of the snare.

**Prov 3:21-26**

<sup>27</sup>Don't withhold good from people that need it  
when you can give it.

<sup>28</sup>Don't tell them,  
“Come back tomorrow, and you can have it.”

<sup>29</sup>Don't devise misfortune against the one  
that's living safely beside you.

<sup>30</sup>Don't be difficult with people

if they've done you no wrong.

<sup>31</sup>Don't envy the violent  
or choose to do what they do.

<sup>32</sup>The LORD detests crooked people,  
but he's close to godly ones.

<sup>33</sup>He puts a curse on the house of the sinful,  
but blesses the homes of the righteous.

<sup>34</sup>He scoffs at scoffers,  
but is gracious to the humble.

<sup>35</sup>The wise receive honor;  
the foolish get disgrace.

**Prov 3:27-35**

**4:1**Listen to my instruction, children;  
pay attention and learn.

**2**I'll give you helpful guidance;  
don't abandon it.

**3**When I was my father's son,  
my mother's tender, only boy,

**4**he taught me,  
*"Hold fast to what I say;  
keep my commandments and live.*

**5***Gain wisdom! Get insight!*

*Don't forget it or leave it.*

**6***Keep it with you, and it'll protect you;  
love it, and it'll watch over you.*

**7***This is the main thing about wisdom: get it;  
whatever else you get, get that.*

**8***Value it highly, and it'll elevate you;  
it will bring you honor if you embrace it.*

**9***It will put a beautiful wreath on your head  
and present you with a splendid crown."*

**Prov 4:1-9**

**10**Accept what I'm telling you, son,  
and you'll live a long time.

**11**I've directed you in the way of wisdom  
and led you in godly paths.

**12**When you walk, you won't be hampered;

when you run, you won't stumble.

**13**Latch hold of instruction and don't let go;  
guard it, and it will determine your destiny.

**Prov 4:10-13**

**14**Don't follow the road that sinners travel  
or walk the path of perverse people.

**15**Avoid it; don't pass by it;  
turn and go the other way.

**16**They can't sleep unless they mistreat someone;  
they lose sleep unless they can trip somebody up.

**17**They eat the bread of wickedness,  
and drink the wine of violence.

**18**But the path of goodness is like dawn's early light;  
it shines brighter and brighter till it's fully day.

**19**The way of sinners is like darkness;  
they don't know what they're stumbling over.

**Prov 4:14-19**

**20**Pay attention to me, son;  
listen to what I'm telling you;

**21**don't let it out of your sight;  
keep it inside you.

**22**It gives life to those who find it  
and health to their whole body.

**23**Watch over your heart diligently,  
because the springs of life flow out of it.

**24**Put away a deceitful mouth;  
put devious lips far from you.

**25**Look straight ahead;  
fix your gaze in front of you.

**26**Keep your eye on the path you're walking,  
and all your ways will be safe.

**27**Don't stray from them;  
go the other way from sin.

**Prov 4:20-27**

**5:1**Pay attention to my wisdom, son;  
listen to what I understand

**2**so you can use discretion  
and express knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>An immoral woman's lips drip honey;  
     her speech is more soothing than oil;  
<sup>4</sup>but in the end she's as bitter as wormwood,  
     as sharp as a two-edged sword.  
<sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death;  
     her steps lead to Sheol.  
<sup>6</sup>She doesn't ponder the path of life;  
     she wanders without realizing it.

**Prov 5:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>Listen to me, sons;  
     don't turn aside from what I'm telling you.  
<sup>8</sup>Stay away from her;  
     don't go near her house,  
<sup>9</sup>so you won't be giving your vigor to others  
     and your years to someone cruel;  
<sup>10</sup>so a stranger won't be filled with your strength  
     and the fruit of your act go to an alien;  
<sup>11</sup>and you groan at the end of life  
     because you misused your body;  
<sup>12</sup>and you say, "*I hated instruction!*  
         *my heart despised being corrected!*  
<sup>13</sup>*I didn't listen to my teachers*  
         *or pay attention to my instructors!*  
<sup>14</sup>*I've come to the point of total ruin*  
         *and have to face public disgrace.*"

**Prov 5:7-14**

<sup>15</sup>Drink water from your own cistern,  
     fresh water from your own well.  
<sup>16</sup>Should your spring be spilled  
     like water running down the street?  
<sup>17</sup>Let it be for yours alone,  
     not for a stranger too.

**Prov 5:15-17**

<sup>18</sup>Let your fountain be blessed;  
     be happy with the wife of your youth.  
<sup>19</sup>Like a lovely deer, a graceful doe,  
     be satisfied with her breasts;  
     be stimulated by her love.  
<sup>20</sup>Son, why be stimulated by an immoral woman?  
     why embrace the bosom of a stranger?

<sup>21</sup>The LORD watches everyone  
to see which direction they're going.  
<sup>22</sup>Their own iniquities capture the wicked;  
they get caught in the web of their own sins.  
<sup>23</sup>They die from ignorance  
and get lost over foolishness.

**Prov 5:18-23**

**6:1**Son, if you sign for your neighbor  
or give a pledge for a stranger,  
<sup>2</sup>if you get snared by a promise you've made  
or caught by what you've said,  
<sup>3</sup>do this to deliver yourself:  
since you're at his disposal,  
humble yourself and plead with him  
*to take away your obligation.*  
<sup>4</sup>Don't sleep or slumber;  
<sup>5</sup>deliver yourself like a gazelle *from a hunter*,  
like a bird from a fowler.

**Prov 6:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>Go observe ants, lazy guy;  
watch what they do and wise up.  
<sup>7</sup>Though they don't have a chief, an officer, or ruler,  
<sup>8</sup>they prepare their food in the summer;  
at harvest time they gather provisions *for winter*.  
<sup>9</sup>How long will you lie around?  
When will you get up from napping?  
**10**"A little sleep, a little slumber,  
*a little folding of the hands to rest*"—  
<sup>11</sup>your poverty will come on you like a bandit;  
your need *will attack you* like an armed man.

**Prov 6:6-11**

**12**A worthless, wicked man is one  
that goes around lying,  
<sup>13</sup>that winks with his eye,  
signals with his feet,  
gestures with his fingers,  
<sup>14</sup>that plots in his mind  
and constantly stirs up conflict.

**15**Tragedy will come crashing down on him;  
all at once he'll be crushed beyond recovery.

**Prov 6:11-15**

**16**Six things the LORD despises;  
*no, make that* seven that disgust him:

**17**arrogant eyes,  
lying tongues,  
blood-shedding hands,  
**18**plotting hearts,  
feet in a hurry to do harm,  
**19**witnesses who perjure themselves  
and people that stir up conflict between friends.

**Prov 6:16-19**

**20**Son, keep your father's commands;  
don't leave your mother's teachings.

**21**Bind them next to your heart;  
hang them around your neck.

**22**They'll guide you when you walk,  
watch over you while you sleep,  
and advise you when you wake up.

**23**A commandment is a lamp;  
teaching is a light;  
corrections that discipline lead to life.

**Prov 6:20-23**

**24**They keep your eyes off an immoral woman,  
a loose woman with smooth talk.

**25**Don't desire her beauty  
or let her catch your attention with her eyes.

**26**A prostitute leaves a man with little to eat;  
an immoral woman stalks his very life.

**27**Can a man carry fire in his arms  
and not singe his clothes?

**28**Can he walk on hot coals  
and not burn his feet?

**29**Can a man go to his neighbor's wife  
and not suffer for it?

**Prov 6:24-29**

**30**People don't despise a thief  
that steals because he's hungry;

<sup>31</sup>but when he's caught, he still needs to repay it seven times over  
even if he has to sell everything in his house to make it right.  
<sup>32</sup>A man that commits adultery lacks good judgment;  
he's looking to destroy himself.  
<sup>33</sup>He'll find wounds and disgrace  
and shame he can't erase.  
<sup>34</sup>Jealousy makes a husband furious;  
he won't restrain his revenge.  
<sup>35</sup>He won't accept ransom  
or be content with your gifts.

**Prov 6:30-35**

<sup>7:1</sup>Take my advice, son;  
treasure up my commandments inside you.  
<sup>2</sup>Keep my commands so you can have a life;  
*guard* my teachings like the pupil in your eye.  
<sup>3</sup>Tie them on your fingers;  
write them on your heart.  
<sup>4</sup>Call wisdom your sister and insight your friend,  
<sup>5</sup>so they can keep you away from the adulteress  
that flatters with her words.

**Prov 7:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>At the window of my house  
I looked out through the lattice  
<sup>7</sup>and saw among the naïve  
a young man with no sense.  
<sup>8</sup>He was going down the street near her corner  
on the way to her house,  
<sup>9</sup>in the evening at dusk.

During the night after dark,  
<sup>10</sup>a woman comes to meet him,  
dressed like a prostitute, coy at heart.  
<sup>11</sup>She's loud and rebellious, not content to stay home—  
<sup>12</sup>now in the streets, now in the squares,  
lurking at every corner.

**Prov 7:6-12**

<sup>13</sup>She grabs him and kisses him,  
and says to him with a brazen face,

**14** “It was time for me to offer peace offerings;  
     I paid my vows today.  
**15** So I’ve come out to meet you,  
     to look for you eagerly, and I found you.  
**16** I’ve decorated my couch with covers,  
     with colored linens from Egypt.  
**17** I’ve sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.  
**18** Come on, let’s drink our fill of love till morning;  
     let’s delight ourselves with love.  
**19** My husband’s gone on a long trip;  
**20** he’s taken a moneybag with him  
     and won’t be back till full moon.”

**Prov 7:13-20**

**21** She entices him with persuasion,  
     And seduces him with flattery.  
**22** Finally he follows her like a bull to slaughter,  
     like a stag heading for a trap.  
**23** An arrow pierces his liver;  
     like a bird swooping to a snare,  
     he doesn’t realize it will cost him his life.

**Prov 7:21-23**

**24** So pay attention to what I’m saying, sons.  
**25** Don’t let your heart turn to its own ways  
     or stray into its own paths;  
**26** *doing that* has thrown down so many victims  
     and slain them.  
**27** Her house lies on the road to Sheol,  
     that descends to the den of death.

**Prov 7:24-27**

**8:1** Wisdom calls out,  
     and intelligence raises its voice.  
**2** It takes its stand on high places  
     where footpaths meet.  
**3** It shouts at the city gates:  
**4** “I’m calling out to you;  
     my voice is aimed at everyone.  
**5** Learn prudence, simple ones;

*gain wisdom, foolish people.*

**6***Listen, so I can tell you nobler things,  
important things come from me.*

**Prov 8:1-6**

**7***I tell the truth  
because I detest sinfulness.*

**8***Everything I say is good;  
there's nothing devious in it.*

**9***What I say makes sense to anyone that has insight;  
it's right to those who learn.*

**10***Take instruction rather than silver;  
accept knowledge instead of gold*

**11***because wisdom is worth more than jewels;  
nothing you want compares with it.*

**Prov 8:7-11**

**12***"I, wisdom, and good judgment live together;  
I discover knowledge and discretion.*

**13***Respecting the LORD means hating sin,  
pride and arrogance,  
corrupt behavior and perverse speech.*

**14***I offer advice about wise living  
and provide insight and strength.*

**15***Kings reign by me,  
and rulers decree justice.*

**16***Officials and nobles govern by me  
as does everyone that judges justly.*

**17***I love the ones that love me,  
that diligently search me out.*

**18***I have wealth and honor to offer,  
lasting riches and goodness.*

**19***My fruit has more value than pure gold;  
my yield outperforms the finest silver.*

**20***I walk in the way of goodness,  
on the paths of justice,  
to endow with wealth the ones that love me.*

**Prov 8:12-21**

**22***"The LORD created me at the very beginning,  
before anything else he did in ancient times.*

<sup>23</sup>*I was in place from everlasting,  
from the beginning of time on earth.*  
<sup>24</sup>*I came before there were any oceans  
or any springs abounded with water,*  
<sup>25</sup>*before the mountains were born  
or any hills existed,*  
<sup>26</sup>*before he made soil and fields  
and dust on the ground.*

**Prov 8:22-26**

<sup>27</sup>*I was there when he put the heavens in place  
and drew the horizons around the ocean;*  
<sup>28</sup>*when he set the sky above  
and established the fountains in the deep;*  
<sup>29</sup>*when he laid shorelines for the seas  
so water couldn't cross their boundaries;  
when he marked out the foundations for the earth.*  
<sup>30</sup>*I stood beside him like a general contractor,  
serving as his daily delight,  
celebrating with him,*  
<sup>31</sup>*rejoicing in the world he was making,  
delighting in humankind.*

**Prov 8:27-31**

<sup>32</sup>“*So now, my children, listen to me  
because I bless those who keep my ways.*  
<sup>33</sup>*Obey instruction in order to be wise;  
don't neglect it.*  
<sup>34</sup>*Blessed are those who pay attention to what I say,  
who watch at my gates each day  
and wait at my doorpost.*  
<sup>35</sup>*The ones that find me find life  
and gain the LORD's blessing.*  
<sup>36</sup>*But those who miss out on me hurt themselves;  
the ones that hate me love death.”*

**Prov 8:32-36**

<sup>9:1</sup>*Wisdom has built her house;  
she's carved its seven columns.*  
<sup>2</sup>*She's done her butchering, mixed her wine,  
and set her table.*  
<sup>3</sup>*She's sent her maids*

to call out from the heights of the city:

<sup>4</sup>“*Whoever is naïve, turn in here!*”

She says to those who lack good judgment,

<sup>5</sup>“*Come in and eat my food*

*drink the wine I've mixed.*

<sup>6</sup>*Abandon your foolish ways and start having a life;*

*conduct yourself with good judgment.*”

**Prov 9:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>If you correct a scoffer, you'll be abused;

if you reprove sinners, you'll get insulted.

<sup>8</sup>So don't bother reproving scoffers; they'll hate you;

reprove the wise, and they'll love you.

<sup>9</sup>Instruct the wise, and they'll be wiser still;

teach the good, and they'll be better yet.

<sup>10</sup>Respect for the LORD is basic to wisdom;

knowing the Holy One clarifies your thinking.

<sup>11</sup>It'll multiply your days

and add years to your life.

<sup>12</sup>If you're wise, you're wise for yourself;

if you scoff at wisdom, it'll be to your detriment.

**Prov 9:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>A foolish woman is loud;

she's naïve and ignorant.

<sup>14</sup>She sits in the doorway of her house

or takes a seat on the high places in town.

<sup>15</sup>She calls out to those who are going by,

who are following straight paths:

<sup>16</sup>“*Whoever is naïve, turn in here,*”

she claims to those who don't know any better.

<sup>17</sup>“*Stolen water is refreshing;*

*bread eaten in secret tastes good.*”

<sup>18</sup>But they don't know that the dead are there,

that her guests lie in Sheol.

**Prov 9:13-18**

## **10:1 Proverbs of Solomon**

A wise son makes a happy father,

but a foolish one grieves his mother.

<sup>2</sup>Ill-gotten gain doesn't gain you anything,  
but goodness delivers *you* from death.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD won't let good people go hungry;  
he thwarts what the wicked want.

<sup>4</sup>A lazy hand makes for poverty;  
a diligent one produces wealth.

<sup>5</sup>They who gather crops in the summer are smart;  
those who sleep at harvest time are shameful.

<sup>6</sup>Blessings come to the good,  
but the sinful harbor violent intentions.

**Prov 10:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>Good people leave blessed memories behind,  
but sinful people's names rot away.

<sup>8</sup>The wise in heart accept commands,  
but babbling fools come to ruin.

<sup>9</sup>If you live with integrity, you'll live with confidence;  
but people soon find out if you're crooked.

<sup>10</sup>The one that winks causes trouble;  
babbling fools come to ruin.

<sup>11</sup>Good people's words are life-giving fountains;  
what sinners harbor discord.

<sup>12</sup>Hatred stirs up conflict,  
but love atones for all sins.

<sup>13</sup>Wisdom comes from people that have insight;  
but a rod is for the back of fools.

<sup>14</sup>The wise store up knowledge,  
but ruin is at hand for foolish people.

**Prov 10:7-14**

<sup>15</sup>For the rich, wealth is a fortress;  
for the poor, poverty is their ruin.

<sup>16</sup>Life is good people's pay;  
punishment is bad people's payback.

<sup>17</sup>Listening to instruction puts you on the route to life;  
abandoning correction gets you lost.

<sup>18</sup>Hiding hatred makes you a liar;  
spreading slander makes you a fool.

<sup>19</sup>Talking too much makes you likely to sin;

so be wise and limit what you say.

**20**The words of good people are like fine silver;  
what sinners say isn't worth repeating.

**Prov 10:15-20**

**21**What good people say feeds many;  
foolish people *starve to* death from ignorance.

**22**The LORD's blessing makes you rich,  
and he doesn't add sorrow to it.

**23**Sin is fun for fools;  
so is wisdom for the wise.

**24**What sinners fear tends to happen;  
what good people want they tend to receive.

**25**After a windstorm passes, sinners have been blown away;  
but the godly have a firm foundation.

**26**To those who hire them,  
lazy people irritate like vinegar on teeth  
and smoke in the eyes.

**Prov 10:21-26**

**27**Respecting the LORD lengthens your life;  
sinfulness cuts it short.

**28**Good people's hopes result in happiness,  
but the expectations of the sinful fade away.

**29**The LORD's way is your fortress if you're godly,  
but it destroys sinners.

**30**Good people won't be displaced,  
but the sinful will be expelled from their land.

**31**The mouth of good people overflows with wisdom,  
but the perverse tongue of the wicked will be cut off.

**32**Good people say what's acceptable,  
but the sinful *say* perverse things.

**Prov 10:27-32**

**11:1**The LORD detests a false balance;  
he delights in accurate weights.

**2**Dishonor follows pride,  
but wisdom lies with the humble.

**3**The integrity of the wise gives them direction;  
the dishonesty of treacherous people destroys them.

**4**Wealth won't help you when judgment comes,  
but goodness delivers you from death.

<sup>5</sup>Goodness smooths the way for the blameless,  
but the sinful collapse under the weight of their own sin.

<sup>6</sup>Their goodness delivers the godly;  
their greed snares deceivers.

**Prov 11:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>When sinners die, their aspirations die as well;  
hope perishes with the godless.

<sup>8</sup>Good people leave trouble behind,  
but sinners head right for it.

<sup>9</sup>The godless destroy their neighbors with their mouths,  
but knowledge lets the righteous escape.

<sup>10</sup>A city celebrates when things go well for the godly;  
there's also happy shouting over the demise of the sinful.

<sup>11</sup>The godly are a blessing that builds up a city;  
the mouths of sinners tear it down.

<sup>12</sup>Belittling your neighbor doesn't help anybody;  
be silent and just let it rest.

<sup>13</sup>Gossips go around telling secrets;  
reliable people keep private matters private.

<sup>14</sup>Without wise leaders a nation falls;  
victory comes from having many advisors.

**Prov 11:7-14**

<sup>15</sup>Standing good for a stranger's debt  
means you're likely to pay it;  
avoid guaranteeing it and stay safe.

<sup>16</sup>A gracious woman earns respect;  
a violent man just gets rich.

<sup>17</sup>Kindness repays you;  
cruelty destroys you.

<sup>18</sup>Sinners get rich by deception;  
people that sow goodness make a legitimate living.

<sup>19</sup>Steadfast goodness promotes life;  
chasing after evil gets you killed.

<sup>20</sup>The LORD detests the perverse in heart;  
he delights in those blameless in their living.

<sup>21</sup>Sinful people will certainly suffer for it,  
but the children of the just will be rescued.

<sup>22</sup>A beautiful woman with no discretion  
is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

**Prov 11:15-22**

<sup>23</sup>The godly look forward to good things;  
the sinful are simply waiting for wrath.

<sup>24</sup>Give liberally and grow richer;  
withhold what you should give  
and be in need.

<sup>25</sup>The generous prosper;  
those who refresh other people will be refreshed.

<sup>26</sup>People curse the one that hoards grain  
but bless the one that sells it to people that need it.

<sup>27</sup>Whoever seeks the good finds favor,  
and trouble comes to the one that's looking for it.

<sup>28</sup>People that rely on their wealth will fall;  
but the godly will flourish like green leaves.

**Prov 11:23-28**

<sup>29</sup>Bring trouble on your family,  
and you'll inherit the wind;  
the foolish serve the wise.

<sup>30</sup>Good people become a tree of life,  
the wise win friends.

<sup>31</sup>If the righteous are rewarded on earth,  
how much more godless sinners!

**Prov 11:29-31**

**12:1**Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge;  
whoever hates to be corrected stays ignorant.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD gives grace to the good,  
but condemns those who concoct evil.

<sup>3</sup>Sinfulness brings instability,  
but godliness grows deep roots.

<sup>4</sup>A good wife is her husband's crown,  
but one that embarrasses him is like cancer in his bones.

<sup>5</sup>You can trust the thinking of the righteous,  
but the advice of sinners is treacherous.

<sup>6</sup>The words of sinners are like a murderous ambush,  
but the words of the godly rescue people.

**Prov 12:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The sinful are overthrown and disappear,  
but the godly stand firm.

<sup>8</sup>People are commended for using good sense;  
people with perverted minds are despised.

<sup>9</sup>The humble who work as servants are better off than those who honor themselves and go hungry.

<sup>10</sup>Good people care about their animals' life; sinful people are cruel to everything.

<sup>11</sup>Plow your ground and you'll have plenty to eat; chasing after fantasies shows poor judgment.

<sup>12</sup>Sinners are jealous of each other's plunder, but the goodly produce *their own things.*

**Prov 12:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Their own words trap sinful people; good people avoid trouble like that.

<sup>14</sup>Good people gain satisfaction from the effects of their words; their actions also return to reward them.

<sup>15</sup>Fools think their way is the right way; but the wise are willing to listen.

<sup>16</sup>Fools fly off the handle when insulted, but the prudent stay calm.

<sup>17</sup>Honest witnesses tell the truth; false ones just make up something.

<sup>18</sup>Cutting remarks spoken rashly thrust like daggers, but wise words heal wounds.

**Prov 12:13-18**

<sup>19</sup>A truthful tongue lasts a lifetime, but lying lips don't endure.

<sup>20</sup>Deceit lies in hearts that lay plots, but advisors of peace have joy.

<sup>21</sup>Harm tends not to fall on good people; sinners are always in trouble.

<sup>22</sup>The LORD detests liars but delights in reliable people.

<sup>23</sup>Prudent people hold back telling how much they know; foolish people talk too much.

<sup>24</sup>The diligent rule; the lazy end up enslaved.

**Prov 12:19-24**

<sup>25</sup>Anxiety weighs people down; an encouraging word raises them up.

<sup>26</sup>Godly people serve as guides for their friends; sinful ones get them lost.

<sup>27</sup>Lazy people don't achieve their goals;  
diligent ones gain precious possessions.

<sup>28</sup>Life lies along the road good people follow;  
there's no death there.

**Prov 12:25-28**

**13:1**Wise children accept their father's discipline,  
but scoffers don't pay attention to correction.

<sup>2</sup>From the influence of your words,  
people respond willingly;  
but treacherous people want to force things through.

<sup>3</sup>Be careful what you say, and you'll save yourself;  
talk too much, and you'll do yourself in.

<sup>4</sup>Lazy people want but don't get;  
the diligent have a rich supply.

<sup>5</sup>Good people hate lies,  
but sinners act disgracefully.

<sup>6</sup>Goodness protects the blameless;  
sinfulness undermines the sinful.

**Prov 13:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>One person acts rich but is poor;  
another pretends to be poor but is wealthy.

<sup>8</sup>The rich can pay a ransom to save their lives,  
but the poor don't get kidnapped for ransom.

<sup>9</sup>The light of the godly shines bright,  
but the lamp of the sinful flickers out.

<sup>10</sup>Insolence causes division;  
accepting advice brings wisdom.

<sup>11</sup>Easy wealth soon dwindles away;  
what we work for increases.

<sup>12</sup>Hope delayed makes a heart sick,  
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

**Prov 13:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Instruction destroys people that hate it;  
a commandment rewards those who respect it.

<sup>14</sup>Wise teaching is your fountain of life  
for avoiding the snares of death.

<sup>15</sup>Good sense leads to blessing,  
but a treacherous mind creates hardship.

<sup>16</sup>Prudent people act with insight;

fools flaunt their foolishness.

**17**An unreliable messenger stumbles into trouble,  
but a faithful envoy can bring detente.

**18**We risk poverty and shame by neglecting self-discipline;  
honor comes to us if we value correction. **Prov 13:13-18**

**19**Seeing dreams come true is pleasant to the soul,  
but fools hate to quit sinning.

**20**When you live with the wise you become wise;  
companions of fools will suffer with them.

**21**Misfortune follows sinners,  
but prosperity rewards the righteous.

**22**Good people leave an inheritance for their grandchildren;  
sinners lay up wealth for the godly.

**23**Even fallow ground yields enough to feed the poor,  
but injustice sweeps it all away.

**24**Those who spare the rod don't love their children;  
if you care about them, you'll discipline them.

**25**Good people have enough to satisfy their appetite,  
but a sinner's stomach never feels full. **Prov 13:19-25**

**14:1**A wise woman builds up her home;  
a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

**2**We show respect for the LORD by pursuing godliness;  
being crooked in our ways means we don't respect him.

**3**The tongues of fools become a rod for their back;  
the lips of the wise save them.

**4**A manger stays clean where there are no oxen,  
but abundant crops come in by their strength.

**5**A truthful witness tells no lies;  
a false one lies with every breath.

**6**Scoffers look for wisdom but don't find it;  
knowledge comes easy for insightful people. **Prov 14:1-6**

**7**Stay away from foolish people;  
you won't learn anything from them.

**8**Prudent people know where they're going,  
but fools mislead themselves.

**9**Fools make fun of guilt,

but the godly favor the guiltless.

<sup>10</sup>The heart knows its bitterness;  
no one else can share its joy.

<sup>11</sup>The house of the sinful faces demolition,  
but the tent of the godly stands steady.

<sup>12</sup>There is a way that seems right,  
but it leads to death.

**Prov 14:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Laughter can hide a heavy heart;  
joy can give way to grief.

<sup>14</sup>Perverse people get a fill of their own ways;  
good people get satisfaction from theirs.

<sup>15</sup>Simpleminded people believe anything,  
the prudent watch where they step.

<sup>16</sup>The wise take caution and get away from sin,  
but fools are arrogant and reckless.

<sup>17</sup>Short-tempered people do foolish things;  
people despise people that scheme.

<sup>18</sup>The naïve inherit foolishness,  
but the prudent wear knowledge like a crown.

**Prov 14:13-18**

<sup>19</sup>Evil bows to good;  
sinners *will bow* at the gates of the godly.

<sup>20</sup>Even neighbors dislike the poor,  
but lots of people like the rich.

<sup>21</sup>Whoever despises another commits sin,  
but those gracious to the poor find happiness.

<sup>22</sup>Won't they take a loss that devise evil?  
Those who devise good receive kindness and truth.

<sup>23</sup>There's profit in work;  
mere talk produces poverty.

<sup>24</sup>The wise wear their wealth like a crown;  
the foolish dress in their own foolishness.

**Prov 14:19-24**

<sup>25</sup>A truthful witness saves lives,  
but a false witness is a traitor.

<sup>26</sup>Those who respect the LORD feel confident;  
their children have a reliable refuge.

<sup>27</sup>Respecting the LORD provides a fountain of life  
so people can avoid the snares of death.

- 28**A growing population speaks well for a king;  
what's the point of a prince without subjects?
- 29**Wise people control their temper;  
short-tempered people show their lack of good sense.
- 30**A peaceful heart makes a healthy body,  
but jealousy is like cancer of the bone. Prov 14:25-30
- 31**People that oppress the poor insult their Maker;  
those who are gracious to them honor him.
- 32**Sinful people get crushed by the disasters  
they bring on themselves,  
but the righteous have a refuge when they die.
- 33**Wisdom rests in intelligent people,  
but it's *not* evident among fools.
- 34**Goodness raises the quality of a nation;  
sin's a disgrace to any people.
- 35**A king favors a servant that acts wisely,  
but he lashes out at one that disgraces him. Prov 14:31-35
- 15:1**A gentle answer deflects anger;  
harsh words make tempers flare.
- 2**The wise dispense knowledge;  
fools expound foolishness.
- 3**The LORD sees everything;  
he watches the evil and the good.
- 4**Gentle words are a tree of life,  
but perverse talk breaks people's spirit.
- 5**Fools reject their father's discipline,  
but those attentive to correction become prudent.
- 6**There's wealth in the house of the godly,  
but the earnings of the sinful bring trouble. Prov 15:1-6
- 7**The lips of the wise give good advice;  
the hearts of fools have nothing to offer.
- 8**The LORD detests the sacrifices of sinners,  
but delights in the prayers of the righteous.
- 9**He detests the way of the wicked,  
but loves people who pursue goodness.
- 10**Those who abandon the way incur harsh discipline;

those who reject discipline die.

**11**Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD;  
how much more our hearts!

**12**Scoffers don't like people that rebuke them;  
so they stay away from the wise.

**Prov 15:7-12**

**13**A cheerful heart makes a happy face,  
but a sad heart breaks the spirit.

**14**The mind of the wise is hungry for insight,  
but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

**15**Negative people have nothing but bad days,  
but with a happy heart they enjoy a continual feast.

**16**It's better to have a little with reverence for the LORD  
than to have a lot with turmoil attached.

**17**A plate of vegetables with someone you love tastes better  
than a roast from a grain-fed cow with someone you don't like.

**18**Hot-tempered people stir up quarrels,  
but controlling anger calms contentions.

**Prov 15:13-18**

**19**Briers overgrow lazy people's paths,  
but the upright travel on an open road.

**20**Wise children make a happy father;  
foolish ones despise their mother.

**21**Foolishness is fun for the foolish,  
but the wise walk on a straight path.

**22**Without advice plans go awry,  
but with many advisors they succeed.

**23**Everyone enjoys giving a good answer,  
and a timely word delights *those who hear it!*

**24**The path of the wise leads upward  
away from Sheol below.

**Prov 15:19-24**

**25**The LORD tears down the house of the proud  
but protects the widow's home.

**26**The LORD detests evil plans  
but delights in pure words.

**27**Those greedy for gain bring trouble home;  
those who refuse bribes live in peace.

**28**The godly think before they speak;  
sinners blurt out evil without thinking.

**29**The LORD stands far away from the sinful,  
but he listens to the prayers decent people offer.

**30**A cheerful look makes the heart happy;  
good news refreshes us deep inside.

**Prov 15:25-30**

**31**If you listen to constructive correction,  
you'll live among the wise.

**32**If you ignore instruction, you only hurt yourself;  
by heeding correction, you gain insight.

**33**Respecting the LORD teaches wisdom;  
humility comes before honor.

**Prov 15:31-33**

**16:1**We have intentions,  
but the LORD provides the proper course of action.

**2**Our ways may seem pure to us,  
but the LORD weighs *our* motives.

**3**Commit your work to the LORD,  
and you'll succeed.

**4**The LORD has a purpose for everything,  
even for sinners in troubled times.

**5**The LORD detests arrogant people  
and makes sure they're punished.

**6**Loyalty and faithfulness atone for sin;  
respecting the LORD avoids evil.

**Prov 16:1-6**

**7**When we please the LORD,  
he even makes our enemies live in peace with us.

**8**A little with goodness is better  
than a lot with dishonesty.

**9**You can make your plans,  
but the LORD directs the steps you'll take.

**10**A king needs to make inspired decisions;  
he can't afford to err in his judgments.

**11**The LORD requires accurate scales and balances;  
he sets the standard for every weight in the bag.

**12**An evil king is especially detestable;  
a throne needs to be based on goodness.

**Prov 16:7-12**

**13**Godly words delight a king;  
he loves people that tell the truth.

**14**A king's anger is a death sentence;  
the wise will appease it.

**15**There's life in a king's countenance;  
his blessing is like clouds that bring spring rain.

**16**Getting wisdom is better than getting gold!  
Choose insight over silver.

**17**The road of the upright leads away from evil;  
those who watch where they're going preserve their life.

**18**Pride goes before destruction,  
and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

**Prov 16:13-18**

**19**Better to nurture a humble spirit  
than share plunder with the proud.

**20**By attending to the LORD'S word, we find what's good;  
he blesses us who trust in him.

**21**The wise in heart we consider insightful;  
*their* pleasant words seem more persuasive.

**22**Wisdom is a fountain of life to the wise,  
but foolishness disciplines fools.

**23**The wise think carefully about what they say,  
which adds power to their comments.

**24**Pleasant words are like honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

**Prov 16:19-24**

**25**There's a way that seems right,  
but it leads to death.

**26**The workers' appetite works for them  
because their hunger drives them on.

**27**Worthless people plot evil;  
what they say is like a scorching fire.

**28**Perverse persons spread conflict;  
slanderers alienate friends.

**29**Violent people tempt their friends  
and lead them off in the wrong direction.

**30**Those who wink devise perverse things;  
they who purse their lips bring about evil.

**Prov 16:25-30**

**31**A gray head is a crown of honor  
gained by a good life.

**32**Those who are slow to lose their temper

are stronger than the powerful;  
 the ones that rule their spirit  
 are better than troops that capture a city.

<sup>33</sup>We cast lots in the lap,  
 but the LORD determines how they fall.

**Prov 16:31-33**

**17:1** A dry morsel eaten in peace tastes better  
 than a feast in a house full of conflict.

<sup>2</sup>A wise servant will rule a shameful son  
 and share in the inheritance among brothers.

<sup>3</sup>Fire refines silver and a furnace purifies gold,  
 but the LORD assays the heart.

<sup>4</sup>Wrongdoers pay attention to gossip;  
 liars latch onto slander.

<sup>5</sup>People that mock the poor insult their Maker;  
 those who rejoice over *their* misfortune will get their just due.

<sup>6</sup>Grandchildren are the crown of old age;  
 parents are the pride of their children.

**Prov 17:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>Fine speech doesn't fit with being a fool;  
 much less is lying appropriate for leaders.

<sup>8</sup>A bribe is a lucky charm in its owner's sight;  
 whoever uses it prospers!

<sup>9</sup>Forgiving fosters love,  
 but dwelling on faults alienates friends.

<sup>10</sup>A rebuke penetrates deeper into thoughtful people  
 than 100 blows affect a fool.

<sup>11</sup>Rebellious people are looking for trouble;  
 so a cruel messenger will confront them.

<sup>12</sup>Facing a bear robbed of her cubs  
 is safer than confronting a fool for his folly.

**Prov 17:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Misfortune never leaves the house of anyone  
 that repays a good deed with a bad one.

<sup>14</sup>Starting an argument is like opening a floodgate;  
 so stop a quarrel before it starts.

<sup>15</sup>Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent  
 are equally detestable to the LORD.

<sup>16</sup>Why spend money on educating fools  
 when they don't care about learning?

**17**A friend loves despite the circumstance;  
adversity forges friendship.

**18**It's not good judgment  
to guarantee another person's debt.

**Prov 17:13-18**

**19**Loving sin amounts to loving conflict;  
trusting in tall walls invites invasion.

**20**A crooked heart doesn't prosper;  
a lying tongue calls for retaliation.

**21**The parents of a fool feel discouraged;  
there's no joy in life for the father of a fool.

**22**A happy heart is good medicine;  
a broken spirit weakens health.

**23**Sinners accept secret bribes  
to pervert the course of justice.

**24**Sensible people find wisdom nearby;  
fools think they'll find it far away.

**Prov 17:19-24**

**25**Foolish children are a grief to their father  
and bring bitterness to the one that gave them birth.

**26**It's wrong to punish the godly for their godliness  
or flog noble people for being noble.

**27**Wise people speak with restraint;  
cool heads display better insight.

**28**Even fools, people consider wise  
as long as they keep their mouth shut;  
people suppose fools are smart when they close their lips.

**Prov 17:25-28**

**18:1**Unfriendly people pursue selfish ends;  
and don't use common sense.

**2**Fools don't delight in learning,  
only in telling what they think.

**3**When sinners come, contempt comes with them;  
and with dishonor comes disgrace.

**4**Wise thoughts are deep water;  
wisdom is the spring for a babbling brook.

**5**Don't cater to bad people  
or deprive the good of justice.

**6**Fools' lips instigate conflict;  
their mouths are asking for a slap.

**Prov 18:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The mouths of fools bring about their ruin;  
their lips serve as snares to them.

<sup>8</sup>Rumors are like delicious morsels;  
they just work their way down inside you!

<sup>9</sup>People that aren't productive  
are relatives of those who destroy.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD's name is a strong tower;  
escape to it for safety.

<sup>11</sup>The wealth of the rich is their fortified city;  
in their imagination it's like a high wall.

<sup>12</sup>Pride goes before destruction;  
humility precedes honor.

**Prov 18:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Popping off an answer before listening to the question  
is foolish and shameful.

<sup>14</sup>The human spirit can survive a sick body,  
but who can endure a broken spirit?

<sup>15</sup>The wise search for knowledge;  
the prudent acquire it.

<sup>16</sup>Generosity opens doors  
and connects you with important people.

<sup>17</sup>The first to argue a case in court  
sounds convincing till someone cross-examines.

<sup>18</sup>Casting lots ends contentions;  
it settles disputes between powerful contenders. **Prov 18:13-18**

<sup>19</sup>Winning back an offended brother  
is harder than conquering a fortified city;  
arguments become like the barred gates of a fortress.

<sup>20</sup>What the mouth says satisfies the inner self;  
what the lips express brings satisfaction.

<sup>21</sup>The tongue wields the power of life and death;  
those who love it will reap its consequences.

<sup>22</sup>A man that finds a wife finds something good  
and obtains the LORD's blessing.

<sup>23</sup>The poor ask for help;  
the rich answer roughly.

<sup>24</sup>Someone with lots of "friends" may come to ruin,  
but there's a friend that sticks closer than a brother. **Prov 18:19-24**

**19:1**The honest poor are better off  
than dishonest fools.

2It's not good to not know;  
enthusiasm doesn't compensate for ignorance.

**3**When people's foolishness brings them to ruin,  
they blame the LORD.

4Wealth draws lots of friends  
that desert you if poverty comes.

**5**False witnesses will get their just due;  
perjurors won't get off free.

6Many ask for generous people's blessing;  
everybody makes friends with bighearted people. **Prov 19:1-6**

**7**Relatives of the poor despise them,  
and their friends leave!

Appealing to them won't bring them back.

8People that gain wisdom care about themselves;  
they prosper who cherish understanding.

**9**False witnesses won't go unpunished;  
liars perish.

10Living in luxury isn't fitting for a fool,  
much less for a slave to rule over princes.

**11**Discretion gives you control over anger;  
you learn to delight in overlooking sin.

12A king's anger is like a lion's roar;  
his blessing falls like dew on grass. **Prov 19:7-12**

**13**A foolish child destroys a father;  
a nagging wife is like constant dripping.

14Houses and wealth people inherit from parents,  
but a prudent wife comes from the LORD.

**15**Laziness lulls people to sleep;  
shiftless people go hungry.

16Those who keep the commandments keep their life;  
people that are careless about their way will lose it.

**17**Those gracious to the poor lend to the LORD;  
he'll reward them for the good they do.

18Discipline your children while there's hope

so you won't ruin their lives.

**Prov 19:13-18**

**19**Let angry people suffer the consequences;  
bail them out, and you'll have it to do again.

**20**Listen to advice and respond to discipline  
so you can gain wisdom for later on.

**21**People make their plans,  
but the LORD's counsel is what prevails.

**22**Loyalty makes everyone better;  
poor people are better *at it* than liars.

**23**Respecting the LORD leads to life;  
you can sleep in peace without worrying about misfortune.

**24**Lazy people stick their fingers in the plate,  
but they don't even bring the food to their mouth. **Prov 19:19-24**

**25**Punish scoffers so the simpleminded can learn prudence;  
reprove the wise and they'll be wiser still.

**26**Children that mistreat their parents  
are an embarrassment and a public disgrace.

**27**If you stop paying attention to discipline, child,  
you'll never learn what you need to know.

**28**A worthless witness makes mockery of justice;  
a sinful mouth eats sin.

**29**Penalties are designed for scoffers,  
and scourging for the backs of fools. **Prov 19:25-29**

**20:1**Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler;  
whoever errs in them is not wise.

**2**A king's anger is like a lion's growl;  
stirring it up forfeits your life.

**3**Staying away from conflict honors you;  
any fool can fight.

**4**Anyone too lazy to plow  
will beg *for food* at harvest time.

**5**A purpose in your heart is like deep water,  
but you can draw it out with thoughtful effort.

**6**Many claim to be loyal,  
but who can find someone that's actually loyal? **Prov 20:1-6**

**7**How blessed the children are

whose parents carry themselves with integrity.

<sup>8</sup>A king on a just throne  
winnows evil with his eyes.

<sup>9</sup>Who can say, “*I’ve cleansed my heart;*  
*I’m pure from sin*”?

<sup>10</sup>The LORD detests false weights and measures.

<sup>11</sup>Even kids mark themselves by what they do  
if their actions are pure and good.

<sup>12</sup>The hearing ear and seeing eye—  
the LORD made them both.

**Prov 20:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Don’t love sleep too much; you’ll end up poor;  
keep your eyes open, and you’ll have enough to eat.

<sup>14</sup>“*It’s no good,*” buyers say;  
but when *the seller’s* gone, they brag about the bargain.

<sup>15</sup>Gold and precious stones abound,  
but knowledge has more value.

<sup>16</sup>Take his cloak who signs for a stranger;  
hold him in pledge for foreigners.

<sup>17</sup>Bread gained by deceit tastes sweet,  
but afterward it feels like gravel in your mouth.

<sup>18</sup>Make plans in consultation with the other players;  
wage war with guidance.

**Prov 20:13-18**

<sup>19</sup>Gossips tell secrets;  
so don’t associate with people that talk too much.

<sup>20</sup>Curse father and mother,  
and your lamp will go out when it gets dark.

<sup>21</sup>Inheritance gained too early in life  
won’t be a blessing in the end.

<sup>22</sup>Don’t say, “*I’ll get even with him*”;  
wait and let the LORD do it.

<sup>23</sup>The LORD detests false weights;  
dishonest scales don’t please him.

<sup>24</sup>The LORD orders our steps;  
so how can we fully understand our way?

**Prov 20:19-24**

<sup>25</sup>You set a trap for yourself by making a rash vow to God  
and only thinking about it after you’ve vowed.

<sup>26</sup>A wise king winnows sinners

and drives the threshing wheel over them.  
**27**The human spirit is the LORD's lamp;  
it searches out the inner self.  
**28**Loyalty and truth keep a king in office;  
he holds onto his throne by goodness.  
**29**A young man's strength is his glory;  
an old man's glory is his gray hair.  
**30**Punishment cleanses evil away;  
discipline purifies the heart.

**Prov 20:25-30**

**21:1**A king's heart in the LORD's hand  
is like a stream he can direct where he wants.

**2**Your own way seems right to you,  
but the LORD weighs your heart.  
**3**The LORD wants goodness and justice  
more than sacrifice.

**4**Arrogant eyes and a proud heart  
are wicked people's lamp—and sin.  
**5**Diligent planning gives you an advantage;  
getting in a hurry gets you poverty.

**6**Getting rich by lying is a dissipating vapor  
that ends in death.

**Prov 21:1-6**

**7**Sinful people's violence sweeps them away  
because they refuse to do what's right.

**8**A guilty person's road is full of curves,  
but the conduct of the pure makes a straight path.  
**9**It's better to live in the corner of a housetop  
than inside the house with a contentious woman.

**10**Evil people desire evil  
and don't show compassion to anyone.

**11**Punishing scoffers makes them wise;  
instructing the wise makes them wiser still.

**12**Good people watch out for the sinful  
and turn them to ruin.

**Prov 21:7-12**

**13**If you shut out the cry from the poor,  
you'll cry out yourself and not be heard.

**14**A secret gift calms anger;

a present turns it away.

**15**Good people enjoy carrying out justice;  
justice distresses sinners.

**16**If you stray from understanding,  
you'll end up among the dead.

**17**People that love pleasure become poor;  
they who love wine and comfort never get rich.

**18**Sinners are ransoms for the righteous;  
the unfaithful replace the good.

**Prov 21:13-18**

**19**It's better to live in the desert  
than with a contentious, "complainy" woman.

**20**Precious treasure and oil are in the houses of the wise,  
but foolish people waste them.

**21**Pursue goodness and loyalty,  
and you'll arrive at life, goodness, and honor.

**22**The wise scale the walls of the powerful  
and bring down the fortress they trust in.

**23**Watch your mouth and guard your tongue,  
and you'll stay out of trouble.

**24**"Scoffers" is the name for proud, haughty people  
that conduct themselves with arrogance.

**Prov 21:19-24**

**25**Lazy people's desires *end up* killing them  
because they refuse to work.

**26**The greedy never get enough  
while the godly give liberally.

**27***God* despises sinners' sacrifices,  
especially when they bring them with selfish motives.

**28**False witnesses perish,  
but good listeners testify forever.

**29**Sinners bluff,  
but the godly think before they act.

**30**No wisdom, insight, or counsel  
can prevail against the LORD.

**31**A horse is trained for battle,  
but victory comes from the LORD.

**Prov 21:25-31**

**22:1**A good name means more than great wealth;

being blessed is better than having silver and gold.

<sup>2</sup>The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the LORD made them both.

<sup>3</sup>Prudent people see evil and avoid it;  
but the simpleminded rush on ahead and suffer for it.

<sup>4</sup>Wealth, honor, and life are rewards  
for humility and reverence for the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>Briers and snares lie along the path of perverse people;  
those who watch what they're doing avoid such things.

<sup>6</sup>Train up children in the way they should go;  
and when they're older, they won't stray from it. **Prov 22:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The rich rule the poor;  
borrowers become servants to lenders.

<sup>8</sup>Those who sow sin reap disaster,  
and their fury won't subdue the opposition.

<sup>9</sup>Generous people will be blessed  
because they give some of their food to the poor.

<sup>10</sup>Get rid of scoffers, and contention leaves too;  
conflict and dishonor stop.

<sup>11</sup>The one that loves a pure heart  
and has gracious speech becomes a king's friend.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD preserves knowledge  
and overthrows what unreliable people say. **Prov 22:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Lazy people claim, "There's a lion outside;  
*I'll surely get killed in the streets!*"

<sup>14</sup>An immoral woman's mouth is a deep pit;  
the one the LORD curses falls into it.

<sup>15</sup>Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a kid,  
but discipline drives it out.

<sup>16</sup>Those who oppress the poor to get ahead—  
or regale the rich—come to poverty themselves.

**Prov 22:13-16**

<sup>17</sup>Listen to the wise  
and apply your mind to my instruction;

<sup>18</sup>it will be pleasant if you retain it  
so you're ready to pass it on.

<sup>19</sup>I'm teaching you today  
so you'll trust in the LORD.

- 20**Haven't I written helpful things  
     about advice and knowledge,  
**21**to make you sure of the truth  
     so you can report correctly to the one that sent you?  
**22**Don't rob the poor, who can't resist,  
     or *try to* crush them in court;  
**23**the LORD will argue their case  
     and sentence to death those who've robbed them.   **Prov 22:17-23**
- 24**Don't associate with people prone to anger  
     or go around with hotheaded types;  
**25**you'll pick up their habits  
     and entangle yourself in a net.
- 26**Don't give pledges or sign for debts.  
**27**If you can't pay,  
     why let someone take your bed from under you?  
**28**Don't remove the ancient boundary markers  
     that your ancestors have set.  
**29**Do you see people skilled at their work?  
     They'll serve kings, not just ordinary people.   **Prov 22:24-29**
- 23:1**When you're dining with a ruler,  
     be careful with what he sets in front of you.  
**2**Put a knife to your throat  
     if you have a big appetite.  
**3**Don't crave very many of his delicacies;  
     they may be there to test you.
- 4**Don't wear yourself out trying to get wealthy;  
     quit concerning yourself with riches.  
**5**When you stare at wealth, it disappears;  
     it grows wings like an eagle and flies to the sky.   **Prov 23:1-5**
- 6**Don't eat with stingy people  
     or crave their delicacies;  
**7**what they think to themselves is what they really are:

they may tell you to eat up and drink,  
but they don't mean it!

<sup>8</sup>You'll vomit the morsel you've eaten  
and waste your compliments.

<sup>9</sup>Don't speak where fools can hear you;  
they'll despise the wisdom of what you say.

<sup>10</sup>Don't move an ancient boundary marker  
or trespass in the fields of the fatherless,  
<sup>11</sup>because their Rescuer is powerful;  
he'll sue you in court.

<sup>12</sup>Apply your heart to instruction  
and your ears to knowledge.

Prov 23:6-12

<sup>13</sup>Don't withhold discipline from your children;  
punishment won't kill them.

<sup>14</sup>Use a switch on them  
and deliver their souls from Sheol.

<sup>15</sup>Son, if your heart's wise, mine will be glad;

<sup>16</sup>I'll be happy when you become an honest man.

<sup>17</sup>Don't envy sinners;  
always live in reverence for the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>There most certainly is a future;  
your hopes won't be disappointed.

<sup>19</sup>Listen and be wise;  
direct your heart on the right course.

Prov 23:13-19

<sup>20</sup>Don't pal around with heavy drinkers or big eaters;

<sup>21</sup>drunks and gluttons end up poor,  
and laziness will dress them in rags.

<sup>22</sup>Listen to your father;  
don't look down on your mother when she's old.

<sup>23</sup>Buy truth and don't sell it;  
get wisdom, instruction, and insight.

**24**Parents delight in well-behaved children;  
mature offspring make them happy.

**25**Make father happy;  
let her enjoy life who gave you birth.

**Prov 23:20-25**

**26**Give me your heart, son;  
observe my ways.

**27**A prostitute is a deep pit;  
an immoral woman is a narrow well.

**28**She lurks around like a robber  
and makes men unfaithful.

**Prov 23:26-28**

**29**Who has misfortune? Who is sad?  
Who has to cope with conflict?  
Who complains?  
Who is wounded for no reason?  
Whose eyes are bloodshot?

**30**Those who linger long over wine,  
who look around for mixed wine.

**31**Don't gaze at wine when it's red,  
when it sparkles in the cup,  
when it goes down smoothly.

**32**Afterward it strikes like a serpent;  
it bites like a viper.

**33**You'll have hallucinations  
and say crazy stuff.

**34**You're like somebody asleep, bobbing on the ocean  
or swaying on the rigging of a ship.

**35***"They strike me, but it doesn't hurt;  
they beat me, but I don't feel it.*

*When I wake up,  
I'll want another drink."*

**Prov 23:29-35**

**24:1**Don't envy bad people  
or want to be around them;

**2**their minds devise violence;  
their lips stir up trouble.

<sup>3</sup>Wisdom builds a house;  
 intelligence establishes a home;  
<sup>4</sup>knowledge fills its rooms with precious, pleasant wealth.

<sup>5</sup>The wise are strong;  
 knowledge increases their strength;  
<sup>6</sup>they wage war with effective strategy;  
 they win the victory because of their many advisors.

<sup>7</sup>Wisdom is out of the reach of fools;  
 they have nothing to say in the city gate.

<sup>8</sup>People call them schemers who plot misfortune;  
<sup>9</sup>devising foolishness is sin;  
 scoffing is detestable.

**Prov 24:1-9**

<sup>10</sup>If adversity makes you weak,  
 you're not very strong to start with.  
<sup>11</sup>Rescue those unjustly sentenced to death;  
 save those who are staggering to their execution.  
<sup>12</sup>If you try to excuse yourself by claiming ignorance,  
 won't he know better than that who weighs your heart?  
 Doesn't he know you that keeps your soul?  
 Won't he render to you what you deserve?

<sup>13</sup>Son, eat honey; it's good;  
 honeycomb tastes sweet.  
<sup>14</sup>Understand that wisdom is like that to your soul;  
 if you find it, you'll have a bright future,  
 and your hope won't fade away.

**Prov 24:10-14**

<sup>15</sup>Don't lie in wait at godly people's house, you wicked;  
 don't raid their resting place.  
<sup>16</sup>Good people fall seven times and get up again;  
 but for sinners, one disaster is more than enough.

<sup>17</sup>Don't be glad when your enemies stumble  
 or celebrate when they fall.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD won't be pleased;  
he'll turn his anger away from them.

<sup>19</sup>Don't worry about sinners or envy them;  
<sup>20</sup>they have no future; their lamp will flicker out. **Prov 24:15-20**

<sup>21</sup>Son, revere the LORD, respect the king,  
and don't associate with unstable people;  
<sup>22</sup>their disaster will rise up unexpectedly,  
and ruin you with them.

<sup>23</sup>These are sayings of the wise:

Showing partiality in judgment is unjust.

<sup>24</sup>Anyone that tells sinners they're good,  
people will curse and nations abhor.

<sup>25</sup>But those who rebuke sinners will receive delight;  
blessing will come to them.

<sup>26</sup>Giving an honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. **Prov 24:21-26**

<sup>27</sup>Finish your work in the field first;  
then come and build your house.

<sup>28</sup>Don't testify against someone for no reason  
or deceive by what you say.

<sup>29</sup>Don't say, "*I'll do to him what he's done to me;*  
*I'll render to him his deeds in return.*"

<sup>30</sup>I went past a lazy person's field,  
past the vineyard of someone without common sense.

<sup>31</sup>Thistles had taken it over;  
nettles covered the ground;  
its walls were broken down.

<sup>32</sup>I thought about what I saw;

I looked and learned:

<sup>33</sup>*"A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest."*

<sup>34</sup>Your poverty will descend on you like a raider;

your need *will attack you* like an armed robber. **Prov 24:27-34**

### **25:1**

More of Solomon's Proverbs That the Men of Hezekiah,  
King of Judah, Transcribed

<sup>2</sup>It's God's privilege not to reveal things  
it's a king's responsibility to figure them out.

<sup>3</sup>A king's mind is as unsearchable  
as the sky is high and the earth is deep.

<sup>4</sup>Remove the dross from silver,  
and a silversmith can make something out of it.

<sup>5</sup>Keep corrupt *advisors* away from a king,  
and goodness will make his throne secure. **Prov 25:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>Don't claim a privileged position in a king's presence  
or put yourself in a place designated for nobles.

<sup>7</sup>It's better to be told to come up higher  
than to be put down lower  
in the presence of a prince.

What you've seen

<sup>8</sup>don't rush to court over;  
what will you do at the end of the trial  
if the one you accuse puts you to shame?

<sup>9</sup>When you're arguing with your neighbor,  
don't betray another person's confidence;

<sup>10</sup>people may find out and accuse you of gossiping,  
and you won't regain your good reputation. **Prov 25:6-10**

<sup>11</sup>Words fitly spoken in the proper place  
are like golden apples in a silver setting.

<sup>12</sup>A wise correction to an attentive ear  
is like a gold earring or jewelry.

<sup>13</sup>An employer's reliable messenger  
refreshes like cold snow at harvest time.

<sup>14</sup>People that brag falsely about what they'll do

are like clouds and wind without rain.

**15**Patience can persuade a prince;  
a soft tongue can break a bone.

**16**Have you found honey?

Don't eat too much of it and make yourself sick.

**17**Don't visit your friends too often;  
they'll get tired of you.

**18**Someone that slanders

is like a club, a sword, a sharp arrow.

**Prov 25:11-18**

**19**Depending on undependable people in hard times  
is like chewing with a broken tooth  
or walking on a sprained ankle.

**20**Singing to a heavy heart

is like removing your coat on a cold day  
or *pouring* vinegar on lye.

**21**If your enemies are hungry, feed them;  
if they're thirsty, give them a drink;  
**22**you'll be dumping hot coals on their head,  
and the LORD will reward you.

**Prov 25:19-22**

**23**A north wind brings rain;  
a back-biting tongue brings angry looks.

**24**It's better to live in the corner of a housetop  
than inside a house with a contentious woman.

**25**Good news from a distant land  
is like cool water to a weary soul.

**26**Good people that cave in to sinful people  
are like trampled springs and polluted wells.

**27**Don't eat too much honey;  
don't seek your own honor.

**28**Someone that's out of control  
is like an unwalled city; it's open to attack.

**Prov 25:23-28**

**26:**<sup>1</sup>Like snow in summer and rain at harvest,  
honor is out of place on a fool.

**2**Like a flitting sparrow, like a fluttering swallow,  
an undeserved curse doesn't land on its intended victim.

**3**A whip is for a horse,  
a bridle is for a donkey,

a rod is for the back of a fool.

<sup>4</sup>Don't answer fools' arguments;  
you'll dignify them with a response.

<sup>5</sup>Answer fools' arguments;  
otherwise, they'll think they've won.

<sup>6</sup>Trusting a fool to deliver a message  
is like cutting off your feet or drinking poison.

**Prov 26:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>A proverb in the mouth of a fool  
is like legs hanging from the lame.

<sup>8</sup>Honoring a fool  
is as dangerous as putting a stone in a sling.

<sup>9</sup>A proverb in the mouth of a fool  
is like a thorn in the hand of a drunk.

<sup>10</sup>Whoever hires a fool or passerby  
is like an archer that shoots at random.

<sup>11</sup>A fool that repeats his folly  
is like a dog that returns to its vomit.

<sup>12</sup>There's more hope for fools  
than for people that think they're smart.

**Prov 26:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Lazy people claim there's a lion in the road!  
There's surely a lion in the public square!

<sup>14</sup>Like a door swinging on its hinges,  
lazy people turn on their beds.

<sup>15</sup>Lazy people stick their fingers in the plate  
but they don't even bring the food to their mouth.

<sup>16</sup>Lazy people think they're smarter  
than seven wise advisors.

<sup>17</sup>A passerby that meddles in other people's conflict  
is like someone taking a dog by the ears.

**Prov 26:13-17**

**18-19**Someone that lies  
and says, "*Just kidding,*"  
is as dangerous as a maniac  
that's shooting flaming arrows.

<sup>20</sup>For lack of wood a fire goes out;  
where there's no gossip, quarreling dies down.

<sup>21</sup>Contentious people spark conflict

like charcoal on hot embers or wood on fire.

**22**Rumors are like delicious morsels;  
they work their way down deep inside you!

**23**Warm lips and a base heart  
are like silver glaze on a clay pot.

**Prov 26:18-23**

**24**People disguise disdain with words  
while storing up deceit in their heart;

**25**don't trust them when they pretend to be kind to you,  
because they have seven evils in their minds;

**26**though they coat their disdain with lies,  
it'll eventually come out for all to see.

**27**You dig a pit for others, only to fall in it yourself;  
you roll a boulder uphill only to have it roll back and crush you.

**28**A lying tongue despises its victims;  
a flattering mouth brings ruin.

**Prov 26:24-28**

**27:1**Don't brag about tomorrow;  
you don't know what's going to happen.

**2**Let somebody else praise you, not your own mouth;  
a stranger, not your own lips.

**3**A rock is heavy and sand weighs a lot,  
but a fool's resentment outweighs either one.

**4**Anger and wrath are bad enough,  
but jealousy is even worse.

**5**Open rebuke is better than secret love.

**6**A friend's wounds may be sincere,  
but an enemy's kisses deceive.

**Prov 27:1-6**

**7**A person that's full hates honey;  
one that's famished thinks bitter tastes sweet.

**8**If you wander away from home,  
you're like a bird that wanders off from its nest.

**9**Oil and perfume make you feel good,  
and a friend's advice is sweet.

**10**Don't abandon a friend, yours or your father's;  
that way, if misfortune comes,

you won't have to impose on your brother's house;  
a near neighbor is better than a distant brother.

**11**Be wise and make me happy, child,  
so I can answer critics that try to disgrace me.

**12**The prudent foresee danger and take precautions;  
the simpleminded plunge ahead and pay the price. **Prov 27:7-12**

**13**Get security from someone that guarantees a foreigner's debt;  
get a deposit for a promiscuous woman.

**14**Loudly blessing a friend in the morning  
will be taken as an enemy's curse.

**15**A contentious wife is like a steady rain;

**16**whoever tries to restrain her  
may as well try to restrain the wind  
or hold onto something with an oily hand.

**Prov 27:13-16**

**17**Like iron sharpens iron,  
one person sharpens another.

**18**If you tend a fig tree, you'll eat its fruit;  
if you aid your master's interests, you'll be rewarded.

**19**As water reflects a face,  
the heart reflects the real person.

**20**Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied;  
neither are people's wants.

**21**A crucible is for silver, and a furnace is for gold;  
a person is put to the test by flattery.

**22**Though you grind fools in a mortar  
with a pestle like crushed grain,  
you won't separate them from their foolishness. **Prov 27:17-22**

**23**Keep tabs on the condition of your flocks;  
pay close attention to your herds,

**24**because wealth doesn't last forever,  
and a crown isn't permanent.

**25**When the hay's all in  
and new growth starts to appear  
and the grass on the hillsides is in the barn,

**26**lambs will provide wool for your clothes,

and your goats will be worth enough to buy a field;  
<sup>27</sup>you'll have enough goats' milk for yourself,  
 your family, and your servant girls.

**Prov 27:23-27**

**28:1** Sinners run when no one's chasing,  
 but the good are as bold as lions.  
<sup>2</sup>When a country sins, lots of leaders vie for control;  
 but wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability.

<sup>3</sup>The poor that oppress the poor  
 are like a driving rain that destroys crops.

<sup>4</sup>Those who leave the Law commend the sinful,  
 but those who keep it contend with them.

<sup>5</sup>Bad people don't understand justice,  
 those who look to the LORD understand it.

<sup>6</sup>Being poor and honest  
 is better than being rich and dishonest. **Prov 28:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>Young people that keep the Law are wise offspring,  
 but companions of gluttons humiliate their parents.

<sup>8</sup>Whoever increases wealth by charging high interest,  
 gathers it for the one that's kind to the poor.

<sup>9</sup>When people quit listening to the Law,  
 even their prayers become offensive.

<sup>10</sup>They who mislead the godly  
 fall into their own pit,  
 but the honest inherit good things.

<sup>11</sup>The rich may think they're smart,  
 but poor people with insight can see through them.

<sup>12</sup>When the godly triumph, everybody's glad;  
 but when the sinful take over, people leave. **Prov 28:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>Concealing your sins won't make you prosper,  
 but confessing and abandoning them will foster mercy.

<sup>14</sup>How blessed they are who fear doing wrong,  
 but those who harden their hearts are headed for trouble.

<sup>15</sup>An evil ruler is as dangerous to poor people  
 as a roaring lion or a charging bear.

<sup>16</sup>A leader that oppresses isn't using good judgment;  
 anyone that hates unjust gain prolongs life.

<sup>17</sup>Corrupt leaders, loaded down with the guilt of human blood,

will be fugitives till death; nobody will take their side.

**18**People that live with integrity will be rescued,  
but those who are perverse will suddenly fall. **Prov 28:13-18**

**19**The man that plows his ground will have plenty to eat,  
but one that follows fantasies will be poor in the midst of plenty.

**20**Reliable people receive many blessings,  
but those who want to get rich quick get into trouble.

**21**Showing partiality is never good;  
yet some would sin to get a piece of bread.

**22**A miser hurries to get rich  
and doesn't realize that want will overtake him.

**23**Someone that rebukes finds more approval  
than someone that flatters.

**24**People that steal from their parents,  
and claim it's not sin,  
are no better than murderers. **Prov 28:19-24**

**25**Arrogant people stir up conflict,  
but those who trust in the LORD prosper.

**26**People are foolish to trust in themselves;  
it's the ones that live wisely that stay safe.

**27**If you give to the poor, you'll never be poor;  
but if you close your eyes *to poverty*, you'll be cursed.

**28**When corrupt leaders rise to power, people go into hiding;  
when they meet disaster, the godly flourish. **Prov 28:25-28**

**29:1**If you stiffen your neck after repeated correction,  
you'll suddenly be broken beyond recovery.

**2**When good people rule, people are happy;  
when corrupt leaders take over, the citizens groan.

**3**A son that loves wisdom makes his father happy,  
but one that visits prostitutes squanders his wealth.

**4**A good king creates a stable country,  
but one that accepts bribes ruins it.

**5**Flattering your friends  
spreads a net for them to step in.

**6**Bad people's sins become their downfall,  
but the righteous can sing and celebrate. **Prov 29:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The godly care about the rights of the poor;  
sinful people don't care about such things.

<sup>8</sup>Scoffers can set a city in an uproar,  
but the wise defuse anger.

<sup>9</sup>When the wise argue with the foolish,  
the foolish get mad or mock; there's no quiet response.

<sup>10</sup>Bloodthirsty people hate anybody that's blameless,  
but the godly are concerned about other people's lives.

<sup>11</sup>Fools lose their temper;  
the wise keep it in check.

<sup>12</sup>If a ruler is willing to listen to lies,  
his advisors become corrupt.

**Prov 29:7-12**

<sup>13</sup>The poor and the oppressor have this in common:  
the LORD makes both of them able to see.

<sup>14</sup>If a king judges the poor fairly,  
his throne will be permanently secure.

<sup>15</sup>Discipline gives children wisdom,  
but kids that get their way are an embarrassment to their mother.

<sup>16</sup>When corrupt leaders get control, sin multiplies;  
but the godly will see them fall.

<sup>17</sup>Correct your children,  
and they'll bring you comfort and delight.

<sup>18</sup>Where there's no revelation, people cast off restraint;  
but those who keep the Law stay happy.

**Prov 29:13-18**

<sup>19</sup>Words alone won't correct a slave;  
though he understands, he won't respond.

<sup>20</sup>There's more hope for a fool  
than for someone that's rash with words

<sup>21</sup>A slave pampered from childhood  
will turn out to be a rebel.

<sup>22</sup>Angry people stir up conflict;  
hotheads commit a lot of sins.

<sup>23</sup>Pride brings humiliation;  
humility lifts up to places of honor.

<sup>24</sup>Helping a thief puts you in jeopardy:  
you've taken an oath against perjury,  
but you can't tell the truth in court.

**Prov 29:19-24**

<sup>25</sup>Fearing other people entraps you;  
trusting the LORD makes you secure.

<sup>26</sup>People look to rulers for approval,  
but justice comes from the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>The wicked despise the righteous,  
and the righteous despise them back.

**Prov 29:25-27**

### **30:1**The Words of Agur Son of Jakeh, an Oracle

*Agur* says to Ithiel and Ucal:

<sup>2</sup>Surely I'm too stupid to be human;  
I don't have common sense.

<sup>3</sup>I haven't mastered wisdom;  
I don't know the Holy One.

<sup>4</sup>Who *but God* goes up to the sky and back down  
or grasps the wind in his fist?

Who wraps up the ocean in his cloak  
or sets the boundaries of land?

What's his name? What's his son's name?  
Tell me if you know!

**Prov 30:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>Every message from God proves true;  
he's a shield for those who take refuge in him.

<sup>6</sup>Don't add to what he says;  
otherwise, he'll reprove you  
and expose you as a liar.

<sup>7</sup>I ask you for two things before I die:

<sup>8</sup>*first*, keep me from being deceived\*;  
*second*, don't give me poverty or wealth;  
just give me what I need;

<sup>9</sup>so, on the one hand, I won't be full and deny you, saying,  
“*Who needs the LORD?*”

or, on the other hand, lack what I need and steal to get it,  
and so profane the name of my God.

<sup>10</sup>Don't slander a slave to his master,  
or he'll curse you and you'll pay for it.

**Prov 30:5-10**

- <sup>11</sup>Some curse their father  
and don't bless their mother.
- <sup>12</sup>Some consider themselves pure,  
but they're unwashed and filthy.
- <sup>13</sup>Some—how lofty their eyes!  
    how high their brows!—  
<sup>14</sup>some have teeth like swords  
    and fangs like knives;  
they devour the poor and needy.

**Prov 30:11-14**

- <sup>15</sup>A leech has two daughters  
that cry, "*More, give me more.*"

Three things are never satisfied,  
*no, make that* four that never say, "*That's enough*":

- <sup>16</sup>Sheol,  
a barren womb,  
desert ground,  
and a blazing fire

**Prov 30:15-16**

- <sup>17</sup>The eye that mocks father or scorns mother  
the ravens in the valley will pluck out,  
the vultures will eat.

- <sup>18</sup>Three things are too amazing for me,  
*no, make that* four I don't understand:

- <sup>19</sup>how an eagle flies in the sky,  
how a snake slithers on a ledge,  
how a ship moves on the ocean,  
and how a man is drawn to a maiden.

- <sup>20</sup>An adulterous woman "consumes" *a man*,  
"wipes her mouth," and says,  
*"I haven't done anything wrong."*

**Prov 30:17-20**

- <sup>21</sup>Under three things the ground trembles,  
*no, make that* four, it can't endure:  
<sup>22</sup>a slave that becomes king,  
a well-fed fool,  
<sup>23</sup>an unloved woman that gets a husband,

and a maid that replaces her mistress.

**24**Four things are small but especially wise:

**25**ants aren't strong,

but they store up their food in the summer;

**26**rock badgers aren't powerful,

but they make their homes in the rocks;

**27**locusts don't have a king,

but they march out in ranks;

**28**lizards are easy to catch with your hands,

yet they're in kings' palaces.

**Prov 30:21-28**

**29**Three things are stately in their stride,

*no*, four that walk with majestic bearing:

**30**a lion, powerful and unafraid among the animals;

**31**a strutting rooster,

a billy goat,

and a king leading his army.

**32**If you've been foolish by acting proud

or putting other people down,

cover your mouth in shame.

**33**As churning cream makes butter

and punching a nose makes it bleed,

so stirring up anger causes quarrels.

**Prov 30:29-33**

### **31:1**The Words of King Lemuel

The Oracle His Mother Taught Him

**2**Please listen, son,

son of my womb, son of my vows;

**3**don't waste your strength

on the kind of women that destroy kings.

**4**Lemuel, it's not for kings to guzzle wine

or for rulers to get addicted to alcohol;

**5**the fear is that they'll forget the Law

and not give justice to the oppressed.

- <sup>6</sup>Give alcohol to the dying  
     and wine to those in pain;  
<sup>7</sup>let them drink and forget their condition,  
     and not remember their suffering anymore.  
<sup>8</sup>Speak up for those who can't speak for themselves;  
<sup>9</sup>judge justly and defend the poor and needy.

**Prov 31:1-9**

### Tribute to a Worthy Woman

- <sup>10</sup>Who can find a capable wife of noble character?  
     She's worth more than jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>Her husband can rely on her,  
     and he'll not lack anything of value.  
<sup>12</sup>She'll do him good her whole life.  
<sup>13</sup>She looks for wool and linen,  
     and enjoys working with her hands.  
<sup>14</sup>Like a merchant ship,  
     she brings her food from a distance.  
<sup>15</sup>She gets up before daylight to feed her family  
     and assign the day's jobs to her maids.  
<sup>16</sup>She inspects a field and buys it,  
     and plants a vineyard from her earnings.

**Prov 31:10-16**

- <sup>17</sup>She wraps her waist with strength  
     and makes her arms strong.  
<sup>18</sup>She makes sure her efforts are profitable,  
     and her lamp doesn't go out at night.

- <sup>19</sup>She reaches for the distaff,  
     and her hands hold the spindle.  
<sup>20</sup>She reaches out to the poor and needy.  
<sup>21</sup>She's not worried when it snows  
     because she has dressed her family in scarlet.

- <sup>22</sup>She wears purple and fine linen  
     and makes her own bedclothes.

**Prov 31:17-22**

- <sup>23</sup>The community knows her husband in the city gates,  
     where he sits among the leaders of the land.  
<sup>24</sup>She makes sashes and linen garments  
     to sell to the merchants.  
<sup>25</sup>She dresses in strength and dignity

- and smiles at the future.
- <sup>26</sup>She speaks wisely and teaches kindly.
- <sup>27</sup>She takes care of her household  
and doesn't idle away her time.
- <sup>28</sup>Her children grow up and bless her;  
her husband, too, and praises her:
- <sup>29</sup>*"Lots of women do nobly,  
but you excel them all."*
- <sup>30</sup>Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
but praise a woman that respects the LORD.
- <sup>31</sup>Reward her for what she does,  
and let her work speak for her in the community.

**Prov 31:23-31**

Version by Virgil Warren: christir.org