

PROVERBS

Conversational Version

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

²for knowing wisdom and instruction,
 for understanding words that give insight,
³for receiving instruction in smart living,
 goodness, justice, and equity;
⁴for giving prudence to the simple,
 and knowledge and discretion to the young;
⁵for increasing learning in the wise
 and gaining skill at understanding;
⁶for understanding proverbs and wise sayings,
 riddles and profound speech. **Prov 1:1-6**

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

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

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

¹¹If they say, "*Come on,
 let's lie in wait to shed blood
 and ambush innocent people for fun.*"
¹²*Let's swallow them alive and whole like Sheol,
 like people that go down to the Pit.*
¹³*We'll get precious wealth
 and fill our houses with plunder.*
¹⁴*Throw in your lot with us,
 and we'll share the take"—*

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

¹⁶They hurry to do harm;
 they run to shed blood. **Prov 1:10-16**

¹⁷There's no point in spreading a net
while the bird's watching.
¹⁸*Sinners* lie in wait for their own blood;
they ambush their own lives.
¹⁹That's how it is with people that profit from violence;
it steals their own lives. **Prov 1:17-19**

²⁰Wisdom shouts in the street;
it raises its voice in the marketplace.
²¹It cries out from the top of the wall
and says at the city gate:
²²*"How long, simpletons, will you like being simpletons,
and you scoffers delight in scoffing,
and you foolish people hate knowledge?"*
²³*Pay attention when I correct you;
I'll pour out my spirit on you
and tell you what you need to know.*
²⁴*I called and you wouldn't listen;
I held out my hand, and you paid no attention.*
²⁵*You ignored my advice;
you didn't want me to correct you.*
²⁶*So I'll laugh at your misfortune
and mock you when panic strikes,
²⁷when what you dread comes like a tornado,
when distress come crashing down on you.* **Prov 1:20-27**

²⁸*Then you'll call out to me, and I won't answer;
you'll look for me, but not find me
²⁹because you disregarded knowledge
and chose not to respect the LORD.*
³⁰*You wouldn't accept my advice;
you despised being corrected;
³¹so you'll eat the fruit of how you lived
founder on your own schemes.*
³²*The waywardness of simpleminded people gets them killed;
the complacency of fools destroys them.*
³³*But the ones that listen to me, live securely;
they're at ease without dreading misfortune."* **Prov 1:28-33**

2¹ 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.

¹⁹No man that enters her house ever comes back;

they don't reach the paths that lead to life. **Prov 2:11-19**

²⁰Follow the road good people take;

keep to the paths they follow,

²¹because the godly will live in the land;

the blameless will stay here.

²²But 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;

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

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

tie them around your neck;

write them on your heart.

⁴That way you'll find blessing

and have a good reputation with God and people.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart;

don't rely on your own perception.

⁶Acknowledge him in everything you do,

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

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

respect the LORD and turn your back on sin.

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

⁹Honor the LORD with your substance,

the firstfruits of your crops.

¹⁰Your barns will be full;

your vats will overflow with new wine.

Prov 3:9-10

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

or give up when he corrects you;

¹²he corrects the ones he cares about,

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

¹³They are blessed who find wisdom,

that gain insight.

¹⁴It's more profitable than silver;

it brings greater gains than fine gold.

¹⁵It's more precious than jewels;

nothing you desire can compare with it.

¹⁶Its left hand holds wealth and honor;

long life is in its right hand.

¹⁷Its ways are pleasant;

its paths are peaceful.

¹⁸It's a life-giving tree for people that pick its fruit;

everybody that holds onto it is happy.

Prov 3:11-18

¹⁹The LORD founded the earth with wisdom

and established the heavens with understanding;

²⁰he broke up the depths with his knowledge

and caused dew to settle from the sky.

Prov 3:19-20

²¹Son, keep sound wisdom and discretion nearby;

don't let them out of your sight.

²²They'll refresh your soul

and adorn your neck.

²³You'll walk along your road

surefooted without stumbling.

²⁴When you lie down, you won't feel afraid;

when you go to bed, your sleep will be sweet.

²⁵Don't be afraid of sudden panic

or the ruin that sinful people may bring,

²⁶because you'll have confidence with the LORD;

he'll keep your foot out of the snare.

Prov 3:21-26

²⁷Don't withhold good from people that need it

when you can give it.

²⁸Don't tell them,

"Come back tomorrow, and you can have it."

²⁹Don't devise misfortune against the one

that's living safely beside you.

³⁰Don't be difficult with people

if they've done you no wrong.

³¹Don't envy the violent
or choose to do what they do.

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

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

³⁴He scoffs at scoffers,
but is gracious to the humble.

³⁵The wise receive honor;
the foolish get disgrace.

Prov 3:27-35

^{4:1}Listen to my instruction, children;
pay attention and learn.

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

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

⁴he 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

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

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

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

when you run, you won't stumble.

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

Prov 4:10-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 4:14-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 4:20-27

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

²so you can use discretion
and express knowledge.

³An immoral woman's lips drip honey;
 her speech is more soothing than oil;
⁴but in the end she's as bitter as wormwood,
 as sharp as a two-edged sword.

⁵Her feet go down to death;
 her steps lead to Sheol.

⁶She doesn't ponder the path of life;
 she wanders without realizing it.

Prov 5:1-6

⁷Listen to me, sons;
 don't turn aside from what I'm telling you.

⁸Stay away from her;

 don't go near her house,

⁹so you won't be giving your vigor to others
 and your years to someone cruel;

¹⁰so a stranger won't be filled with your strength
 and the fruit of your act go to an alien;

¹¹and you groan at the end of life
 because you misused your body;

¹²and you say, "*I hated instruction!*
 my heart despised being corrected!

¹³*I didn't listen to my teachers*
 or pay attention to my instructors!

¹⁴*I've come to the point of total ruin*
 and have to face public disgrace."

Prov 5:7-14

¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern,
 fresh water from your own well.

¹⁶Should your spring be spilled
 like water running down the street?

¹⁷Let it be for yours alone,
 not for a stranger too.

Prov 5:15-17

¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed;
 be happy with the wife of your youth.

¹⁹Like a lovely deer, a graceful doe,
 be satisfied with her breasts;
 be stimulated by her love.

²⁰Son, why be stimulated by an immoral woman?
 why embrace the bosom of a stranger?

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

Prov 5:18-23

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

Prov 6:1-5

- ⁶Go observe ants, lazy guy;
watch what they do and wise up.
⁷Though they don't have a chief, an officer, or ruler,
⁸they prepare their food in the summer;
at harvest time they gather provisions *for winter*.
⁹How 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"—*
¹¹your poverty will come on you like a bandit;
your need *will attack you* like an armed man.

Prov 6:6-11

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

- ¹⁵Tragedy will come crashing down on him;
all at once he'll be crushed beyond recovery. **Prov 6:11-15**
- ¹⁶Six things the LORD despises;
no, make that seven that disgust him:
¹⁷arrogant eyes,
lying tongues,
blood-shedding hands,
¹⁸plotting hearts,
feet in a hurry to do harm,
¹⁹witnesses who perjure themselves
and people that stir up conflict between friends. **Prov 6:16-19**
- ²⁰Son, keep your father's commands;
don't leave your mother's teachings.
²¹Bind them next to your heart;
hang them around your neck.
²²They'll guide you when you walk,
watch over you while you sleep,
and advise you when you wake up.
²³A commandment is a lamp;
teaching is a light;
corrections that discipline lead to life. **Prov 6:20-23**
- ²⁴They keep your eyes off an immoral woman,
a loose woman with smooth talk.
²⁵Don't desire her beauty
or let her catch your attention with her eyes.
²⁶A prostitute leaves a man with little to eat;
an immoral woman stalks his very life.
²⁷Can a man carry fire in his arms
and not singe his clothes?
²⁸Can he walk on hot coals
and not burn his feet?
²⁹Can a man go to his neighbor's wife
and not suffer for it? **Prov 6:24-29**
- ³⁰People don't despise a thief
that steals because he's hungry;

- ³¹but 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.
- ³²A man that commits adultery lacks good judgment;
he's looking to destroy himself.
- ³³He'll find wounds and disgrace
and shame he can't erase.
- ³⁴Jealousy makes a husband furious;
he won't restrain his revenge.
- ³⁵He won't accept ransom
or be content with your gifts.

Prov 6:30-35

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

Prov 7:1-5

- ⁶At the window of my house
I looked out through the lattice
- ⁷and saw among the naïve
a young man with no sense.
- ⁸He was going down the street near her corner
on the way to her house,
⁹in the evening at dusk.
- During the night after dark,
¹⁰a woman comes to meet him,
dressed like a prostitute, coy at heart.
- ¹¹She's loud and rebellious, not content to stay home—
¹²now in the streets, now in the squares,
lurking at every corner.
- ¹³She grabs him and kisses him,
and says to him with a brazen face,

Prov 7:6-12

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

²¹She entices him with persuasion,
And seduces him with flattery.

²²Finally he follows her like a bull to slaughter,
like a stag heading for a trap.

²³An 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

²⁴So pay attention to what I’m saying, sons.

²⁵Don’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.

²⁷Her house lies on the road to Sheol,
that descends to the den of death.

Prov 7:24-27

8:¹Wisdom calls out,
and intelligence raises its voice.

²It takes its stand on high places
where footpaths meet.

³It 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,*

²¹*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.*

²³*I was in place from everlasting,
from the beginning of time on earth.*

²⁴*I came before there were any oceans
or any springs abounded with water,*

²⁵*before the mountains were born
or any hills existed,*

²⁶*before he made soil and fields
and dust on the ground.*

Prov 8:22-26

²⁷*I was there when he put the heavens in place
and drew the horizons around the ocean;*

²⁸*when he set the sky above
and established the fountains in the deep;*

²⁹*when he laid shorelines for the seas
so water couldn't cross their boundaries;
when he marked out the foundations for the earth.*

³⁰*I stood beside him like a general contractor,
serving as his daily delight,
celebrating with him,*

³¹*rejoicing in the world he was making,
delighting in humankind.*

Prov 8:27-31

³²*“So now, my children, listen to me
because I bless those who keep my ways.*

³³*Obey instruction in order to be wise;
don't neglect it.*

³⁴*Blessed are those who pay attention to what I say,
who watch at my gates each day
and wait at my doorpost.*

³⁵*The ones that find me find life
and gain the LORD's blessing.*

³⁶*But those who miss out on me hurt themselves;
the ones that hate me love death.”*

Prov 8:32-36

9:¹*Wisdom has built her house;
she's carved its seven columns.*

²*She's done her butchering, mixed her wine,
and set her table.*

³*She's sent her maids*

to call out from the heights of the city:

⁴*“Whoever is naïve, turn in here!”*

She says to those who lack good judgment,

⁵*“Come in and eat my food
drink the wine I’ve mixed.*

⁶*Abandon your foolish ways and start having a life;
conduct yourself with good judgment.”*

Prov 9:1-6

⁷If you correct a scoffer, you’ll be abused;
if you reprove sinners, you’ll get insulted.

⁸So don’t bother reproving scoffers; they’ll hate you;
reprove the wise, and they’ll love you.

⁹Instruct the wise, and they’ll be wiser still;
teach the good, and they’ll be better yet.

¹⁰Respect for the LORD is basic to wisdom;
knowing the Holy One clarifies your thinking.

¹¹It’ll multiply your days
and add years to your life.

¹²If you’re wise, you’re wise for yourself;
if you scoff *at wisdom*, it’ll be to your detriment.

Prov 9:7-12

¹³A foolish woman is loud;
she’s naïve and ignorant.

¹⁴She sits in the doorway of her house
or takes a seat on the high places in town.

¹⁵She calls out to those who are going by,
who are following straight paths:

¹⁶*“Whoever is naïve, turn in here,”*
she claims to those who don’t know any better.

¹⁷*“Stolen water is refreshing;
bread eaten in secret tastes good.”*

¹⁸But they don’t know that the dead are there,
that her guests lie in Sheol.

Prov 9:13-18

10:¹Proverbs of Solomon

A wise son makes a happy father,

but a foolish one grieves his mother.

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

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

⁴A lazy hand makes for poverty;
a diligent one produces wealth.

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

⁶Blessings come to the good,
but the sinful harbor violent intentions.

Prov 10:1-6

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

⁸The wise in heart accept commands,
but babbling fools come to ruin.

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

¹⁰The one that winks causes trouble;
babbling fools come to ruin.

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

¹²Hatred stirs up conflict,
but love atones for all sins.

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

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

Prov 10:7-14

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

¹⁶Life is good people's pay;
punishment is bad people's payback.

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

¹⁸Hiding hatred makes you a liar;
spreading slander makes you a fool.

¹⁹Talking too much makes you likely to sin;

so be wise and limit what you say.

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

Prov 10:15-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 10:21-26

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 10:27-32

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

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

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

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

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

⁶Their goodness delivers the godly;
their greed snares deceivers.

Prov 11:1-6

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

⁸Good people leave trouble behind,
but sinners head right for it.

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

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

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

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

¹³Gossips go around telling secrets;
reliable people keep private matters private.

¹⁴Without wise leaders a nation falls;
victory comes from having many advisors.

Prov 11:7-14

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

¹⁶A gracious woman earns respect;
a violent man just gets rich.

¹⁷Kindness repays you;
cruelty destroys you.

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

¹⁹Steadfast goodness promotes life;
chasing after evil gets you killed.

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

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

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

Prov 11:15-22

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

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

²⁵The generous prosper;
those who refresh other people will be refreshed.

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

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

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

Prov 11:23-28

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

³⁰Good people become a tree of life,
the wise win friends.

³¹If the righteous are rewarded on earth,
how much more godless sinners!

Prov 11:29-31

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

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

³Sinfulness brings instability,
but godliness grows deep roots.

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

⁵You can trust the thinking of the righteous,
but the advice of sinners is treacherous.

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

Prov 12:1-6

⁷The sinful are overthrown and disappear,
but the godly stand firm.

⁸People are commended for using good sense;
people with perverted minds are despised.

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

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

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

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

Prov 12:7-12

¹³Their own words trap sinful people;
good people avoid trouble like that.

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

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

¹⁶Fools fly off the handle when insulted,
but the prudent stay calm.

¹⁷Honest witnesses tell the truth;
false ones just make up something.

¹⁸Cutting remarks spoken rashly thrust like daggers,
but wise words heal wounds.

Prov 12:13-18

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

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

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

²²The LORD detests liars
but delights in reliable people.

²³Prudent people hold back telling how much they know;
foolish people talk too much.

²⁴The diligent rule;
the lazy end up enslaved.

Prov 12:19-24

²⁵Anxiety weighs people down;
an encouraging word raises them up.

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

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

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

Prov 12:25-28

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

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

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

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

⁵Good people hate lies,
but sinners act disgracefully.

⁶Goodness protects the blameless;
sinfulness undermines the sinful.

Prov 13:1-6

⁷One person acts rich but is poor;
another pretends to be poor but is wealthy.

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

⁹The light of the godly shines bright,
but the lamp of the sinful flickers out.

¹⁰Insolence causes division;
accepting advice brings wisdom.

¹¹Easy wealth soon dwindles away;
what we work for increases.

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

Prov 13:7-12

¹³Instruction destroys people that hate it;
a commandment rewards those who respect it.

¹⁴Wise teaching is your fountain of life
for avoiding the snares of death.

¹⁵Good sense leads to blessing,
but a treacherous mind creates hardship.

¹⁶Prudent people act with insight;

fools flaunt their foolishness.

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

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

Prov 13:13-18

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

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

²¹Misfortune follows sinners,
but prosperity rewards the righteous.

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

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

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

²⁵Good people have enough to satisfy their appetite,
but a sinner's stomach never feels full.

Prov 13:19-25

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

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

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

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

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

⁶Scoffers look for wisdom but don't find it;
knowledge comes easy for insightful people.

Prov 14:1-6

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

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

⁹Fools make fun of guilt,

but the godly favor the guiltless.

¹⁰The heart knows its bitterness;
no one else can share its joy.

¹¹The house of the sinful faces demolition,
but the tent of the godly stands steady.

¹²There is a way that seems right,
but it leads to death.

Prov 14:7-12

¹³Laughter can hide a heavy heart;
joy can give way to grief.

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

¹⁵Simpleminded people believe anything,
the prudent watch where they step.

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

¹⁷Short-tempered people do foolish things;
people despise people that scheme.

¹⁸The naïve inherit foolishness,
but the prudent wear knowledge like a crown.

Prov 14:13-18

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

²⁰Even neighbors dislike the poor,
but lots of people like the rich.

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

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

²³There's profit in work;
mere talk produces poverty.

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

Prov 14:19-24

²⁵A truthful witness saves lives,
but a false witness is a traitor.

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

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

²⁸A growing population speaks well for a king;
what's the point of a prince without subjects?

²⁹Wise people control their temper;
short-tempered people show their lack of good sense.

³⁰A peaceful heart makes a healthy body,
but jealousy is like cancer of the bone.

Prov 14:25-30

³¹People that oppress the poor insult their Maker;
those who are gracious to them honor him.

³²Sinful people get crushed by the disasters
they bring on themselves,
but the righteous have a refuge when they die.

³³Wisdom rests in intelligent people,
but it's *not* evident among fools.

³⁴Goodness raises the quality of a nation;
sin's a disgrace to any people.

³⁵A king favors a servant that acts wisely,
but he lashes out at one that disgraces him.

Prov 14:31-35

15:¹A gentle answer deflects anger;
harsh words make tempers flare.

²The wise dispense knowledge;
fools expound foolishness.

³The LORD sees everything;
he watches the evil and the good.

⁴Gentle words are a tree of life,
but perverse talk breaks people's spirit.

⁵Fools reject their father's discipline,
but those attentive to correction become prudent.

⁶There's wealth in the house of the godly,
but the earnings of the sinful bring trouble.

Prov 15:1-6

⁷The lips of the wise give good advice;
the hearts of fools have nothing to offer.

⁸The LORD detests the sacrifices of sinners,
but delights in the prayers of the righteous.

⁹He detests the way of the wicked,
but loves people who pursue goodness.

¹⁰Those who abandon the way incur harsh discipline;

those who reject discipline die.

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

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

Prov 15:7-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 15:13-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 15:19-24

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 15:25-30

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

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

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

Prov 15:31-33

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 16:1-6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 16:7-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 16:13-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 16:19-24

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

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

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

²⁸Perverse persons spread conflict;
slanderers alienate friends.

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

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

Prov 16:25-30

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

³²Those 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.

³³We cast lots in the lap,
 but the LORD determines how they fall.

Prov 16:31-33

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

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

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

⁴Wrongdoers pay attention to gossip;
 liars latch onto slander.

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

⁶Grandchildren are the crown of old age;
 parents are the pride of their children.

Prov 17:1-6

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

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

⁹Forgiving fosters love,
 but dwelling on faults alienates friends.

¹⁰A rebuke penetrates deeper into thoughtful people
 than 100 blows affect a fool.

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

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

Prov 17:7-12

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

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

¹⁵Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent
 are equally detestable to the LORD.

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

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

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

Prov 17:13-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 17:19-24

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

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

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

²⁸Even 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 18:1-6

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

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

⁹People that aren't productive
are relatives of those who destroy.

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

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

¹²Pride goes before destruction;
humility precedes honor.

Prov 18:7-12

¹³Popping off an answer before listening to the question
is foolish and shameful.

¹⁴The human spirit can survive a sick body,
but who can endure a broken spirit?

¹⁵The wise search for knowledge;
the prudent acquire it.

¹⁶Generosity opens doors
and connects you with important people.

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

¹⁸Casting lots ends contentions;
it settles disputes between powerful contenders.

Prov 18:13-18

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

²⁰What the mouth says satisfies the inner self;
what the lips express brings satisfaction.

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

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

²³The poor ask for help;
the rich answer roughly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷Relatives 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.

⁹False 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.

¹¹Discretion 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**

¹³A 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.

¹⁵Laziness 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.

¹⁷Those 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁹Penalties are designed for scoffers,
and scourging for the backs of fools.

Prov 19:25-29

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷How blessed the children are

whose parents carry themselves with integrity.

⁸A king on a just throne
winnows evil with his eyes.

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

¹⁰The LORD detests false weights and measures.

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

¹²The hearing ear and seeing eye—
the LORD made them both.

Prov 20:7-12

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

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

¹⁵Gold and precious stones abound,
but knowledge has more value.

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

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

¹⁸Make plans in consultation with the other players;
wage war with guidance.

Prov 20:13-18

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

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

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

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

²³The LORD detests false weights;
dishonest scales don’t please him.

²⁴The LORD orders our steps;
so how can we fully understand our way?

Prov 20:19-24

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

²⁶A wise king winnows sinners

and drives the threshing wheel over them.

²⁷The human spirit is the LORD's lamp;
it searches out the inner self.

²⁸Loyalty and truth keep a king in office;
he holds onto his throne by goodness.

²⁹A young man's strength is his glory;
an old man's glory is his gray hair.

³⁰Punishment cleanses evil away;
discipline purifies the heart.

Prov 20:25-30

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

²Your own way seems right to you,
but the LORD weighs your heart.

³The LORD wants goodness and justice
more than sacrifice.

⁴Arrogant eyes and a proud heart
are wicked people's lamp—and sin.

⁵Diligent planning gives you an advantage;
getting in a hurry gets you poverty.

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

Prov 21:1-6

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

⁸A guilty person's road is full of curves,
but the conduct of the pure makes a straight path.

⁹It's better to live in the corner of a housetop
than inside the house with a contentious woman.

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

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

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

Prov 21:7-12

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

¹⁴A secret gift calms anger;

a present turns it away.

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

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

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

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

Prov 21:13-18

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

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

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

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

²³Watch 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

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

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

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

²⁸False witnesses perish,
but good listeners testify forever.

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

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

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

Prov 21:25-31

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

being blessed is better than having silver and gold.

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

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

⁴Wealth, honor, and life are rewards
for humility and reverence for the LORD.

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

⁶Train up children in the way they should go;
and when they're older, they won't stray from it.

Prov 22:1-6

⁷The rich rule the poor;
borrowers become servants to lenders.

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

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

¹⁰Get rid of scoffers, and contention leaves too;
conflict and dishonor stop.

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

¹²The LORD preserves knowledge
and overthrows what unreliable people say.

Prov 22:7-12

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

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

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

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

Prov 22:13-16

¹⁷Listen to the wise
and apply your mind to my instruction;

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

¹⁹I'm teaching you today
so you'll trust in the LORD.

²⁰Haven't I written helpful things
 about advice and knowledge,
²¹to make you sure of the truth
 so you can report correctly to the one that sent you?
²²Don't rob the poor, who can't resist,
 or *try to* crush them in court;
²³the LORD will argue their case
 and sentence to death those who've robbed them. **Prov 22:17-23**

²⁴Don't associate with people prone to anger
 or go around with hotheaded types;
²⁵you'll pick up their habits
 and entangle yourself in a net.

²⁶Don't give pledges or sign for debts.
²⁷If you can't pay,
 why let someone take your bed from under you?

²⁸Don't remove the ancient boundary markers
 that your ancestors have set.
²⁹Do you see people skilled at their work?
 They'll serve kings, not just ordinary people. **Prov 22:24-29**

23:¹When you're dining with a ruler,
 be careful with what he sets in front of you.
²Put a knife to your throat
 if you have a big appetite.
³Don't crave very many of his delicacies;
 they may be there to test you.

⁴Don't wear yourself out trying to get wealthy;
 quit concerning yourself with riches.
⁵When you stare at wealth, it disappears;
 it grows wings like an eagle and flies to the sky. **Prov 23:1-5**

⁶Don't eat with stingy people
 or crave their delicacies;
⁷what they think to themselves is what they really are:

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

⁸You'll vomit the morsel you've eaten
and waste your compliments.

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

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

¹²Apply your heart to instruction
and your ears to knowledge.

Prov 23:6-12

¹³Don't withhold discipline from your children;
punishment won't kill them.

¹⁴Use a switch on them
and deliver their souls from Sheol.

¹⁵Son, if your heart's wise, mine will be glad;

¹⁶I'll be happy when you become an honest man.

¹⁷Don't envy sinners;
always live in reverence for the LORD.

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

¹⁹Listen and be wise;
direct your heart on the right course.

Prov 23:13-19

²⁰Don't pal around with heavy drinkers or big eaters;

²¹drunks and gluttons end up poor,
and laziness will dress them in rags.

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

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

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

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

Prov 23:20-25

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

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

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

Prov 23:26-28

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

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

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

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

³³You'll have hallucinations
and say crazy stuff.

³⁴You'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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prov 24:1-9

¹⁰If adversity makes you weak,
 you're not very strong to start with.
¹¹Rescue those unjustly sentenced to death;
 save those who are staggering to their execution.
¹²If 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?

¹³Son, eat honey; it's good;
 honeycomb tastes sweet.
¹⁴Understand 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

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

¹⁷Don't be glad when your enemies stumble
 or celebrate when they fall.

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

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

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

²³These are sayings of the wise:

Showing partiality in judgment is unjust.

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

²⁵But those who rebuke sinners will receive delight;
blessing will come to them.

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

²⁷Finish your work in the field first;
then come and build your house.

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

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

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

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

³²I thought about what I saw;
I looked and learned:

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

³⁴Your 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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷It'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

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

⁹When you're arguing with your neighbor,
don't betray another person's confidence;
¹⁰people may find out and accuse you of gossiping,
and you won't regain your good reputation. **Prov 25:6-10**

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

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

¹³An employer's reliable messenger
refreshes like cold snow at harvest time.

¹⁴People that brag falsely about what they'll do

are like clouds and wind without rain.

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

¹⁶Have you found honey?

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

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

¹⁸Someone that slanders

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

Prov 25:11-18

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

²⁰Singing to a heavy heart

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

²¹If your enemies are hungry, feed them;
if they're thirsty, give them a drink;

²²you'll be dumping hot coals on their head,
and the LORD will reward you.

Prov 25:19-22

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

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

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

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

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

²⁸Someone that's out of control

is like an unwalled city; it's open to attack.

Prov 25:23-28

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

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

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

- a rod is for the back of a fool.
- ⁴Don't answer fools' arguments;
you'll dignify them with a response.
- ⁵Answer fools' arguments;
otherwise, they'll think they've won.
- ⁶Trusting a fool to deliver a message
is like cutting off your feet or drinking poison. **Prov 26:1-6**
- ⁷A proverb in the mouth of a fool
is like legs hanging from the lame.
- ⁸Honoring a fool
is as dangerous as putting a stone in a sling.
- ⁹A proverb in the mouth of a fool
is like a thorn in the hand of a drunk.
- ¹⁰Whoever hires a fool or passerby
is like an archer that shoots at random.
- ¹¹A fool that repeats his folly
is like a dog that returns to its vomit.
- ¹²There's more hope for fools
than for people that think they're smart. **Prov 26:7-12**
- ¹³Lazy people claim there's a lion in the road!
There's surely a lion in the public square!
- ¹⁴Like a door swinging on its hinges,
lazy people turn on their beds.
- ¹⁵Lazy people stick their fingers in the plate
but they don't even bring the food to their mouth.
- ¹⁶Lazy people think they're smarter
than seven wise advisors.
- ¹⁷A passerby that meddles in other people's conflict
is like someone taking a dog by the ears. **Prov 26:13-17**
- ¹⁸⁻¹⁹Someone that lies
and says, "*Just kidding,*"
is as dangerous as a maniac
that's shooting flaming arrows.
- ²⁰For lack of wood a fire goes out;
where there's no gossip, quarreling dies down.
- ²¹Contentious people spark conflict

like charcoal on hot embers or wood on fire.

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

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

Prov 26:18-23

²⁴People disguise disdain with words
while storing up deceit in their heart;
²⁵don't trust them when they pretend to be kind to you,
because they have seven evils in their minds;
²⁶though they coat their disdain with lies,
it'll eventually come out for all to see.

²⁷You 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.

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

Prov 26:24-28

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

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

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

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

⁵Open rebuke is better than secret love.

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

Prov 27:1-6

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

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

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

¹⁰Don'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.

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

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

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

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

¹⁵A contentious wife is like a steady rain;

¹⁶whoever tries to restrain her
may as well try to restrain the wind
or hold onto something with an oily hand. **Prov 27:13-16**

¹⁷Like iron sharpens iron,
one person sharpens another.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁶lambs will provide wool for your clothes,

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

Prov 27:23-27

28:¹Sinners run when no one's chasing,
 but the good are as bold as lions.

²When a country sins, lots of leaders vie for control;
 but wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability.

³The poor that oppress the poor
 are like a driving rain that destroys crops.

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

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

⁶Being poor and honest
 is better than being rich and dishonest.

Prov 28:1-6

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

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

⁹When people quit listening to the Law,
 even their prayers become offensive.

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

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

¹²When the godly triumph, everybody's glad;
 but when the sinful take over, people leave.

Prov 28:7-12

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

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

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

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

¹⁷Corrupt leaders, loaded down with the guilt of human blood,

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

¹⁸People that live with integrity will be rescued,

but those who are perverse will suddenly fall. **Prov 28:13-18**

¹⁹The man that plows his ground will have plenty to eat,

but one that follows fantasies will be poor in the midst of plenty.

²⁰Reliable people receive many blessings,

but those who want to get rich quick get into trouble.

²¹Showing partiality is never good;

yet some would sin to get a piece of bread.

²²A miser hurries to get rich

and doesn't realize that want will overtake him.

²³Someone that rebukes finds more approval

than someone that flatters.

²⁴People that steal from their parents,

and claim it's not sin,

are no better than murderers.

Prov 28:19-24

²⁵Arrogant people stir up conflict,

but those who trust in the LORD prosper.

²⁶People are foolish to trust in themselves;

it's the ones that live wisely that stay safe.

²⁷If you give to the poor, you'll never be poor;

but if you close your eyes *to poverty*, you'll be cursed.

²⁸When corrupt leaders rise to power, people go into hiding;

when they meet disaster, the godly flourish.

Prov 28:25-28

29:¹If you stiffen your neck after repeated correction,

you'll suddenly be broken beyond recovery.

²When good people rule, people are happy;

when corrupt leaders take over, the citizens groan.

³A son that loves wisdom makes his father happy,

but one that visits prostitutes squanders his wealth.

⁴A good king creates a stable country,

but one that accepts bribes ruins it.

⁵Flattering your friends

spreads a net for them to step in.

⁶Bad people's sins become their downfall,

but the righteous can sing and celebrate.

Prov 29:1-6

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

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

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

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

¹¹Fools lose their temper;
the wise keep it in check.

¹²If a ruler is willing to listen to lies,
his advisors become corrupt.

Prov 29:7-12

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

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

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

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

¹⁷Correct your children,
and they'll bring you comfort and delight.

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

Prov 29:13-18

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

²⁰There's more hope for a fool
than for someone that's rash with words

²¹A slave pampered from childhood
will turn out to be a rebel.

²²Angry people stir up conflict;
hotheads commit a lot of sins.

²³Pride brings humiliation;
humility lifts up to places of honor.

²⁴Helping 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

²⁵Fearing other people entraps you;
trusting the LORD makes you secure.

²⁶People look to rulers for approval,
but justice comes from the LORD.

²⁷The wicked despise the righteous,
and the righteous despise them back.

Prov 29:25-27

30¹The Words of Agur Son of Jakeh, an Oracle

Agur says to Ithiel and Ucal:

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

³I haven't mastered wisdom;
I don't know the Holy One.

⁴Who *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

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

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

⁷I ask you for two things before I die:

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

⁹so, 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.

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

Prov 30:5-10

¹¹Some curse their father
and don't bless their mother.

¹²Some consider themselves pure,
but they're unwashed and filthy.

¹³Some—how lofty their eyes!
how high their brows!—

¹⁴some have teeth like swords
and fangs like knives;
they devour the poor and needy.

Prov 30:11-14

¹⁵A 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*":

¹⁶Sheol,
a barren womb,
desert ground,
and a blazing fire

Prov 30:15-16

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

¹⁸Three things are too amazing for me,
no, make that four I don't understand:

¹⁹how 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.

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

Prov 30:17-20

²¹Under three things the ground trembles,
no, make that four, it can't endure:

²²a slave that becomes king,
a well-fed fool,
²³an unloved woman that gets a husband,

and a maid that replaces her mistress.

²⁴Four things are small but especially wise:

²⁵ants aren't strong,

but they store up their food in the summer;

²⁶rock badgers aren't powerful,

but they make their homes in the rocks;

²⁷locusts don't have a king,

but they march out in ranks;

²⁸lizards are easy to catch with your hands,

yet they're in kings' palaces.

Prov 30:21-28

²⁹Three things are stately in their stride,

no, four that walk with majestic bearing:

³⁰a lion, powerful and unafraid among the animals;

³¹a strutting rooster,

a billy goat,

and a king leading his army.

³²If you've been foolish by acting proud

or putting other people down,

cover your mouth in shame.

³³As churning cream makes butter

and punching a nose makes it bleed,

so stirring up anger causes quarrels.

Prov 30:29-33

31:¹The Words of King Lemuel The Oracle His Mother Taught Him

²Please listen, son,

son of my womb, son of my vows;

³don't waste your strength

on the kind of women that destroy kings.

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

or for rulers to get addicted to alcohol;

⁵the fear is that they'll forget the Law

and not give justice to the oppressed.

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

Prov 31:1-9

Tribute to a Worthy Woman

- ¹⁰Who can find a capable wife of noble character?
She's worth more than jewels.
¹¹Her husband can rely on her,
and he'll not lack anything of value.
¹²She'll do him good her whole life.
¹³She looks for wool and linen,
and enjoys working with her hands.
¹⁴Like a merchant ship,
she brings her food from a distance.
¹⁵She gets up before daylight to feed her family
and assign the day's jobs to her maids.
¹⁶She inspects a field and buys it,
and plants a vineyard from her earnings.
¹⁷She wraps her waist with strength
and makes her arms strong.
¹⁸She makes sure her efforts are profitable,
and her lamp doesn't go out at night.
¹⁹She reaches for the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
²⁰She reaches out to the poor and needy.
²¹She's not worried when it snows
because she has dressed her family in scarlet.
²²She wears purple and fine linen
and makes her own bedclothes.
²³The community knows her husband in the city gates,
where he sits among the leaders of the land.
²⁴She makes sashes and linen garments
to sell to the merchants.
²⁵She dresses in strength and dignity

Prov 31:10-16

Prov 31:17-22

- and smiles at the future.
- ²⁶She speaks wisely and teaches kindly.
- ²⁷She takes care of her household
and doesn't idle away her time.
- ²⁸Her children grow up and bless her;
her husband, too, and praises her:
- ²⁹*"Lots of women do nobly,
but you excel them all."*
- ³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
but praise a woman that respects the LORD.
- ³¹Reward her for what she does,
and let her work speak for her in the community.
- Prov 31:23-31**