### Proverbs

## Chapter 14

1A woman who’s wise will strengthen her home;  
 But the foolish rips theirs down with their own hands.  
  
2Those on straight paths fear Jehovah,  
 While those on crooked paths [truly] hate Him.  
  
3From the mouth of a fool comes an insult,  
 While the lips of the wise hold it back.  
  
4Where there are no cattle, the stables are clean;  
 But the strength of the ox is apparent  
 In barns that are prospering well.  
  
5A trustworthy witness won’t lie;  
 But a lying witness will commit other sins.  
  
6The bad who seek wisdom, won’t find it;  
 But, to the discerning, it comes easily.  
  
7Whatever the foolish say will be wrong;  
 But wise lips are the weapons of those with good sense.  
  
8From their wisdom, the wise get direction,  
 While fools are misled by their own thoughtless ways.  
  
9The homes of the lawless need cleaning,  
 While the homes of the righteous are worthy of praise.  
  
10A man whose heart is easily hurt  
 Will always be in distress.  
 But, insults won’t bother a heart filled with joy.  
  
11The homes of the impious will meet with destruction,  
 While the tents of the upright will last.  
  
12There are ways that may seem straight to a man,  
 But they end in the depths of the grave.  
  
13Bold hearts are always filled with their ways,  
 While a good man is filled with his thoughts.  
  
15A gullible man believes every word,  
 While the wise will think it all through.  
  
16In fear, a wise man will turn from what’s bad,  
 While a fool gives in and breaks laws.  
  
17A man prone to rage will act without thought,  
 While the wise will endure many things.  
  
18A fool will share in doing what’s bad,  
 While the wise will maintain their good sense.  
  
19Evil men slip in among those who are good,  
 And the irreverent watch the doors of the righteous.  
  
20Friends dislike friends that are poor,  
 While many are the friends of the rich.  
  
21Those who dishonor the needy are sinners,  
 While those who show mercy are blest.  
  
22Those who stray, contrive evil schemes,  
 While the good contrive mercy and truth.  
  
The bad have no mercy or faith,  
 While the good are generous and trusting.  
  
23For those who care, there’s more than enough,  
 While those who seek pleasure are lacking.  
  
24The crown of the wise is their wealth;  
 But, evil is the pastime of fools.  
  
25A trustworthy witness snatches lives from the evil,  
 While a deceitful man will just lie.  
  
26Those who trust in the strength of Jehovah,  
 Will leave an inheritance for their children.  
  
27The rules of Jehovah are life-giving springs  
 That lead men away from death’s snares.  
  
28A prosperous nation brings glory to its king;  
 But a nation in want brings him ruin.  
  
29An intelligent man forgives freely;  
 But a faint-hearted man [holds a grudge].  
  
30A practical man is a healer of hearts;  
 But a sensitive man is a moth to the bones.  
  
31The man who’s extorting the needy  
 Is provoking the One by whom he was made;  
 But, those whom He holds in esteem  
 Are the ones who show mercy to the poor.  
  
32For their evil, the irreverent will be shunned,  
 While the righteous will be looked on as holy.  
  
33In the heart of a good man, rests wisdom,  
 Which can’t be found in the heart of a fool.  
  
34Justice will build up a nation;  
 But, sinners will bring its decline.  
  
35Wise counselors are [a joy to] the king,  
 For they can remove his dishonor  
 In very ingenious ways.