### Proverbs

## Chapter 20

[Editor note: In the oldest Greek Septuagint manuscripts, verses 14-22 are missing. Of those, verses 20-22 do appear in very similar wording, but elsewhere in the chapter – inside verse 9. Nobody knows why that happened, and we don’t know what the original order was, however most scholars believe the words in verses 14-22 are genuine and original. Therefore, we show them here from the Greek manuscripts that include them.]   
  
1Wine and strong drink can make you drunk,  
 And fools will get involved in such things.  
  
2The intimidation of a king is like a lion’s rage,  
 And those who dare to provoke him  
 Are sinning against their own lives.  
  
3It’s glory for a man to avoid shouting insults;  
 But a fool stays involved in such matters.  
  
4If you scold the lazy, he’ll never be shamed…  
 He even borrows grain in the harvest.  
  
5Instruction is deep water within a man’s heart  
 From which the intelligent can draw.  
  
6A respected man has much value,  
 And a merciful man isn’t easily found…  
 But it’s harder to find one who’s faithful.  
  
7Those who offer true justice  
 Will leave many blessings for their children.  
  
8When a just king sits on a throne,  
 He won’t abide evil in his presence.  
  
9Who can boast that he has a pure heart,  
 And openly say that he’s clean from all sins?  
  
The man who speaks badly to his father or mother  
 Will find that his torch is extinguished,  
 And the pupils of his eyes will see darkness.  
  
Whenever a thing is easily gained,  
 In the end, it’ll have little value.  
  
Don’t ever say you’ll get even…  
 Just wait on Jehovah to help you.  
  
10An untrue weight, whether large or small,  
 Is something unclean to Jehovah…  
 So, both the weights and their makers  
 Will be bound hand and foot for using such things.  
  
11A young man who’s [a friend] to the holy  
 Will surely find his ways straight.  
  
12Ears can hear and the eyes see;  
 For they’re both the works of Jehovah.  
  
13Don’t love too much sleep,  
 So that you don’t end up as poor;  
 Rather, open your eyes and be filled with bread!  
  
  
[Editor note: The following verses are missing from the earliest Septuagint manuscripts.]  
  
  
  
14The barterer says, ‘It’s bad, it’s bad!’  
 But, after he [buys it], he’ll boast.  
  
15There [are treasures] of gold and of precious gems;  
 But understanding lips have more value.  
  
16If you should offer all of your clothes  
 As security for the loan of a stranger;  
 May that stranger thereafter reclaim them.  
  
17The bread of deceit may seem good to a man;  
 But he’ll find his mouth filled up with gravel.  
  
18Make plans with discussion, counsel, and guidance,  
 Before you go to fight battles.  
  
19Double-tongued is the man who reveals someone’s plan  
 When he’s speaking to others;  
 For his lips shouldn’t speak of things that aren’t his.  
  
[Editor note: The above verses are missing from the earliest Septuagint manuscripts.]  
  
  
  
  
20[appears in verse 9]  
  
21[appears in verse 9]  
  
22[appears in verse 9]  
  
23Two different weights are disgusting to [God],  
 And a balance that’s off is evil to Him.  
  
24A man’s steps must be set straight by [God];  
 For, how can mortals know the right ways to go?  
  
25It’s a snare to offer something as holy too quickly;  
 For, after you vow, you might change your mind.  
  
26A wise king rejects those who don’t show respect,  
 And he’ll have them put on the wheel.  
  
27The spirit of men is a light to Jehovah,  
 Which He uses to see what’s inside them.  
  
28Mercy and truth safeguard a king;  
 For, to his throne, they’ll bring justice.  
  
29The glory of young men is their strength,  
 And the glory of old age is gray hair.  
  
30The bad will have bruises and broken [bones],  
 And illness will come to their bellies.