### Proverbs

## Chapter 21

1The heart of a king is like waves [of the sea]  
 When it’s in the hand of our God.  
 For, wherever He wishes, He nods,  
 And that’s the way he will go.  
  
2All men like to think themselves righteous;  
 But, Jehovah’s the One who weighs all their hearts.  
  
3Telling the truth and doing what’s right  
 Is more pleasing to God than a blood sacrifice.  
  
4A high-minded man is insolent and bold,  
 And the torch of the impious is sin.  
  
5The thoughts of hard-workers are of [gaining much] more;  
 But, those who’re too hasty will end up with less.  
  
6Those who seek treasures by lying  
 Are really pursuing in vain;  
 For, in death’s snares, they’ll be caught.  
  
7The ruin of the irreverent is welcomed as a guest  
 By those who prefer righteous ways.  
  
8To the crooked, God sends what’s crooked;  
 For His ways are all straight and pure.  
  
9It’s better to live on the corner of a roof  
 Than in a house whitewashed with injustice,  
 Or to live in one that’s unclean.  
  
10Since the godless prefer to do what’s bad,  
 They’ll never see mercy from others.  
  
11When you discipline men for their lack of restraint,  
 You make the guileless more clever;  
 For, by his insight, the wise man will learn.  
  
12Impious hearts are examined by the righteous  
 Who treat their evil ways with contempt.  
  
13Those who close their ears to the weak  
 Will call out and no one will listen.  
  
14A gift that’s given in private  
 Will soothe [a person who’s angry];  
 But, where there’s no gift, the rage may remain.  
  
15The pure are joyful when the righteous get justice;  
 But this terrifies those who do evil.  
  
16A person who travels in righteous ways,  
 Will rest among gatherings of great ones.  
  
17A man who loves pleasure won’t end up with much;  
 And those fond of wine and [olive] oil  
 Will never [find themselves] wealthy.  
  
18To the righteous, the wicked are trash…  
 And that’s also how they view the Law-breakers.  
  
19It’s better to live in the desert  
 Than with a wife who argues and fights,  
 Or with one who’s prone to be angry.  
  
20Treasure rests in the mouths of the wise,  
 For the foolish just swallow theirs down.  
  
21Those who seek charity and justice,  
 Will also find glory and life.  
  
22A wise man can attack a fortified city,  
 And he can demolish the forts  
 In which the irreverent put trust.  
  
23Those who keep watch on their mouths and their tongues  
 Are saving their souls from the problems they cause.  
  
24A bold, self-willed, and presumptuous man,  
 Is one who’s considered a plague;  
 For, all resent those who live without law.  
  
25Lazy desires bring death to a man,  
 For his hands will choose to do nothing.  
  
26The irreverent just want to do evil,  
 While the righteous show pity and mercy.  
  
27The sacrifices that the irreverent bring  
 Are viewed as disgusting by [God];  
 For, whatever they bring is not by the Law.  
  
28Since a witness that lies deserves death;  
 A [wise man] will watch what he says.  
  
29The irreverent impudently stand in the front,  
 But the upright know what they’re planning.  
  
30The godless have no wisdom or courage,  
 And the advice that they offer is bad.  
  
31Although a horse is prepared for the day of the war,  
 Help really comes from Jehovah.