### Proverbs

## Chapter 22

1A good name is better than wealth,  
 And good favor is better than silver and gold.  
  
2The rich and the poor should meet with each other;  
 For, both were made by Jehovah.  
  
3When a clever man sees the bad being punished,  
 He makes corrections in himself…  
 But this escapes the fools that pass by.  
  
4The fear of Jehovah is the father of wisdom…  
 Its rewards are wealth, glory, and life.  
  
5Thistles and snares line ways of the crooked;  
 But those guarding their souls will avoid them.  
  
6Raise your child [in good] ways,  
 And when he grows old, he won’t leave them.  
  
7The rich are in control of the poor…  
 They’re the masters of all those who borrow.  
  
Those planting evil will harvest what’s bad…  
 Calamity is what they’ll reap  
 From all the bad things that they sow.  
  
8God loves those who are cheerful givers,  
 And overlooks the foolish things that they do.  
  
9Those who show mercy to the poor  
 Will eat the same bread that they give them.  
  
Gift-givers buy victory and honor,  
 While those who withhold them may lose their lives.  
  
10If you keep mischief-makers out of your group,  
 Their unpleasantness also goes with them.  
 For, you’re dishonored when they sit in your midst.  
  
11Jehovah loves hearts that are holy…  
 Those with pure ways, He accepts.  
  
12The eyes of Jehovah keep guard on good sense,  
 And He treats lawbreakers as [refuse].  
  
13The lazy make many excuses…  
 They say, ‘There’s a lion out in the street;  
 So, I could be killed in the square.’  
  
14The mouths of the lawless are cesspools,  
 Into which those whom God hates will fall.  
  
15Foolish ways delight the hearts of the young;  
 But instruction and spankings will drive them away.  
  
16Those who swindle the needy,  
 Upon themselves, bring what’s evil…  
 And they’ll give all they’ve gained to the wealthy.  
  
17Lean your ears towards these wise words from my mouth…  
 Pay attention to the things that I’m saying.  
 Yes, prepare your heart to fully comprehend;  
 18For, what I’m saying is good!  
 If you’ll store it all deep in your heart,  
 You’ll see that it’ll bring joy to your lips.  
  
19Put your hope in Jehovah,  
 And He will show you His ways.  
 20Write them down three times for yourself,  
 For your own instruction and knowledge.  
  
21I’m teaching you words that are true;  
 So, listen closely and learn.  
 Then, you can reply with words that are true,  
 When people are asking you questions.  
  
22Don’t push away the needy and poor,  
 And don’t dishonor the weak at your gates.  
 23Since it’s Jehovah who argues their cause,  
 You’ll save your soul from reprisal.  
  
24Don’t be a friend to a man prone to rage,  
 And don’t lodge men prone to anger,  
 25So that you don’t learn from their ways,  
 And bring a noose to your life.  
  
26Don’t shame your face by ensuring a loan;  
 For, if [your friend] can’t repay it,  
 They’ll take the bed that’s under your back.  
  
28Never move the markers of the ages,  
 Which were set in place by your fathers.  
  
29An observant man who’s sharp in his ways  
 Will also stand beside kings…  
 He won’t stand beside the dull witted.