

6 Appear not glorious before the king, and stand not in the place of great men.

7 For it is better that it should be said to thee: Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be humbled before the prince.

8 The things which thy eyes have seen, utter not hastily in a quarrel: lest afterward thou mayst not be able to make amends, when thou hast dishonoured thy friend.

9 Treat thy cause with thy friend, and discover not the secret to a stranger:

10 Lest he insult over thee, when he hath heard it, and cease not to upbraid thee. Grace and friendship deliver a man: keep these for thyself, lest thou fall under reproach.

11 To speak a word in due time, is like apples of gold on beds of silver.

12 As an earring of gold and a bright pearl, so is he that reproveth the wise, and the obedient ear.

13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to him that sent him, for he refresheth his soul.

14 As clouds, and wind, when no rain followeth, so is the man that boasteth, and doth not fulfil his promises.

15 By patience a prince shall be appeased, and a soft tongue shall break hardness.

16 Thou hast found honey, eat what is sufficient for thee, lest being glutted therewith thou vomit it up.

17 Withdraw thy foot from the house of thy neighbour, lest having his fill he hate thee.

18 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour, is like a dart and a sword and a sharp arrow.

19 To trust in an unfaithful man in the time of trouble, is like a rotten tooth, and weary foot,

20 And one that looseth his garment in cold weather. As vinegar upon nitre, so is he that

singeth songs to a very evil heart. As a moth doth by a garment, and a worm by the wood: so the sadness of a man consumeth the heart.

21 If thy enemy be hungry, give him to eat: if he thirst, give him water to drink:

22 For thou shalt heap hot coals upon his head, and the Lord will reward thee.

23 The north wind driveth away rain, as doth a sad countenance a backbiting tongue.

24 It is better to sit in a corner of the house-top: than with a brawling woman, and in a common house.

25 As cold water to a thirsty soul, so are good tidings from a far country.

26 A just man falling down before the wicked, is as a fountain troubled with the foot and a corrupted spring.

27 As it is not good for a man to eat much honey, so he that is a searcher of majesty shall be overwhelmed by glory.

28 As a city that lieth open and is not compassed with walls, so is a man that cannot refrain his own spirit in speaking.

Chapter 26

As snow in summer, and rain in harvest, so glory is not seemly for a fool.

2 As a bird flying to other places, and a sparrow going here or there: so a curse uttered without cause shall come upon a man.

3 A whip for a horse, and a snaffle for an ass, and a rod for the back of fools.

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou be made like him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he imagine himself to be wise.

6 He that sendeth words by a foolish messenger, is lame of feet and drinketh iniquity.

7 As a lame man hath fair legs in vain: so a parable is unseemly in the mouth of fools.

8 As he that casteth a stone into the heap of Mercury: so is he that giveth honour to a fool.

9 As if a thorn should grow in the hand of a drunkard: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

10 Judgment determineth causes: and he that putteth a fool to silence, appeaseth anger.

11 As a dog that returneth to his vomit, so is the fool that repeateth his folly.

12 Hast thou seen a man wise in his own conceit? there shall be more hope of a fool than of him.

13 The slothful man saith: There is a lion in the way, and a lioness in the roads.

14 As the door turneth upon its hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

15 The slothful hideth his hand under his armpit, and it grieveth him to turn it to his mouth.

16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit, than seven men that speak sentences.

17 As he that taketh a dog by the ears, so is he that passeth by in anger, and meddleth with another man's quarrel.

18 As he is guilty that shooteth arrows, and lances unto death.

19 So is the man that hurteth his friend deceitfully: and when he is taken, saith: I did it in jest.

20 When the wood faileth, the fire shall go out: and when the talebearer is taken away, contentions shall cease.

21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire, so an angry man stirreth up strife.

22 The words of a talebearer are as it were simple, but they reach to the innermost parts of the belly.

23 Swelling lips joined with a corrupt heart, are like an earthen vessel adorned with silver

dross.

24 An enemy is known by his lips, when in his heart he entertaineth deceit.

25 When he shall speak low, trust him not: because there are seven mischiefs in his heart.

26 He that covereth hatred deceitfully, his malice shall be laid open in the public assembly.

27 He that diggeth a pit, shall fall into it: and he that rolleth a stone, it shall return to him.

28 A deceitful tongue loveth not truth: and a slippery mouth worketh ruin.

Chapter 27

Boast not for to morrow, for thou knowest not what the day to come may bring forth.

2 Let another praise thee, and not thy own mouth: a stranger, and not thy own lips.

3 A stone is heavy, and sand weighty: but the anger of a fool is heavier than them both.

4 Anger hath no mercy: nor fury, when it breaketh forth: and who can bear the violence of one provoked?

5 Open rebuke is better than hidden love.

6 Better are the wounds of a friend, than the deceitful kisses of an enemy.

7 A soul that is full shall tread upon the honeycomb: and a soul that is hungry shall take even bitter for sweet.

8 As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that leaveth his place.

9 Ointment and perfumes rejoice the heart: and the good counsels of a friend are sweet to the soul.

10 Thy own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not: and go not into thy brother's house in the day of thy affliction. Better is a neighbour that is near than a brother afar off.

11 Study wisdom, my son, and make my heart joyful, that thou mayst give an answer to him that reproacheth.

12 The prudent man seeing evil hideth himself: little ones passing on have suffered losses.

13 Take away his garment that hath been surety for a stranger: and take from him a pledge for strangers.

14 He that blesseth his neighbour with a loud voice, rising in the night, shall be like to him that curseth.

15 Roofs dropping through in a cold day, and a contentious woman are alike.

16 He that retaineth her, is as he that would hold the wind, and shall call the oil of his right hand.

17 Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

18 He that keepeth the fig tree, shall eat the fruit thereof: and he that is the keeper of his master, shall be glorified.

19 As the faces of them that look therein, shine in the water, so the hearts of men are laid open to the wise.

20 Hell and destruction are never filled: so the eyes of men are never satisfied.

21 As silver is tried in the fining-pot, and gold in the furnace: so a man is tried by the mouth of him that praiseth. The heart of the wicked seeketh after evils, but the righteous heart seeketh after knowledge.

22 Though thou shouldst bray a fool in the mortar, as when a pestle striketh upon sodden barley, his folly would not be taken from him.

23 Be diligent to know the countenance of thy cattle, and consider thy own flocks:

24 For thou shalt not always have power: but a crown shall be given to generation and generation.

25 The meadows are open, and the green herbs have appeared, and the hay is gathered out of the mountains.

26 Lambs are for thy clothing: and kids for the price of the field.

27 Let the milk of the goats be enough for thy food, and for the necessities of thy house, and for maintenance for thy handmaids.

Chapter 28

The wicked man fleeth, when no man pursueth: but the just, bold as a lion, shall be without dread.

2 For the sins of the land many are the princes thereof: and for the wisdom of a man, and the knowledge of those things that are said, the life of the prince shall be prolonged.

3 A poor man that oppresseth the poor, is like a violent shower, which bringeth a famine.

4 They that forsake the law, praise the wicked man: they that keep it, are incensed against him.

5 Evil men think not on judgment: but they that seek after the Lord, take notice of all things.

6 Better is the poor man walking in his simplicity, than the rich in crooked ways.

7 He that keepeth the law, is a wise son: but he that feedeth gluttons, shameth his father.

8 He that heapeth together riches by usury and loan, gathereth them for him that will be bountiful to the poor.

9 He that turneth away his ears from hearing the law, his prayer shall be an abomination.

10 He that deceiveth the just in a wicked way, shall fall in his own destruction: and the upright shall possess his goods.

11 The rich man seemeth to himself wise: but the poor man that is prudent shall search him out.