

10 Cast out the scoffer, and contention shall go out with him, and quarrels and reproaches shall cease.

11 He that loveth cleanness of heart, for the grace of his lips shall have the king for his friend.

12 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge: and the words of the unjust are overthrown.

13 The slothful man saith: There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the midst of the streets.

14 The mouth of a strange woman is a deep pit: he whom the Lord is angry with, shall fall into it.

15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, and the rod of correction shall drive it away.

16 He that oppresseth the poor, to increase his own riches, shall himself give to one that is richer, and shall be in need.

17 Incline thy ear, and hear the words of the wise: and apply thy heart to my doctrine:

18 Which shall be beautiful for thee, if thou keep it in thy bowels, and it shall flow in thy lips:

19 That thy trust may be in the Lord, wherefore I have also shewn it to thee this day.

20 Behold I have described it to thee three manner of ways, in thoughts and knowledge:

21 That I might shew thee the certainty, and the words of truth, to answer out of these to them that sent thee.

22 Do no violence to the poor, because he is poor: and do not oppress the needy in the gate:

23 Because the Lord will judge his cause: and will afflict them that have afflicted his soul.

24 Be not a friend to an angry man, and do not walk with a furious man:

25 Lest perhaps thou learn his ways, and take scandal to thy soul.

26 Be not with them that fasten down their hands, and that offer themselves sureties for debts:

27 For if thou have not wherewith to restore, what cause is there that he should take the covering from thy bed?

28 Pass not beyond the ancient bounds which thy fathers have set.

29 Hast thou seen a man swift in his work? he shall stand before kings, and shall not be before those that are obscure.

Chapter 23

When thou shalt sit to eat with a prince, consider diligently what is set before thy face:

2 And put a knife to thy throat, if it be so that thou have thy soul in thy own power.

3 Be not desirous of his meats, in which is the bread of deceit.

4 Labour not to be rich: but set bounds to thy prudence.

5 Lift not up thy eyes to riches which thou canst not have: because they shall make themselves wings like those of an eagle, and shall fly towards heaven.

6 Eat not with an envious man, and desire not his meats:

7 Because, like a soothsayer, and diviner, he thinketh that which he knoweth not. Eat and drink, will he say to thee: and his mind is not with thee.

8 The meats which thou hadst eaten, thou shalt vomit up: and shalt lose thy beautiful words.

9 Speak not in the ears of fools: because they will despise the instruction of thy speech.

10 Touch not the bounds of little ones: and enter not into the field of the fatherless:

11 For their near kinsman is strong: and he will judge their cause against thee.

12 Let thy heart apply itself to instruction and thy ears to words of knowledge.

13 Withhold not correction from a child: for if thou strike him with the rod, he shall not die.

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

15 My son, if thy mind be wise, my heart shall rejoice with thee:

16 And my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips shall speak what is right.

17 Let not thy heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long:

18 Because thou shalt have hope in the latter end, and thy expectation shall not be taken away.

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise: and guide thy mind in the way.

20 Be not in the feasts of great drinkers, nor in their revellings, who contribute flesh to eat:

21 Because they that give themselves to drinking, and that club together, shall be consumed: and drowsiness shall be clothed with rags.

22 Hearken to thy father, that begot thee: and despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 Buy truth, and do not sell wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

24 The father of the just rejoiceth greatly: he that hath begotten a wise son, shall have joy in him.

25 Let thy father and thy mother be joyful, and let her rejoice that bore thee.

26 My son, give me thy heart: and let thy eyes keep my ways.

27 For a harlot is a deep ditch: and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

28 She lieth in wait in the way as a robber, and him whom she shall see unwary, she will kill.

29 Who hath woe? whose father hath woe? who hath contentions? who falls into pits? who

hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 Surely they that pass their time in wine, and study to drink off their cups.

31 Look not upon the wine when it is yellow, when the colour thereof shineth in the glass: it goeth in pleasantly,

32 But in the end, it will bite like a snake, and will spread abroad poison like a basilisk.

33 Thy eyes shall behold strange women, and thy heart shall utter perverse things.

34 And thou shalt be as one sleeping in the midst of the sea, and as a pilot fast asleep when the stern is lost.

35 And thou shalt say: They have beaten me, but I was not sensible of pain: they drew me, and I felt not: when shall I awake and find wine again?

Chapter 24

Seek not to be like evil men, neither desire to be with them:

2 Because their mind studieth robberies, and their lips speak deceits.

3 By wisdom the house shall be built, and by prudence it shall be strengthened.

4 By instruction the storerooms shall be filled with all precious and most beautiful wealth.

5 A wise man is strong: and a knowing man, stout and valiant.

6 Because war is managed by due ordering: and there shall be safety where there are many counsels.

7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he shall not open his mouth.

8 He that deviseth to do evils, shall be called a fool.

9 The thought of a fool is sin: and the detractor is the abomination of men.

10 If thou lose hope, being weary in the day of distress, thy strength shall be diminished.

11 Deliver them that are led to death: and those that are drawn to death, forbear not to deliver.

12 If thou say: I have not strength enough: he that seeth into the heart, he understandeth, and nothing deceiveth the keeper of thy soul, and he shall render to a man according to his works.

13 Eat honey, my son, because it is good, and the honeycomb most sweet to thy throat.

14 So also is the doctrine of wisdom to thy soul: which when thou hast found, thou shalt have hope in the end, and thy hope shall not perish.

15 Lie not in wait, nor seek after wickedness in the house of the just, nor spoil his rest.

16 For a just man shall fall seven times, and shall rise again: but the wicked shall fall down into evil.

17 When thy enemy shall fall, be not glad, and in his ruin let not thy heart rejoice:

18 Lest the Lord see, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

19 Contend not with the wicked, nor seek to be like the ungodly.

20 For evil men have no hope of things to come, and the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

21 My son, fear the Lord, and the king: and have nothing to do with detractors.

22 For their destruction shall rise suddenly: and who knoweth the ruin of both?

23 These things also to the wise: It is not good to have respect to persons in judgment.

24 They that say to the wicked man: Thou art just: shall be cursed by the people, and the tribes shall abhor them.

25 They that rebuke him shall be praised: and a blessing shall come upon them.

26 He shall kiss the lips, who answereth right words.

27 Prepare thy work without, and diligently till thy ground: that afterward thou mayst build thy house.

28 Be not witness without cause against thy neighbour: and deceive not any man with thy lips.

29 Say not: I will do to him as he hath done to me: I will render to every one according to his work.

30 I passed by the field of the slothful man, and by the vineyard of the foolish man:

31 And behold it was all filled with nettles, and thorns had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall was broken down.

32 Which when I had seen, I laid it up in my heart, and by the example I received instruction.

33 Thou wilt sleep a little, said I, thou wilt slumber a little, thou wilt fold thy hands a little to rest.

34 And poverty shall come to thee as a runner, and beggary as an armed man.

Chapter 25

These are also parables of Solomon, which the men of Ezechias, king of Juda, copied out.

2 It is the glory of God to conceal the word, and the glory of kings to search out the speech.

3 The heaven above and the earth beneath, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

4 Take away the rust from silver, and there shall come forth a most pure vessel:

5 Take away wickedness from the face of the king, and his throne shall be established with justice.