

12 In the joy of the just there is great glory: when the wicked reign, men are ruined.

13 He that hideth his sins, shall not prosper: but he that shall confess, and forsake them, shall obtain mercy.

14 Blessed is the man that is always fearful: but he that is hardened in mind shall fall into evil.

15 As a roaring lion, and a hungry bear, so is a wicked prince over the poor people.

16 A prince void of prudence shall oppress many by calumny: but he that hateth covetousness, shall prolong his days.

17 A man that doth violence to the blood of a person, if he flee even to the pit, no man will stay him.

18 He that walketh uprightly, shall be saved: he that is perverse in his ways, shall fall at once.

19 He that tilleth his ground, shall be filled with bread: but he that followeth idleness, shall be filled with poverty.

20 A faithful man shall be much praised: but he that maketh haste to be rich, shall not be innocent.

21 He that hath respect to a person in judgment, doth not well: such a man even for a morsel of bread forsaketh the truth.

22 A man that maketh haste to be rich, and envieth others, is ignorant that poverty shall come upon him.

23 He that rebuketh a man, shall afterward find favour with him, more than he that by a flattering tongue deceiveth him.

24 He that stealeth any thing from his father, or from his mother: and saith, This is no sin, is the partner of a murderer.

26 He that boasteth and puffeth up himself, stirreth up quarrels: but he that trusteth in the Lord, shall be healed.

26 He that trusteth in his own heart, is a fool: but he that walketh wisely, he shall be saved.

27 He that giveth to the poor shall not want: he that despiseth his intreaty, shall suffer indigence.

28 When the wicked rise up, men shall hide themselves: when they perish, the just shall be multiplied.

Chapter 29

The man that with a stiff neck despiseth him that reproveth him, shall suddenly be destroyed: and health shall not follow him.

2 When just men increase, the people shall rejoice: when the wicked shall bear rule, the people shall mourn.

3 A man that loveth wisdom, rejoiceth his father: but he that maintaineth harlots, shall squander away his substance.

4 A just king setteth up the land: a covetous man shall destroy it.

5 A man that speaketh to his friend with flattering and dissembling words, spreadeth a net for his feet.

6 A snare shall entangle the wicked man when he sinneth: and the just shall praise and rejoice.

7 The just taketh notice of the cause of the poor: the wicked is void of knowledge.

8 Corrupt men bring a city to ruin: but wise men turn away wrath.

9 If a wise man contend with a fool, whether he be angry, or laugh, he shall find no rest.

10 Bloodthirsty men hate the upright: but just men seek his soul.

11 A fool uttereth all his mind: a wise man deferreth, and keepeth it till afterwards.

12 A prince that gladly heareth lying words, hath all his servants wicked.

13 The poor man and the creditor have met one another: the Lord is the enlightener of them both.

14 The king that judgeth the poor in truth, his throne shall be established for ever.

15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but the child that is left to his own will, bringeth his mother to shame.

16 When the wicked are multiplied, crimes shall be multiplied: but the just shall see their downfall.

17 Instruct thy son and he shall refresh thee, and shall give delight to thy soul.

18 When prophecy shall fail, the people shall be scattered abroad: but he that keepeth the law, is blessed.

19 A slave will not be corrected by words: because he understandeth what thou sayest, and will not answer.

20 Hast thou seen a man hasty to speak? folly is rather to be looked for, than his amendment.

21 He that nourisheth his servant delicately from his childhood, afterwards shall find him stubborn.

22 A passionate man provoketh quarrels: and he that is easily stirred up to wrath, shall be more prone to sin.

23 Humiliation followeth the proud: and glory shall uphold the humble of spirit.

24 He that is partaker with a thief, hateth his own soul: he heareth one putting him to his oath, and discovereth not.

25 He that feareth man shall quickly fall: he that trusteth in the Lord, shall be set on high.

26 Many seek the face of the prince: but the judgment of every one cometh forth from the Lord.

27 The just abhor a wicked man: and the wicked loathe them that are in the right way.

The son that keepeth the word, shall be free from destruction.

Chapter 30

The words of Gatherer the son of Vomiter. The vision which the man spoke, with whom God is, and who being strengthened by God, abiding with him, said:

2 I am the most foolish of men, and the wisdom of men is not with me.

3 I have not learned wisdom, and have not known the science of saints.

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, and descended? who hath held the wind in his hands? who hath bound up the waters together as in a garment? who hath raised up all the borders of the earth? what is his name, and what is the name of his son, if thou knowest?

5 Every word of God is fire tried: he is a buckler to them that hope in him.

6 Add not any thing to his words, lest thou be reprov'd and found a liar:

7 Two things I have asked of thee, deny them not to me before I die.

8 Remove far from me vanity, and lying words. Give me neither beggary, nor riches: give me only the necessities of life:

9 Lest perhaps being filled, I should be tempted to deny, and say: Who is the Lord? or being compelled by poverty, I should steal, and forswear the name of my God.

10 Accuse not a servant to his master, lest he curse thee, and thou fall.

11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

12 A generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness.

13 A generation, whose eyes are lofty, and their eyelids lifted up on high.

14 A generation that for teeth hath swords, and grindeth with their jaw teeth, to devour the needy from off the earth, and the poor from among men.

15 The horseleech hath two daughters that say: Bring, bring. There are three things that never are satisfied, and the fourth never saith: It is enough.

16 Hell and the mouth of the womb, and the earth which is not satisfied with water: and the fire never saith: It is enough.

17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and that despiseth the labour of his mother in bearing him, let the ravens of the brooks pick it out, and the young eagles eat it.

18 Three things are hard to me, and the fourth I am utterly ignorant of.

19 The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent upon a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man in youth.

20 Such also is the way of an adulterous woman, who eateth and wipeth her mouth, and saith: I have done no evil.

21 By three things the earth is disturbed, and the fourth it cannot bear.

22 By a slave when he reigneth: by a fool when he is filled with meat:

23 By an odious woman when she is married: and by a bondwoman when she is heir to her mistress.

24 There are four very little things of the earth, and they are wiser than the wise.

25 The ants, a feeble people, which provide themselves food in the harvest:

26 The rabbit, a weak people, which maketh its bed in the rock:

27 The locust hath no king, yet they all go out by their bands:

28 The stellio supporteth itself on hands, and dwelleth in kings' houses.

19 There are three things, which go well, and the fourth that walketh happily:

30 A lion, the strongest of beasts, who hath no fear of any thing he meeteth:

31 A cock girded about the loins: and a ram: and a king, whom none can resist.

32 There is that hath appeared a fool after he was lifted up on high: for if he had understood, he would have laid his hand upon his mouth.

33 And he that strongly squeezeth the paps to bring out milk, straineth out butter: and he that violently bloweth his nose, bringeth out blood: and he that provoketh wrath, bringeth forth strife.

Chapter 31

The words of king Lamuel. The vision wherewith his mother instructed him.

2 What, O my beloved, what, O the beloved of my womb, what, O the beloved of my vows?

3 Give not thy substance to women, and thy riches to destroy kings.

4 Give not to kings, O Lamuel, give not wine to kings: because there is no secret where drunkenness reigneth:

5 And lest they drink and forget judgments, and pervert the cause of the children of the poor.

6 Give strong drink to them that are sad; and wine to them that are grieved in mind:

7 Let them drink, and forget their want, and remember their sorrow no more.

8 Open thy mouth for the dumb, and for the causes of all the children that pass.

9 Open thy mouth, decree that which is just, and do justice to the needy and poor.