**CHAPTER** **26**

**1** 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.