

Select Proverbs of Solomon

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An abridgment of the proverbs attributed to Solomon. Verse references such as ^{3:9} indicate the original source of the text, but don't imply a full quotation.

My Son

^{3:1} My son, don't forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ² for they will bring you many days, years of life, and peace.

^{3:3} Don't let kindness and truth leave you. Tie them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Then you will find favor and high regard in the sight of God and man.

^{3:5} Trust in GOD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷ Don't be wise in your own eyes. Fear GOD, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.

^{3:9} Honor GOD with your wealth, and with the firstfruits of all your produce, ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

^{3:11} My son, don't reject the discipline of GOD or loathe his reproof; ¹² for GOD reproves the one he loves, just as a father reproves the son in whom he delights.

^{3:13} Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding. ¹⁴ For she is more profitable than silver, and her gain is better than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire compares with her. ¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant, and all her paths are peace-

ful. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her. Those who hold her fast are happy.

^{3:19} GOD founded the earth by wisdom. He established the heavens by understanding. ²⁰ By his knowledge the depths broke open, and the clouds drip with dew.

^{3:21} My son, don't lose sight of them. Keep sound wisdom and discretion. ²² They will be life for your soul, and adornment for your neck. ²³ Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot won't stumble. ²⁴ When you lie down, you won't be afraid. When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

^{3:25} Don't fear sudden disaster or the ruin of the wicked when it comes, ²⁶ for GOD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

^{3:27} Don't withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to do it. ²⁸ Don't say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back. I'll give it tomorrow," when you have it with you. ²⁹ Don't plan evil against your neighbor, who lives trustingly beside you.

^{3:30} Don't contend with a man without cause, when he has done you no harm. ³¹ Don't envy a violent man or choose any of his ways, ³² for the devious are an abomination to GOD, but he is a friend to the upright.

^{3:33} The curse of GOD is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous. ³⁴ He mocks the mockers,

but shows favor to the humble. ³⁵ The wise will inherit honor, but fools get shame.

^{4:1} Listen, sons, to a father's instruction, and pay attention so that you may gain understanding. ² For I give you sound instruction. Don't abandon my teaching.

^{4:3} When I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in my mother's sight, ⁴ he taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart hold on to my words. Keep my commandments and live. ⁵ Get wisdom. Get understanding. Don't forget or turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Don't forsake her, and she will guard you. Love her, and she will watch over you. ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get understanding. ⁸ Prize her, and she will exalt you. If you embrace her, she will honor you. ⁹ She will place on your head a garland of grace. She will present you with a crown of beauty."

^{4:10} Listen, my son, and accept my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. ¹¹ I have taught you in the way of wisdom. I have led you in upright paths. ¹² When you walk, your steps won't be hindered. When you run, you won't stumble. ¹³ Hold on to instruction. Don't let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

^{4:14} Don't enter the path of the wicked, and don't walk in the way of evil men. ¹⁵ Avoid it. Don't travel on it. Turn away from it, and pass on. ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they do evil. They are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble. ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the

light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until midday. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like darkness. They don't know what makes them stumble.

^{4:20} My son, pay attention to my words. Listen carefully to my sayings. ²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Keep them within your heart. ²² For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body.

^{4:23} Watch over your heart with all diligence, for the springs of life flow from it. ²⁴ Put away from you deceitful speech, and put devious talk far from you.

^{4:25} Let your eyes look directly ahead and your gaze straight in front of you. ²⁶ Carefully consider the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure. ²⁷ Don't turn to the right or to the left. Keep your foot from evil.

^{5:1} My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Listen carefully to my understanding, ² that you may maintain discretion, and that your lips may guard knowledge.

^{5:3} The lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, ⁴ but in the end she's as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a double-edged sword. ⁵ Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to hell. ⁶ She doesn't ponder the path of life. Her ways are unstable, and she doesn't know it.

^{5:7} Now then, my sons, listen to me, and don't depart from the words of my mouth. ⁸ Keep your way far from her. Don't go near the door of her house ⁹ lest you give your vigor to others and your years to someone cruel, ¹⁰ lest strangers feast on your wealth, your labors enrich the house of a foreigner, ¹¹ and at the end

of your life you groan when your flesh and body are consumed. ¹² You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart despised reproof! ¹³ I didn’t obey my teachers or listen to my instructors! ¹⁴ I am almost in utter ruin in the midst of the assembly and congregation.”

^{5:15} Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well. ¹⁶ Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷ Let them be yours alone, and not for strangers with you. ¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, ¹⁹ as a loving deer and a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you always, and be exhilarated always with her love.

^{5:20} Why, my son, should you be exhilarated with a forbidden woman, or embrace the bosom of a stranger? ²¹ For a man’s ways are before the eyes of GOD, and he considers all his paths. ²² The iniquities of the wicked entrap him. He is held in the cords of his sin. ²³ He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he will go astray.

^{6:1} My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor or have given a pledge for a stranger, ² if you have been snared or caught with the words of your mouth, ³ then do this, my son, and free yourself. You have fallen into your neighbor’s hands. Go, humble yourself, and plead with your neighbor. ⁴ Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber. ⁵ Save yourself like a gazelle from the hunter’s hand, and like a bird from the fowler’s hand.

^{6:6} Go to the ant, you idler. Observe its ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without chief,

officer, or ruler, ⁸ it prepares its provisions in summer, and gathers its food during harvest.

^{6:9} How long will you lie down, you idler? When will you get up from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

^{6:12} A worthless person, a wicked man, goes around speaking perversely. ¹⁴ With perversity in his heart, he devises evil continually, and sows discord. ¹⁵ Therefore calamity will strike him suddenly. Instantly he will be broken beyond healing.

^{6:16} Seven things are an abomination to GOD: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run swiftly to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who utters lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

^{6:20} My son, keep your father’s command, and don’t forsake your mother’s teaching. ²¹ Always bind them on your heart. Tie them around your neck. ²² When you walk, they will guide you. When you sleep, they will watch over you. When you wake up, they will talk to you. ²³ For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life, ²⁴ keeping you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of an adulteress.

^{6:25} Don’t desire her beauty in your heart or let her captivate you with her eyes. ²⁶ For a prostitute’s fee is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.

^{6:27} Can a man embrace fire without

burning his clothes? ²⁸ Or can he walk on hot coals without scorching his feet? ²⁹ So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife. None who touches her will go unpunished.

^{6:30} People don't despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger, ³¹ but if caught, he must repay sevenfold. He will give everything in his house.

^{6:32} He who commits adultery lacks sense, and destroys himself. ³³ He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace won't be erased. ³⁴ For jealousy enrages a husband, and he will show no mercy in the day of vengeance. ³⁵ He won't accept compensation. He will refuse, though you give many gifts.

Contention

^{10:12} Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers all offenses.

^{15:18} A hot-tempered man stirs up conflict, but the slow to anger calms contention.

^{17:14} Starting a conflict is like releasing a flood, so abandon the dispute before it breaks out.

^{18:18} Casting the lot ends quarrels, and decides between powerful opponents. ¹⁹ An offended brother is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

^{20:3} Staying away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.

^{21:9} It's better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman. ¹⁹ It's better to live in a desert than with a contentious and complaining woman.

^{22:10} Drive out the mocker, and contention will depart, and quarrels and dishonor will cease.

^{26:20} Without wood the fire goes out, and without a gossip contention dies down.

²¹ Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man for kindling strife.

Diligence

^{10:4} A slack hand causes poverty, but a diligent hand makes rich. ⁵ A son who gathers in the summer is prudent, but one who sleeps during harvest is shameful. ²⁶ Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the idler to those who send him.

^{12:11} He who works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense. ²⁴ The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor.

^{13:4} The idler craves and gets nothing, but the diligent is fully satisfied.

^{14:23} There is profit in all labor, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

^{15:19} The way of the idler is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

^{16:3} Commit your work to GOD, and your plans will be established. ²⁶ A worker's appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him on.

^{18:9} Whoever is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.

^{19:15} Laziness brings on deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger. ²⁴ The idler buries his hand in the dish, but will not

even bring it back to his mouth.

^{20:4} The idler doesn't plow in season, so he looks during harvest, and has nothing. ¹³ Don't love sleep, lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes, and you will have plenty of food.

^{21:25} The desire of the idler kills him, for his hands refuse to work.

^{22:13} The idler says, "There's a lion outside. I'll be killed in the streets."

^{26:14} As a door turns on its hinges, so does the idler on his bed. ¹⁶ The idler is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

^{27:23} Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds; ²⁴ for riches aren't forever and a crown doesn't endure to all generations.

^{28:19} He who works his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Emotion

^{12:25} Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.

^{13:12} Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

^{14:13} Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief.

^{14:17} A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil schemes is hated.

²⁹ He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a quick temper promotes folly. ³⁰ A tranquil heart is life to the body, but envy makes the bones rot.

^{15:13} A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but a sorrowful heart breaks the

spirit. ¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted are bad, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.

^{16:14} A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man appeases it. ³² He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

^{17:5} Whoever mocks the poor insults his maker, and he who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished. ²² A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

^{18:14} A man's spirit can endure sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?

^{19:3} A man's foolishness ruins his way, yet his heart rages against GOD. ¹¹ Good sense makes a man slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. ¹⁹ A man of great anger will pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

^{20:1} Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by them is not wise. ²² Don't say, "I will repay evil". Wait for GOD, and he will save you.

^{29:11} A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man holds it back. ²² An angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.

Relationships

^{7:10} A woman met him, dressed as a prostitute, and cunning of heart. ¹³ She seizes him, kisses him, and brazenly says to him, ¹⁴ "I had to offer peace offerings. Today I've paid my vows. ¹⁶ I've spread my couch with coverings, with colored linens from

Egypt. ¹⁸ Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's delight ourselves with caresses." ²¹ She seduces him with her persuasive speech. With her flattering lips she lures him. ²² He follows her at once, like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a trap. ²⁵ Don't let your heart turn aside to her ways. Don't stray into her paths. ²⁶ For she has cast down many victims, and all her slain are numerous.

^{11:29} He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind.

^{12:4} An excellent wife is her husband's crown, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones. ⁹ Better is he who is lightly esteemed, and has a servant, than he that honors himself, and lacks bread.

^{13:20} He who walks with wise men will become wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. ²⁴ He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

^{14:7} Leave the presence of a fool, for you won't find knowledge in his speech. ²⁸ A large population is a king's glory, but without people a prince is ruined.

^{15:17} Better is a serving of vegetables where there is love, than a fattened ox served with hatred.

^{16:7} When a man's ways please GOD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

^{17:6} Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and fathers are the glory of their sons. ⁹ He who conceals an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. ¹² Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a

fool in his folly. ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. ²¹ He who sires a fool does so to his own sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy. ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.

^{18:1} He who isolates himself seeks his own desire, and rebels against all sound wisdom. ²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from GOD. ²⁴ He who has many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who stays closer than a brother.

^{19:13} A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's contentions are a constant dripping. ¹⁴ A house and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from GOD.

^{20:2} A king's terror is like the lion's roar; he who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life. ¹⁹ A gossip reveals secrets, therefore don't associate with him who talks too much.

^{22:6} Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he won't depart from it.

^{25:17} Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he grow weary of you, and hate you.

^{29:3} He who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes wastes his wealth.

Finance

^{11:15} He who is guarantor for a stranger will surely suffer for it, but he who hates such agreements is secure. ²⁸ He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will

flourish like a green leaf.

^{13:7} There is one who pretends to be rich, yet has nothing. Another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. ¹¹ Wealth obtained by fraud will dwindle, but he who gathers by labor will increase it. ²² A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

^{14:4} Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant harvest comes through an ox's strength. ²⁰ The poor is hated even by his neighbor, but there are many who love the rich.

^{15:6} There is great wealth in the house of the righteous, but trouble accompanies the income of the wicked. ¹⁶ Better a little with fear of GOD than great treasure with turmoil. ²⁷ He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

^{16:8} Better a little with righteousness than great income with injustice.

^{19:4} Wealth attracts many friends, but a poor man is separated from his friend. ⁶ Many seek a generous man's favor, and everyone is a friend to him who gives gifts. ⁷ All a poor man's brothers hate him. How much more do his friends avoid him! He pursues them with words, but they are gone.

^{20:25} It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and only make inquiry after the vows.

^{21:5} The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty. ⁶ Acquiring treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and the pursuit of death. ¹⁷ He who loves pleasure will become poor. He who loves

wine and oil will not get rich. ²⁰ There is precious treasure and oil in a wise man's dwelling, but a fool consumes them.

^{22:1} A good name is to be chosen over great riches, and favor over silver and gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common: GOD is the maker of them all. ⁷ The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is a slave to the lender.

^{26:10} Like an archer who wounds everyone, so is he who hires a fool or who hires those passing by.

^{28:22} A stingy man hastens after wealth, and doesn't know that poverty will come upon him.

Generosity

^{11:24} One gives freely, yet increases all the more, and another withholds what is due, but comes only to poverty. ²⁵ The generous man will prosper, and he who waters will also be watered himself. ²⁶ The people will curse him who withholds grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

^{19:17} Kindness to the poor is a loan to GOD, and he will repay his good deed.

^{21:13} He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also call out and not be answered.

^{22:9} He who is generous will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

¹⁶ He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

^{25:21} If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

^{27:7} He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry any bitter thing is sweet.

^{28:27} He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

Honesty

^{11:1} Dishonest scales are an abomination to GOD, but an accurate weight is his delight.

^{12:19} Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment. ²² Lying lips are an abomination to GOD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

^{16:11} A just balance and scales belong to GOD, all the weights in the bag are his concern.

^{17:13} If anyone returns evil for good, evil will never leave his house. ¹⁵ Acquitting the guilty, and condemning the righteous are both alike an abomination to GOD. ²³ A wicked man takes a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice.

^{18:5} Being partial to the wicked is not good, neither is depriving the righteous of justice.

^{19:5} A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.

^{20:10} Differing weights and differing measures, are both alike an abomination to GOD. ¹⁷ Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel. ²³ Differing weights are an abomination to GOD, and a false scale is not good.

^{21:3} To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to GOD than sacrifice.

Humility

^{11:2} When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

^{15:25} GOD will tear down the house of the proud, but will protect the borders of the widow. ³³ Wisdom teaches the fear of GOD, and humility comes before honor.

^{16:5} Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to GOD; be assured, he will not go unpunished. ¹⁸ Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ It is better to be humble in spirit among the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

^{18:12} Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

^{21:30} No wisdom, no understanding, and no counsel will prevail against GOD.

^{22:4} The reward for humility and fear of GOD is riches, honor, and life.

^{26:12} Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

^{27:1} Don't boast about tomorrow, for you don't know what a day may bring. ² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

^{29:23} A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

Integrity

^{10:9} He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

^{11:3} The integrity of the upright will

guide them, but the perversity of the treacherous will destroy them.

^{20:7} A righteous man who walks in his integrity; blessed are his children after him.

^{21:27} The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.

^{28:6} Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than the rich who is crooked in his ways. ¹⁸ He who walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked will suddenly fall.

Kindness

^{11:17} A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man harms himself.

^{12:10} A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal, but even the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

^{14:21} He who despises his neighbor sins, but he who shows kindness to the poor is happy. ³¹ He who oppresses the poor insults his maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors him.

^{21:21} He who pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

^{26:27} He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him.

Instruction

^{8:1} Doesn't wisdom call, and understanding raise her voice? ⁴ "To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men.

⁵ O naive ones, learn prudence. O fools, learn sense. ¹⁰ Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. ¹¹ For wisdom is better than jewels, and all desirable things cannot compare to it. ²² GOD possessed me at the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there. ³² Now, my sons, listen to me, for blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³ Listen to instruction and be wise. Don't neglect it. ³⁵ For he who finds me finds life, and will obtain favor of GOD."

^{9:8} Don't reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you. Reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still. Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of GOD is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

^{10:8} The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined. ¹⁷ He who heeds instruction is on the path of life, but he who ignores reproof goes astray.

^{12:1} Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. ¹⁵ The fool's way is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to counsel.

^{13:1} A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer doesn't listen to rebuke. ¹⁰ Insolence brings only strife, but wisdom is with those who take advice. ¹³ Whoever despises instruction will pay the penalty, but he who respects a command will be rewarded. ¹⁴ The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning one away from the snares of death. ¹⁸ Poverty and shame will come to him who ignores

instruction, but he who heeds reproof will be honored.

^{15:5} A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who heeds reproof is prudent. ¹⁰ There is harsh discipline for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates reproof will die. ³¹ The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. ³² He who ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains understanding.

^{17:10} A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred lashes into a fool.

^{19:27} Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

Righteous and Wicked

^{10:2} Ill-gotten gains do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. ³ GOD will not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. ⁶ Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. ⁷ The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot. ¹⁶ The wages of the righteous is life; the gain of the wicked is punishment. ²⁰ The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense. ²⁴ What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted. ²⁷ The fear of GOD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.

^{11:5} The righteousness of the blameless

will direct his way, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. ⁶ The righteousness of the upright will rescue them, but the treacherous will be trapped by their own desires. ⁸ The righteous is delivered from trouble, but the wicked takes his place. ¹⁸ The wicked earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a sure reward. ²³ The desire of the righteous turns out well, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. ²⁷ He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it. ³¹ If the righteous will be rewarded on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner.

^{12:3} A man will not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will not be moved. ⁵ The thoughts of the righteous are just, but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. ⁷ The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand. ²¹ No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with evil. ²⁶ The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

^{13:9} The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out. ²¹ Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous will be rewarded with good. ²⁵ The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the stomach of the wicked is empty.

^{14:11} The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish. ¹⁹ The evil bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. ²² Won't they who devise evil go astray? But those who devise good will find kindness and truth. ³⁴ Righteousness

exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

^{15:8} The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to GOD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

^{21:15} When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous, but a terror to evildoers.

^{22:5} Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked. He who guards himself will be far from them.

^{28:1} The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

Speech

^{10:11} The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. ¹⁸ He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool. ¹⁹ When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise. ³¹ The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out. ³² The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

^{11:12} He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. ¹³ A gossip goes about revealing secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter. ²² A beautiful woman without discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

^{12:13} An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will escape from trouble. ¹⁸ There is one who speaks rashly like thrusts of a sword,

but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

²³ A prudent man conceals knowledge, but a fool's heart proclaims folly.

^{13:3} He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

^{14:3} In the fool's mouth is a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will protect them.

^{15:1} A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. ⁴ A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue breaks the spirit. ²³ A man finds joy in giving an apt answer, and a timely word, how good it is! ²⁸ The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things.

^{16:23} The heart of the wise instructs his mouth, and adds persuasion to his lips. ²⁴ Pleasant words are a honeycomb: sweet to the soul, and health to the body. ²⁸ A perverse man spreads strife, and a gossip separates close friends.

^{17:7} Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, much less lying lips for a prince. ²⁷ He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. ²⁸ Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent. When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.

^{18:2} A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in airing his opinion. ⁶ A fool's lips bring strife, and his mouth invites a beating. ⁷ A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

^{20:15} There is gold, and an abundance of jewels, but lips of knowledge are a rare treasure.

^{21:23} He who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

^{22:11} He who loves purity of heart, and speaks graciously will have the king as a friend.

^{26:18} Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, ¹⁹ is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!"

^{27:14} He who blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning will be counted as cursing.

^{29:20} Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Understanding

^{10:13} Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

^{13:16} Every prudent man works with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly.

^{14:12} There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

^{16:16} How much better to get wisdom than gold. To get understanding is preferable to silver.

^{18:13} He who answers before he listens: it is folly and shame to him. ¹⁵ The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

^{19:2} Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good, and hasty feet go astray. ⁸ He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding will find good. ²⁰ Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Wise and Foolish

^{10:1} A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother. ²³ Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

^{11:29} He who troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

^{12:8} A man is praised according to his insight, but one of twisted mind is despised. ¹⁶ A fool's displeasure is known at once, but a prudent man ignores an insult.

^{14:15} The naive believes everything, but the prudent considers his steps. ¹⁶ A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. ³⁵ The king favors a servant who acts wisely, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.

^{15:7} The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but not so the hearts of fools. ²⁰ A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.

^{17:2} A prudent servant will rule over a shameful son, and will share the inheritance among the brothers.

^{22:3} The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the naive go on and suffer for it.

And More

^{10:22} The blessing of GOD enriches, and he adds no sorrow to it.

^{11:14} Without guidance the people fall, but with many counselors there is safety.

^{14:27} The fear of GOD is a fountain of life, turning one away from the snares of

death.

^{15:9} The way of the wicked is an abomination to GOD, but he loves him who pursues righteousness. ²² Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

^{16:33} The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from GOD.

^{17:4} An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

^{20:18} Establish plans by counsel, and make war with wise guidance.