

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 peaceful. 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 op-
ponents. 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 con-
tention 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 noth-

ing, 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
plent 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 an-
ger has great understanding, but
he who has a quick temper pro-
motes 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 every-
one 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 pre-
cious treasure and oil in a wise
man's dwelling, but a fool con-
sumes 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 op-
presses 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, righ-
teousness, 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 hun-

dred 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 morn-
ing 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 peo-

ple 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.