

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

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

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

<sup>3:5</sup> Trust in GOD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup> Don't be wise in your own eyes. Fear GOD, and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup> It will

be healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.

<sup>3:9</sup> Honor GOD with your wealth, and with the firstfruits of all your produce, <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

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

<sup>3:13</sup> Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding. <sup>14</sup> For she is more profitable than silver, and her gain is better than fine gold. <sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire compares with her. <sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honor. <sup>17</sup> Her ways are pleasant, and all her paths are peaceful. <sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her. Those who hold her fast

are happy.

<sup>3:19</sup> GOD founded the earth by wisdom. He established the heavens by understanding. <sup>20</sup> By his knowledge the depths broke open, and the clouds drip with dew.

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

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

<sup>3:27</sup> Don't withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to do it. <sup>28</sup> Don't say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back. I'll give it tomorrow," when you have it with you. <sup>29</sup> Don't plan evil against your neigh-

bor, who lives trustingly beside you.

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

<sup>3:33</sup> The curse of GOD is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous. <sup>34</sup> He mocks the mockers, but shows favor to the humble. <sup>35</sup> The wise will inherit honor, but fools get shame.

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

<sup>4:3</sup> When I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in my mother's sight, <sup>4</sup> he taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart hold on to my words. Keep my commandments and



live. <sup>5</sup> Get wisdom. Get understanding. Don't forget or turn away from the words of my mouth. <sup>6</sup> Don't forsake her, and she will guard you. Love her, and she will watch over you. <sup>7</sup> The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get understanding. <sup>8</sup> Prize her, and she will exalt you. If you embrace her, she will honor you. <sup>9</sup> She will place on your head a garland of grace. She will present you with a crown of beauty."

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

<sup>4:14</sup> Don't enter the path of the wicked, and don't walk in the way of evil men. <sup>15</sup> Avoid it. Don't travel on it.

Turn away from it, and pass on. <sup>16</sup> For they cannot sleep unless they do evil. They are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble. <sup>17</sup> For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. <sup>18</sup> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until midday. <sup>19</sup> The way of the wicked is like darkness. They don't know what makes them stumble.

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

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

<sup>4:25</sup> Let your eyes look directly ahead and your gaze straight in front of you.

<sup>26</sup> Carefully consider the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure.  
<sup>27</sup> Don't turn to the right or to the left.  
Keep your foot from evil.

<sup>5:1</sup> My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Listen carefully to my understanding, <sup>2</sup> that you may maintain discretion, and that your lips may guard knowledge.

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

<sup>5:7</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me, and don't depart from the words of my mouth. <sup>8</sup> Keep your way far from her. Don't go near the door of her house <sup>9</sup> lest you give your vigor to others and your years to someone cruel,

<sup>10</sup> lest strangers feast on your wealth, your labors enrich the house of a foreigner, <sup>11</sup> and at the end of your life you groan when your flesh and body are consumed. <sup>12</sup> You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart despised reproof! <sup>13</sup> I didn't obey my teachers or listen to my instructors! <sup>14</sup> I am almost in utter ruin in the midst of the assembly and congregation."

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

<sup>5:20</sup> Why, my son, should you be exhilarated with a forbidden woman, or embrace the bosom of a stranger? <sup>21</sup> For a

man's ways are before the eyes of GOD, and he considers all his paths. <sup>22</sup> The iniquities of the wicked entrap him. He is held in the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup> He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he will go astray.

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

<sup>6:6</sup> Go to the ant, you idler. Observe its ways, and be wise. <sup>7</sup> Without chief, officer, or ruler, <sup>8</sup> it prepares its provisions in summer, and gathers its food during harvest.

<sup>6:9</sup> How long will you lie down, you

idler? When will you get up from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

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

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

<sup>6:20</sup> My son, keep your father's command, and don't forsake your mother's teaching. <sup>21</sup> Always bind them on your heart. Tie them around your neck. <sup>22</sup> When you walk, they will guide you.

When you sleep, they will watch over you. When you wake up, they will talk to you. <sup>23</sup> For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life, <sup>24</sup> keeping you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of an adulteress.

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

<sup>6:27</sup> Can a man embrace fire without burning his clothes? <sup>28</sup> Or can he walk on hot coals without scorching his feet? <sup>29</sup> So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife. None who touches her will go unpunished.

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

<sup>6:32</sup> He who commits adultery lacks sense, and destroys himself. <sup>33</sup> He will

get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace won't be erased. <sup>34</sup> For jealousy enrages a husband, and he will show no mercy in the day of vengeance. <sup>35</sup> He won't accept compensation. He will refuse, though you give many gifts.

## Relationships

<sup>7:10</sup> A woman met him, dressed as a prostitute, and cunning of heart. <sup>13</sup> She seizes him, kisses him, and brazenly says to him, <sup>14</sup> "I had to offer peace offerings. Today I've paid my vows. <sup>16</sup> I've spread my couch with coverings, with colored linens from Egypt. <sup>18</sup> Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's delight ourselves with caresses." <sup>21</sup> She seduces him with her persuasive speech. With her flattering lips she lures him. <sup>22</sup> He follows her at once, like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a trap. <sup>25</sup> Don't let your heart turn aside to



her ways. Don't stray into her paths.  
<sup>26</sup> For she has cast down many victims,  
and all her slain are numerous.

<sup>11:29</sup> He who troubles his own house  
will inherit the wind.

<sup>12:4</sup> An excellent wife is her husband's  
crown, but she who brings shame is like  
rottenness in his bones.

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

<sup>14:7</sup> Leave the presence of a fool, for  
you won't find knowledge in his speech.

<sup>28</sup> A large population is a king's glory,  
but without people a prince is ruined.

<sup>15:17</sup> Better is a serving of vegetables  
where there is love, than a fattened ox  
served with hatred.

<sup>16:7</sup> When a man's ways please GOD,  
he makes even his enemies to be at  
peace with him.

<sup>17:6</sup> Grandchildren are the crown of

old men, and fathers are the glory of their sons. <sup>9</sup> He who conceals an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. <sup>12</sup> Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly. <sup>17</sup> A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. <sup>21</sup> He who sires a fool does so to his own sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy. <sup>25</sup> A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.

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

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

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

<sup>22:6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he won't depart from it.

<sup>25:17</sup> Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he grow weary of you, and hate you.

<sup>29:3</sup> He who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes wastes his wealth.

# Instruction

8:1 Doesn't wisdom call, and understanding raise her voice? <sup>4</sup> "To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. <sup>5</sup> O naive ones, learn prudence. O fools, learn sense. <sup>10</sup> Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. <sup>11</sup> For wisdom is better than jewels, and all desirable things cannot compare to it. <sup>22</sup> GOD possessed me at the beginning of his way, before his works of old. <sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there. <sup>32</sup> Now, my sons, listen to me, for blessed are those who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup> Listen to instruction and be wise. Don't neglect it. <sup>35</sup> For he who finds me finds life, and will obtain favor of GOD."

<sup>9:8</sup> Don't reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you. Reprove a wise man, and he will love you. <sup>9</sup> Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still. Teach a right-

eous man, and he will increase in learning. <sup>10</sup> The fear of GOD is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

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

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

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

will come to him who ignores instruction, but he who heeds reproof will be honored.

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

<sup>17:10</sup> A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred lashes into a fool.

<sup>19:27</sup> Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

# Wise and Foolish

<sup>10:1</sup> A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

<sup>23</sup> Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

<sup>11:29</sup> He who troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

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

<sup>14:15</sup> The naive believes everything, but the prudent considers his steps.

<sup>16</sup> A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. <sup>35</sup> The king favors a servant who acts wisely, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.

<sup>15:7</sup> The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but not so the hearts of fools.

<sup>20</sup> A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.

<sup>17:2</sup> A prudent servant will rule over a shameful son, and will share the inheritance among the brothers.

<sup>22:3</sup> The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the naive go on and suffer for it.

## Righteous and Wicked

<sup>10:2</sup> Ill-gotten gains do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. <sup>3</sup> GOD will not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. <sup>6</sup> Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. <sup>7</sup> The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot. <sup>16</sup> The wages of the righteous is life; the gain of the wicked is punishment. <sup>20</sup> The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.



<sup>21</sup> The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense. <sup>24</sup> What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted. <sup>27</sup> The fear of GOD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.

<sup>11:5</sup> The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. <sup>6</sup> The righteousness of the upright will rescue them, but the treacherous will be trapped by their own desires. <sup>8</sup> The righteous is delivered from trouble, but the wicked takes his place. <sup>18</sup> The wicked earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a sure reward. <sup>23</sup> The desire of the righteous turns out well, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. <sup>27</sup> He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it. <sup>31</sup> If the righteous will be rewarded on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner.

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

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

<sup>14:11</sup> The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish. <sup>19</sup> The evil bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. <sup>22</sup> Won't they

who devise evil go astray? But those who devise good will find kindness and truth. <sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

<sup>15:8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to GOD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

<sup>21:15</sup> When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous, but a terror to evildoers.

<sup>22:5</sup> Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked. He who guards himself will be far from them.

<sup>28:1</sup> The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

# Diligence

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

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

<sup>13:4</sup> The idler craves, yet gets nothing, but the diligent is fully satisfied.

<sup>14:23</sup> There is profit in all labor, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

<sup>15:19</sup> The way of the idler is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

<sup>16:3</sup> Commit your work to GOD, and your plans will be established. <sup>26</sup> A worker's appetite works for him, for his

hunger urges him on.

<sup>18:9</sup> Whoever is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.

<sup>19:15</sup> Laziness brings on deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger.

<sup>24</sup> The idler buries his hand in the dish, but will not even bring it back to his mouth.

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

<sup>21:25</sup> The desire of the idler kills him, for his hands refuse to work.

<sup>22:13</sup> The idler says, "There's a lion outside. I'll be killed in the streets."

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

<sup>27:23</sup> Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds; <sup>24</sup> for riches aren't forever and a crown

doesn't endure to all generations.

<sup>28:19</sup> He who works his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

## Integrity

<sup>10:9</sup> He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

<sup>11:3</sup> The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the treacherous will destroy them.

<sup>20:7</sup> A righteous man who walks in his integrity; blessed are his children after him.

<sup>21:3</sup> To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to GOD than sacrifice.

<sup>27</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.

<sup>28:6</sup> Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than the rich who is crooked in his ways. <sup>18</sup> He who walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked will suddenly fall.

## Speech

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

<sup>11:12</sup> He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. <sup>13</sup> A gossip goes

about revealing secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter. <sup>22</sup> A beautiful woman without discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

<sup>12:13</sup> An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will escape from trouble. <sup>18</sup> There is one who speaks rashly like thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. <sup>23</sup> A prudent man conceals knowledge, but a fool's heart proclaims folly.

<sup>13:3</sup> He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

<sup>14:3</sup> In the fool's mouth is a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will protect them.

<sup>15:1</sup> A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. <sup>4</sup> A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue breaks the spirit. <sup>23</sup> A man finds joy in giving an apt answer; and a timely word, how good it is!



<sup>28</sup> The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things.

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

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

<sup>18:2</sup> A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in airing his opinion. <sup>6</sup> A fool's lips bring strife, and his mouth invites a beating. <sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> 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.

# Contention

<sup>10:12</sup> Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers all offenses.

<sup>15:18</sup> A hot-tempered man stirs up conflict, but the slow to anger calms contention.

<sup>17:14</sup> Starting a conflict is like releasing a flood, so abandon the dispute before it breaks out.

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

<sup>20:3</sup> Staying away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.

<sup>21:9</sup> It's better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman. <sup>19</sup> It's better to live in a desert than with a contentious and complaining woman.

<sup>22:10</sup> Drive out the mocker, and contention will depart, and quarrels and

dishonor will cease.

<sup>26:20</sup> Without wood the fire goes out, and without a gossip contention dies down. <sup>21</sup> Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man for kindling strife.

## Understanding

<sup>10:13</sup> Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

<sup>13:16</sup> Every prudent man works with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly.

<sup>14:12</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

<sup>16:16</sup> How much better to get wisdom than gold. To get understanding is preferable to silver.

<sup>18:13</sup> He who answers before he listens: it is folly and shame to him. <sup>15</sup> The

mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

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

## Honesty

<sup>11:1</sup> Dishonest scales are an abomination to GOD, but an accurate weight is his delight.

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

<sup>16:11</sup> A just balance and scales belong to GOD, all the weights in the bag are his concern.

<sup>17:15</sup> Acquitting the guilty, and condemning the righteous are both alike an abomination to GOD. <sup>23</sup> A wicked man takes a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice.

<sup>18:5</sup> Being partial to the wicked is not good, neither is depriving the righteous of justice.

<sup>19:5</sup> A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.

<sup>20:17</sup> Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel. <sup>23</sup> Differing weights are an abomination to GOD, and a false scale is not good.

# Humility

<sup>11:2</sup> When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

<sup>12:9</sup> Better is he who is lightly esteemed, and has a servant, than he that honors himself, and lacks bread.

<sup>15:25</sup> GOD will tear down the house of the proud, but will protect the borders of the widow. <sup>33</sup> Wisdom teaches the fear of GOD, and humility comes before honor.

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

<sup>18:12</sup> Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

<sup>21:30</sup> No wisdom, no understanding, and no counsel will prevail against

GOD.

<sup>22:4</sup> The reward for humility and fear of GOD is riches, honor, and life.

<sup>26:12</sup> Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

<sup>27:1</sup> Don't boast about tomorrow, for you don't know what a day may bring.

<sup>2</sup> Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

<sup>29:23</sup> A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.



# Finance

<sup>11:15</sup> He who is guarantor for a stranger will surely suffer for it, but he who hates such agreements is secure. <sup>28</sup> He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

<sup>13:7</sup> There is one who pretends to be rich, yet has nothing. Another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

<sup>11</sup> Wealth obtained by fraud will dwindle, but he who gathers by labor will increase it. <sup>22</sup> A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

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

<sup>15:6</sup> There is great wealth in the house of the righteous, but trouble accompa-

nies the income of the wicked. <sup>16</sup> Better a little with fear of GOD than great treasure with turmoil. <sup>27</sup> He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

<sup>16:8</sup> Better a little with righteousness than great income with injustice.

<sup>19:4</sup> Wealth attracts many friends, but a poor man is separated from his friend. <sup>6</sup> Many seek a generous man's favor, and everyone is a friend to him who gives gifts. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>21:5</sup> The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty. <sup>6</sup> Acquiring treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and the pursuit of death. <sup>17</sup> He who loves pleasure will become poor. He who loves wine and oil will not get rich. <sup>20</sup> There is precious treasure and oil in a wise man's dwelling,

but a fool consumes them.

<sup>22:1</sup> A good name is to be chosen over great riches, and favor over silver and gold. <sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor have this in common: GOD is the maker of them all. <sup>7</sup> The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is a slave to the lender.

<sup>26:10</sup> Like an archer who wounds everyone, so is he who hires a fool or who hires those passing by.

<sup>28:22</sup> A stingy man hastens after wealth, and doesn't know that poverty will come upon him.

# Kindness

<sup>11:17</sup> A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man harms himself.

<sup>12:10</sup> A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal, but even the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

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

<sup>17:13</sup> If anyone returns evil for good, evil will never leave his house.

<sup>21:21</sup> He who pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

<sup>26:27</sup> He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him.

# Generosity

<sup>11:24</sup> One gives freely, yet increases all the more, and another withholds what is due, but comes only to poverty.

<sup>25</sup> The generous man will prosper, and he who waters will also be watered himself. <sup>26</sup> The people will curse him who withholds grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

<sup>19:17</sup> Kindness to the poor is a loan to GOD, and he will repay his good deed.

<sup>20:25</sup> It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and only make inquiry after the vows.

<sup>21:13</sup> He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also call out and not be answered.

<sup>22:9</sup> He who is generous will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. <sup>16</sup> He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

<sup>25:21</sup> If your enemy is hungry, give him

bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

<sup>27:7</sup> He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry any bitter thing is sweet.

<sup>28:27</sup> He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

## Emotion

<sup>12:25</sup> Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.

<sup>13:12</sup> Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

<sup>14:13</sup> Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief.

<sup>14:17</sup> A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil schemes is hated. <sup>29</sup> He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a quick temper promotes folly. <sup>30</sup> A tranquil heart is life to the body, but envy makes the bones rot.

<sup>15:13</sup> A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but a sorrowful heart breaks the spirit. <sup>15</sup> All the days of the afflicted are bad, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.

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

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

<sup>18:14</sup> A man's spirit can endure sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?

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

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

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

## And More

<sup>10:22</sup> The blessing of GOD enriches, and he adds no sorrow to it.

<sup>11:14</sup> Without guidance the people fall, but with many counselors there is safety.

<sup>14:27</sup> The fear of GOD is a fountain of life, turning one away from the snares of death.

<sup>15:9</sup> The way of the wicked is an abomination to GOD, but he loves him who pursues righteousness. <sup>22</sup> Without



counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

<sup>16:33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from GOD.

<sup>17:4</sup> An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

<sup>20:18</sup> Establish plans by counsel, and make war with wise guidance.