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Proverbs

Chapter 1

¹The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, the king of Israel:

²To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand sayings of understanding;

³to receive instruction of insight,
righteousness and justice and integrity;

⁴to give to naive ones prudence,
to a young man knowledge and discretion

⁵(a wise one will hear and increase learning,
and the understanding one will acquire directions),

⁶to understand a proverb and a satire,
the words of the wise ones and their riddles.

⁷The fear of Yahweh {is} the beginning of knowledge,
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸Hear, my son, the instruction of your father
and do not forsake the law of your mother.

⁹For, they {are} a garland of grace for your head
and pendants for your neck.

¹⁰My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.

¹¹If they say, "Come with us!
Let us lie in wait for blood.
Let us hide to ambush the innocent one without cause.

¹²Let us swallow them, the living ones, like Sheol,
and the whole ones like those going down to a pit.

¹³We will find all precious wealth.
We will fill our houses {with} spoil.

14You must cause your lot to fall in our midst;
one purse will be for all of us.”

15My son, do not walk in the way with them;
restrain your foot from their path.

16For their feet run to evil,
and they hurry to pour out blood.

17Surely in vain {is} the net spread out in the eyes of any owner of wing,

18but they lie in wait for their blood;
they hide in ambush for their lives.

19So {are} the paths of all who unjustly gain unjust gain;
it takes the life of its owner.

20Wisdom cries out outside,
she gives her voice in the open areas.

21At the head of the tumultuous places she calls out;
at the opening of the gates in the city, she says her sayings,

22“Until when will naive ones love naiveté
and mockers delight {in} mockery for themselves
and stupid ones hate knowledge?

23Turn to my rebuke.
Behold, I shall allow my spirit to gush forth to you,
I shall cause you to know my words.

24Because I have called and you have refused,
I have stretched out my hand and there was no one listening attentively,

25and you have ignored all my counsel,
and my rebuke you did not accept,

26I too shall laugh at your calamity,
I shall mock when your dread comes,

27when your dread comes like a storm^[1]
and your calamity happens like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.

28Then they will call out to me, but I will not answer.

They will diligently seek me, but they will not find me,

²⁹for the reason that they hate knowledge

and the fear of Yahweh they did not choose,

³⁰they did not want my counsel,

and they despised my every rebuke.

³¹And they will eat from the fruit of their way,

and from their plans they will be satisfied.

³²For the turning away of the naive ones will slay them

and {false} security will lead stupid ones to ruin.

³³But the one who listens to me will dwell securely

and will be at ease from the dread of evil.”

1:27 ^[1]

Chapter 2

¹My son, if you receive my sayings,

and my commandments you store up with you,

²to cause your ear to be attentive to wisdom,

incline your heart to understanding—

³indeed, if for understanding you call out,

for perception you lift up your voice,

⁴if you seek it like silver

and like hidden treasures you search for it,

⁵then you will understand the fear of Yahweh

and the knowledge of God you will find.

⁶For Yahweh gives wisdom,

from his mouth {are} knowledge and understanding.

⁷And he stores up^[1] for the upright ones sound wisdom;

a shield for those walking {with} integrity,

⁸to guard the paths of justice,

and the way of his faithful ones he will preserve.

⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice and integrity—every good track.

¹⁰For wisdom will enter into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

¹¹Discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,

¹²to rescue you from the way of evil,
from a man who speaks perverse things,

¹³the ones who forsake the paths of straightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,

¹⁴the ones who are glad to do evil,
they rejoice in perverse things of evil,

¹⁵whose paths {are} crooked
and who go astray in their tracks;

¹⁶to rescue you from a strange woman,
from a foreign woman who makes her sayings smooth,

¹⁷the one who forsakes the companion of her youth,
and the covenant of her God, she has forgotten.

¹⁸For her house sinks down to death
and her tracks to the spirits of dead ones.

¹⁹All those who enter her will not return
and they will not reach the paths of life.

²⁰So you shall walk in the way of the good ones
and the paths of the righteous ones you shall keep.

²¹For the upright ones will dwell {in} the land,
and the blameless ones will remain in it,

²²but wicked ones will be cut off from the land,
and the treacherous ones will be torn away from it.

2:7 ^[1]

Chapter 3

¹My son, do not forget my law,
and my commandments let your heart guard.

²For length of days and years of life and peace, they will add to you.

³Do not let covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness leave you,
tie them on your neck,

write them on the tablet of your heart,

⁴and find favor and good insight
in the eyes of God and man!

⁵Trust in Yahweh with all your heart
and on your understanding do not lean.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he himself will straighten your paths.

⁷Do not be wise in your eyes;
fear Yahweh and turn away from evil.

⁸It will be healing for your navel
and refreshment for your bones.

⁹Honor Yahweh from your wealth
and from the first of all your produce,

¹⁰and your storehouses will be filled with plenty,
and with new wine, your wine vats will burst open.

¹¹The correction of Yahweh, my son, do not reject,
and do not abhor his rebuke.

¹²For whom Yahweh loves, he rebukes,
and like a father, a son he is pleased with.

¹³Happy {is} a man who finds wisdom
and a man who obtains understanding.

¹⁴For better {is} its profit than the profit of silver,
and than gold its produce.

¹⁵She is more precious than corals,
and all your desired things do not compare with her.

¹⁶Length of days {is} in her right hand,
in her left hand {are} riches and honor.

¹⁷Her ways {are} ways of pleasantness

and all her beaten paths {are} peace.

18She {is} a tree of life to the ones who take hold of her,
and those who grasp her {are} happy.

19Yahweh by wisdom founded the earth,
he established the heavens by understanding.

20By his knowledge the depths broke open
and the clouds dripped dew.

21My son, do not let them depart from your eyes,
guard prudence and discretion;

22and they will be life for your soul
and grace for your neck.

23Then you will walk your way to security
and your foot will not stumble.

24If you lie down, you will not be in dread,
and you will lie down, and your sleep will be pleasant.

25Do not be afraid of sudden dread
and of the devastation of the wicked ones when it comes.

26For Yahweh will be your confidence,
and he will keep your foot from capture.

27Do not withhold good from its owners,
when it is in the power of your hand to act.

28Do not say to your neighbor,
"Go and return, and tomorrow I will give {it},"
and it is with you.

29Do not plot evil against your neighbor,
and he who is dwelling securely with you.

30Do not contend with a man without cause,
if he has not done you evil.

31Do not be envious of a man of violence
and do not choose any of his ways.

32For an abomination to Yahweh {is} he who goes astray,

but with the upright ones {is} his secret counsel.

³³The curse of Yahweh {is} on the house of the wicked one,
but he blesses the abode of the righteous ones.

³⁴Though to the mockers he himself mocks,
yet to the humble ones he gives favor.

³⁵Wise ones will inherit honor,
but stupid ones lift up dishonor.

Chapter 4

¹Hear, sons, the instruction of a father,
and listen attentively in order to know understanding.

²For I give good teaching to you;
do not forsake my law.

³When I was a son of my father,
the tender and only one before the face of my mother,

⁴then he taught me and said to me,
“Let your heart grasp my words;
keep my commandments and live!

⁵Acquire wisdom, acquire understanding;
do not forget and do not veer from the sayings of my mouth.

⁶Do not forsake her and she will preserve you;
love her and she will guard you.

⁷The beginning of wisdom: acquire wisdom!
And with all your acquisition acquire understanding!

⁸Cherish her and she will raise you up;
she will honor you when you embrace her.

⁹She will give for your head a garland of grace;
{with} a crown of splendor she will cover you.”

¹⁰Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,
and they will multiply for you the years of life.

¹¹In the way of wisdom I taught you;

I caused you to tread in the tracks of uprightness.

¹²When you walk, your step will not be restricted;
and if you run, you will not stumble.

¹³Grasp on to instruction, do not let go;
guard it, for it {is} your life.

¹⁴On the path of wicked ones do not go
and do not advance on the way of evil ones.

¹⁵Avoid it, do not pass through it;
veer from it and pass on!

¹⁶For they do not sleep if they do not do evil
and their sleep is robbed if they do not cause stumbling.

¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness
and the wine of violent {acts}, they drink.

¹⁸But the path of the righteous ones {is} like the light of brightness,
going and shining until the day {is} established.

¹⁹The way of the wicked ones {is} like the darkness;
they do not know on what they stumble.

²⁰My son, listen attentively to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes;
keep them in the midst of your heart.

²²For they {are} life to those who find them
and healing to all of his flesh.

²³Guard your heart more than all {that} is protected,
for from it {are} the sources of life.

²⁴Remove from you perversity of mouth,
and the deviousness of lips put far away from you.

²⁵Cause your eyes to gaze to the front,
and cause your eyelids to be straight in front of you.

²⁶Make level^[1] the track of your foot
and all your ways will be firm.

²⁷Do not veer right or left;
cause your foot to turn away from evil.

4:26 ^[1]

Chapter 5

¹My son, listen attentively to my wisdom,
incline your ear to my understanding
²in order to keep discretion,
and your lips may guard knowledge.
³For the lips of a strange woman drip fresh honey
and smoother than oil {is} her palate,
⁴but her aftermath {is} bitter like wormwood,
sharp like a sword of mouths.
⁵Her feet are going down {to} death;
her steps take hold of Sheol.
⁶Lest she observe the path of life,
she does not know her tracks {are} unstable.
⁷And now, sons, listen to me;
and do not turn away from the sayings of my mouth.
⁸Keep your way far from her
and do not come near to the opening of her house.
⁹Lest you give to others your splendor
and your years to a cruel one.
¹⁰Lest strangers be satisfied with your strength
and your toils {be} in the house of a foreigner,
¹¹and you groan at your end
when your flesh and your body are finished.
¹²And you will say, "How I hated correction
and my heart despised rebuke!
¹³And I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
and to my instructors, I did not incline my ear.

¹⁴I was almost in all evil
in the midst of the assembly and the congregation.”

¹⁵Drink water from your cistern
and flowing waters from the midst of your well.

¹⁶Should your springs overflow outside,
channels of water in the open areas?

¹⁷Let them be for you, for you alone,
and not for strangers with you.

¹⁸May your fountain be blessed,
and be glad because of the wife of your youth!

¹⁹A doe of loves and a mountain goat of grace,
may her breasts drench you on every occasion;
may you continually stagger in her love.

²⁰And why would you stagger, my son, with a strange woman,
or embrace the bosom of a foreign woman?

²¹For in front of the eyes of Yahweh {are} the ways of a man,
and all of his paths he observes.

²²His iniquities capture him, the wicked one;
and by the cords of his sin he is grasped.

²³He will die because there is no correction;
and in the abundance of his folly he staggers.

Chapter 6

¹My son, if you pledge for your neighbor,
you clasp your palms for a stranger,
²you are ensnared by the sayings of your mouth,
you are caught by the sayings of your mouth,
³then do this, my son, and rescue yourself:
Since you have come into the palm of your neighbor,
go, humble yourself, and press your neighbor.

⁴Do not give sleep to your eyes

and slumber to your eyelids.

⁵Rescue yourself like a gazelle from a hand,
and like a bird from the hand of the trapper.

⁶Go to the ant, lazy one!

See its ways and be wise,

⁷which, without a commander,
officer, or ruler for it,

⁸prepares its bread in the summer;
it gathers its food in the harvest.

⁹Until when, lazy one, will you lie down?
When will you rise from your sleep?

¹⁰"A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to lie down"—

¹¹and your poverty will come like one who walks
and your lack like a man of shield.

¹²A man of worthlessness, a man of iniquity,
{is} one who walks {with} perversity of mouth,

¹³one who winks with his eye, one who rubs with his foot,
one who points with his fingers.

¹⁴Perverse things {are} in his heart, plotting evil on every occasion;
he sends forth quarrels.

¹⁵Therefore his calamity will come instantly,
suddenly he will be broken and without healing.

¹⁶Six {are} they Yahweh hates,
and seven {are} abominations to his self:

¹⁷uplifted eyes, a tongue of falsehood,
and hands pouring out innocent blood,

¹⁸a heart devising plans of iniquity,
feet hurrying to run to evil,

¹⁹a witness of falsehood who breathes out lies
and who sends forth quarrels between brothers.

²⁰Guard, my son, the commandment of your father
and do not forsake the law of your mother.

²¹Bind them on your heart continually;
tie them around your neck.

²²When you walk about, it will guide you;
when you lie down, it will preserve you;
and you will wake up, it will converse with you.

²³For the commandment {is} a lamp and the law {is} a light,
and the rebukes of instruction {are} the way of life,

²⁴to keep you from a woman of evil,
from the smoothness of the tongue of a foreign woman.

²⁵Do not desire her beauty in your heart
and do not let her take you with her eyelashes.

²⁶For the price of a prostitute woman {is} as a loaf of bread,
but the wife of a man hunts a precious life.

²⁷Could a man carry a fire on his chest
and his clothes not be burned?

²⁸If a man walks on coals
then will his feet not be scorched?

²⁹So is the one going to the wife of his neighbor:
Every one who touches her will not remain blameless.

³⁰They do not despise the thief
if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry.

³¹But if he is found, he must repay sevenfold;
all the wealth of his house he must give.

³²One who commits adultery {with} a woman {is} lacking of heart;
destroying his life, he does it.

³³He will find a wound and disgrace
and his shame will not be wiped out.

³⁴For jealousy is the heat of a man,
and he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

³⁵He will not lift up the face of any ransom,
and he will not be willing if you increase the bribe.

Chapter 7

¹My son, keep my sayings
and store up my commandments with you.
²Keep my commandments and live,
and my law as the pupil of your eyes.
³Tie them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴Say to wisdom, "You {are} my sister,"
and call to understanding, "Kinsman,"
⁵in order to keep you from the strange woman,
from the foreign woman who makes her sayings smooth.
⁶For at the window of my house,
through the window lattice I looked down.
⁷And I saw among the naive ones,
I discerned among the sons a young man lacking of heart
⁸passing through the lane beside her corner,
and he steps {in} the way of her house,
⁹in the twilight breeze, in the evening of day,
in the pupil of the night and darkness.
¹⁰And behold, {there is} a woman to meet him,
{with} the garment of a prostitute and guarded of heart.
¹¹{She {is} a loud and rebellious one;
her feet do not stay in her house.
¹²At {one} time in the street, at {another} time in the open areas,
and beside every corner she lies in wait.)
¹³And she grabs him and kisses him,
she strengthens her face and says to him,
¹⁴"The sacrifices of peace offerings {are} with me;

today I paid my vows.

¹⁵Therefore, I came out to meet you,
to diligently seek your face, and I found you.

¹⁶I have spread my couch {with} coverings,
colored linen of Egypt.

¹⁷I have sprinkled my bed
{with} myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

¹⁸Come, let us be drenched {with} lusts until the morning;
let us delight ourselves with loves.

¹⁹For the man is not in his house;
he went on a road far away.

²⁰He took the bag of the silver in his hand;
on the day of the full moon he will enter his house."

²¹She leads him astray with the abundance of her teaching;
with the smoothness of her lips she compels him.

²²Following after her suddenly,
like an ox to slaughter he goes,
and like an ankle chain to the correction of a fool,

²³until an arrow splits his liver,
like a bird rushing into a trap,
and he did not know that it {was} for his life.

²⁴And now, sons, listen to me;
and listen attentively to the sayings of my mouth.

²⁵Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways;
do not wander into her tracks.

²⁶For she has caused many pierced ones to fall,
and numerous {are} all her slain ones.

²⁷Her house {is} the ways of Sheol,
descending to the rooms of death.

Chapter 8

¹Does not wisdom call out

and understanding give her voice?

²At the head of the heights beside the road,

the house of the paths, she stations herself.

³At the hand of the gates, at the mouth of the city,

the entrance of the openings, she cries out.

⁴"To you, men, I call;

and my voice {is} to the sons of man.

⁵Understand prudence, naive ones,

and stupid ones, understand heart.

⁶Listen, for noble things I will speak,

and the opening of my lips {will be} upright things.

⁷For my palate will utter truth,

and wickedness {is} an abomination to my lips.

⁸All the words of my mouth {are} in righteousness;

there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

⁹All of them {are} straightforward things for the understanding one

and upright things for finders of knowledge.

¹⁰Take my instruction and not silver,

and knowledge rather than choice gold.

¹¹For wisdom {is} better than corals

and all desired things do not compare with her.

¹²I, Wisdom, I dwell with prudence,

and knowledge of discretion I find.

¹³The fear of Yahweh {is} to hate evil.

Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the mouth of perverse things I hate.

¹⁴Counsel and sound wisdom {are} mine;

I {am} understanding; strength {is} mine.

¹⁵By me kings reign and dignitaries decree righteousness.

16By me princes rule,
and nobles, all judges of righteousness.

17I myself love those who love me,
and those who diligently seek me will find me.

18Riches and honor {are} with me,
lasting wealth and righteousness.

19My fruit {is} better than gold and than refined gold,
and my produce than choice silver.

20I walk in the path of righteousness,
in the midst of the beaten paths of justice,
21to cause those who love me to inherit property;
and their treasuries I will fill.

22Yahweh possessed me {at} the beginning of his way,
before his works from then.

23From eternity I was poured out,^[1]
from the head, from the ancient times of the earth.

24When there were no watery depths, I was brought forth,
when there were no springs heavy^[2] with water.

25Before the mountains were sunk,
before the face of the hills, I was brought forth,
26before he made the earth or the outside places
or the head of the loose soil of the world.

27When he established the heavens, I {was} there,
when he inscribed a circle over the face of the watery deep,
28when he made firm the clouds above,
when the springs of the watery deep became strong,
29when he set up for the sea its statute,
so waters do not cross over his mouth,
when he inscribed the foundations of the earth.

30Then I was beside him {as} a skilled worker,
and I was a delight day {by} day,

frolicking before his face at every time.

³¹Frolicking in the world of his earth,
and my delights {were} with the sons of man.

³²And now, sons, listen to me,
and happy {are} they {who} keep my ways.

³³Hear instruction,
and be wise, and do not neglect {it}.

³⁴Happy {is} the man listening to me,
keeping vigil over my doors day {by} day,
keeping watch {over} the doorposts of my entrances.

³⁵For finders of me {are} finders of life,
and he obtains favor from Yahweh.

³⁶But a sinner {against} me does violence to his life;
all haters of me love death.”

8:23 ^[1]

8:24 ^[2]

Chapter 9

¹Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn out her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her slaughter, she has mixed her wine,
also she has arranged her table.

³She has sent out her young women,
she calls out on the tops of the heights of the city.

⁴“Whoever {is} naive, let him turn aside here,”
she says to him lacking of heart.

⁵“Come, eat my bread,
and drink the wine I have mixed.

⁶Forsake naive things and live;
and stride on the way of understanding.

⁷The instructor of a mocker receives disgrace for himself,

and the rebuker of a wicked one, his injury.

⁸Do not rebuke a mocker, lest he hate you;
rebuke a wise one and he will love you.

⁹Give to a wise one and he will become more wise;
inform a righteous one, and he will increase learning.

¹⁰The beginning of wisdom {is} the fear of Yahweh
and knowledge of holy things {is} understanding.

¹¹For by me your days will increase,
and years of life will be added to you.

¹²If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,
and {if} you mock, you alone will bear {it}."

¹³The woman of stupidity {is} loud,
naive, and she does not know anything.

¹⁴And she sits at the opening of her house,
on a seat {by} the heights of the city,

¹⁵to call to those who pass over the way,
the ones going straight {on} their paths.

¹⁶"Whoever {is} naive, let him turn aside here!"
And she says to him, the lacking of heart,

¹⁷"Stolen waters are sweet,
and bread of secrecies is pleasant."

¹⁸But he does not know that the spirits of the dead {are} there;
in the depths of Sheol {are} her called ones.

Chapter 10

¹The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son gladdens a father,
but a stupid son {is} the grief of his mother.

²Treasures of wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.

³Yahweh does not let the life of the righteous one starve

but the desire of the wicked ones he thrusts away.

⁴A palm of idleness makes poverty,

but the hand of the diligent ones makes rich.

⁵One who gathers in the summer {is} a son who has insight,

but one who sleeps in the harvest {is} a son who acts shamefully.

⁶Blessings {are} for the head of the righteous one,

but the mouth of the wicked ones covers violence.

⁷The memory of the righteous one {is} for a blessing,

but the name of the wicked ones will rot.

⁸The one wise of heart receives commands,

but the one foolish of lips will be thrown down.

⁹One who walks with integrity will walk securely,

but one who causes his ways to be crooked will be known.

¹⁰One who winks an eye gives pain,

and the one foolish of lips will be thrown down.

¹¹A fountain of life {is} the mouth of the righteous one,

but the mouth of the wicked ones covers violence.

¹²Hatred stirs up quarrels,

but love covers over all transgressions.

¹³On the lips of the discerning one wisdom is found,

but a rod {is} for the back of the one lacking of heart.

¹⁴Wise ones store up knowledge,

but the mouth of a fool {is} near ruin.

¹⁵The wealth of the rich one {is} the city of his strength;

the ruin of lowly ones {is} their poverty.

¹⁶The wage of the righteous one {is} to life;

the income of the wicked one {is} to sin.

¹⁷{On} a path to life {is} one who keeps instruction,

but one who forsakes rebuke goes astray.

¹⁸One who covers hate {has} lips of falsehood,

and one who causes an evil report to go forth, he {is} a stupid one.

- ¹⁹With a multitude of words transgression does not cease,
but one who restrains his lips is insightful.
- ²⁰Choice silver {is} the tongue of the righteous one;
the heart of the wicked ones {is} like little.
- ²¹The lips of the righteous one shepherd many,
but fools die by lack of heart.
- ²²The blessing of Yahweh, it causes riches,
and he does not add pain with it.
- ²³Like laughter for a stupid one {is} doing a wicked plan,
but wisdom, for a man of understanding.
- ²⁴The terror of the wicked one, it will come to him,
but the desire of the righteous ones will be given.
- ²⁵At the passing over of a whirlwind, and there is no wicked one,
but a righteous one {is} a foundation of eternity.
- ²⁶Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so {is} the lazy one to one who sends him.
- ²⁷The fear of Yahweh will add days,
but the years of the wicked ones will be short.
- ²⁸The hope of the righteous ones {is} joy,
but the expectation of the wicked ones will perish.
- ²⁹A stronghold for the one with integrity {is} the way of Yahweh,
but ruin for doers of iniquity.
- ³⁰A righteous one will not falter to eternity,
but wicked ones will not dwell {in} the land.
- ³¹The mouth of the righteous one bears the fruit of wisdom,
but the tongue of the perverse ones will be cut off.
- ³²The lips of the righteous one know favor,
but the mouth of the wicked ones, perverse things.

Chapter 11

- ¹Scales of deceit {are} an abomination to Yahweh

but a whole stone {is} his delight.

²When presumptuousness comes, then disgrace comes,
but {with} modest ones {is} wisdom.

³The integrity of the upright ones will guide them,
but the crookedness of the treacherous ones will destroy them.

⁴Wealth will not profit in the day of rage,
but righteousness will deliver from death.

⁵The righteousness of a blameless one will make his way straight,
but by his wickedness, a wicked one will fall.

⁶The righteousness of the upright ones will deliver them,
but by the desire of the treacherous ones they will be captured.

⁷At the death of a wicked man expectation will perish,
and the hope of strong ones perishes.

⁸A righteous one is drawn away from distress,
but a wicked one enters instead of him.

⁹With a mouth a godless one destroys his neighbor,
but with knowledge, righteous ones will be delivered.

¹⁰In the good of the righteous ones a city exults;
and when wicked ones perish, a shout of joy.

¹¹With the blessing of the upright ones a city is raised up,
but with the mouth of the wicked ones it is torn down.

¹²One who despises his neighbor {is} lacking of heart,
but a man of understanding will keep quiet.

¹³A gossip goes about uncovering a secret,
but one who is faithful of spirit {is} one who covers a matter.

¹⁴When there are no directions a people falls,
but salvation {is} in an abundance of counsel.

¹⁵One will surely suffer if he pledges for a stranger,
but one who hates hand clasps {is} secure.

¹⁶A woman of grace will grasp honor,
but ruthless ones will grasp riches.

- ¹⁷A man of covenant faithfulness deals fully with his soul,
but a cruel one troubles his flesh.
- ¹⁸A wicked one makes a wage of falsehood,
but one who sows righteousness, a wage of truth.
- ¹⁹Veritable righteousness {is} to life,
but one who pursues evil {is} to his death.
- ²⁰An abomination to Yahweh {is} those crooked of heart,
but his delight {is} those blameless of way.
- ²¹Hand to hand, a wicked one will not remain blameless,
but the seed of the righteous ones will safely escape.
- ²²A ring of gold in the nose of a pig
{is} a beautiful woman that turns away {from} discretion.
- ²³The desire of the righteous ones {is} only good;
the expectation of the wicked ones {is} rage.
- ²⁴There is one who scatters and adds more,
but one who withholds more than {what is} right, only for lack.
- ²⁵A life of blessing will be fattened,
and the one who drenches, he also will be drenched.
- ²⁶One who withholds grain, people will curse him,
but a blessing {is} for the head of the seller.
- ²⁷One who diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but one who searches {for} evil, it will come {to} him.
- ²⁸One who trusts in his riches, he himself will fall,
but like a leaf righteous ones will sprout.
- ²⁹One who troubles his house will inherit wind,
and a fool {will be} a slave to the wise of heart.
- ³⁰The fruit of the righteous one {is} a tree of life,
and the taker of souls is wise.
- ³¹Behold, a righteous one in the land will be repaid,
how much more a wicked one and a sinner!

Chapter 12

¹The lover of correction loves knowledge,
but the hater of rebuke {is} stupid.

²A good one obtains favor from Yahweh,
but a man of schemes he will condemn.

³A man will not be established by wickedness,
but the root of the righteous ones will not be shaken.

⁴A wife of worth {is} the crown of her husband,
but she who causes shame {is} like rotteness in his bones.

⁵The plans of the righteous ones {are} justice;
the directions of the wicked ones {are} deceit.

⁶The words of the wicked ones lie in wait {for} blood,
but the mouth of the upright ones will deliver them.

⁷Wicked ones are overthrown, and they are naught,
but the house of the righteous ones will stand.

⁸For the mouth of his insight a man will be praised,
but one who is twisted of heart will be for contempt.

⁹Better {is} the one dishonored and has a servant
than the one honoring himself and lacking of bread.

¹⁰A righteous one knows the life of his animal,
but the compassion of the wicked ones {is} cruel.

¹¹Bread will satisfy one who works his ground,
but one who pursues empty things {is} lacking of heart.

¹²A wicked one desires the snare of evil ones,
but the root of the righteous ones will give.

¹³In the transgression of lips {is} the snare of the evil one,
but the righteous one will go out from distress.

¹⁴From the fruit of the mouth of a man will he be satisfied {with} good,
and the accomplishment of the hands of a man will return to him.

¹⁵The way of a fool {is} right in his eyes,

but a wise one listens to counsel.

¹⁶A fool, his anger is known on the day,

but a prudent one covers dishonor.

¹⁷He who breathes out faithfulness tells righteousness,

but a witness of falsehoods, deceit.

¹⁸There is one who speaks thoughtlessly like the thrusts of a sword,

but the tongue of the wise ones {causes} healing.

¹⁹A lip of truth will be established to perpetuity,

but a tongue of falsehood as long as I would blink.

²⁰Deceit {is} in the heart of devisers of evil,

but joy {is} for advisers of peace.

²¹Any iniquity will not be allowed to happen to the righteous one,

but wicked ones are full of evil.

²²An abomination to Yahweh {are} lips of falsehood,

but doers of faithfulness {are} his delight.

²³A prudent man covers knowledge,

but the heart of stupid ones calls out folly.

²⁴The hand of the diligent ones will rule,

but an idle one will become a forced laborer.

²⁵Concern in the heart of a man weighs it down,

but a good word gladdens it.

²⁶A righteous one searches out from his neighbor,

but the way of the wicked ones will lead them astray.

²⁷A negligent one will not roast his game,

but the wealth of a man {is} precious for a diligent one.

²⁸In the path of righteousness {is} life,

and the way of the beaten path {is} no death.

Chapter 13

¹A wise son, the instruction of a father,

but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

- ²From the fruit of the mouth of a man he eats good,
but the appetite of the treacherous ones {is for} violence.
- ³One who guards his mouth keeps his life;
one who opens his lips, ruin for him.
- ⁴A lazy one, his appetite is craving and there is nothing,
but the appetite of the diligent ones will be fattened.
- ⁵A righteous one hates a word of falsehood,
but a wicked one causes a stink and causes embarrassment.
- ⁶Righteousness guards the blameless of way,
but wickedness leads a sinful one astray.
- ⁷There is one who pretends to be rich but there is nothing {at} all;
one who pretends to be poor but {has} much wealth.
- ⁸The ransom of the life of a man {is} his riches,
but a poor one does not hear a rebuke.
- ⁹The light of the righteous ones will be glad,
but the lamp of the wicked ones will be extinguished.
- ¹⁰With presumptuousness comes only contention,
but with those who are counseled, wisdom.
- ¹¹Wealth from emptiness will dwindle,
but one who gathers by hand will increase.
- ¹²Hope deferred makes a heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled {is} a tree of life.
- ¹³One who despises a word will be pledged to pay for it,
but {he with} fear of a command, he himself will be rewarded.
- ¹⁴The law of the wise {is} a fountain of life,
to turn away from the snares of death.
- ¹⁵Good insight gives favor,
but the way of treacherous ones {is} permanent.
- ¹⁶Every prudent one acts with knowledge,
but a stupid one spreads folly.
- ¹⁷A wicked messenger falls into evil,

but an envoy of faithfulness {causes} healing.

¹⁸Poverty and shame {are for} one who avoids correction,
but one who keeps a rebuke will be honored.

¹⁹A desire {that} occurs will be pleasing to the self,
but the abomination to stupid ones {is} turning away from evil.

²⁰One who walks {with} wise ones will be wise,
but one who associates with stupid ones will suffer.

²¹Evil will pursue sinners,
but goodness will reward righteous ones.

²²A good one will cause sons of sons to inherit,
but the wealth of a sinner is stored up for the righteous one.

²³Much food {is in} the unplowed field of poor ones,
but there is a being swept away by no justice.

²⁴One who withholds his rod hates his son,
but one who loves him diligently seeks him {with} discipline.

²⁵A righteous one eats to the satisfaction of his appetite,
but the stomach of the wicked ones will lack.

Chapter 14

¹The wisest of women builds her house,
but a foolish woman tears it down with her hands.

²One who walks in his uprightness fears Yahweh,
but one who is crooked in his ways despises him.

³In the mouth of a fool {is} a rod of pride,
but the lips of the wise ones will preserve them.

⁴Where there are no cattle {is} a trough of cleanness,
but an abundance of produce {is} by the strength of an ox.

⁵A witness of faithfulness will not lie,
but a witness of falsehood breathes out lies.

⁶A mocker seeks wisdom and there is none,
but knowledge is easy for the understanding one.

- ⁷Go from before a man of stupidity,
for you will not know lips of knowledge.
- ⁸The wisdom of a prudent one causes understanding {of} his way,
but the folly of stupid ones {is} deceit.
- ⁹Fools mock the guilt offering,
but among upright ones {is} favor.
- ¹⁰A heart knows the bitterness of itself,
and in its joy a stranger will not share.
- ¹¹The house of the wicked ones will be destroyed,
but the tent of the upright ones will flourish.
- ¹²There is a right way before the face of a man,
but its end {is} the ways of death.
- ¹³Even in laughter a heart may be in pain,
and the end of joy may be grief.
- ¹⁴The turning away of heart will be filled from his ways,
but a good man from himself.
- ¹⁵A naive one believes every word,
but a prudent one considers his step.
- ¹⁶A wise one fears and turns away from evil,
but a stupid one infuriates himself and {is} confident.
- ¹⁷One short of nostrils does folly,
and a man of schemes is hated.
- ¹⁸Naive ones inherit folly,
but prudent ones will wear a crown of knowledge.
- ¹⁹Evil ones will bow down before the face of good ones,
and wicked ones at the gates of the righteous one.
- ²⁰One who is poor is hated even by his neighbor,
but those who love the rich one {are} many.
- ²¹One who sins despises his neighbor,
but one who shows favor to afflicted ones, happy {is} he.
- ²²Do not devisers of evil go astray?

But covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness {are for} devisers of good.

²³With all toil is profit,

but the word of lips {is} only for lack.

²⁴The crown of the wise ones {is} their riches;

the folly of stupid ones {is} folly.

²⁵A witness of truth rescues lives,

but one who breathes out lies {is} deceitful.

²⁶In the fear of Yahweh {is} the confidence of the strong one,

and for his sons he will be a refuge.

²⁷The fear of Yahweh {is} a fountain of life,

to turn away from the snares of death.

²⁸With the abundance of people {is} the majesty of a king,

but with the end of the populace the potentate {is} ruined.

²⁹One long of nostrils {is} abundant {in} understanding,

but one short of spirit lifts up folly.

³⁰A heart of healing {is} life to the body,

but envy {is} the decay of bones.

³¹An oppressor of a lowly one taunts his maker,

but one showing favor to a needy one honors him.

³²By his evil the wicked one is thrust down,

but the righteous one finds refuge in his death.

³³In the heart of the understanding one rests wisdom,

and in the midst of stupid ones she will be known.

³⁴Righteousness raises a nation,

but sin {is} shame for peoples.

³⁵The delight of a king {is} for the servant who has insight,

but his rage is {for} one who acts shamefully.

Chapter 15

¹A gentle answer turns back heat,

but a word of pain lifts up a nose.

- ²The tongue of the wise ones makes knowledge good,
but the mouth of stupid ones gushes forth folly.
- ³The eyes of Yahweh {are} in every place,
watching evil ones and good ones.
- ⁴A healing tongue {is} a tree of life,
but crookedness in it {is} a breaking in the spirit.
- ⁵A fool despises the correction of his father,
but one who keeps rebuke is prudent.
- ⁶The house of the righteous one {has} much treasure,
but in the produce of the wicked one is being troubled.
- ⁷The lips of the wise ones scatter knowledge,
but the heart of stupid ones {is} not so.
- ⁸The sacrifice of the wicked ones {is} an abomination to Yahweh,
but the prayer of the upright ones {is} his delight.
- ⁹An abomination to Yahweh {is} the way of the wicked one,
but a pursuer of righteousness he loves.
- ¹⁰Severe discipline {is} for one who forsakes the path;
one who hates rebuke will die.
- ¹¹Sheol and Abaddon {are} before Yahweh;
how much more the hearts of the sons of man!
- ¹²A mocker does not love one who rebukes him;
to the wise ones, he will not go.
- ¹³A joyful heart makes a face glad,
but by pain of heart, a spirit {is} stricken.
- ¹⁴The heart of the understanding one seeks knowledge,
but the mouth of stupid ones feeds on folly.
- ¹⁵All the days of the afflicted one {are} evil ones,
but the good of heart {has} a feast continually.
- ¹⁶Better {is} a little with the fear of Yahweh
than much treasure and anxiety with it.
- ¹⁷Better {is} a portion of vegetables and love there

than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

18A man of heat stirs up a quarrel,
but one long of nostrils will quiet a dispute.

19The way of the lazy one {is} like a hedge of brier,
but the path of the upright ones {is} a built-up highway.

20A wise son gladdens a father,
but a stupid man despises his mother.

21Folly {is} a joy to the lacking of heart,
but the man of understanding makes to go straight.

22Plans are broken with no counsel,
but with a multitude of advisers, it will stand.

23Joy {is} for the man in the answer of his mouth,
and how good {is} a word in its time.

24The path of life {is} upward for the insightful one,
in order to turn away from Sheol below.

25Yahweh will tear down the house of the proud ones,
but he will set up the boundary of the widow.

26Evil thoughts {are} an abomination to Yahweh,
but words of pleasantness {are} pure ones.

27One who unjustly gains unjust gain troubles his house,
but one who hates bribes will live.

28The heart of the righteous one considers {how} to answer,
but the mouth of the wicked ones gushes forth evils.

29Yahweh {is} far from the wicked ones,
but the prayer of the righteous ones he hears.

30The luminary of the eyes gladdens the heart;
good news fattens the bone.

31An ear hearing the rebuke of life
will lodge in the midst of the wise ones.

32One who avoids correction rejects his life,
but one who hears rebuke acquires heart.

³³The fear of Yahweh {is} instruction of wisdom,
and before the face of honor {is} humility.

Chapter 16

¹The arrangements of the heart {are} a man's,
but the answer of the tongue {is} from Yahweh.

²All the ways of a man {are} pure in his eyes,
but Yahweh examines spirits.

³Roll to Yahweh your works,
and your plans will be established.

⁴Yahweh has made all for its purpose
and even a wicked one for the day of evil.

⁵An abomination to Yahweh {is} each one high of heart,
hand to hand he will not remain blameless.

⁶By covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness iniquity is atoned {for},
and by the fear of Yahweh, one turns away from evil.

⁷When Yahweh is pleased with the ways of a man,
he causes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

⁸Better {is} a little with righteousness
than an abundance of produce with no justice.

⁹The heart of a man plans his way,
but Yahweh establishes his step.

¹⁰Divination {is} on the lips of a king,
in judgment, his mouth will not act unfaithfully.

¹¹A balance and scales of justice {are} for Yahweh;
all the stones of the bag {are} his work.

¹²An abomination of kings {is} doing wickedness,
for by righteousness is a throne established.

¹³The delight of kings {are} lips of righteousness,
and he loves one who speaks upright things.

¹⁴The heat of a king {is} messengers of death,

but a wise man will atone {for} it.

¹⁵In the light of the face of the king {is} life,
and his favor {is} like a cloud of spring rain.

¹⁶How better {it is} to acquire wisdom than gold,
and to acquire understanding is to be chosen {more} than silver.

¹⁷The highway of the upright ones turns away from evil;
one who protects his life guards his way.

¹⁸Before the face of breaking {is} pride,
and before the face of a stumbling {is} a height of spirit.

¹⁹Better to be lowly of spirit {with} afflicted ones
than to share a portion {of} spoil {with} proud ones.

²⁰One who comprehends concerning a matter will find good,
and one who trusts in Yahweh, he {is} happy.

²¹The wise of heart will be called an understanding one,
and the sweetness of lips increases learning.

²²A fountain of life {is} the insight of its owner,
but the instruction of fools {is} folly.

²³The heart of the wise makes his mouth insightful,
and on his lips it increases learning.

²⁴A dripping of honey {are} words of pleasantness,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bone.

²⁵There is a right way before the face of a man
and its end {is} the ways of death.

²⁶The appetite of the laborer labors for him,
for his mouth presses on him.

²⁷A man of worthlessness digs up evil
and on his lips {it is} like a scorching fire.

²⁸A man of perverse things lets loose strife,
and a murmurer {is} one who separates a close friend.

²⁹A man of violence entices his neighbor,
and he leads him in a way {that is} not good.

³⁰One who shuts his eyes plans perverse things;
one who compresses his lips brings evil to completion.

³¹Gray hair {is} a crown of splendor;
in the way of righteousness, it is found.

³²Better {is} one long of nostrils than a mighty one,
and one who rules his spirit than one who captures a city.

³³Into the lap a lot is cast,
but its every judgment {is} from Yahweh.

Chapter 17

¹Better {is} a dry morsel and ease with it
than a house full of sacrifices of quarreling.

²A servant who has insight will rule over a son who acts shamefully
and in the midst of brothers he will share an inheritance.

³The smelting-pot {is} for the silver and the furnace {is} for the gold,
and Yahweh tests hearts.

⁴The evildoer listens attentively to the lips of iniquity;
a liar gives ear to a tongue of destruction.

⁵A mocker of one who is poor taunts his maker;
one glad at calamity will not remain blameless.

⁶The crown of old ones {is} sons of sons,
and the splendor of sons {is} their fathers.

⁷A lip of excess {is} not suitable for a worthless one;
how much less a lip of falsehood for a noble.

⁸A stone of favor {is} a bribe in the eyes of its owner;
he succeeds to all that he turns.

⁹One who covers a transgression seeks love,
but one who repeats a matter separates a close friend.

¹⁰A rebuke goes down into an understanding one
more than striking a stupid one a hundred {times}.

¹¹An evil one seeks only rebellion,

and a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

¹²Let a female bear robbed of offspring meet a man
and not a stupid one in his folly!

¹³One who returns evil for good,
evil will not depart from his house.

¹⁴The beginning of a quarrel {is} the releasing of water,
so leave the dispute before it breaks out.

¹⁵One who declares a wicked one righteous
and one who declares a righteous one wicked,
even the two of them {are} an abomination to Yahweh.

¹⁶Why {is} this: A payment {is} in the hand of a stupid one
to acquire wisdom but there is no heart?

¹⁷At every time the friend loves,
and a brother is born for distress.

¹⁸A man lacking of heart {is} one who clasps a palm,
pledging a pledge before the face of his neighbor.

¹⁹One who loves transgression loves contention;
one who makes his opening high seeks a breaking.

²⁰One crooked of heart will not find goodness,
and one who is turned away in his tongue will fall into evil.

²¹One who begets a stupid one, {it is} for grief for him,
and the father of a worthless one will not rejoice.

²²A joyful heart will make healing good,
but a broken spirit dries up bone.

²³A wicked one takes a bribe from the bosom
to bend the paths of justice.

²⁴Wisdom {is} with the face of an understanding one,
but the eyes of a stupid one {are} at the end of the earth.

²⁵A stupid son {is} a grief to his father
and bitterness to her who bore him.

²⁶Even to fine the righteous {is} not good,

to strike nobles {is} against uprightness.

²⁷One who restrains his words {is} one who knows knowledge,
and the cool of spirit {is} a man of understanding.

²⁸Even a fool who keeps silent will be considered wise;
one who shuts his lips is an understanding one.

Chapter 18

¹One who separates himself seeks for desire;
against all sound wisdom, he breaks out.

²A stupid one does not delight in understanding
but rather in his heart revealing itself.

³When a wicked one comes, contempt also comes,
and with shame, reproach.

⁴The words of the mouth of a man {are} deep waters;
a fountain of wisdom {is} a gushing stream.

⁵{It is} not good to lift the face of the wicked one,
to turn aside the righteous one in the judgment.

⁶The lips of a stupid one enter into a dispute,
and his mouth calls for blows.

⁷The mouth of a stupid one {is} ruin for him,
and his lips {are} a snare of his life.

⁸The words of a murmurer {are} like things swallowed greedily,
and they themselves go down into the rooms of the belly.

⁹Also, one who slacks in his work,
he {is} a brother to an owner of destruction.

¹⁰The name of Yahweh {is} a tower of strength;
the righteous one runs into it and is set on high.

¹¹The wealth of the rich one {is} the city of his strength
and like a wall set on high in his imagination.

¹²Before the face of breaking the heart of a man is exalted,
but before the face of honor {is} humility.

- ¹³One who returns a word before he listens,
it {is} folly to him and shame.
- ¹⁴The spirit of a man will endure his illness,
but a crushed spirit, who can lift it?
- ¹⁵The heart of an understanding one acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise ones seeks knowledge.
- ¹⁶The gift of a man will make room for him,
and before the face of great ones it will guide him.
- ¹⁷The first one with his case {is} right,
then his neighbor comes and examines him.
- ¹⁸The lot causes quarrels to cease,
and between mighty ones, it makes a separation.
- ¹⁹A brother offended {is} more than a city of strength,
and quarrels {are} like the gate bar of a fortress.
- ²⁰From the fruit of the mouth of a man his belly is satisfied;
{with} the produce of his lips, he is satisfied.
- ²¹Death and life {are} in the hand of the tongue,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- ²²He who finds a wife finds good,
and he obtains favor from Yahweh.
- ²³One who is poor speaks pleas,
but a rich one answers harshly.
- ²⁴A man of companions {is} to be broken,
but there is one who loves, clinging more than a brother.

Chapter 19

- ¹Better {is} one who is poor who walks in his integrity
than one who is crooked {in} his lips and he {is} a stupid one.
- ²Also, a life with no knowledge {is} not good,
and one who hurries with feet sins.
- ³The folly of a man will lead astray his way,

and his heart will rage against Yahweh.

⁴Wealth adds many companions,
but a lowly one is separated from his companions.

⁵A witness of falsehoods will not be blameless,
and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

⁶Many will entreat the face of a noble,
and everyone {is} the friend of a man of gift.

⁷All the brothers of one who is poor hate him;
how much more do his friends go far away from him!
He pursues {with} words; they {are} not.

⁸One who acquires heart loves his life;
one who keeps understanding {is} to find good.

⁹A witness of falsehoods will not be blameless,
and one who breathes out lies will perish.

¹⁰Luxury {is} not suitable for a stupid one;
how much less for a slave to rule over princes!

¹¹The insight of a man makes his nose long,
and his splendor {is} to pass over a transgression.

¹²The rage of a king {is} a growling like the young lion,
but his favor {is} like dew on vegetation.

¹³A stupid son {is} destruction to his father,
and a continual dripping, the quarrels of a wife.

¹⁴A house and wealth {are} the inheritance of fathers,
but from Yahweh {is} a wife who has insight.

¹⁵Laziness causes deep sleep to fall,
and a life of idleness is hungry.

¹⁶One who keeps a commandment keeps his life;
one who despises his ways will die.

¹⁷One who is gracious {to} a lowly one lends {to} Yahweh,
and his dealing he will repay to him.

¹⁸Discipline your son when there is hope,

and do not lift up your soul to put him to death.

¹⁹One great of heat lifts up a fine;
for if you rescue, then you will continue to do {so} again.

²⁰Listen to counsel and accept instruction,
so that you will become wise in your end.

²¹Many {are} the plans in the heart of a man,
but the counsel of Yahweh, it will stand.

²²The desire of a man {is} his covenant faithfulness,
and better {is} one who is poor than a man of lying.

²³The fear of Yahweh {is} to life
and the satisfied one will stay overnight;
he will not be visited by evil.

²⁴A lazy one hides his hand in the dish;
he will not even return it to his mouth.

²⁵Strike a mocker and a naive one will become prudent,
and rebuke an understanding one, he will understand knowledge.

²⁶One who does violence {to} a father, who causes a mother to flee,
{is} a son who causes shame and causes embarrassment.

²⁷My son, cease to hear instruction
to stray from the words of knowledge.

²⁸A witness of worthlessness mocks justice
and the mouth of the wicked ones swallows iniquity.

²⁹Judgments are prepared for the mockers,
and blows for the back of stupid ones.

Chapter 20

¹The wine {is} a mocker, intoxicating drink {is} a brawler,
and everyone who staggers by it is not wise.

²The terror of a king {is} a growling like the young lion;
one who infuriates him {is} one who wrongs his life.

³Honor for a man {is} cessation from strife,

but every fool breaks out.

⁴A lazy one will not plow from winter,
and he begs in the harvest but there is nothing.

⁵Counsel in the heart of a man {is} deep waters,
and a man of understanding will draw it out.

⁶Many a man proclaims, {each} man, his covenant faithfulness,
but a man of faithful acts, who can find?

⁷A righteous one walks about in his integrity;
happy {are} his sons after him.

⁸A king who sits on the throne of judgment
{is} one who winnows all evil with his eyes.

⁹Who can say, "I have made my heart pure,
I am clean from my sin"?

¹⁰Stone and stone, ephah and ephah,
{are} an abomination to Yahweh, even the two of them.

¹¹Even a young man will make himself known by his deeds,
if pure and if upright {is} his behavior.

¹²A hearing ear and a seeing eye,
Yahweh made even the two of them.

¹³Do not love sleep lest you become impoverished;
open your eyes, be satisfied {with} bread.

¹⁴"Bad! Bad!" says the buyer,
but when he departs on his way, then he praises himself.

¹⁵There is gold and an abundance of corals,
but lips of knowledge {are} a vessel of preciousness.

¹⁶Take his garment when he has pledged {for} a stranger,
and on behalf of a foreign woman hold it in pledge.

¹⁷Sweet to a man {is} bread of falsehood,
but afterward his mouth will be filled {with} gravel.

¹⁸Plans by counsel are established,
and by guidance make war.

¹⁹One who goes about {as} a gossip reveals a secret,
and with one who opens his lips do not associate yourself.

²⁰One who curses his father and his mother,
his lamp will be extinguished in the pupil of darkness.

²¹An inheritance gained quickly in the beginning,
its end will not be blessed.

²²Do not say, "I will repay evil."
Wait for Yahweh and he will save you.

²³Stone and stone {are} an abomination to Yahweh,
and scales of deceit {are} not good.

²⁴From Yahweh {are} the steps of a strong man,
so how can a man understand his way?

²⁵A snare of a man: He says rashly, "{It is} holy,"
and after vows, considers.

²⁶A wise king {is} one who winnows wicked ones,
and he brings back a wheel over them.

²⁷The breath of a man {is} the lamp of Yahweh,
searching all the rooms of the belly.

²⁸Covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness guard a king,
and his throne is sustained by covenant faithfulness.

²⁹The splendor of young men {is} their strength
and the adornment of old ones {is} gray hair.

³⁰Blows of a wound cleanse away evil
and strikes of the rooms of the belly.

Chapter 21

¹The heart of a king {is} channels of water in the hand of Yahweh;
he steers it according to all that he desires.

²Every way of a man {is} right in his eyes,
but Yahweh examines hearts.

³To do righteousness and justice

is preferred to Yahweh more than a sacrifice.

⁴Height of eyes and broadness of heart,
the lamp of wicked ones, {are} sin.

⁵The plans of the diligent one surely {are} to profit,
but everyone who hurries about surely {is} to lack.

⁶The making of treasures by a tongue of falsehood
{is} scattered vapor, seekers of death.

⁷The violence of wicked ones will drag them away,
for they refuse to do justice.

⁸Perverse {is} the way of a guilty man,
but the pure one, upright {is} his behavior.

⁹Better to dwell on the corner of a roof
than {with} a woman of quarrels and a house of companionship.

¹⁰The soul of the wicked one craves evil;
his neighbor is not shown grace in his eyes.

¹¹When fining a mocker, a naive one becomes wise,
and when giving insight to a wise one, he receives knowledge.

¹²A righteous one has insight into the house of the wicked one;
overturning wicked ones to evil.

¹³One who shuts his ears from the outcry of a lowly one,
he also will cry out but will not be answered.

¹⁴A gift in secrecy subdues nose,
and a bribe in the bosom, strong heat.

¹⁵A joy for the righteous one {is} doing justice,
but a terror for doers of iniquity.

¹⁶A man wandering from the way of having insight
will rest in the assembly of the spirits of dead ones.

¹⁷A man of lack loves joy;
a lover of wine and oil will not become rich.

¹⁸A ransom for the righteous one {is} a wicked one,
and instead of upright ones, one who acts treacherously.

- ¹⁹Better to dwell in a land of wilderness
than {with} a woman of quarrels and vexation.
- ²⁰Desirable treasure and oil {are} in the abode of a wise one,
but a stupid man swallows it up.
- ²¹A pursuer of righteousness and covenant faithfulness
will find life, righteousness, and honor.
- ²²A wise one ascends a city of mighty ones
and he brings down the strength of its confidence.
- ²³One who keeps his mouth and his tongue
keeps his life from distress.
- ²⁴A presumptuous, haughty one, "Mocker" {is} his name,
acting with the rage of presumption.
- ²⁵The desire of the lazy one causes him to die,
for his hands refuse to act.
- ²⁶All the day he desires desire for himself,
but a righteous one gives and does not withhold.
- ²⁷The sacrifice of the wicked ones {is} an abomination;
how much more when he brings it with a wicked plan.
- ²⁸A witness of lies will perish,
but the man who listens will speak to perpetuity.
- ²⁹A wicked man strengthens his face,
but an upright one, he considers his ways.^[1]
- ³⁰There is no wisdom and there is no understanding
and there is no counsel in opposition to Yahweh.
- ³¹A horse is made ready for the day of battle,
but the salvation {is} of Yahweh.

21:29 ^[1]

Chapter 22

- ¹A name is to be chosen more than abundant riches;
favor {is} better than silver and than gold.

- ²A rich one and a poor one meet together;
Yahweh {is} maker of all of them.
- ³A prudent one sees evil and hides himself,
but naive ones pass on and they are fined.
- ⁴The result of humility, the fear of Yahweh,
{is} riches and honor and life.
- ⁵Thorns, traps {are} in the way of the crooked one;
one who guards his life will stay far away from them.
- ⁶Train up the boy according to his way;
even when he is old, he will not turn away from it.
- ⁷A rich one rules over those who are poor,
and a borrower {is} a slave to a man who lends.
- ⁸A sower of iniquity will reap disaster,
and the rod of his rage will come to an end.
- ⁹The one good of eye, he will be blessed,
for he gives from his bread to the lowly one.
- ¹⁰Drive out a mocker and strife will go out,
and judgment and dishonor will cease.
- ¹¹One who loves a pure heart,
his lips {are} gracious, the king {is} his friend.
- ¹²The eyes of Yahweh guard knowledge,
but he overturns the words of one who is treacherous.
- ¹³A lazy one says, "A lion {is} outside!
I will be killed in the midst of the open areas!"
- ¹⁴The mouth of a strange woman {is} a deep pit;
one who is cursed of Yahweh will fall there.
- ¹⁵Folly is bound up in the heart of a boy;
the rod of discipline will cause it to be far away from him.
- ¹⁶One who oppresses a lowly one to increase for himself,
one who gives to a rich one, surely {will be} to lack.
- ¹⁷Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise ones,

and you must set your heart to my knowledge!

¹⁸For {it will be} pleasant if you keep them in your inner parts,
they are ready together on your lips.

¹⁹{For} your trust to be in Yahweh,
I have caused you to know today, even you.

²⁰Have I not written for you 30 things^[1]
with counsels and knowledge,

²¹to cause you to know the truth of the words of trustworthiness,
to return trustworthy words to one who sent you?

²²Do not rob a lowly one because he {is} a lowly one,
and do not crush an afflicted one at the gate.

²³For Yahweh will plead their dispute,
and he will plunder of life those who plunder them.

²⁴Do not befriend an owner of nose,
and do not go {with} a man of heat,

²⁵lest you learn his paths
and you take a snare for your life.

²⁶Do not be among those who clasp a palm,
among those who pledge for loans.

²⁷If there is nothing for you to repay,
why should he take away your bed from under you?

²⁸Do not move the ancient boundary
that your fathers made.

²⁹You see a skilled man in his work.
He will station himself before the face of kings;
he will not station himself before the face of obscure ones.

22:20 ^[1]

Chapter 23

¹When you sit to eat {with} a ruler,
consider carefully what {is} before your face,

²and you should put a knife at your throat
if you {are} an owner of appetite.

³Do not desire his delicious morsels;
for it {is} bread of lies.

⁴Do not weary yourself to gain riches;
from your understanding cease.

⁵Will you cause your eyes to fly to it, but it is not there?
For making, it will make wings for itself;
like an eagle it will fly {into} the sky.

⁶Do not eat the bread of one evil of eye,
and do not desire his delicious morsels.

⁷For like one who calculates in his soul, so he {is}.
“Eat and drink!” he will say to you,
but his heart {is} not with you.

⁸You will vomit up your morsel you ate,
and you will ruin your pleasant words.

⁹Do not speak in the ears of a stupid one,
for he will show contempt for the insight of your words.

¹⁰Do not move an ancient boundary,
and do not enter into the fields of fatherless ones,

¹¹for their redeemer {is} strong;
he himself will plead their dispute against you.

¹²Bring your heart to correction
and your ear to words of knowledge.

¹³Do not withhold discipline from a boy;
when you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

¹⁴You shall strike him with the rod
and you will rescue his life from Sheol.

¹⁵My son, if your heart {is} wise,
my heart, even myself, will be glad,

¹⁶and my inner parts will exult,

when your lips speak upright things.

17Do not let your heart be envious of sinners,
but rather in the fear of Yahweh all the day.

18Surely there is a future
and your hope will not be cut off.

19Listen, you my son, and be wise,
and lead your heart in the way.

20Do not be among drinkers of much wine,
among gluttonous eaters of flesh for themselves.

21For one who drinks much and one who eats gluttonously will become poor,
and slumber will clothe {with} rags.

22Listen to your father, this {one} begot you,
and do not despise your mother when she {is} old.

23Acquire truth and do not sell,
wisdom and instruction and understanding.

24The father of a righteous one, rejoicing, will rejoice,
and one who begets a wise one, he will be glad in him.

25May your father and your mother be glad,
and may she who bore you rejoice.

26My son, give your heart to me,
and may your eyes watch^[1] my ways.

27For a prostitute {is} a deep pit,
and a foreign woman {is} a narrow well.

28Surely she herself lies in wait like a robber,
and she adds to the treacherous ones among man.

29For whom {is} woe? For whom {is} sorrow? For whom {are} quarrels?
For whom {is} a lament? For whom {are} wounds without reason?
For whom {is} dullness of eyes?

30For those who linger over wine,
for those coming to search out mixed wine.

31Do not look {at} wine when it is red,

when its eye gives in the cup,
it goes with evenness.

³²Its end bites like a snake,
and it stings like a viper.

³³Your eyes will see strange things,
and your heart will speak perverse things.

³⁴And you will be like one who lies down in the heart of the sea
and like one who lies down at the head of a mast.

³⁵"They struck me. I was not hurt.
They beat me. I did not know.

When will I awake? I will add, I will seek it again."

23:26 ^[1]

Chapter 24

¹Do not be envious of men of evil,
and do not desire to be with them.

²For their heart plots violence,
and their lips speak trouble.

³By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established.

⁴And by knowledge the rooms are filled
{with} all precious and pleasant wealth.

⁵A man of wisdom {is} with strength
and a man of knowledge strengthens power.

⁶For by guidance you make war for yourself
and salvation {is} in an abundance of counsel.

⁷Wise things {are too} high for a fool;
at the gate he will not open his mouth.

⁸One who plans to do evil,
they will call him an owner of schemes.

⁹A scheme of folly {is} sin,

and a mocker {is} an abomination to man.

¹⁰{If} you make yourself slack in the day of distress,
your strength {is} narrow.

¹¹Rescue those who are taken for the death,
and those who stagger to the slaughter, if only you would hold back!

¹²If you say, "Behold, we did not know this,"
does not he, the examiner of hearts, understand,
and he, the guard of your life, know,
and will he give back to a man according to his work?

¹³My son, eat honey because {it is} good
and the fresh honey {is} sweet on your palate.

¹⁴Know wisdom {is} thus for your soul;
if you find {it}, then there will be a future
and your hope will not be cut off.

¹⁵Do not lie in wait {like} a wicked one against the abode of the righteous one;
do not assault his resting place.

¹⁶For seven {times} a righteous one falls and rises up,
but wicked ones stumble into calamity.

¹⁷When your enemy falls, do not be glad,
and when he stumbles do not let your heart rejoice,

¹⁸lest Yahweh see, and {it is} evil in his eyes,
and he turns away his nose from on him.

¹⁹Do not make yourself hot because of evildoers;
do not envy wicked ones.

²⁰For a future is not for an evil one,
the lamp of the wicked ones will be extinguished.

²¹My son, fear Yahweh and the king;
do not associate with ones who change.

²²For suddenly their calamity will arise,
and who {is} one who knows the destruction of the two of them?

²³These also {are} of the wise ones:

Recognizing faces in judgment {is} not good.

²⁴One who says to the wicked one, "You {are} righteous,"
peoples will curse him, nations will denounce him.

²⁵But for the rebukers it will be pleasant,
and over them will come a blessing of goodness.

²⁶He kisses lips
who returns straightforward words.

²⁷Prepare your work in the outdoors,
and make it ready for yourself in the field,
and after you will build your house.

²⁸Do not be a witness without cause against your neighbor.
And would you deceive with your lips?

²⁹Do not say, "Just as he did to me, so I will do to him;
I will return to the man according to his deed."

³⁰I passed over the field of a lazy man
and over the vineyard of a man lacking of heart.

³¹And behold, all of it went up {with} thorns,
its face was covered {with} weeds,
and the wall of its stones was torn down.

³²And I myself looked, I set my heart,
I saw, I received instruction:

³³A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to lie down,

³⁴and your poverty will come {like} one who walks around,
and your needs like a man of shield.

Chapter 25

¹These also {are} proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, copied.

²The glory of God {is} to hide a matter,
but the glory of kings {is} to search out a matter.

³Heavens for height and earth for depth,

and the heart of kings is not searchable.

⁴Remove dross from silver

and a vessel comes out for the refiner.

⁵Remove a wicked one before the face of the king,
and his throne will be established by righteousness.

⁶Do not honor yourself before the face of the king,
and in the place of the great ones do not stand.

⁷For, better to say to you, "Come up here,"
than to humiliate you before the face of a noble,
whom your eyes have seen.

⁸Do not go out hastily to dispute,
or else what will you do in its end
when your neighbor humiliates you?

⁹Dispute your dispute {with} your neighbor
and the secret of another do not uncover,

¹⁰lest one who hears shames you,
and the rumor {of} you does not turn back.

¹¹Apples of gold in sculptures of silver
{is} a word spoken according to its circumstance.

¹²A ring of gold and jewelry of fine gold
{is} a wise rebuke to a listening ear.

¹³Like the coolness of snow in the day of harvest
{is} a faithful envoy for his senders,
and he brings back the life of his masters.

¹⁴Clouds and wind but without rain
{is} the man who boasts in a gift of falsehood.

¹⁵By length of nostrils a commander may be persuaded,
and a soft tongue can break a bone.

¹⁶{If} you find honey, eat enough {for} you,
lest you become satiated with it and you vomit it up.

¹⁷Make rare your foot from the house of your neighbor,

lest he become satiated with you and hate you.

¹⁸A hammer and a sword and a sharp arrow

{is} a man who answers a testimony of falsehood against his neighbor.

¹⁹A broken tooth and a shaky foot

{is} confidence {in} one who acts treacherously in the day of distress.

²⁰One who removes a garment on a cold day,

vinegar on natron,

so {is} one who sings with songs to a heart of misery.

²¹If one who hates you {is} hungry, cause him to eat bread,

and if thirsty, cause him to drink water;

²²for you are heaping coals on his head,

and Yahweh will repay to you.

²³The wind of the north brings forth rain,

and indignant faces, a tongue of secrecy.

²⁴Better to dwell on the corner of a roof

than {with} a wife of quarrels and a house of companionship.

²⁵Cool water over a weary soul,

so {is} good news from a distant land.

²⁶A spring muddied by trampling and a fountain spoiled

{is} a righteous one swaying before the face of a wicked one.

²⁷To eat much honey {is} not good,

and the searching out {of} their honor, honor.

²⁸A breached city without a wall

{is} a man who has no restraint for his spirit.

Chapter 26

¹Like the snow in the summer and like the rain in the harvest,

so honor {is} not suitable for a stupid one.

²Like the bird for fluttering, like the swallow for flying,

so a curse without cause does not come.

³A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,

and a rod for the back of stupid ones.

⁴Do not answer a stupid one according to his folly,
lest you yourself also become like him.

⁵Answer a stupid one according to his folly,
lest he become wise in his eyes.

⁶One who cuts off feet, one who drinks violence,
{is} one who sends words by the hand of a stupid one.

⁷Legs dangle from a lame one,
and a proverb in the mouth of stupid ones.

⁸Like tying a stone in a sling,
so {is} one who gives honor to a stupid one.

⁹A thorn goes up into the hand of a drunkard,
and a proverb in the mouth of stupid ones.

¹⁰An archer who pierces everyone,
so {is} one who hires a stupid one and hires those passing by.

¹¹Like a dog returning to its vomit
{is} a stupid one who repeats his folly.

¹²You see a man wise in his eyes.
{There is more} hope for a stupid one than him.

¹³A lazy one says, "A young lion {is} on the road!
A lion {is} between the open areas!"

¹⁴The door turns on its hinge,
and a lazy one on his bed.

¹⁵A lazy one hides his hand in the dish;
he is {too} weary to return it to his mouth.

¹⁶A lazy one {is} wiser in his eyes
than seven who return discretion.

¹⁷One who grabs the ears of a dog passing by
{is} one who infuriates himself over a dispute not for him.

¹⁸Like an insane one who shoots firebrands, arrows, and death,

¹⁹so {is} a man who deceives his neighbor

and says, "Was I not joking?"

²⁰With the end of wood pieces a fire goes out,
and when there is no murmurer, a quarrel becomes silent.

²¹Charcoal to burning coals and wood to fire,
so a man of quarrels {is} to kindling of a dispute.

²²The words of a murmurer {are} like things swallowed greedily,
and they themselves go down into the rooms of the belly.

²³Silver of dross overlaid on a clay vessel
{are} burning lips and a heart of evil.

²⁴With his lips one who hates disguises himself,
but within him he sets deceit.

²⁵When he makes his voice gracious, do not trust in him,
for seven abominations {are} in his heart.

²⁶Hatred is covered by guile;
his evil will be uncovered in the assembly.

²⁷One who digs a pit will fall into it,
and one who rolls a stone, it will come back to him.

²⁸A tongue of falsehood hates its oppressed ones,
and a smooth mouth makes calamity.

Chapter 27

¹Do not boast about the next day,
for you do not know what a day will bring forth.

²Let a stranger praise you and not your mouth,
a foreigner and not your lips.

³The heaviness of a stone and the weightiness of the sand,
yet the vexation of a fool {is} heavier than the two of them.

⁴Cruelty of heat and a flood of nose,
but who can stand before the face of jealousy?

⁵Better {is} open rebuke
than hidden love.

⁶Faithful {are} the wounds of one who loves,
but deceptive {are} the kisses of one who hates.

⁷A satiated appetite tramples fresh honey,
but {for} the appetite of a hungry one everything bitter {is} sweet.

⁸Like a bird wandering from her nest,
so {is} a man who wanders from his place.

⁹Oil and incense gladden the heart
and the sweetness of his friend {is} from the counsel of the soul.

¹⁰Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father,
and do not enter the house of your brother in the day of your calamity.
Better {is} a nearby inhabitant than a distant brother.

¹¹Be wise, my son, and gladden my heart
and I shall return a word to one who reproaches me.

¹²A prudent one sees evil, he hides himself;
naive ones pass on, they are fined.

¹³Take his garment when he has pledged {for} a stranger,
and on behalf of a foreign woman hold it in pledge.

¹⁴One who blesses his neighbor with a great voice in the rising morning,
it will be considered a curse to him!

¹⁵A continual dripping on a day of steady rain
and a woman of quarrels are alike.

¹⁶The one who hides her hides the wind,
and oil meets his right hand.

¹⁷Iron sharpens against iron,
and a man sharpens the face of his neighbor.

¹⁸One who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit,
and one who protects his master will be honored.

¹⁹As the water, the face to the face,
so the heart of the man, to the man.

²⁰Sheol and Abaddon are not satisfied,
and the eyes of the man are not satisfied.

- ²¹The smelting-pot {is} for the silver and the furnace {is} for the gold,
so {is} a man for the mouth of one who praises him.
- ²²Even if you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle in the midst of ground grains,
his folly will not turn away from on him.
- ²³Know well the faces of your flock,
set your heart to the herds.
- ²⁴For treasure {is} not to eternity,
nor even a crown for generation and generation.
- ²⁵The grass disappears, and fresh grass is seen,
and the herbs of the mountains are gathered;
- ²⁶lambs {will be} for your clothing,
and male goats the price of a field.
- ²⁷And {there will be} enough milk of female goats for your food, for the food of your house,
and life for your young women.

Chapter 28

- ¹The wicked flee and there is no pursuer,
but the righteous ones are confident as a young lion.
- ²By the transgression of a land many {are} its rulers,
but by a man who understands, who knows, so it will endure.
- ³A man who is poor and who oppresses the lowly ones
{is} a rain {that} washes away and there is no bread.
- ⁴Those who forsake the law praise a wicked one,
but those who keep the law strive against them.
- ⁵Men of evil do not understand justice,
but seekers of Yahweh understand everything.
- ⁶Better {is} one who is poor who walks in his integrity
than one crooked of ways, yet he {is} rich.
- ⁷One who guards the law {is} a son who understands,
but one who associates with gluttonous eaters humiliates his father.
- ⁸One who increases his wealth by interest and usury

gathers it for one who shows favor {to} lowly ones.

⁹One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
even his prayer {is} an abomination.

¹⁰One who leads upright ones astray in the way of evil
into his pit he himself will fall,
but blameless ones will inherit good.

¹¹A rich man {is} wise in his eyes,
but a lowly one who understands will search him out.

¹²When righteous ones exult, {there is} great splendor,
but when wicked ones arise, a man is searched for.

¹³One who covers his transgressions will not prosper,
but one who confesses and forsakes will be shown mercy.

¹⁴Happy {is} a man who is in terror continually,
but one who hardens his heart will fall into evil.

¹⁵A lion growling and a bear charging
{is} a wicked ruler over a lowly people.

¹⁶A leader lacking of understanding {is} also abundant of oppressions;
one who hates unjust gain will lengthen days.

¹⁷A man oppressed by the blood of a life
will flee as far as a pit;
let them not support him.

¹⁸One who walks blameless will be saved,
but one who is crooked of ways will fall in one.

¹⁹One who works his ground will be satisfied {with} bread,
but one who pursues empty things will be satisfied {with} poverty.

²⁰A man of faithfulness {has} an abundance of blessings,
but one who hurries to become rich will not remain blameless.

²¹Recognizing faces {is} not good,
yet for a bit of bread a man will transgress.

²²One who hurries to the wealth {is} a man of an evil eye,
but he does not know that lack will come to him.

- ²³One who rebukes a man afterward will find favor more than one who makes the tongue smooth.
- ²⁴One who robs his father and his mother and says, "There is no transgression," he {is} the companion of a man of destruction.
- ²⁵One wide of appetite stirs up strife, but one who trusts in Yahweh will be fattened.
- ²⁶One who trusts in his heart, he {is} a stupid one, but one who walks in wisdom, he himself will flee.
- ²⁷One who gives to the one who is poor has no lack, but one who hides his eyes has an abundance of curses.
- ²⁸When wicked ones arise, a man will hide himself, but when they perish, righteous ones will increase.

Chapter 29

- ¹A man of rebukes who stiffens the neck will suddenly be broken and without healing.
- ²When the righteous ones increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked one rules, a people groans.
- ³A man who loves wisdom gladdens his father, but one who associates with prostitutes destroys wealth.
- ⁴A king by justice causes the land to stand, but a man of contributions tears it down.
- ⁵A man who makes smooth for his neighbor spreads out a net for his feet.
- ⁶In the transgression of an evil man {there is} a snare, but a righteous one shouts for joy and is glad.
- ⁷A righteous one knows the legal claim of lowly ones; a wicked one does not understand knowledge.
- ⁸Men of mockery inflame a city, but wise ones turn away nose.
- ⁹A wise man goes to judgment with a foolish man,

but he trembles and laughs and there is no rest.

¹⁰Men of bloodshed hate a blameless one,
but upright ones seek his life.

¹¹A stupid one brings out all his spirit,
but a wise one soothes it backward.

¹²A ruler who listens attentively to a word of falsehood,
all his servants {are} wicked ones.

¹³One who is poor and a man of oppression meet together;
the one who enlightens the eyes of them both {is} Yahweh.

¹⁴A king who judges lowly ones with truth,
his throne will be established to perpetuity.

¹⁵A rod and rebuke give wisdom,
but a boy who is sent away causes his mother shame.

¹⁶When wicked ones increase, transgression increases,
but righteous ones will look at their downfall.

¹⁷Discipline your son and he will cause you to rest,
and he will give delights to your soul.

¹⁸When there is no vision, the people are let loose,
but one who keeps the law, happy {is} he.

¹⁹A servant will not be instructed by words,
for he understands but there is no answer.

²⁰You see a man hurrying in his words.
{There is more} hope for a stupid one than him.

²¹{If} one pampers his servant from youth,
then his end will be insolence.

²²A man of nose stirs up strife,
and an owner of heat, much transgression.

²³The pride of a man will make him low,
but one lowly of spirit will grasp honor.

²⁴One who shares with a thief hates his life;
he will hear an oath but will not tell.

²⁵The anxiety of a man sets a snare,
but the one who trusts in Yahweh will be set on high.

²⁶Many {are} those who seek the face of a ruler,
but from Yahweh {is} justice of a man.

²⁷An abomination to righteous ones {is} a man of injustice,
but an abomination to a wicked one {is} one upright of way.

Chapter 30

¹The words of Agur son of Jakeh, the burden:
The declaration of the strong man to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

²“Surely, I {am} more stupid than a man,
and the understanding of man {is} not mine.

³And I have not learned wisdom,
nor the knowledge of holy ones do I know.

⁴Who has ascended {to} heaven and descended?

Who has gathered the wind in the hollow of his hands?

Who has wrapped waters in the cloak?

Who has raised up all the ends of the earth?

What {is} his name? And what {is} the name of his son? Surely you know!

⁵Every saying of God is refined;
he {is} a shield for those who take refuge in him.

⁶Do not add upon his words,
lest he rebuke you and you be shown a liar.

⁷Two things I ask from with you,
do not withhold from me before I die:

⁸Emptiness and the word of a lie put far away from me.

Do not give to me poverty or riches;
cause me to receive the bread of my portion.

⁹Lest I be satiated, and I deny and say, ‘Who {is} Yahweh?’

And lest I become dispossessed and steal,
and I seize the name of my God.

10Do not slander a slave to his master,
lest he curse you, and you be found guilty.

11{There is} a generation, it curses its father
and does not bless its mother.

12{There is} a generation clean in its eyes,
but it is not washed from its excrement.

13{There is} a generation, how its eyes are raised up,
and its eyelids are lifted up!

14{There is} a generation, its teeth {are} swords
and its fangs {are} knives
for devouring afflicted ones from the earth and needy ones from man.

15Two daughters {are} for the leech, 'Give! Give!'
{There are} three, they are not satisfied;
four, they do not say, 'Enough!'

16Sheol, and the closure of the womb,
a land not satisfied with water,
and a fire does not say, 'Enough!'

17An eye mocks a father
and shows contempt for the obedience {to} a mother;
the ravens of the valley will peck it out,
and the sons of the vulture will eat it.

18Three things, they {are} too wonderful for me,
and four, I do not understand them:

19the way of the eagle in the sky,
the way of a snake on a rock,
the way of a ship in the heart of the sea,
and the way of a young man with a young woman.

20Thus {is} the way of a woman who commits adultery:
She eats and wipes her mouth
and says, 'I have not done iniquity.'

21Under three things the earth quakes,

and under four it is not able to hold up:

²²under a slave when he becomes king

and a worthless one when he is satisfied with bread,

²³under a hated woman when she is married

and a female servant when she dispossesses her mistress.

²⁴Four things, they {are} small things of the earth

but they {are} wise things, being made wise:

²⁵The ants {are} a people not strong,

but they prepare their food in the summer.

²⁶Rock badgers {are} a people not mighty,

but they set their house in the cliff.

²⁷There is no king for the locust,

but each of it go out divided {into groups}.

²⁸You can catch a lizard with hands,

yet it {is} in the palaces of the king.

²⁹Three things, they are doing well of step,

and four are doing well of walking:

³⁰a lion, mighty among the animals,

and it will not turn away from the face of anything,

³¹one girded of loins, or a male goat,

and a king against whom one does not rise up.

³²If you have been foolish by lifting up yourself,

or if you have schemed, a hand {be} to mouth!

³³For the squeezing of milk brings out butter,

and the squeezing of the nose brings out blood,

and the squeezing of nostrils brings out strife.”

Chapter 31

¹The words of Lemuel the king, a burden that his mother had instructed him:

²What, my son? And what, son of my womb?

And what, son of my vows?

- ³Do not give to women your strength
or your ways to cause kings to be wiped out.
- ⁴{It is} not for kings, Lemuel, {it is} not for kings to drink wine
or for dignitaries or intoxicating drink.
- ⁵Lest he drink and forget what has been decreed
and pervert the legal claim of all the sons of the afflicted one.
- ⁶Give intoxicating drink to the perishing one
and wine to those bitter of soul.
- ⁷He will drink and forget his poverty,
and his trouble he will not remember again.
- ⁸Open your mouth for a mute one,
for the legal claim of all the sons of the one passing away.
- ⁹Open your mouth, judge {with} righteousness,
and plead the legal case of the afflicted one and poor one.
- ¹⁰A woman of worth, who can find?
And her value {is} far more than corals.
- ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and spoil he will not lack.
- ¹²She does to him good and not evil
all the days of her life.
- ¹³She searches {for} wool and linens
and works with the delight of her palms.
- ¹⁴She is like the ships of a merchant;
she brings her bread from far away.
- ¹⁵And she rises while still night
and gives food to her house
and a portion to her young women.
- ¹⁶She considers a field and gets it;
from the fruit of her palms she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷She girds her loins with strength,
and she strengthens her arms.

- 18**She perceives that her profit {is} good;
her lamp does not go out in the night.
- 19**She stretches out her hands at the distaff,
and her palms grasp the spindle.
- 20**She spreads out her palm to the afflicted one,
and she stretches out her hands to the poor one.
- 21**She does not fear for her house because of snow,
for all her house is clothed {with} crimson.
- 22**She makes for herself coverings,
fine linen and purple for her clothing.
- 23**Her husband is known at the gates,
when he sits with the elders of the land.
- 24**She makes a linen garment and sells,
and a belt she gives to the Canaanite.
- 25**Strength and splendor {are} her clothing,
and she laughs at a future day.
- 26**Her mouth opens with wisdom,
and the law of covenant faithfulness {is} on her tongue.
- 27**She scans the goings on of her house,
and the bread of laziness she does not eat.
- 28**Her sons rise up and call her happy;
her husband also praises her.
- 29**"Many daughters have acted {with} worth,
but you yourself have ascended over all of them."
- 30**The charm {is} falsehood and the beauty {is} vapor;
a woman fearful of Yahweh, she herself will be praised.
- 31**Give to her from the fruit of her hands
and let her works praise her at the gates.

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