

PROVERBS

Grace Victoria(ous) Rose

*...grace of LORD will reign victorious through righteousness...
(Romans 5:21)*

PROVERBS

I. PROVERBS OF SOLOMON – VARIOUS TOPICS

| | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| A. | <i>Introduction</i> | 1:1-7 |
| B. | <i>begin</i> | |
| | 1. <i>Sinners</i> | 1:8-19 |
| | 2. <i>Wisdom</i> | 1:20-33 |
| | 3. <i>Lord</i> | 2:1-12 |
| | 4. <i>Evil</i> | 2:12-22 |
| B. | <i>begin</i> | |
| | 1. <i>Lord</i> | 3:1-18 |
| | 2. <i>Wisdom</i> | 3:19-26 |
| | 3. <i>Fellow Man</i> | 3:27-35 |
| C. | <i>begin</i> | |
| | 1. <i>Wisdom</i> | 4:1-9 |
| | 2. <i>Evil</i> | 4:10-4:19 |
| | 3. <i>Involving Body Members:</i> | 4:20-4:27 |
| | 4. <i>Exhortation</i> | 5:1-6 |
| | 5. <i>Instruction</i> | 5:7-14 |
| | 6. <i>Do Not Commit Adultery; Stay Home</i> | 5:15-23 |
| D. | <i>begin</i> | |
| | 1. <i>Pledging</i> | 6:1-5 |
| | 2. <i>Sluggard</i> | 6:6-11 |
| | 3. <i>Two Themes Revisited:</i> | |
| | <i>Wicked Men</i> | 6:12-19 |
| | <i>Adultery</i> | 6:20-35 |
| | 4. <i>Account of Seduction</i> | 7:1-27 |
| | 5. <i>Wisdom</i> | 8:1-36 |
| | 6. <i>Invitations from Wisdom and Folly</i> | 9:1-18 |
| | <i>An Invitation from Wisdom</i> | |
| | <i>An Invitation from Folly</i> | |

II. PROVERBS OF SOLOMON – TWO-LINERS

| | | |
|----|---|------------|
| A. | <i>Section 1: Mostly Contrasting Two-Liners</i> | 10:1-15:33 |
| B. | <i>Section 2: Mostly Comparative Two-Liners</i> | 16:1-22:16 |

III. SAYINGS OF THE WISE

| | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| A. | <i>Section 1: Sayings of the Wise</i> | 22:17-24:22 |
| B. | <i>Section 2: Further Sayings of the Wise</i> | 24:23-34 |

IV. PROVERBS OF SOLOMON – COMPILED BY HEZEKIA'S MEN

| | | |
|----|--|------------|
| A. | <i>Section 1: Proverbs using Various Styles</i> | 25:1-29:27 |
| B. | <i>Section 2: Two-Liners of Different Styles</i> | |

V. SAYINGS OF AGUR

30:1-33

VI. SAYINGS OF KING LEMUEL

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------|
| A. | <i>Conduct Appropriate for a King</i> | 31:1-9 |
| B. | <i>A Wife of Noble Character</i> | 31:10-31 |

PROVERBS

I. PROVERBS OF SOLOMON -- TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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

A. INTRODUCTION

INTENT, PURPOSE:

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 2 for attaining | wisdom and discipline; | |
| for understanding | words of insight; | |
| 3 for acquiring a | disciplined and | |
| | prudent life, | |
| doing | what is right and | |
| | just and | |
| | fair; | |
| 4 for giving | prudence | to the simple, |
| | knowledge and discretion | to the young-- |

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE (*There is no end to growth*) (OR ONE RESPONSE)

5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance--
6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.
(Jesus)

BASIC PREMISE --

7 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge,

CONTRAST (AND ANOTHER RESPONSE)
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
(so are fools those who don't fear?)

B. BEGIN

1. SINNERS

WHO TO LISTEN TO

8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

9 They will be a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck.

WHO NOT TO LISTEN TO -- and WARNING:

10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

(Helps us to recognize evil)

11 If they say,

"Come along with us; let's lie in wait for
someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul;

12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those
who go down to the pit;

13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses
with plunder;

14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"--

15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their
paths;

16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!

(How stupid to...set a trap when the victim is watching)

18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only
themselves!

*(How much more ...when they are setting it for themselves!
ie., to be setting your own trap.)*

19 Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain;
it takes away the lives of those who get it.

(Interesting concept.)

*(You're seeking something that in having, YOU lose;
you're seeking something that will destroy you -
you're seeking you're own destruction! - verse 18)*

2. WISDOM

WISDOM ALSO ENTICES YOU!: SHE IS ACCESSIBLE AND TAKES INITIATIVE

20 Wisdom calls aloud in the street,
 she(?) raises her voice in the public squares;
 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out,
 in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:

AUDIENCE

22 "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways?
 How long will mockers delight in mockery
 And fools hate knowledge?
 (*Identifies wrong attitudes*)

APPROPRIATE RESPONSE (*right attitude*)

23 If you had responded to my rebuke,
 (*With an eye on results; rebuking is intended for a response,
 not simply for sake of rebuker*)

AND ITS RESULTS

I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known
 to you.

INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSE (*identifies wrong attitudes*)

24 But since you rejected me when I called
 and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,
 25 since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke,

AND ITS RESULTS (*identifies consequences or red flags for yourself*)

26 I in turn (*as you did to me*)
 will laugh at your disaster;
 I will mock when calamity overtakes you--
 27 when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
 when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,
 when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

WISDOMS EFFECT ON THOSE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT DOES NOT SAY THESE THINGS WILL NOT HAPPEN TO EVERYONE.

*BUT YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE THE SUBSTANCE TO TAKE IT,
 YOU WILL BE FOUND LACKING WHEN IT DOES HAPPEN.*

*(In fact, this may be the reason that He is sharing
 wisdom -- to give us what it takes to handle what comes.)*

28 "Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
 (*and with this..*)

they will look for me but will not find me.

(Is this a progression?)

(Who is calling who here now?)

(Will not always be a time when it may be found.)

IF... (*identifies wrong attitudes*)

**29 Since they hated knowledge
 and did not choose to fear the LORD,**
 (*versus 1:7*)

30 since they would not accept my advice
 and spurned my rebuke,

THEN...

31 they will eat the fruit of their ways
 and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
 (*eat ... and be filled*)

32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
 and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

EFFECT OF RESPONDING

33 but whoever listens to me
 will live in safety
 and be at ease,
 without fear of harm." (NIV)

3. LORD

IF...

2:1 My son, if you accept my words and
store up my commands within you,

*RESPOND --- LISTEN HOW IT IS AND GROW --- SEEKING...
(or THRU THEM, SEEK WHAT THEY INTEND TO BRING ABOUT)*

2 turning your ear to wisdom and
applying your heart to understanding,

3 and if you call out for insight and
cry aloud for understanding,

4 and if you look for it as for silver and
search for it as for hidden treasure,

*(When you seek that which is the intention of these proverbs
as at 1:2-4)*

THEN...

*YOU WILL FIND THIS INSTEAD:
(Finding these things won't bring you to this point)*

**5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the
knowledge of God.**

(AS THIS IS THE INTENT OF MY WORDS AND COMMANDS)

FOR YOU WILL HAVE FOUND THE SOURCE OF THOSE THINGS.

**6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge
and understanding.**

7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to
those whose walk is blameless,

8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of
his faithful ones.

THEN...

*WITH THIS EFFECT ON YOU --- THEN YOU WILL ATTAIN THEM
HAVING FOUND HIM*

**9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--
every good path.**

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

WITH A BY-PRODUCT:

11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

12 Wisdom will save you

4. EVIL

(2:9-12a versus 1:26-28 and 1:2-4)(also see 3:7)

(This section helps you recognize evilness when you see it)

EVIL MEN (EVIL-ITSELF):

(MEN - LITERALLY OR FIGURATIVELY AS ANALOGIES)

from the 'ways of wicked men', from men
 whose words are perverse,
 13 who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,
 14 who delight in doing wrong and
 rejoice in the perverseness
 of evil,
 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

EVIL WOMEN (EVIL-ITSELF): LITURAL OR CHARACTERISING

Are we really delivered from evil people?

ATTRACTION

16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward
 wife with her seductive words,

SUBSTANCE

17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant
 she made before God.

CONSEQUENCE - Direction it leads you; a lie

18 For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits
 of the dead.

19 None who go to her (EVIL) return or attain the paths of life.

WITH THE RESULT THAT...

(RETURNING TO THE WORLD WITH PRACTICAL APPLICATION)

20 Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the
 paths of the righteous.

ENDS OF MEN - OR WHAT?

21 For the upright will live in the land,
 and the blameless will remain in it;

22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
 and the unfaithful will be torn from it. (NIV)

SUMMARY:

*Prov 2:1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, (NIV)
(AND SEEK...)*

Prov 2:5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. (NIV)

+ WILL HAVE FOUND

Prov 2:9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair-- every good path. (NIV)

+ WITH AN EFFECT TO ACT APPROPRIATELY...(UNDEFINED)...

Prov 2:20 Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. (NIV)

B. BEGIN

1. LORD

3:1 My son,
do not forget my teaching, but
keep my commands in your heart,

2 for they will
prolong your life many years and
bring you prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight
of God and man.

5 **(a)** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and **(b)** lean not on your own understanding;
6 **in all your ways acknowledge him (5a),**
and he will make your paths straight.

7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes (5b); fear the LORD and shun evil.**
8 This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.

(For example:)

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all
your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and
do not resent his rebuke,
12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the
son he delights in.

2. WISDOM -- TRUE BEAUTY

13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,
(are the two the same?)

WISDOM'S APPEAL:

14 for she is more profitable than silver and
yields better returns than gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.

16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.

17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and
all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her;
those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

AS USED BY GOD:

19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations,
by understanding he set the heavens in place;
20 by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and
the clouds let drop the dew.

(see also Heb 11:3)

21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment,
do not let them out of your sight;

22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and
your foot will not stumble;

24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin
that overtakes the wicked, (see 1:26-27)

26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot
from being snared.

3. FELLOW MAN

27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in
your power to act.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it
tomorrow"-- when you now have it with you.

29 Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully
near you.

30 Do not accuse a man for no reason-- when he has done you no
harm.

31 Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways,
(God's actions follow)

32 for the LORD: detests a perverse man but
takes the upright into his confidence.

33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he
blesses the home of the righteous.

34 He mocks proud mockers but
gives grace to the humble. (note this relationship)

35 The wise inherit honor, but
fools he(!) holds up to shame. (NIV)

C. BEGIN

1. WISDOM OF THE AGES CONTINUE TO BE PASSED FROM PARENT TO CHILD

4:1 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding.
2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.
3 When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and
an only child of my mother,
4 he taught me and said,

"Lay hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands and you will live.

WISDOM:

5 Get wisdom,
get understanding;
do not forget my words or
swerve from them.
6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;
love her, and she will watch over you.

(more effects)

7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you;
embrace her, and she will honor you.

(more effects)

(effects continued)

9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and
present you with a crown of splendor."

2. WHICH WAY TO FOLLOW

10 Listen, my son,
 accept what I say, and
 the years of your life will be many.
 11 I guide you in **the way** of wisdom and
 lead you along straight **paths**.
 (Intent of content)(Action; and direction(wher))

(Effect; why)

12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;
 when you run, you will not stumble.
 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well,
(Why)
for it is your life.

EFFECT or WARNING

(wisdom, understanding versus evil - theme)

(Helps you recognize evil - not to chide, but to avoid)

14 **Do not** set foot on the **path** of the wicked or
 walk in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, **do not travel on it; turn from** it and go on your **way**.

(14-15 -- note progression - repentance(?))

16 For they cannot sleep till they do evil;
 they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.

17 They eat the bread of wickedness and
 drink the wine of violence.

18 The **path** of the righteous
 is like the first gleam of dawn,
 shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

19 But the **way** of the wicked
 is like deep darkness;
 they do not know what makes them stumble.

3. FOLLOWING WISDOM EVEN INVOLVES EVERY PART OF YOUR BODY

EARS

20 My son, pay attention to what I say;
listen closely to my words.

EYES

21 Do not let them out of your sight,

HEART (Eyes are gate to heart(?))

keep them within your heart;
22 for they are life to those who find them and
health to a man's whole body.

23 Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.

MOUTH

24 Put away perversity from your mouth;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

EYES

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead,
fix your gaze directly before you.

FEET

26 Make level paths for your feet and
take only ways that are firm.

(negative)

27 Do not swerve to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil. (NIV)

4. WARNING THAT FALSE BEAUTY LEADS DOWN THE WRONG PATH

5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
listen well to my words of insight,

(Teaching; versus 1:7)

(The value of this advise)

2 that you may maintain discretion and
your lips may preserve knowledge.

(What's the tie? Or, the following must prevent v.2)

ONE OF THE THEMES AT 2:12-14, 16-17:

ATTRACTION (mouth); ILLUSION OF OPPORTUNITY

3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and
her speech is smoother than oil;

CONSEQUENCE; REALITY OF BROKENESS

4 but in the end: she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.

DIRECTION

Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

RELATION TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

6 She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

5. *INSTRUCTION*

7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.

(Do's and Don'ts)

INSTRUCTION

8 Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,

CONSEQUENSE; WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON; THE COST INVOLVED

9 lest you give: your best strength to others and
your years to one who is cruel,

10 lest: strangers feast on your wealth and
your toil enrich another man's house.
(others take what you have, what is yours)

RESULT (This is something He knows; a FUTURE you can avoid)

11 At the end of your life you will groan,
when your flesh and body are spent.

12 You will say, "How I hated discipline!
How my heart spurned correction!

13 I would not: obey my teachers or
listen to my instructors.

14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the
whole assembly." (everyone has seen; no denying it)

6. *DO NOT WANDER; KEEP STAYING ON YOUR OWN PATH*

15 Drink water from your own cistern,
running water from your own well.

16 Should your springs overflow in the streets,
your streams of water in the public squares?

17 Let them be yours alone,
never to be shared with strangers.

18 May your fountain be blessed, and
may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

19 A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always,
may you ever be captivated by her love.

20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?
Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

(WHY - given the cost and end of adultery)

21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and
he examines all his paths.

(We sometimes feel He doesn't see)

(What's the tie)

EVIL:

Consequence - current, progressive

22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him;
the cords of his sin hold him fast.

(We snare ourselves - 1:17-18)(Does this really happen?)

(Sin is restricting?) - 'cords of sin': its nature)

Consequence - future, ultimate

23 He will die for lack of discipline,
(while ensnared)

led astray by his own great folly.

(NIV)

(captivated(?) v. 19,20)(NIV)

(and He knows/approves these consequences, v.21)

D. BEGIN

1. PLEDGING

6:1 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,
 if you have struck hands in pledge for another,
 2 if you have been trapped by what you said,
 ensnared by the words of your mouth,
(now also snared by your own words; see 5:22)
 3 then do this, my son,
 to free yourself,
 since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands:
 Go and humble yourself;
 press your plea with your neighbor!
 4 Allow no sleep to your eyes,
 no slumber to your eyelids.
(how; illustration - survival)
 5 Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,
 like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

2. SLUGGARD

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!
 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,
 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and
 gathers its food at harvest. (see 10:5)
 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
 When will you get up from your sleep?
 10 A little sleep,
 a little slumber,
 a little folding of the hands to rest--
 11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and
 scarcity like an armed man.
(naturally, because have not done v.8)

3. TWO THEMES REVISITED:

WICKED MEN

12 A scoundrel and villain,

(description; to be able to recognize)

- who goes about with a corrupt mouth,
- 13 who winks with his eye,
- signals with his feet and
- notions with his fingers,
- 14 who plots evil with deceit in his heart--
- he always stirs up dissension.

(consequence; effect)

15 Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant;

(and therefore; as a result)

he will suddenly be destroyed-- without remedy.

(see 5:21)

16 There are six things the LORD hates,

seven that are detestable to him:

(same as at v. 12b-14(?))

- 17 haughty eyes,
- a lying tongue,
- hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes,
- feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- 19 a false witness who pours out lies and
- a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

ADULTERY
COMMANDS, TEACHINGS

20 My son, keep your father's commands and
do not forsake your mother's teaching.

21 Bind them upon your heart forever;
fasten them around your neck.
(their value)

22 When you walk, they will guide you;
when you sleep, they will watch over you;
when you awake, they will speak to you.

23 For these commands are a lamp,
this teaching is a light,
and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,

(Evil woman theme revisited)

24 keeping you from the immoral woman,
from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.

(Command)

25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or
let her captivate you with her eyes,

(Why - consequence)

26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and
the adulteress preys upon your very life.

(and this can not be avoided; payment will come due)

27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap
without his clothes being burned?

28 Can a man walk on hot coals
without his feet being scorched?

29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife;
no one who touches her will go unpunished.

AS COMPARED TO A THIEF

30 Men do not despise a thief (emotion avoided; understanding)
if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.
(even with cause - a penalty)

31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold,
though it costs him all the wealth of his house.
(there is still a penalty)(acceptable payment)

32 But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment;
whoever does so destroys himself.

(emotion aspect not avoided)

33 Blows and disgrace are his lot, and
his shame will never be wiped away;

34 for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and
he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

35 He will not accept any compensation;
he will refuse the bribe, however great it is. (NIV)

4. WARNING ABOUT HOW TEMPTATION WORKS

RESPONSES TO WORDS, COMMANDS

7:1 My son, keep my words and
store up my commands within you.
2 Keep my commands and you will live;
guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.
3 Bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and
call understanding your kinsman;
5 they will keep you
from the adulteress,
from the wayward wife with her seductive words.

RECALLING EPISODE

6 At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice.

MAN

(type of person persuadable)

7 I saw among the simple,
I noticed among the young men,
a youth who lacked judgment.

(habit in place, predisposed, putting oneself in position, pattern)

8 He was going down the street near her corner,
walking along in the direction of her house

(not in Light)

9 at twilight,
as the day was fading,
as the dark of night set in.

WOMAN

(searched out(?))

10 Then out came a woman to meet him,
dressed like a prostitute and
(dressed like she is)
with crafty intent.

(type of person)

11 (She is loud and
defiant,
her feet never stay at home;

(everywhere, everpresent)

12 now in the street,
now in the squares,
at every corner she lurks.)
(square has four corners)

PERSUASIVENESS

13 She took hold of him and
kissed him and
with a brazen face she

said:

14 "I have fellowship offerings at home;
today I fulfilled my vows.

15 So I came out to meet you;
I looked for you and

have found you!

16 I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.

18 Come, let's drink deep of love till morning;
let's enjoy ourselves with love!

19 My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey.

20 He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till
full moon."

21 With persuasive words she led him astray;
she seduced him with her smooth talk.

RESULT

22 All at once he followed her
like an ox going to the slaughter,
like a deer stepping into a noose
23 till an arrow pierces his liver,
like a bird darting into a snare,
little knowing it will cost him his life.

CONCLUSION

24 Now then, my sons, listen to me;
pay attention to what I say.

25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or
stray into her paths.

26 Many are the victims she has brought down;
her slain are a mighty throng.

(future, destination)

27 Her house is a highway to the grave,
leading down to the chambers of death. (NIV)

5. WISDOM

(does not wisdom also seduce?)

8:1 Does not wisdom call out?
Does not understanding raise her voice?

(where)

2 On the heights along the way,
where the paths meet,
she takes her stand;

3 beside the gates
leading into the city,
at the entrances,
she cries aloud:

4 "To you, O men, I call out;
I raise my voice to all mankind.

(value to have-nots)

5 You who are simple, gain prudence;
you who are foolish, gain understanding.

(quality, characteristics of what is being said)

6 Listen, for I have worthy things to say;
I open my lips to speak what is right.

7 My mouth speaks what is true,
for my lips detest wickedness.

8 All the words of my mouth are just;
none of them is crooked or
perverse.

(this includes what is about to be said)

9 To the discerning
all of them are right;
they are faultless

to those who have knowledge.

*(comparative value, to be cherished, sought after, worked for,
pursued, desired)*

10 Choose my instruction instead of silver,
knowledge rather than choice gold,

11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and
nothing you desire can compare with her.

(What accompanies wisdom)

12 "I, wisdom,
 dwell together with prudence;
 possess knowledge and
 discretion.

13 **To fear the LORD is to
 hate evil;
 hate pride and arrogance,
 evil behavior and perverse speech.**

14 Counsel and
 sound judgment are mine;
 I have understanding and
 power.

15 By me kings reign and
 rulers make laws that are just;

16 by me princes govern, and
 all nobles who rule on earth.

17 I love those who love me, and
 those who seek me
 find me.

18 With me are riches and
 honor,
 enduring wealth and
 prosperity.

19 My fruit is better than fine gold;
 what I yield surpasses choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness,
 along the paths of justice,

21 bestowing wealth on those who love me and
 making their treasuries full.

(Relation to creation)

- 22 "The LORD brought me forth as
the first of his works,
before his deeds of old;
- 23 I was appointed from eternity,
from the beginning,
before the world began.
- 24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth,
when there were no springs abounding with water;
- 25 before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was given birth,
- 26 before he made the earth or
its fields or
any of the dust of the world.
- 27 I was there when he set the heavens in place,
when he marked out the horizon
on the face of the deep,
- 28 when he established the clouds above and
fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
- 29 when he gave the sea its boundary
so the waters would not overstep his command, and
when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
- 30 Then I was the craftsman at his side.
I was filled with delight
day after day,
rejoicing always in his presence,
- 31 rejoicing in his whole world and
delighting in mankind.

- 32 "Now then, my sons, listen to me;
blessed are those who keep my ways.
- 33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

(effects on man)

- 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me,
watching daily at my doors,
waiting at my doorway.
- 35 For whoever finds me finds life and
receives favor from the LORD.
- 36 But whoever fails to find me harms himself;
all who hate me love death." (NIV)

6. *THERE ARE ALWAYS TWO INVITATIONS AT THE SAME TIME
-- FROM WISDOM AND FOLLY*

AN INVITATION FROM WISDOM

PREPARATION - SEDUCTION

9:1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn out its seven pillars.
2 She has prepared her meat and
mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.

ACTIVE ENTICEMENT

3 She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.

INVITATION

4 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.
5 "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.
6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

?????

7 "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.
8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.
9 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

TEACHING

10 "The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
11 For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

RESPONSES

12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you;
if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."

AN INVITATION FROM FOLLY

PREPERATION - SEDUCTION

13 The woman Folly is loud;
she is undisciplined and
without knowledge.

PASSIVE ENTICEMENT

14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city,
15 calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way.

INVITATION

16 "Let all who are simple come in here!"
she says to those who lack judgment.

17 "Stolen water is **sweet**;
food eaten in secret is **delicious!**"

18 But little do they know
that the dead are there,
that her guests are in the depths of the grave.

II. PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

10:1 The proverbs of Solomon:

A. SECTION 1: MOSTLY CONTRASTING TWO-LINERS

| | |
|---|--|
| A wise son but a foolish son | brings joy to his father, grief to his mother. |
| 2 Ill-gotten treasures but righteousness | are of no value, delivers from death. |
| 3 The LORD does not let but he thwarts | the righteous go hungry the craving of the wicked. |
| 4 Lazy hands but diligent hands | make a man poor, bring wealth. |
| 5 He who gathers crops in summer but he who sleeps during harvest | is a wise son, is a disgraceful son. |
| 6 Blessings crown the head but violence overwhelms the mouth | of the righteous, of the wicked. [b] |
| 7 The memory of the righteous but the name of the wicked | will be a blessing, will rot. |
| 8 The wise in heart but a chattering fool | accept commands, comes to ruin. |
| 9 The man of integrity but he who takes crooked paths | walks securely, will be found out. |
| 10 He who winks maliciously and a chattering fool | causes grief, comes to ruin. |
| 11 The mouth of the righteous but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked. | is a fountain of life, |
| 12 Hatred but love | stirs up dissension, covers over all wrongs. |
| 13 Wisdom is found on but a rod is for | the lips of the discerning, the back of him who lacks judgment. |
| 14 Wise men but the mouth of a fool | store up knowledge, invites ruin. |
| 15 The wealth of the rich but poverty | is their fortified city, is the ruin of the poor. |
| 16 The wages of the righteous but the income of the wicked | bring them life, brings them punishment. |
| 17 He who heeds discipline but whoever ignores correction | shows the way to life, leads others astray. |
| 18 He who conceals his hatred and whoever spreads slander | has lying lips, is a fool. |
| 19 When words are many, but he who holds his tongue | sin is not absent, is wise. |
| 20 The tongue of the righteous but the heart of the wicked | is choice silver, is of little value. |
| 21 The lips of the righteous but fools | nourish many, die for lack of judgment. |
| 22 The blessing of the LORD and he adds | brings wealth, no trouble to it. |

| | |
|--|---|
| 23 A fool but a man of understanding | finds pleasure in evil conduct, delights in wisdom. |
| 24 What the wicked dreads what the righteous desire | will overtake him; will be granted. |
| 25 When the storm has swept by, the wicked but the righteous | are gone, stand firm forever. |
| 26 As vinegar smoke so is a sluggard | to the teeth and to the eyes, to those who send him. |
| 27 The fear of the LORD but the years of the wicked | adds length to life, are cut short. |
| 28 The prospect of the righteous but the hopes of the wicked | is joy, come to nothing. |
| 29 The way of the LORD is a refuge but it is the ruin | for the righteous, of those who do evil. |
| 30 The righteous but the wicked | will never be uprooted, will not remain in the land. |
| 31 The mouth of the righteous but a perverse tongue | brings forth wisdom, will be cut out. |
| 32 The lips of the righteous but the mouth of the wicked | know what is fitting, only what is perverse. |
| 11:1 The LORD abhors but accurate weights are his delight. | dishonest scales, |
| 2 When pride comes, then but with humility | comes disgrace, comes wisdom. |
| 3 The integrity of the upright but the unfaithful are | guides them, destroyed by their duplicity. |
| 4 Wealth is but righteousness | worthless in the day of wrath, delivers from death. |
| 5 The righteousness of the blameless but the wicked are | makes a straight way for them, brought down by their own wickedness. |
| 6 The righteousness of the upright but the unfaithful are | delivers them, trapped by evil desires. |
| 7 When a wicked man dies, all he expected from his power | his hope perishes; comes to nothing. |
| 8 The righteous man is and it comes on the wicked instead. | rescued from trouble, |
| 9 With his mouth the godless but through knowledge the righteous | destroys his neighbor, escape. |
| 10 When the righteous prosper, when the wicked perish, | the city rejoices; there are shouts of joy. |
| 11 Through the blessing of the upright but by the mouth of the wicked | a city is exalted, it is destroyed. |
| 12 A man who lacks judgment but a man of understanding | derides his neighbor, holds his tongue. |
| 13 A gossip but a trustworthy man | betrays a confidence, keeps a secret. |
| 14 For lack of guidance but many advisers | a nation falls, make victory sure. |

Proverbs 11:15

| | |
|---|--|
| 15 He who puts up security for another but whoever refuses to strike hands in pledge | will surely suffer, is safe. |
| 16 A kindhearted woman but ruthless men | gains respect, gain only wealth. |
| 17 A kind man but a cruel man | benefits himself, brings trouble on himself. |
| 18 The wicked man but he who sows righteousness | earns deceptive wages, reaps a sure reward. |
| 19 The truly righteous man but he who pursues evil | attains life, goes to his death. |
| 20 The LORD detests but he delights in | men of perverse heart those whose ways are blameless. |
| 21 Be sure of this: The wicked but those who are righteous | will not go unpunished, will go free. |
| 22 Like a gold ring is a beautiful woman | in a pig's snout who shows no discretion. |
| 23 The desire of the righteous but the hope of the wicked | ends only in good, only in wrath. |
| 24 One man gives freely, another withholds unduly, | yet gains even more; but comes to poverty. |
| 25 A generous man he who refreshes others | will prosper; will himself be refreshed. |
| 26 People curse the man but blessing crowns him | who hoards grain, who is willing to sell. |
| 27 He who seeks good but evil comes to him | finds goodwill, who searches for it. |
| 28 Whoever trusts in his riches but the righteous | will fall, will thrive like a green leaf. |
| 29 He who brings trouble on his family and the fool | will inherit only wind, will be servant to the wise. |
| 30 The fruit of the righteous and he who wins souls | is a tree of life, is wise. |
| 31 If the righteous how much more the ungodly and the sinner! | receive their due on earth, |
| 12:1 Whoever loves discipline but he who hates correction | loves knowledge, is stupid. |
| 2 A good man but the LORD condemns a crafty man. | obtains favor from the LORD, |
| 3 A man cannot be established but the righteous cannot be uprooted. | through wickedness, |
| 4 A wife of noble character but a disgraceful wife | is her husband's crown, is like decay in his bones. |
| 5 The plans of the righteous but the advice of the wicked | are just, is deceitful. |
| 6 The words of the wicked but the speech of the upright | lie in wait for blood, rescues them. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 Wicked men but the house of the righteous | are overthrown and are no more, stands firm. |
| 8 A man is praised but men with warped minds are despised. | according to his wisdom, |
| 9 Better to be a nobody than pretend to be somebody | and yet have a servant and have no food. |
| 10 A righteous man but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. | cares for the needs of his animal, |
| 11 He who works his land but he who chases fantasies | will have abundant food, lacks judgment. |
| 12 The wicked but the root of the righteous | desire the plunder of evil men, flourishes. |
| 13 An evil man but a righteous man | is trapped by his sinful talk, escapes trouble. |
| 14 From the fruit of his lips as surely as the work of his hands | a man is filled with good things rewards him. |
| 15 The way of a fool but a wise man | seems right to him, listens to advice. |
| 16 A fool but a prudent man | shows his annoyance at once, overlooks an insult. |
| 17 A truthful witness but a false witness | gives honest testimony, tells lies. |
| 18 Reckless words but the tongue of the wise | pierce like a sword, brings healing. |
| 19 Truthful lips but a lying tongue | endure forever, lasts only a moment. |
| 20 There is deceit but joy | in the hearts of those who plot evil, for those who promote peace. |
| 21 No harm but the wicked have their fill of trouble. | befalls the righteous, |
| 22 The LORD detests but he delights | lying lips, in men who are truthful. |
| 23 A prudent man but the heart of fools | keeps his knowledge to himself, blurts out folly. |
| 24 Diligent hands but laziness | will rule, ends in slave labor. |
| 25 An anxious heart but a kind word | weighs a man down, cheers him up. |
| 26 A righteous man but the way of the wicked | is cautious in friendship, [c] leads them astray. |
| 27 The lazy man but the diligent man | does not roast [d] his game, prizes his possessions. |
| 28 In the way of righteousness along that path | there is life; is immortality. |

Proverbs 13:1

| | |
|---|---|
| 13:1 A wise son but a mocker | heeds his father's instruction, does not listen to rebuke. |
| 2 From the fruit of his lips but the unfaithful | a man enjoys good things, have a craving for violence. |
| 3 He who guards his lips but he who speaks | guards his life, rashly will come to ruin. |
| 4 The sluggard but the desires of the diligent | craves and gets nothing, are fully satisfied. |
| 5 The righteous but the wicked | hate what is false, bring shame and disgrace. |
| 6 Righteousness but wickedness | guards the man of integrity, overthrows the sinner. |
| 7 One man pretends to be rich, another pretends to be poor, | yet has nothing; yet has great wealth. |
| 8 A man's riches but a poor | may ransom his life, man hears no threat. |
| 9 The light of the righteous but the lamp of the wicked | shines brightly, is snuffed out. |
| 10 Pride but wisdom | only breeds quarrels, is found in those who take advice. |
| 11 Dishonest money but he who gathers money little by little | dwindles away, makes it grow. |
| 12 Hope deferred but a longing fulfilled | makes the heart sick, is a tree of life. |
| 13 He who scorns instruction but he who respects a command | will pay for it, is rewarded. |
| 14 The teaching of the wise | is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. |
| 15 Good understanding but the way of the unfaithful | wins favor, is hard. [e] |
| 16 Every prudent man but a fool | acts out of knowledge, exposes his folly. |
| 17 A wicked messenger but a trustworthy envoy | falls into trouble, brings healing. |
| 18 He who ignores discipline but whoever heeds correction | comes to poverty and shame, is honored. |
| 19 A longing fulfilled but fools | is sweet to the soul, detest turning from evil. |
| 20 He who walks with the wise but a companion of fools | grows wise, suffers harm. |
| 21 Misfortune but prosperity | pursues the sinner, is the reward of the righteous. |
| 22 A good man but a sinner's wealth | leaves an inheritance for his children's children, is stored up for the righteous. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 23 A poor man's field but injustice | may produce abundant food, sweeps it away. |
| 24 He who spares the rod but he who loves him | hates his son, is careful to discipline him. |
| 25 The righteous but the stomach of the wicked | eat to their hearts' content, goes hungry. |
| 14:1 The wise woman but with her own hands the foolish one | builds her house, tears hers down. |
| 2 He whose walk is upright but he whose ways are devious | fears the LORD, despises him. |
| 3 A fool's talk but the lips of the wise | brings a rod to his back, protect them. |
| 4 Where there are no oxen, but from the strength of an ox | the manger is empty, comes an abundant harvest. |
| 5 A truthful witness but a false witness | does not deceive, pours out lies. |
| 6 The mocker but knowledge | seeks wisdom and finds none, comes easily to the discerning. |
| 7 Stay away from a foolish man, for you will not find knowledge on his lips. | |
| 8 The wisdom of the prudent but the folly of fools | is to give thought to their ways, is deception. |
| 9 Fools but goodwill is found among the upright. | mock at making amends for sin, |
| 10 Each heart | knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy. |
| 11 The house of the wicked but the tent of the upright | will be destroyed, will flourish. |
| 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. | |
| 13 Even in laughter and joy | the heart may ache, may end in grief. |
| 14 The faithless and the good man | will be fully repaid for their ways, rewarded for his. |
| 15 A simple man but a prudent man | believes anything, gives thought to his steps. |
| 16 A wise man but a fool | fears the LORD and shuns evil, is hotheaded and reckless. |
| 17 A quick-tempered man and a crafty man | does foolish things, is hated. |
| 18 The simple but the prudent | inherit folly, are crowned with knowledge. |
| 19 Evil men and the wicked | will bow down in the presence of the good, at the gates of the righteous. |
| 20 The poor but the rich | are shunned even by their neighbors, have many friends. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 21 He who despises his neighbor but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. | sins, |
| 22 Do not those who plot evil But those who plan what is good | go astray? find [f] love and faithfulness. |
| 23 All hard work but mere talk | brings a profit, leads only to poverty. |
| 24 The wealth of the wise but the folly of fools | is their crown, yields folly. |
| 25 A truthful witness but a false witness | saves lives, is deceitful. |
| 26 He who fears the LORD and for his children | has a secure fortress, it will be a refuge. |
| 27 The fear of the LORD turning a man | is a fountain of life, from the snares of death. |
| 28 A large population but without subjects | is a king's glory, a prince is ruined. |
| 29 A patient man but a quick-tempered man | has great understanding, displays folly. |
| 30 A heart at peace but envy | gives life to the body, rots the bones. |
| 31 He who oppresses the poor but whoever is kind to the needy | shows contempt for their Maker, honors God. |
| 32 When calamity comes, the wicked but even in death the righteous | are brought down, have a refuge. |
| 33 Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known. [g] | |
| 34 Righteousness but sin | exalts a nation, is a disgrace to any people. |
| 35 A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath. | |
| 15:1 A gentle answer but a harsh word | turns away wrath, stirs up anger. |
| 2 The tongue of the wise but the mouth of the fool | commends knowledge, gushes folly. |
| 3 The eyes of the LORD | are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. |
| 4 The tongue that brings healing but a deceitful tongue | is a tree of life, crushes the spirit. |
| 5 A fool but whoever heeds correction shows prudence. | spurns his father's discipline, brings them trouble. |
| 6 The house of the righteous but the income of the wicked | contains great treasure, brings them trouble. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 7 The lips of the wise not so the hearts of fools. | spread knowledge; |
| 8 The LORD detests but the prayer of the upright pleases him. | the sacrifice of the wicked, |
| 9 The LORD detests but he loves those who pursue righteousness. | the way of the wicked |
| 10 Stern discipline he who hates correction will die. | awaits him who leaves the path; |
| 11 Death and Destruction [h] | lie open before the LORD— how much more the hearts of men! |
| 12 A mocker | resents correction; he will not consult the wise. |
| 13 A happy heart but heartache | makes the face cheerful, crushes the spirit. |
| 14 The discerning heart but the mouth of a fool | seeks knowledge, feeds on folly. |
| 15 All the days of the oppressed but the cheerful heart has a continual feast. | are wretched, |
| 16 Better a little than great wealth | with the fear of the LORD with turmoil. |
| 17 Better a meal of vegetables than a fattened calf | where there is love with hatred. |
| 18 A hot-tempered man but a patient man | stirs up dissension, calms a quarrel. |
| 19 The way of the sluggard but the path of the upright | is blocked with thorns, is a highway. |
| 20 A wise son but a foolish man | brings joy to his father, despises his mother. |
| 21 Folly but a man of understanding keeps a straight course. | delights a man who lacks judgment, |
| 22 Plans fail but with many advisers they succeed. | for lack of counsel, |
| 23 A man finds joy | in giving an apt reply— and how good is a timely word! |
| 24 The path of life | leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down to the grave. [i] |
| 25 The LORD tears down but he keeps | the proud man's house the widow's boundaries intact. |
| 26 The LORD but those of the pure are pleasing to him. | detests the thoughts of the wicked, |
| 27 A greedy man but he who hates bribes | brings trouble to his family, will live. |

Proverbs 15:28

28 The heart of the righteous
but the mouth of the wicked

weighs its answers,
gushes evil.

29 The LORD is
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

far from the wicked

30 A cheerful look
and good news

brings joy to the heart,
gives health to the bones.

31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke

will be at home among the wise.

32 He who ignores discipline
but whoever heeds correction

despises himself,
gains understanding.

33 **The fear of the LORD
and humility**

**teaches a man wisdom, [i]
comes before honor.**

B. SECTION 2: MOSTLY COMPARATIVE TWO-LINERS

- 16:1 To man belong the plans of the heart,
but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.
- 2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him,
but motives are weighed by the LORD.
- 3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.
- 4 The LORD works out everything for his own ends—
even the wicked for a day of disaster.
- 5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart.
Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.
- 6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for;
through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.
- 7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD,
he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.
- 8 Better a little with righteousness
than much gain with injustice.
- 9 In his heart a man plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps.
- 10 The lips of a king speak as an oracle,
and his mouth should not betray justice.
- 11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD;
all the weights in the bag are of his making.
- 12 Kings detest wrongdoing,
for a throne is established through righteousness.
- 13 Kings take pleasure in honest lips;
they value a man who speaks the truth.
- 14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death,
but a wise man will appease it.
- 15 When a king's face brightens, it means life;
his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.
- 16 How much better to get wisdom than gold,
to choose understanding rather than silver!
- 17 The highway of the upright avoids evil;
he who guards his way guards his life.
- 18 Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.
- 19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed
than to share plunder with the proud.
- 20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers,
and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
- 21 The wise in heart are called discerning,
and pleasant words promote instruction. [k]
- 22 Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it,
but folly brings punishment to fools.
- 23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth,
and his lips promote instruction. [l]

- 24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
- 25 There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.
- 26 The laborer's appetite works for him;
his hunger drives him on.
- 27 A scoundrel plots evil,
and his speech is like a scorching fire.
28 A perverse man stirs up dissension,
and a gossip separates close friends.
29 A violent man entices his neighbor
and leads him down a path that is not good.
- 30 He who winks with his eye is plotting perversity;
he who purses his lips is bent on evil.
- 31 Gray hair is a crown of splendor;
it is attained by a righteous life.
- 32 Better a patient man than a warrior,
a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.
- 33 The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.
- 17:1** Better a dry crust with peace and quiet
than a house full of feasting, [m] with strife.
- 2 A wise servant
will rule over a disgraceful son,
and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.
- 3 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,
but the LORD tests the heart.
- 4 A wicked man listens to evil lips;
a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.
- 5 He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker;
whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.
- 6 Children's children are a crown to the aged,
and parents are the pride of their children.
- 7 Arrogant [n] lips are unsuited to a fool—
how much worse lying lips to a ruler!
- 8 A bribe is a charm to the one who gives it;
wherever he turns, he succeeds.
- 9 He who covers over an offense promotes love,
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
- 10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment
more than a hundred lashes a fool.
- 11 An evil man is bent only on rebellion;
a merciless official will be sent against him.
- 12 Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs
than a fool in his folly.

Proverbs 17:13

- 13 If a man pays back evil for good,
evil will never leave his house.
- 14 Starting a quarrel
so drop the matter
- 15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—
the LORD detests them both.
- 16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool,
since he has no desire to get wisdom?
- 17 A friend
and a brother
- 18 A man lacking in judgment
- 19 He who loves a quarrel
he who builds a high gate
- 20 A man of perverse heart
he whose tongue is deceitful
- 21 To have a fool for a son
there is no joy for the father of a fool.
- 22 A cheerful heart
but a crushed spirit
- 23 A wicked man
- 24 A discerning man
but a fool's eyes
- 25 A foolish son
- 26 It is not good
- 27 A man of knowledge
and a man of understanding
- 28 Even a fool is thought wise
and discerning
- 18:1** An unfriendly man
- 2 A fool
finds no pleasure
but delights
- 3 When wickedness comes,
and with shame
- 4 The words of a man's mouth
but the fountain of wisdom
- 5 It is not good
- is like breaching a dam;
before a dispute breaks out.
- loves at all times,
is born for adversity.
- strikes hands in pledge
and puts up security for his neighbor.
- loves sin;
invites destruction.
- does not prosper;
falls into trouble.
- brings grief;
- is good medicine,
dries up the bones.
- accepts a bribe in secret
to pervert the course of justice.
- keeps wisdom in view,
wander to the ends of the earth.
- brings grief to his father
and bitterness to the one who bore him.
- to punish an innocent man,
or to flog officials for their integrity.
- uses words with restraint,
is even-tempered.
- if he keeps silent,
if he holds his tongue.
- pursues selfish ends;
he defies all sound judgment.
- in understanding
in airing his own opinions.
- so does contempt,
comes disgrace.
- are deep waters,
is a bubbling brook.
- to be partial to the wicked
or to deprive the innocent of justice.

- 6 A fool's
lips
and his mouth
bring him strife,
invites a beating.
- 7 A fool's
mouth
and his lips
is his undoing,
are a snare to his soul.
- 8 The words of a gossip
are like choice morsels;
they go down to a man's inmost parts.
- 9 One who is slack in his work
is brother to one who destroys.
- 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
the righteous run to it and are safe.
- 11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city;
they imagine it an unscalable wall.
- 12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud,
but humility comes before honor.
- 13 He who answers before listening—
that is his folly and his shame.
- 14 A man's spirit
but a crushed spirit
sustains him in sickness,
who can bear?
- 15 The heart of the discerning
the ears of the wise
acquires knowledge;
seek it out.
- 16 A gift
opens the way for the giver
and ushers him into the presence of the great.
- 17 The first to present his case seems right,
till another comes forward and questions him.
- 18 Casting the lot
settles disputes
and keeps strong opponents apart.
- 19 An offended brother is
and disputes are
more unyielding than a fortified city,
like the barred gates of a citadel.
- 20 From the fruit of his mouth
with the harvest from his lips
a man's stomach is filled;
he is satisfied.
- 21 The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- 22 He who finds a wife
finds what is good
and receives favor from the LORD.
- 23 A poor man
but a rich man
pleads for mercy,
answers harshly.
- 24 A man of many companions
but there is a friend
may come to ruin,
who sticks closer than a brother.
- 19:1** Better
a poor man
than a fool
whose walk is blameless
whose lips are perverse.
- 2 It is not good
to have zeal
nor to be hasty
without knowledge,
and miss the way.

Proverbs 19:4

- 3 A man's own folly ruins his life,
yet his heart rages against the LORD.
- 4 Wealth brings many friends,
but a poor man's friend deserts him.
- 5 A false witness will not go unpunished,
and he who pours out lies will not go free.
- 6 Many curry favor with a ruler,
and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts.
- 7 A poor man
is shunned by all his relatives—
how much more do his friends avoid him!
Though he pursues them with pleading,
they are nowhere to be found. [q]
- 8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;
he who cherishes understanding prospers.
- 9 A false witness will not go unpunished,
and he who pours out lies will perish.
- 10 It is not fitting for a fool
how much worse for a slave
to live in luxury—
to rule over princes!
- 11 A man's wisdom gives him patience;
it is to his glory to overlook an offense.
- 12 A king's rage is like the roar of a lion,
but his favor is like dew on the grass.
- 13 A foolish son is his father's ruin,
and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.
- 14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents,
but a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- 15 Laziness brings on deep sleep,
and the shiftless man goes hungry.
- 16 He who obeys instructions guards his life,
but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die.
- 17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward him for what he has done.
- 18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope;
do not be a willing party to his death.
- 19 A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty;
if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
- 20 Listen to advice and accept instruction,
and in the end you will be wise.
- 21 Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.
- 22 What a man desires is unfailing love [p] ;
better to be poor than a liar.
- 23 **The fear of the LORD leads to life:
Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.**

Proverbs 20:17

- 16 Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger;
hold it in pledge if he does it for a wayward woman.
- 17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man,
but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.
- 18 Make plans by seeking advice;
if you wage war, obtain guidance.
- 19 A gossip betrays a confidence;
so avoid a man who talks too much.
- 20 If a man curses his father or mother,
his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.
- 21 An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning
will not be blessed at the end.
- 22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!"
Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.
- 23 The LORD detests differing weights,
and dishonest scales do not please him.
- 24 A man's steps are directed by the LORD.
How then can anyone understand his own way?
- 25 It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly
and only later to consider his vows.
- 26 A wise king winnows out the wicked;
he drives the threshing wheel over them.
- 27 The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man [q] ;
it searches out his inmost being.
- 28 Love and faithfulness
through love keep a king safe;
his throne is made secure.
- 29 The glory of young men
gray hair is their strength,
the splendor of the old.
- 30 Blows and wounds
and beatings cleanse away evil,
purge the inmost being.
- 21:1** The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD;
he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.
- 2 All a man's ways seem right to him,
but the LORD weighs the heart.
- 3 To do what is right and just** **is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.**
- 4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart,
the lamp of the wicked,
are sin!
- 5 The plans of the diligent
as surely as haste lead to profit
leads to poverty.
- 6 A fortune made by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare. [r]

- 7 The violence of the wicked will drag them away,
for they refuse to do what is right.
- 8 The way of the guilty is devious,
but the conduct of the innocent is upright.
- 9 Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
- 10 The wicked man craves evil;
his neighbor gets no mercy from him.
- 11 When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom;
when a wise man is instructed, he gets knowledge.
- 12 The Righteous One [s] takes note of the house of the wicked
and brings the wicked to ruin.
- 13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor,
he too will cry out and not be answered.
- 14 A gift given in secret soothes anger,
and a bribe concealed in the cloak pacifies great wrath.
- 15 When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous
but terror to evildoers.
- 16 A man who strays from the path of understanding
comes to rest in the company of the dead.
- 17 He who loves pleasure will become poor;
whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.
- 18 The wicked become a ransom for the righteous,
and the unfaithful for the upright.
- 19 Better to live in a desert
than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.
- 20 In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil,
but a foolish man devours all he has.
- 21 He who pursues righteousness and love
finds life, prosperity [t] and honor.
- 22 A wise man attacks the city of the mighty
and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.
- 23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue
keeps himself from calamity.
- 24 The proud and arrogant man- "Mocker" is his name;
he behaves with overweening pride.
- 25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him,
because his hands refuse to work.
- 26 All day long he craves for more,
but the righteous give without sparing.
- 27 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable—
how much more so when brought with evil intent!

- 28 A false witness and whoever listens to him will perish, will be destroyed forever. [u]
- 29 A wicked man but an upright man puts up a bold front, gives thought to his ways.
- 30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.
- 31 The horse but victory is made ready for the day of battle, rests with the LORD.
- 22:1** A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
- 2 Rich and poor have this in common:
The LORD is the Maker of them all.
- 3 A prudent man but the simple sees danger and takes refuge, keep going and suffer for it.
- 4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.**
- 5 In the paths of the wicked but he who guards his soul lie thorns and snares, stays far from them.
- 6 Train [v] a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
- 7 The rich and the borrower rule over the poor, is servant to the lender.
- 8 He who sows wickedness and the rod of his fury reaps trouble, will be destroyed.
- 9 A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.
- 10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.
- 11 He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.
- 12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.
- 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!" or, "I will be murdered in the streets!"
- 14 The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit; he who is under the LORD's wrath will fall into it.
- 15 Folly but the rod of discipline is bound up in the heart of a child, will drive it far from him.
- 16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich —both come to poverty.

III. SAYINGS OF THE WISE

A. SECTION 1: THIRTY (30) SAYINGS OF THE WISE

INTRODUCTION

- 17 Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise;
apply your heart to what I teach,
- 18 for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart
and have all of them ready on your lips.
- 19 So that your trust may be in the LORD,
I teach you today, even you.
- 20 Have I not written **thirty [w] sayings** for you,
sayings of counsel and knowledge,
- 21 teaching you true and reliable words,
so that you can give sound answers
to him who sent you?

VARIOUS TOPICS

- (1) **THE POOR**
22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,
23 for the LORD will take up their case
and will plunder those who plunder them.
- (2) **THE ANGRY**
24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man,
do not associate with one easily angered,
25 or you may learn his ways
and get yourself ensnared.
- (3) **MAKING PLEDGES**
26 Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge
or puts up security for debts;
27 if you lack the means to pay,
your very bed will be snatched from under you.
- (4)
28 Do not move an ancient boundary stone
set up by your forefathers.
- (5)
29 Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will serve before kings;
he will not serve before obscure men.

*DINING AS A GUEST**OF A RICH HOST**(6)*

23:1 When you sit to dine with a ruler,
 note well what [x] is before you,
 2 and put a knife to your throat
 if you are given to gluttony.
 3 Do not crave his delicacies,
 for that food is deceptive.

(7)

4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich;
 have the wisdom to show restraint.
 5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,
 for they will surely sprout wings
 and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

(8) OF A STINGY HOST

6 Do not eat the food of a stingy man,
 do not crave his delicacies;
 7 for he is the kind of man
 who is always thinking about the cost. [y]
 "Eat and drink," he says to you,
 but his heart is not with you.
 8 You will vomit up the little you have eaten
 and will have wasted your compliments.

(9)

9 Do not speak to a fool,
 for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

(10)

10 Do not move an ancient boundary stone
 or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,
 11 for their Defender is strong;
 he will take up their case against you.

(11)

12 Apply your heart to instruction
 and your ears to words of knowledge.

(12) CHILDREN

13 Do not withhold discipline from a child;
 if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.
 14 Punish him with the rod
 and save his soul from death. [z]

*A SON'S HEART**(13)*

15 My son, if your heart is wise,
 then my heart will be glad;
 16 my inmost being will rejoice
 when your lips speak what is right.

(14)

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners,
 but **always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.**
 18 There is surely a future hope for you,
 and your hope will not be cut off.

(15) *DRUNKARDS AND GLUTTONS*

19 Listen, my son, and be wise,
and keep your heart on the right path.

20 Do not join those who drink too much wine
or gorge themselves on meat,
21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor,
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

(16)

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life,
and do not despise your mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it;
get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

24 The father of a righteous man has great joy;
he who has a wise son delights in him.

25 May your father and mother be glad;
may she who gave you birth rejoice!

(17) *WAYWARD WOMEN*

26 My son, give me your heart
and let your eyes keep to my ways,

27 for a prostitute is a deep pit
and a wayward wife is a narrow well.

28 Like a bandit she lies in wait,
and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

(18) *STRONG DRINK*

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow?
Who has strife? Who has complaints?
Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

30 Those who linger over wine,
who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup,
when it goes down smoothly!

32 In the end it bites like a snake
and poisons like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange sights
and your mind imagine confusing things.

34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,
lying on top of the rigging.

35 "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!
They beat me, but I don't feel it!
When will I wake up
so I can find another drink?"

(19) *ENVYING WICKED MEN*

24:1 Do not envy wicked men,
do not desire their company;
2 for their hearts plot violence,
and their lips talk about making trouble.

REJOICING AT AN ENEMIES MISFORTUNE

(28)

17 Do not gloat when your enemy falls;
when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice,
18 or the LORD will see and disapprove
and turn his wrath away from him.

(29)

19 Do not fret because of evil men
or be envious of the wicked,
20 for the evil man has no future hope,
and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.

(30)

21 **Fear the LORD and the king, my son,
and do not join with the rebellious,**
22 for those two will send sudden destruction upon them,
and who knows what calamities they can bring?

B.. *FURTHER SAYINGS OF THE WISE*

23 These also are sayings of the wise:

PROPER JUDGEMENT

To show partiality in judging is not good:

24 Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent"—
peoples will curse him and nations denounce him.

25 But it will go well with those who convict the guilty,
and rich blessing will come upon them.

26 An honest answer
is like a kiss on the lips.

PRIORITIES

27 Finish your outdoor work
and get your fields ready;
after that, build your house.

28 Do not testify against your neighbor without cause,
or use your lips to deceive.

29 Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me;
I'll pay that man back for what he did."

*WORK ETHIC**OBSERVATION*

30 I went past the field of the sluggard,
past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment;

31 thorns had come up everywhere,
the ground was covered with weeds,
and the stone wall was in ruins.

LESSON

32 I applied my heart to what I observed
and learned a lesson from what I saw:

33 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest-

34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit
and scarcity like an armed man. [aa]

IV. *PROVERBS OF SOLOMON – COMPILED BY HEZEKIA'S MEN*

25:1 These are more proverbs of Solomon,
copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:

A. *SECTION 1: PROVERBS USING VARIOUS STYLES*

2 It is the **glory of God** to conceal a matter;
to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

3 As the heavens are high and the earth is deep,
so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.

4 Remove the dross from the silver,
and out comes material for [ab] the silversmith;

5 remove the wicked from the king's presence,
and his throne will be established through righteousness.

6 Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among great men;

7 it is better for him to
say to you, "Come up here,"
than for him to
humiliate you before a nobleman.

What you have seen with your eyes
8 do not bring [ac] hastily to court,
for what will you do in the end
if your neighbor puts you to shame?

9 If you argue your case with a neighbor,
do not betray another man's confidence,
10 or he who hears it may shame you
and you will never lose your bad reputation.

11 **A word aptly spoken**
is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
12 Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold
is a **wise man's rebuke to a listening ear**.

13 Like the coolness of snow at harvest time
is a **trustworthy messenger** to those who send him;
he refreshes the spirit of his masters.

14 Like clouds and wind without rain
is a **man who boasts of gifts he does not give**.

15 Through **patience** a ruler can be persuaded,
and a **gentle tongue** can break a bone.

16 If you find honey,
too much of it, and eat just enough—
you will vomit.

17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—
too much of you, and he will hate you.

18 Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow
is **the man who gives false testimony** against his neighbor.

19 Like a bad tooth or a lame foot
is **reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.**

20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,
or like vinegar poured on soda,
is **one who sings songs to a heavy heart.**

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head,
and the LORD will reward you.

23 As a north wind brings rain,
so **a sly tongue** brings angry looks.

24 Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with **a quarrelsome wife.**

25 Like cold water to a weary soul
is **good news** from a distant land.

26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well
is **a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.**

27 It is not good to **eat too much honey,**
nor is it honorable to **seek one's own honor.**

28 Like a city whose walls are broken down
is **a man who lacks self-control.**

26:1 Like snow in summer or rain in harvest,
honor is not fitting for a fool.

2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow,
an undeserved curse does not come to rest.

3 A whip for the horse,
a halter for the donkey,
and a rod for the **backs of fools!**

4 Do not answer **a fool according to his folly,**
or you will be like him yourself.

5 Answer **a fool according to his folly,**
or he will be wise in his own eyes.

6 Like cutting off one's feet or drinking violence
is the **sending of a message by the hand of a fool.**

7 Like a lame man's legs that hang limp
is **a proverb in the mouth of a fool.**

8 Like tying a stone in a sling
is the **giving of honor to a fool.**

9 Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand
is **a proverb in the mouth of a fool.**

10 Like an archer who wounds at random
is **he who hires a fool or any passer-by.**

11 As a dog returns to its vomit,
so **a fool repeats his folly.**

12 Do you see **a man wise in his own eyes?**
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road,
a fierce lion roaming the streets!"
14 As a door turns on its hinges,
so a sluggard turns on his bed.
15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.
16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
than seven men who answer discreetly.

17 Like one who seizes a dog by the ears
is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

18 Like a madman shooting
firebrands or deadly arrows
19 is a man who deceives his neighbor
and says, "I was only joking!"

20 Without wood a fire goes out;
without gossip a quarrel dies down.
21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire,
so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

22 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels;
they go down to a man's inmost parts.

23 Like a coating of glaze [c] over earthenware
are fervent lips with an evil heart.

24 A malicious man disguises himself with his lips,
but in his heart he harbors deceit.
25 Though his speech is charming, do not believe him,
for seven abominations fill his heart.
26 His malice may be concealed by deception,
but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

27 If a man digs a pit, he will fall into it;
if a man rolls a stone, it will roll back on him.

28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts,
and a flattering mouth works ruin.

27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
someone else, and not your own lips.

3 Stone is heavy and sand a burden,
but provocation by a fool is heavier than both.

4 Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming,
but who can stand before jealousy?

5 Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.

6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.

7 He who is full loathes honey,
but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

B. SECTION 2: TWO-LINERS OF DIFFERENT STYLES

8 Like a bird that strays from its nest
is a man who strays from his home.

9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,
and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.

10 Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father,
and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you—
better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart;
then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

12 The prudent see danger and take refuge,
but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

13 Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger;
hold it in pledge if he does it for a wayward woman.

14 If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning,
it will be taken as a curse.

15 A quarrelsome wife is like
a constant dripping on a rainy day;

16 restraining her is like restraining the wind
or grasping oil with the hand.

17 As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another.

18 He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,
and he who looks after his master will be honored.

19 As water reflects a face,
so a man's heart reflects the man.

20 Death and Destruction [d] are never satisfied,
and neither are the eyes of man.

21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,
but man is tested by the praise he receives.

22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar,
grinding him like grain with a pestle,
you will not remove his folly from him.

23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,
give careful attention to your herds;

24 for riches do not endure forever,
and a crown is not secure for all generations.

25 When the hay is removed and new growth appears
and the grass from the hills is gathered in,

26 the lambs will provide you with clothing,
and the goats with the price of a field.

27 You will have plenty of goats' milk
to feed you and your family
and to nourish your servant girls.

28:1 The wicked man flees though no one pursues,
but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

2 When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers,
but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

3 A ruler [e] who oppresses the poor
is like a driving rain that leaves no crops.

4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
but those who keep the law resist them.

5 Evil men do not understand justice,
but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.

6 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless
than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son,
but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.

8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest
amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.

9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law,
even his prayers are detestable.

10 He who leads the upright along an evil path
will fall into his own trap,
but the blameless will receive a good inheritance.

11 A rich man may be wise in his own eyes,
but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.

12 When the righteous triumph, there is great elation;
but when the wicked rise to power, men go into hiding.

13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

14 Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD,
but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

15 Like a roaring lion or a charging bear
is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people.

16 A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment,
but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life.

17 A man tormented by the guilt of murder
will be a fugitive till death;
let no one support him.

18 He whose walk is blameless is kept safe,
but he whose ways are perverse will suddenly fall.

19 He who works his land will have abundant food,
but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

20 A faithful man will be richly blessed,
but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

21 To show partiality is not good—
yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.

22 A stingy man is eager to get rich
and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor
than he who has a flattering tongue.

24 He who robs his father or mother
and says, "It's not wrong"—
he is partner to him who destroys.

25 A greedy man stirs up dissension,
but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

26 He who trusts in himself is a fool,
but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

27 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing,
but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

28 When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding;
but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.

29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes
will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

2 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;
when the wicked rule, the people groan.

3 A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father,
but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

4 By justice a king gives a country stability,
but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down.

5 Whoever flatters his neighbor
is spreading a net for his feet.

6 An evil man is snared by his own sin,
but a righteous one can sing and be glad.

7 The righteous care about justice for the poor,
but the wicked have no such concern.

8 Mockers stir up a city,
but wise men turn away anger.

9 If a wise man goes to court with a fool,
the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace.

10 Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity
and seek to kill the upright.

11 A fool gives full vent to his anger,
but a wise man keeps himself under control.

12 If a ruler listens to lies,
all his officials become wicked.

13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common:
The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both.

14 If a king judges the poor with fairness,
his throne will always be secure.

15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom,
but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

16 When the wicked thrive, so does sin,
but the righteous will see their downfall.

17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace;
he will bring delight to your soul.

18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;
but blessed is he who keeps the law.

19 A servant cannot be corrected by mere words;
though he understands, he will not respond.

20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

21 If a man pampers his servant from youth,
he will bring grief [f] in the end.

22 An angry man stirs up dissension,
and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

23 A man's pride brings him low,
but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

24 The accomplice of a thief is his own enemy;
he is put under oath and dare not testify.

25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

26 Many seek an audience with a ruler,
but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.

27 The righteous detest the dishonest;
the wicked detest the upright.

V. SAYINGS OF AGUR

30:1 The sayings of Agur son of Jakeh—an oracle [g] :
This man declared to Ithiel,
to Ithiel and to Ucal: [h]

A.

2 "I am the most ignorant of men;
I do not have a man's understanding.

3 I have not learned wisdom,
nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

4 Who has gone up to heaven and come down?
Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands?
Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is his name, and the name of his son?
Tell me if you know!

5 "Every word of God is flawless;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
6 Do not add to his words,
or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

7 "Two things I ask of you, O LORD;
do not refuse me before I die:
8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the LORD ?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.

10 "Do not slander a servant to his master,
or he will curse you, and you will pay for it.

11 "There are
those who curse their fathers
and do not bless their mothers;
12 those who are pure in their own eyes
and yet are not cleansed of their filth;
13 those whose eyes are ever so haughty,
whose glances are so disdainful;
14 those whose teeth are swords
and whose jaws are set with knives
to devour the poor from the earth,
the needy from among mankind.

B.

15 "The leech has two daughters.
'Give! Give!' they cry.

"There are three things that are never satisfied,
four that never say, 'Enough!':

- 16 the grave,
- [j] the barren womb,
- land, which is never satisfied with water, and
- fire, which never says, 'Enough!'

17 "The eye that mocks a father,
that scorns obedience to a mother,
will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley,
will be eaten by the vultures.

18 "There are three things that are too amazing for me,
four that I do not understand:

- 19 the way of an eagle in the sky,
- the way of a snake on a rock,
- the way of a ship on the high seas
- and the way of a man with a maiden.

20 "This is the way of an adulteress:
She eats and wipes her mouth
and says, 'I've done nothing wrong.'

21 "Under three things the earth trembles,
under four it cannot bear up:

- 22 a servant who becomes king,
- a fool who is full of food,
- 23 an unloved woman who is married, and
- a maidservant who displaces her mistress.

24 "Four things on earth are small,
yet they are extremely wise:

- 25 Ants are creatures of little strength,
yet they store up their food in the summer;
- 26 coney [j] are creatures of little power,
yet they make their home in the crags;
- 27 locusts have no king,
yet they advance together in ranks;
- 28 a lizard can be caught with the hand,
yet it is found in kings' palaces.

29 "There are three things that are stately in their stride,
four that move with stately bearing:

- 30 a lion, mighty among beasts,
who retreats before nothing;
- 31 a strutting rooster, a he-goat,
- and a king with his army around him. [k]

32 "If you have played the fool and exalted yourself,
or if you have planned evil,
clap your hand over your mouth!

33 For as churning the milk produces butter,
and as twisting the nose produces blood,
so stirring up anger produces strife."

VI. SAYINGS OF KING LEMUEL

31:1 The sayings of King Lemuel—an oracle [] his mother taught him:

CONDUCT APPROPRIATE FOR A KING

2 "O my son, O son of my womb,
 O son of my vows, [m]
 3 do not spend your strength on women,
 your vigor on those who ruin kings.

4 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel—
 not for kings to drink wine,
 not for rulers to crave beer,
 5 lest they drink and forget what the law decrees,
 and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.

6 Give beer to those who are perishing,
 wine to those who are in anguish;
 7 let them drink and forget their poverty
 and remember their misery no more.

8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
 for the rights of all who are destitute.

9 Speak up and judge fairly;
 defend the rights of the poor and needy."

A WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER -

AN ACROSTIC POEM – EACH LINE STARTS WITH A LETTER OF THE ALPHABET

N 10 [n] A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.

B 11 Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.

L 12 She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.

T 13 She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.

H 14 She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.

I 15 She gets up while it is still dark;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her servant girls.

F 16 She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

S 17 She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.

U 18 She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.

R 19 In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

D 20 She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.

- ל 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- מ 22 She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- נ 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- ו 24 She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- ז 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
- ח 26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- ט 27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- י 28 Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
- יא 29 "Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all."
- יב 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a **woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.**
- יג 31 Give her the reward she has earned,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.