



# PROVERBS

## Chapter 1

- 1 ¶ The <sup>a</sup>proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel, *given*  
 2 to know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding,  
 3 to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice and judgment and equity,  
 4 to give prudence to the <sup>b</sup>simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.  
 5 <sup>c</sup>A wise *man* will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain to wise counsels,  
 6 to understand a proverb and the interpretation, the words of the wise and their <sup>d</sup>riddles.  
 7 <sup>e</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge. Fools despise wisdom and instruction.  
 8 ¶ <sup>f</sup>My son, hear the instruction of your father and do not forsake the law of your mother.  
 9 For they *will be* an ornament of <sup>g</sup>grace to your head and chains around your neck.  
 10 ¶ My son, if sinners entice you, <sup>h</sup>do not consent.  
 11 If they say, “Come with us. Let us <sup>i</sup>lie in wait for blood. Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause.  
 12 “Let us swallow them up alive as the grave, and whole <sup>j</sup>as those who go down into the pit.  
 13 “We will find all precious sub-
- stance. We will fill our houses with spoil.  
 14 “Cast in your lot among us. Let us all have one purse.”  
 15 My son, <sup>k</sup>do not walk in their way. <sup>l</sup>Keep your foot from their path.  
 16 <sup>m</sup>For their feet run to evil and make haste to shed blood.  
 17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.  
 18 And they lay wait for their *own* blood. They lurk secretly for their *own* lives.  
 19 <sup>n</sup>So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain, *who* takes away the life of its owners.  
 20 ¶ <sup>o</sup>Wisdom cries out aloud outside. She utters her voice in the streets.  
 21 She cries out from the chief place of the concourse *and* at the entrance of the gates. In the city she utters her words, *saying*,  
 22 “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For the scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?  
 23 “Turn yourselves at my rebuke. Behold, <sup>p</sup>I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make known my words to you.  
 24 <sup>q</sup>“Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one paid attention,  
 25 “but you have <sup>r</sup>disdained all my counsel and would have none of my rebuke.  
 26 <sup>s</sup>“I also will laugh at your calam-

Chapter 1: a 1 Kg 4:32 b Pv 9:4 c Pv 9:9 d Ps 78:2 e Jb 28:28 f Pv 4:1 g Pv 3:22 h Gn 39:7-10 i Jr 5:26 j Ps 28:1 k Ps 1:1 l Ps 119:101 m Is 59:7 n 1 Tm 6:10 o Jn 7:37 p Jl 2:28 q Jr 7:13 r Lk 7:30 s Ps 2:4

ity. I will mock when your fear comes,

**27** “when your <sup>f</sup>fear comes as desolation and your destruction comes as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you.

**28** “Then <sup>u</sup>they will call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me early, but they will not find me,

**29** “because they <sup>v</sup>hated knowledge and did not <sup>w</sup>choose the fear of the LORD.

**30** <sup>x</sup>“They would not accept my counsel. They despised all my rebuke.

**31** “Therefore, <sup>y</sup>they will eat of the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices.

**32** “For the backsliding of the simple will slay them and the self-assurance of fools will destroy them.

**33** “But whoever hearkens to me will dwell <sup>z</sup>safely and <sup>a</sup>will be secure from fear of evil.”

### Chapter 2

**1** ¶ My son, if you will receive my words and <sup>a</sup>treasure my commandments within you,

**2** so that you incline your ear to wisdom *and* apply your heart to understanding,

**3** yes, if you cry out after knowledge *and* lift up your voice for understanding,

**4** <sup>b</sup>if you seek her as silver and search for her as *for* hidden treasures,

**5** <sup>c</sup>then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

**6** ¶ <sup>d</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom. Out of His mouth *comes* knowledge and understanding.

**7** He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous. <sup>e</sup>*He is* a shield for those who walk uprightly.

**8** He keeps the paths of judgment and <sup>f</sup>preserves the way of His saints.

**9** Then you will understand righteousness and judgment and equity, *yes*, every good path.

**10** When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

**11** discretion will preserve you *and* <sup>g</sup>understanding will keep you,

**12** to deliver you from the way of the evil *man*, from the man who speaks deceitful things,

**13** from those who leave the paths of uprightness in order to <sup>h</sup>walk in the ways of darkness,

**14** <sup>i</sup>who rejoice to do evil *and* delight in the perversity of the wicked,

**15** <sup>j</sup>whose ways *are* crooked, and *who are* devious in their paths;

**16** to deliver you from the <sup>k</sup>immoral woman, *even* <sup>l</sup>from the seductress *who* flatters with her words,

**17** who forsakes the guide of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God.

**18** For <sup>m</sup>her house leads to death and her paths to the dead.

**19** No one who goes to her returns again, nor do they take hold of the paths of life.

**20** ¶ So you will walk in the way of good *men* and keep the paths of the righteous.

t Pv 10:24,25 u Is 1:15 v Jb 21:14 w Ps 119:173 x Ps 81:11 y Jb 4:8 z Pv 3:24-26 a Ps 112:7 Chapter 2: a Pv 4:21 b Pv 3:14 c Js 1:5,6 d 1 Kg 3:9,12 e Ps 84:11 f 1 Sm 2:9 g Pv 4:6; 6:22 h Jn 3:19,20 i Rm 1:32 j Ps 125:5 k Pv 5:20; 6:24; 7:5 l Pv 5:3 m Pv 7:27

21 For the upright will dwell in the <sup>a</sup>land and the perfect will remain in it.

22 But the wicked will be cut off from the earth and the transgressors will be rooted out of it.

### Chapter 3

1 ¶ My son, do not forget my law, but <sup>a</sup>let your heart keep my commandments,

2 for they will add to you length of days and long life and <sup>b</sup>peace.

3 Do not let mercy and truth forsake you. <sup>c</sup>Bind them around your neck. <sup>d</sup>Write them on the table of your heart,

4 <sup>e</sup>so that you will find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 <sup>f</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and <sup>g</sup>do not lean on your own understanding.

6 <sup>h</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

7 Do not be wise in your own <sup>i</sup>eyes. Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

8 It will be health to your body and <sup>j</sup>strength to your bones.

9 <sup>k</sup>Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase,

10 <sup>l</sup>so that your barns will be filled with plenty and your presses will overflow with new wine.

11 ¶ <sup>m</sup>My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be weary of His correction.

12 For whom the LORD loves He

corrects, <sup>n</sup>just as a father *corrects* the son *in whom* he delights.

13 <sup>o</sup>Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom and the man *who* gets understanding.

14 <sup>p</sup>For the profit of her *is* better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold.

15 She *is* more precious than rubies, and <sup>q</sup>all the things you can desire are not to be compared to her.

16 <sup>r</sup>Length of days *is* in her right hand, *and* in her left hand riches and honor.

17 <sup>s</sup>Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.

18 She *is* a <sup>t</sup>tree of life to those who lay hold on her, and happy *is* *everyone* who retains her.

19 <sup>u</sup>The LORD by wisdom has founded the earth, by understanding He has established the heavens.

20 By His knowledge the depths were <sup>v</sup>broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

21 ¶ My son, do not let them depart from your eyes. Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

22 so that they will be life to your soul and adornment to your neck.

23 <sup>w</sup>Then you will walk in your way safely and your foot will not stumble.

24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

25 <sup>x</sup>Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor of the desolation of the wicked when it comes.

26 For the LORD will be your con-

n Ps 37:3 Chapter 3: a Dt 8:1 b Ps 119:165 c Pv 6:21 d 2 Co 3:3 e Rm 14:18 f Ps 37:3,5 g Jr 9:23,24 h 1 Ch 28:9 i Rm 12:16 j Jb 21:24 k Ex 22:29 l Dt 28:8 m Jb 5:17 n Dt 8:5 o Pv 8:32,34,35 p Jb 28:13 q Mt 13:44 r 1 Tm 4:8 s Mt 11:29 t Gn 2:9 u Ps 104:24 v Gn 7:11 w Pv 10:9 x Ps 91:5

fidence and will keep your foot from being taken.

**27** <sup>y</sup>Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it.

**28** <sup>z</sup>Do not say to your neighbor, "Go and come again, and tomorrow I will give," when you have it by you.

**29** Do not devise evil against your neighbor, seeing he dwells securely by you.

**30** <sup>a</sup>Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.

**31** <sup>b</sup>Do not envy the oppressor and do not choose any of his ways.

**32** For the deceitful *person is* an abomination to the LORD, but His <sup>c</sup>secret counsel *is* with the righteous.

**33** <sup>d</sup>The curse of the LORD *is* on the house of the wicked, but <sup>e</sup>He blesses the habitation of the just.

**34** <sup>f</sup>Surely He scorns the scoffers, but He gives grace to the lowly.

**35** The wise will inherit glory, but shame will be the legacy of fools.

### Chapter 4

**1** ¶ Hear, <sup>a</sup>my children, the instruction of a father and give attention to know understanding.

**2** For I give you good teaching. Do not forsake my law.

**3** For I was my father's son, <sup>b</sup>tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.

**4** <sup>c</sup>He taught me also and said to me, "Let your heart retain my words. <sup>d</sup>Keep my commandments and live.

**5** <sup>e</sup>"Get wisdom. Get understanding. Do not forget *it*, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

**6** "Do not forsake her and she will preserve you. <sup>f</sup>Love her and she will keep you.

**7** <sup>g</sup>"Wisdom *is* the principal thing, *therefore* get wisdom. And with all your acquiring, get understanding.

**8** <sup>h</sup>"Exalt her and she will promote you. She will bring you to honor when you embrace her.

**9** "She will give to your head an <sup>i</sup>ornament of grace. She will deliver to you a crown of glory."

**10** ¶ Hear, O my son and receive my sayings, and the <sup>j</sup>years of your life will be many.

**11** I have <sup>k</sup>taught you in the way of wisdom. I have led you in right paths.

**12** When you go, <sup>l</sup>your steps will not be impeded. <sup>m</sup>And when you run, you will not stumble.

**13** Take firm hold of instruction. Do not let *her* go. Keep her, for she *is* your life.

**14** ¶ <sup>n</sup>Do not enter into the path of the wicked, and do not go in the way of evil *men*.

**15** Avoid it. Do not travel on it. Turn from it and pass on.

**16** <sup>o</sup>For they do not sleep unless they have done mischief. And their sleep is taken away until they cause *someone* to fall.

**17** For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

**18** ¶ <sup>p</sup>But the path of the just <sup>q</sup>*is* the light of dawn that shines more and

y Rm 13:7 z Lv 19:13 a Rm 12:18 b Ps 37:1 c Ps 25:14 d Zc 5:3,4 e Ps 1:3 f Js 4:6 Chapter 4: a Ps 34:11 b 1 Ch 29:1 c 1 Ch 28:9 d Pv 7:2 e Pv 2:2,3 f 2 Th 2:10 g Mt 13:44 h 1 Sm 2:30 i Pv 3:22 j Pv 3:2 k 1 Sm 12:23 l Ps 18:36 m Ps 91:11 n Ps 1:1 o Ps 36:4 p Mt 5:14,45 q 2 Sm 23:4

more to the perfect day.

**19** <sup>r</sup>The way of the wicked *is* as darkness. They do not know over what they stumble.

**20** ¶ My son, give attention to my words. Incline your ear to my sayings.

**21** Do not let them depart from your eyes. Keep them in the midst of your heart.

**22** For they *are* life to those who find them and health to all their body.

**23** Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it *flows* the issues of <sup>s</sup>life.

**24** Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and perverse lips put far from you.

**25** Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your eyelids look straight before you.

**26** Ponder the path of your <sup>t</sup>feet, and let all your ways be established.

**27** Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left. Remove your foot from evil.

### Chapter 5

**1** ¶ My son, give attention to my wisdom *and* bow your ear to my understanding

**2** so that you may regard discretion and *that* your lips <sup>a</sup>may keep knowledge.

**3** <sup>b</sup>For the lips of an immoral woman drop *as* a honeycomb, and her mouth *is* <sup>c</sup>smoother than oil.

**4** But her end is bitter as wormwood *and* sharp as a two-edged sword.

**5** Her feet go down to death. <sup>d</sup>Her

steps take hold on Sheol.

**6** Lest you should ponder the path of life, her ways are unstable *and* you do not know *them*.

**7** ¶ Therefore, hear me, O you children and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

**8** Remove your way far from her and do not come near the door of her house,

**9** lest you give your honor to others and your years to the cruel,

**10** lest foreigners be filled with your wealth, and your labors *be* in the house of a stranger,

**11** and you at last mourn when your flesh and your body are consumed,

**12** and say, "How have I hated instruction and my heart despised reproof;

**13** "and I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

**14** "I was almost in total ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."

**15** ¶ Drink waters out of your own cistern and running waters out of your own well.

**16** Let your fountains be dispersed abroad *and* rivers of waters in the streets.

**17** Let them be only your own and not for aliens with you.

**18** Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the <sup>e</sup>wife of your youth.

**19** <sup>f</sup>Let her *be* as the loving deer and pleasant doe. Let her breasts satisfy you at all times, and be ravished always with her love.

**20** And why will you, my son, be

r Is 59:9,10 s Mt 12:34; 15:18,19 t Hb 12:13 Chapter 5: a MI 2:7 b Pv 2:16 c Ps 55:21 d Pv 7:27 e MI 2:14 f Ss 2:9

ravished by an <sup>s</sup>immoral woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

**21** <sup>h</sup>For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his goings.

**22** <sup>i</sup>His own iniquities will take the wicked himself, and he will be held with the cords of his sins.

**23** <sup>j</sup>He will die without instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.

### Chapter 6

**1** ¶ My son, <sup>a</sup>if you become surety for your friend, *if* you have shaken your hand with a stranger,

**2** you are snared with the words of your mouth. You are taken with the words of your mouth.

**3** Now do this, my son, and deliver yourself. Since you have come into the hand of your friend, go *and* humble yourself, and plead with your friend.

**4** <sup>b</sup>Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids.

**5** Deliver yourself as a gazelle from the hand *of the hunter*, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

**6** ¶ <sup>c</sup>Go to the ant, you sluggard. Consider her ways and be wise:

**7** which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

**8** provides her supplies in the summer *and* gathers her food in the harvest.

**9** <sup>d</sup>How long will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep?

**10** *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—

**11** <sup>e</sup>so your poverty will come in like a prowler, and your need as an armed man.

**12** ¶ A worthless *and* wicked man walks with a deceitful mouth.

**13** <sup>f</sup>He winks with his eyes. He speaks with his feet. He teaches with his fingers.

**14** Perversity *is* in his heart. <sup>g</sup>He devises mischief continually. <sup>h</sup>He sows discord.

**15** Therefore, his calamity will come <sup>i</sup>suddenly. He will <sup>j</sup>be broken suddenly <sup>k</sup>without remedy.

**16** ¶ These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

**17** <sup>l</sup>haughty eyes, <sup>m</sup>a lying tongue, and <sup>n</sup>hands that shed innocent blood,

**18** <sup>o</sup>a heart that devises wicked imaginations, <sup>p</sup>feet that are swift in running to mischief,

**19** <sup>q</sup>a false witness *who* speaks lies, and he who <sup>r</sup>sows discord among brothers.

**20** ¶ <sup>s</sup>My son, keep your father's commandment and do not forsake the law of your mother.

**21** <sup>t</sup>Bind them continually on your heart *and* tie them around your neck.

**22** <sup>u</sup>When you go about, they will lead you. When you sleep, <sup>v</sup>they will keep you. And *when* you awake, they will talk with you.

**23** <sup>w</sup>For the commandment *is* a lamp and the law *is* light, and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life,

g Pv 2:16 h Hs 7:2 i Nm 32:23 j Jb 4:21 Chapter 6: a Pv 11:15 b Ps 132:4 c Jb 12:7 d Pv 24:33,34 e Pv 10:4 f Jb 15:12 g Mc 2:1 h Pv 6:19 i Is 30:13 j Jr 19:11 k 2 Ch 36:16 l Ps 101:5 m Ps 120:2 n Is 1:15 o Gn 6:5 p Is 59:7 q Ps 27:12 r Pv 6:14 s Ep 6:1 t Pv 3:3 u Pv 3:23 v Pv 2:11 w Ps 19:8

**24** <sup>x</sup>to keep you from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of the immoral woman.

**25** <sup>y</sup>Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

**26** For <sup>z</sup>by means of a harlot *a man is brought* to a piece of bread, and the <sup>a</sup>immoral woman will <sup>b</sup>hunt for the precious life.

**27** Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

**28** Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

**29** So *is* he who goes into his neighbor's wife. Whoever touches her will not be innocent.

**30** *People* do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his soul when he is hungry.

**31** But *if* he is found, he will <sup>c</sup>repay sevenfold. He will give all the substance of his house.

**32** *But* whoever commits adultery with a woman <sup>d</sup>lacks understanding. He *who* does it destroys his own soul.

**33** Wounds and disgrace he will find, and his reproach will not be wiped away.

**34** For <sup>e</sup>jealousy *is* the rage of a man. Therefore, he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

**35** He will not regard any ransom, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

## Chapter 7

**1** ¶ My son, keep my words and <sup>a</sup>lay up my commandments within you.

**2** <sup>b</sup>Keep my commandments and

live, and <sup>c</sup>my law as the apple of your eye.

**3** <sup>d</sup>Bind them on your fingers. Write them on the table of your heart.

**4** Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," and call understanding *your* nearest kin,

**5** <sup>e</sup>so that they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the stranger *who* flatters with her words.

**6** ¶ For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice

**7** and saw among the youths a young man <sup>f</sup>void of understanding,

**8** passing through the street near her corner. Then he went the way to her house

**9** <sup>g</sup>in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.

**10** And behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of a harlot and a subtle heart.

**11** <sup>h</sup>She was loud and stubborn. <sup>i</sup>Her feet did not stay in her house.

**12** *She is* now in the streets and lies in wait at every corner.

**13** So she caught him and kissed him, *and* with a confident face said to him,

**14** "I have peace offerings with me. This day I have paid my vows.

**15** "So I came forth to meet you, diligently to seek your face. And I have found you.

**16** "I have spread my couch with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine <sup>j</sup>linen from Egypt.

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

**18** "Come, let us take our fill of love

x Pv 2:16 y Mt 5:28 z Pv 29:3 a Gn 39:14 b Ez 13:18 c Ex 22:1-4 d Pv 7:7 e Ss 8:6 Chapter 7: a Pv 2:1 b Lv 18:5 c Dt 32:10 d Dt 6:8 e Pv 2:16; 5:3 f Pv 6:32; 9:4,16 g Jb 24:15 h Pv 9:13 i Ti 2:5 j Is 19:9

until the morning. Let us delight ourselves with love,

**19** “for my husband *is* not at home. He is gone on a long journey.

**20** “He has taken a bag of money with him *and* will come home at an appointed day.”

**21** ¶ With <sup>h</sup>her many persuasions she entices him to yield, <sup>h</sup>with the flattering of her lips she seduces him.

**22** He goes after her immediately, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,

**23** until an arrow strikes through his liver, <sup>m</sup>as a bird hastens to the snare and does not know that it *will cost him* his life.

**24** ¶ Hearken to me now, therefore, O you children, and give attention to the words of my mouth.

**25** Do not let your heart decline to her ways. Do not go astray in her paths.

**26** For she has cast many down wounded. Yes, <sup>n</sup>many strong *men* have been slain by her.

**27** <sup>o</sup>Her house *is* the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

## Chapter 8

**1** ¶ Does not <sup>a</sup>wisdom cry out, and understanding put forth her voice?

**2** She stands on the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

**3** She cries out at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors.

**4** ¶ “To you, O men, I call, and my voice *is* to the sons of man.

**5** “O you simple *people*, understand wisdom, and you fools, be of an understanding heart.

**6** “Hear, for I will speak of <sup>b</sup>excellent things, and the opening of my lips *will reveal* right things.

**7** “For my mouth will speak truth, and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

**8** “All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness, nothing deceitful or perverse *is* in them.

**9** “They *are* all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.

**10** “Receive my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold.

**11** <sup>c</sup>“For wisdom *is* better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

**12** ¶ “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

**13** <sup>d</sup>“The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil. I hate <sup>e</sup>pride and arrogance, the evil way, and the <sup>f</sup>perverse mouth.

**14** “Counsel *is* mine and sound wisdom. I *am* understanding. <sup>g</sup>I have strength.

**15** <sup>h</sup>“By me kings reign and princes decree justice.

**16** “By me princes and nobles rule, *even* all the judges of the earth.

**17** <sup>i</sup>“I love those who love me, and <sup>j</sup>those who seek me diligently will find me.

**18** <sup>k</sup>“Riches and honor *are* with me, *yes*, enduring riches and righteousness.

k Pv 5:3 l Ps 12:2 m Ec 9:12 n Ne 13:26 o Pv 2:18; 5:5; 9:18 Chapter 8: a Pv 1:20,21; 9:3 b Pv 22:20 c Jb 28:15 d Pv 3:7; 16:6 e Pv 16:17,18 f Pv 4:24 g Ec 7:19; 9:16 h Rm 13:1 i Jn 14:21 j Js 1:5

19 “My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue *better* than choice silver.

20 “I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment,

21 “so that I may cause those who love me to inherit substance. And I will fill their treasuries.

22 ¶ “The LORD possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

23 <sup>m</sup>“From everlasting I was established, before there was ever an earth.

24 “When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth, when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

25 <sup>n</sup>“Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth;

26 “while He had not yet made the earth, or the fields, or the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 “When He prepared the heavens, I *was* there; when He put a circle on the face of the depth,

28 “when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep,

29 <sup>o</sup>“when He gave to the sea its limit, that the waters should not pass His command, <sup>p</sup>when He appointed the foundations of the earth,

30 <sup>q</sup>“then I was by Him *as* one brought up *with Him*. And <sup>r</sup>I was daily *His* delight, rejoicing always before Him,

31 “rejoicing in the inhabited world, and <sup>s</sup>my delight *was* with the sons of men.

32 ¶ “Now therefore hearken to me, O you children, for *‘blessed are those who keep my ways.*

33 “Hear instruction and be wise, and do not refuse it.

34 <sup>u</sup>“Blessed *is* the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

35 “For whoever finds me finds life, and will <sup>v</sup>obtain favor from the LORD.

36 “But he who sins against me <sup>w</sup>wrongs his own soul. All those who hate me love death.”

### Chapter 9

1 ¶ Wisdom has <sup>a</sup>built her house. She has hewn out her seven pillars.

2 <sup>b</sup>She has prepared her meat. <sup>c</sup>She has mixed her wine. She has also furnished her table.

3 She has sent forth her maidens. She cries out on the highest places of the city,

4 “Whoever *is* <sup>d</sup>simple, let him turn in here.” *As for* him who wants understanding, she says to him,

5 “Come, <sup>e</sup>eat of my bread and drink of the wine *that* I have mixed.

6 “Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding.

7 ¶ “He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, and he who reproves a wicked *man gets* insults for himself.

8 <sup>f</sup>Do not rebuke a scoffer, lest he hate you. <sup>g</sup>Rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

9 “Give *instruction* to a wise *man* and he will be yet wiser. Teach a just

k Pv 3:16 l Pv 3:19 m Ps 2:6 n Jb 15:7,8 o Gn 1:9,10 p Jb 28:4,6 q Jn 1:1-3,18 r Mt 3:17 s Ps 16:3 t Lk 11:28 u Pv 3:13,18 v Jn 17:3 w Pv 20:2 Chapter 9: a Mt 16:18 b Mt 22:4 c Pv 23:30 d Ps 19:7

*man* and <sup>h</sup>he will increase in learning.

**10** “The <sup>i</sup>fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

**11** <sup>j</sup>”For by me your days will be multiplied, and the years of your life will be increased.

**12** <sup>k</sup>”If you are wise, you will be wise for yourself. But *if* you scorn, you alone will bear *it*.”

**13** ¶ <sup>l</sup>A foolish woman *is* clamorous. *She is* simple and knows nothing.

**14** For she sits at the door of her house on a seat <sup>m</sup>in the high places of the city,

**15** in order to call out to those who pass by on their way,

**16** “Whoever *is* <sup>n</sup>simple, let him turn in here.” And *to* him who wants understanding, she says to him,

**17** “Stolen <sup>o</sup>waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.”

**18** But he does not know that <sup>p</sup>the dead *are* there, and *that* her guests *are* in the depths of Sheol.

### Chapter 10

**1** ¶ The proverbs of <sup>a</sup>Solomon: <sup>b</sup>A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother.

**2** <sup>c</sup>Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, <sup>d</sup>but righteousness delivers from death.

**3** <sup>e</sup>The LORD will not allow the soul of the righteous to famish, but He casts away the substance of the wicked.

**4** <sup>f</sup>Poor is the one who works with a slack hand, but the <sup>g</sup>hand of the diligent makes rich.

**5** He who gathers in <sup>h</sup>summer *is* a wise son, *but* he who sleeps in harvest *is* a <sup>i</sup>son who causes shame.

**6** Blessings *are* on the head of the just, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

**7** <sup>j</sup>The memory of the just *is* blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.

**8** The wise in heart will receive commandments, but a <sup>k</sup>babbling fool will fall.

**9** <sup>l</sup>He who walks uprightly walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be known.

**10** He who winks with the eye causes sorrow, but a babbling fool will fall.

**11** The mouth of a righteous man *is* a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

**12** Hatred stirs up strifes, but <sup>m</sup>love covers all sins.

**13** In the lips of him who has understanding wisdom is found, but a <sup>n</sup>rod *is* for the back of him who is void of understanding.

**14** Wise *men* lay up knowledge, but the <sup>o</sup>mouth of the foolish *is* near destruction.

**15** The <sup>p</sup>rich man’s wealth *is* his strong city, *but* the destruction of the poor *is* their poverty.

**16** The labor of the righteous *leads* to <sup>q</sup>life, *but* the wages of the wicked to sin.

**17** He *is* in the way of life who keeps

e Is 55:1 f Mt 7:6 g Ps 141:5 h Mt 13:12 i Jb 28:28 j Pv 3:2,16 k Jb 35:6,7 l Pv 7:11 m Pv 9:3 n Pv 7:7,8 o Pv 20:17 p Pv 2:18; 7:27 Chapter 10: a Pv 1:1; 25:1 b Pv 15:20; 17:21,25; 19:13; 29:3,15 c Lk 12:19,20 d Dn 4:27 e Ps 34:9,10; 37:25 f Pv 19:15 g Pv 12:24; 13:4; 21:5 h Pv 6:8 i Pv 19:26 j Ec 8:10 k Pv 10:10 l Ps 23:4 m 1 Co 13:4-7 n Pv 26:3 o Pv 18:7 p Jb 31:24 q Pv 6:23

instruction, but he who refuses reproof errs.

**18** He who <sup>1</sup>hides hatred *with* lying lips, and <sup>2</sup>who utters slander, *is* a fool.

**19** <sup>1</sup>In the multitude of words there is no lack of sin, but <sup>2</sup>he who restrains his lips *is* wise.

**20** The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver, *but* the heart of the wicked *is* worth little.

**21** The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom.

**22** <sup>v</sup>The blessing of the LORD makes *one* rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

**23** ¶ <sup>w</sup>*It is* as sport to a fool to do mischief, but a man of understanding has wisdom.

**24** <sup>x</sup>What the wicked fears will come upon him, but the <sup>y</sup>desire of the righteous will be granted.

**25** As the whirlwind passes, so *is* the <sup>z</sup>wicked no *more*, but <sup>a</sup>the righteous *has* an everlasting foundation.

**26** As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to those who send him.

**27** <sup>b</sup>The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the <sup>c</sup>years of the wicked will be shortened.

**28** The hope of the righteous *will be* gladness, but the <sup>d</sup>expectation of the wicked will perish.

**29** The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright, but <sup>e</sup>destruction *will be* to the workers of iniquity.

**30** <sup>f</sup>The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not in-

habit the earth.

**31** <sup>g</sup>The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom, but the deceitful tongue will be cut out.

**32** The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked is perverted.

## Chapter 11

**1** ¶ <sup>h</sup>A <sup>a</sup>false balance *is* an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight *is* His delight.

**2** *When* pride comes then comes <sup>b</sup>shame, but with the humble *is* wisdom.

**3** The integrity of the upright will guide <sup>c</sup>them, but the perverseness of transgressors will destroy them.

**4** <sup>d</sup>Wealth does not profit in the day of wrath, but <sup>e</sup>righteousness delivers from death.

**5** The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way, but the wicked will fall by his own <sup>f</sup>wickedness.

**6** The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but transgressors will be taken in *their own* lusts.

**7** When a wicked man dies *his* expectation will <sup>g</sup>perish, and the hope of unjust *men* perishes.

**8** <sup>h</sup>The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked takes his place.

**9** The godless with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the just will be delivered.

**10** <sup>i</sup>When it goes well with the righteous the city rejoices, and when the

r Pv 26:24 s Ps 15:3; 101:5 t Ec 5:3 u Js 1:19; 3:2 v Gn 24:35; 26:12 w Pv 2:14; 15:21 x Jb 15:21 y Ps 145:19 z Ps 37:9,10 a Ps 15:5 b Pv 9:11 c Jb 15:32 d Jb 8:13 e Ps 1:6 f Ps 37:22 g Ps 37:30 Chapter 11: a Lv 19:35,36 b Pv 16:18; 18:12; 29:23 c Pv 13:6 d Ez 7:19 e Gn 7:1 f Pv 5:22 g Pv 10:28 h Pv 21:18 i Pv 28:12

wicked perish *there is shouting*.

**11** Through the blessing of the upright the city is <sup>j</sup>exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

**12** ¶ He who is void of wisdom derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.

**13** <sup>k</sup>A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who has a faithful spirit <sup>l</sup>conceals the matter.

**14** <sup>m</sup>Where *there is* no counsel the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

**15** He who is <sup>n</sup>surety for another will suffer, and he who hates being surety is secure.

**16** A gracious woman gains respect, *but* ruthless *men* retain *only* riches.

**17** <sup>o</sup>The merciful man does good to his own soul, but *he who is* cruel troubles his own flesh.

**18** The wicked works a deceitful work, but he <sup>p</sup>who sows righteousness *will have* a sure reward.

**19** As righteousness *leads to* <sup>q</sup>life, so he who pursues evil *pursues it to* his own <sup>r</sup>death.

**20** Those who are of a deceitful heart *are* an abomination to the LORD, but *those who are* upright in *their* ways *are* His delight.

**21** <sup>s</sup>Though they join together the wicked will not be unpunished, but the <sup>t</sup>seed of the righteous will be delivered.

**22** As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, *so is* a fair woman who is without discretion.

**23** The desire of the righteous *re-*

*sults* in good, *but* the expectation of the wicked *is* <sup>u</sup>wrath.

**24** ¶ There is the one who <sup>v</sup>distributes and yet increases more, and *there is* the one who withholds unduly, but *it leads* to poverty.

**25** <sup>w</sup>The generous soul will be made fat, and <sup>x</sup>he who waters will be watered also himself.

**26** The people will curse the <sup>y</sup>one who withholds grain, but <sup>z</sup>blessing *will be* on the head of him who sells *it*.

**27** He who diligently seeks good finds favor, but <sup>a</sup>he who seeks mischief, it will come to him.

**28** <sup>b</sup>He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the <sup>c</sup>righteous will flourish as a branch.

**29** He who troubles his own house <sup>d</sup>will inherit the wind, and the fool *will be* a <sup>e</sup>servant to the wise of heart.

**30** The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life, and <sup>f</sup>he who wins souls *is* wise.

**31** <sup>g</sup>If the righteous will be rewarded on the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner.

## Chapter 12

**1** ¶ Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof *is* stupid.

**2** A good *man* obtains favor from the LORD, but He will condemn a man of wicked devices.

**3** A man will not be established by wickedness, but the <sup>h</sup>root of the righteous will not be moved.

**4** <sup>b</sup>A virtuous woman *is* a crown to

j Pv 14:35 k Lv 19:16 l Pv 19:11 m 1 Kg 12:1 n Pv 6:1,2 o Mt 5:7; 25:34-36 p Hs 10:12 q Pv 10:16; 12:28 r Rm 6:23 s Pv 16:5 t Ps 112:2 u Rm 2:8,9 v Ps 112:9 w 2 Co 9:6,7 x Mt 5:7 y Am 8:5,6 z Jb 29:13 a Et 7:10 b Jb 31:24 c Ps 1:3 d Ec 5:16 e Pv 14:19 f Dn 12:3 g Jr 25:29 Chapter 12: a Pv 10:25 b 1 Co 11:7

her husband, but she who makes ashamed *is* <sup>c</sup>as rottenness in his bones.

**5** The thoughts of the righteous *are* right, *but* the counsels of the wicked *are* deceit.

**6** <sup>d</sup>The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, <sup>e</sup>but the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

**7** <sup>f</sup>The wicked are overthrown and *are* not, but the house of the righteous will stand.

**8** A man will be commended according to his wisdom, <sup>g</sup>but he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.

**9** ¶ <sup>h</sup>Better *is the one* who is nobody, but has a servant, than the one who honors himself and lacks bread.

**10** <sup>i</sup>A righteous *man* regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked *are* cruel.

**11** <sup>j</sup>He who tills his land will be satisfied with <sup>k</sup>bread, but he who follows vain *persons is* <sup>l</sup>void of understanding.

**12** The wicked desires the plunder of evil *men*, but the root of the righteous yields *fruit*.

**13** <sup>m</sup>The wicked is snared by the transgression of *his* lips, <sup>n</sup>but the righteous will escape trouble.

**14** <sup>o</sup>A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth, and the <sup>p</sup>recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.

**15** ¶ <sup>q</sup>The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, but he who hearkens to counsel *is* wise.

**16** <sup>r</sup>A fool's wrath is presently known, but a prudent *man* covers shame.

**17** <sup>s</sup>*He who* speaks truth shows forth righteousness, but a false witness deceit.

**18** <sup>t</sup>There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise *is* health.

**19** The lip of truth will be established forever, <sup>u</sup>but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.

**20** Deceit *is* in the heart of those who imagine evil, but to the counselors of peace *is* joy.

**21** <sup>v</sup>No evil will happen to the righteous, but the wicked will be filled with mischief.

**22** <sup>w</sup>Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.

**23** <sup>x</sup>A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

**24** <sup>y</sup>The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be under tribute.

**25** <sup>z</sup>Anxiety in the heart of man makes it depressed, but a <sup>a</sup>good word makes it glad.

**26** The righteous *is* more excellent than his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**27** The slothful *man* does not roast that which he took in hunting, but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.

**28** In the way of righteousness *is* life, and in *its* pathway *there is* no death.

c Pv 14:30 d Pv 1:11,18 e Pv 14:3 f Mt 7:24-27 g 1 Sm 25:17 h Pv 13:7 i Dt 25:4 j Gn 3:19 k Pv 28:19 l Pv 6:32 m Pv 18:7 n 2 Pt 2:9 o Pv 13:2; 15:23; 18:20 p Is 3:10,11 q Lk 18:11 r Pv 11:13; 29:11 s Pv 14:5 t Ps 57:4 u Pv 19:9 v 1 Pt 3:13 w Rv 22:15 x Pv 13:16 y Pv 10:4 z Pv 15:13 a Is 50:4

## Chapter 13

1 ¶ A wise son *hears* his father's instruction, but a <sup>a</sup>scoffer does not hear rebuke.

2 <sup>b</sup>A man will eat well by the fruit of *his* mouth, but the soul of the transgressors *will eat* retribution.

3 <sup>c</sup>He who keeps his mouth keeps his life, *but* he who opens wide his lips will have destruction.

4 <sup>d</sup>The soul of the sluggish desires and *has* nothing, but the soul of the diligent will be made fat.

5 A righteous *man* hates lying, but a wicked *man* is loathsome and comes to shame.

6 <sup>e</sup>Righteousness keeps *the one who is* upright in the way, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

7 <sup>f</sup>There is one who makes himself rich *and yet has* nothing, *and one* who makes himself poor *and yet has* great riches.

8 The ransom of a man's life *are* his riches, but the poor does not hear rebuke.

9 The light of the righteous shines brightly, <sup>g</sup>but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

10 Only by pride comes <sup>h</sup>contention, but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

11 <sup>i</sup>Wealth *obtained* by dishonesty will vanish, but he who gathers by labor will increase.

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but <sup>j</sup>when the desire comes *it is* a tree of life.

13 ¶ Whoever <sup>k</sup>despises instruction

will be destroyed, but he who respects the commandment will be rewarded.

14 <sup>l</sup>The law of the wise *is* a fountain of life, turning *one* from the <sup>m</sup>snares of death.

15 Good understanding wins <sup>n</sup>favor, but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

16 <sup>o</sup>Every prudent *man* acts out of knowledge, but a fool reveals *his* foolishness.

17 A wicked messenger falls into mischief, but a <sup>p</sup>faithful ambassador *is* health.

18 Poverty and shame *will be to* him who refuses instruction, but <sup>q</sup>he who heeds correction will be honored.

19 A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, but *it is* an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, but a companion of fools will be destroyed.

21 <sup>r</sup>Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous good will be repaid.

22 A good *man* leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the <sup>s</sup>wealth of the sinner *is* stored up for the righteous.

23 <sup>t</sup>Much food *is in* the fallow ground of the poor, but injustice takes it away.

24 <sup>u</sup>He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him chastens him promptly.

25 <sup>v</sup>The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the belly of the wicked will be in want.

Chapter 13: a Is 28:14,15 b Pv 12:14 c Pv 21:23 d Pv 10:4 e Pv 11:3,5,6 f Pv 11:24; 12:9 g Pv 24:20 h Pv 10:12 i Pv 10:2; 20:21 j Pv 13:19 k Nm 15:31 l Pv 6:22; 10:11; 14:27 m 2 Sm 22:6 n Pv 3:4 o Pv 12:23 p Pv 25:13 q Pv 15:5,31,32 r Ps 32:10 s Ec 2:26 t Pv 12:11 u Pv 19:18 v Ps 34:10

## Chapter 14

- 1 ¶ Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.
- 2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, <sup>a</sup>but *he who is* perverse in his ways despises him.
- 3 In the mouth of the foolish *is* a rod of pride, <sup>b</sup>but the lips of the wise will preserve them.
- 4 Where there are no oxen the manger is empty, but much increase *comes* by the strength of the oxen.
- 5 A <sup>c</sup>truthful witness will not lie, but a false witness will utter <sup>d</sup>lies.
- 6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not *find it*, but <sup>e</sup>knowledge *is* easy to him who understands.
- 7 Go from the presence of a foolish man when you do not perceive *in him* the lips of <sup>f</sup>knowledge.
- 8 The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way, but the folly of fools *is* deceit.
- 9 <sup>g</sup>Fools mock at making amends for sin, but among the righteous *there is* favor.
- 10 The heart knows his own bitterness, and a stranger does not share with his joy.
- 11 <sup>h</sup>The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish.
- 12 <sup>i</sup>There is a way that seems right to a man, but <sup>j</sup>its end *is* the way of <sup>k</sup>death.
- 13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and <sup>l</sup>the end of joy may be grief.
- 14 The backslider in heart will be <sup>m</sup>repaid with his own ways, and a good man <sup>n</sup>rewarded for his.
- 15 The simple believe every word, but the prudent *man* considers his steps.
- 16 <sup>o</sup>A wise *man* fears and departs from evil, but the fool rages and is self-confident.
- 17 *He who is* quick-tempered deals foolishly, and a man of wicked devices is hated.
- 18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
- 19 The evil bow before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
- 20 ¶ <sup>p</sup>The poor is hated even by his own neighbor, but the rich *has* many <sup>q</sup>friends.
- 21 He who despises his neighbor sins, <sup>r</sup>but happy *is* he who has mercy on the poor.
- 22 Do they not err who devise evil? But mercy and truth *will be* to those who devise good.
- 23 In all labor there is profit, but the talk of the lips *leads* only to poverty.
- 24 The crown of the wise *is* their riches, *but* the foolishness of fools *is* folly.
- 25 A true witness delivers <sup>s</sup>souls, but a deceitful *witness* speaks lies.
- 26 In the fear of the LORD *is* strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge.
- 27 <sup>t</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Chapter 14: a Rm 2:4 b Pv 12:6 c Rv 1:5; 3:14 d Pv 6:19; 12:17 e Pv 8:9; 17:24 f Pv 23:9 g Pv 10:23 h Jb 8:15 i Pv 16:25 j Rm 6:21 k Pv 12:15 l Ec 2:1,2 m Pv 1:31; 12:15 n Pv 13:2; 18:20 o Pv 22:3 p Pv 19:7 q Pv 19:4 r Ps 112:9 s Ez 3:18-21 t Pv 13:14

28 In the multitude of people *is* the king's honor, but in the lack of people *is* the destruction of the prince.

29 <sup>u</sup>*He who is slow to wrath is* of great understanding, but *he who is quick-tempered exalts* folly.

30 A sound heart *is* the life of the body, but <sup>v</sup>envy *is* <sup>w</sup>rotteness of the bones.

31 <sup>x</sup>He who oppresses the poor reproaches <sup>y</sup>his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the poor.

32 The wicked *is* driven away in his wickedness, but <sup>z</sup>the righteous has hope in his death.

33 Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, but <sup>a</sup>*what is* in the midst of fools *is* made known.

34 Righteousness exalts a <sup>b</sup>nation, but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

35 <sup>c</sup>The king's favor *is* toward a wise servant, but his wrath *is* <sup>d</sup>against him who causes shame.

### Chapter 15

1 ¶ <sup>e</sup>A soft answer turns away wrath, but <sup>f</sup>harsh words stir up anger.

2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, <sup>g</sup>but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness.

3 <sup>h</sup>The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

4 A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

5 <sup>i</sup>A fool despises his father's instruction, <sup>j</sup>but he who accepts correction *is* prudent.

6 In the house of the righteous *is* much treasure, but trouble *is* the income of the wicked.

7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the foolish *does* not do so.

8 <sup>k</sup>The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright *is* His delight.

9 The way of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD, but He loves the one who <sup>l</sup>follows after righteousness.

10 <sup>m</sup>Correction *is* grievous to him who forsakes the way, <sup>n</sup>and <sup>o</sup>he who hates reproof will die.

11 <sup>p</sup>Sheol and destruction *are* before the LORD, how much more then the <sup>q</sup>hearts of the children of men?

12 <sup>r</sup>A scoffer does not love the one who reproves him, nor will he go to the wise.

13 <sup>s</sup>A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but <sup>t</sup>by sorrow of the heart the spirit *is* broken.

14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

15 All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, <sup>u</sup>but he who is of a merry heart *has* a continual feast.

16 <sup>v</sup>Better *is* little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble.

17 <sup>w</sup>Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love *is*, than a fattened ox with hatred.

18 <sup>x</sup>A wrathful man stirs up strife,

u Js 1:19 v Ps 112:10 w Pv 12:4 x Mt 25:40 y Pv 22:2 z Jb 13:15 a Pv 12:16 b Pv 11:11 c Mt 24:45-47 Chapter 15: a Pv 25:15 b 1 Sm 25:10 c Pv 12:23 d Jb 34:21 e Pv 10:1 f Pv 13:18 g Is 1:11 h Pv 21:21 i 1 Kg 22:8 j Pv 5:12 k Jb 26:6 l 2 Ch 6:30 m Am 5:10 n Pv 12:25 o Pv 17:22 p Pv 17:22 q Ps 37:16 r Pv 17:1 s Pv 26:21

but *he who is slow to anger* appeases strife.

**19** <sup>1</sup>The way of the slothful *man is* as a hedge of thorns, but the way of the righteous is a highway.

**20** <sup>2</sup>A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

**21** ¶ <sup>3</sup>Folly *is joy to him who* lacks wisdom, <sup>4</sup>but a man of understanding walks uprightly.

**22** <sup>5</sup>Without consultation plans are frustrated, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

**23** A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and how good is a <sup>6</sup>timely word.

**24** <sup>7</sup>The way of life leads upward for the wise, so that he may <sup>8</sup>turn away from Sheol below.

**25** <sup>9</sup>The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but <sup>10</sup>He will establish the boundary of the widow.

**26** <sup>11</sup>The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the LORD, <sup>12</sup>but the words of the pure *are* pleasant.

**27** <sup>13</sup>He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

**28** The heart of the righteous <sup>14</sup>studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

**29** <sup>15</sup>The LORD *is* far from the wicked, but <sup>16</sup>He hears the prayer of the righteous.

**30** The cheerful look rejoices the heart, *and* a good report makes the bones fat.

**31** The ear that hears the reproof of

life abides among the wise.

**32** He who refuses instruction despises his own soul, but he who hears correction receives understanding.

**33** <sup>17</sup>The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom, and <sup>18</sup>before honor *is* humility.

## Chapter 16

**1** ¶ The <sup>19</sup>plans of the heart belong to man, <sup>20</sup>but the reply from the tongue *is* from the LORD.

**2** All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own <sup>21</sup>eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.

**3** <sup>22</sup>Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.

**4** The <sup>23</sup>LORD has made all *things* for Himself, <sup>24</sup>yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.

**5** <sup>25</sup>Everyone *who is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD, *though* they join hand in hand they will not be unpunished.

**6** <sup>26</sup>By mercy and faithfulness sin is purged, and <sup>27</sup>by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.

**7** When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

**8** <sup>28</sup>Better *is* a little with righteousness, than great revenues without justice.

**9** <sup>29</sup>A man's heart plans his way, <sup>30</sup>but the LORD directs his steps.

**10** ¶ A divine sentence *is* on the lips of the king, his mouth should not err in judgment.

t Pv 22:5 u Pv 10:1 v Pv 10:23 w Ep 5:15 x Pv 11:14 y Pv 25:11 z Ph 3:20 a Pv 14:16 b Pv 12:7 c Ps 68:5,6 d Pv 6:16,18 e Ps 37:30 f Is 5:8 g 1 Pt 3:15 h Ps 10:1; 34:16 i Ps 145:18 j Pv 1:7 k Pv 18:12  
**Chapter 16:** a Jr 10:23 b Mt 10:19 c Pv 21:2 d Ps 37:5 e Is 43:7 f Rm 9:22 g Pv 6:17; 8:13 h Dn 4:27 i Pv 8:13; 14:16 j Ps 37:16 k Pv 19:21 l Jr 10:23

- 11** <sup>m</sup>A just weight and balance *are* the Lord's. All the weights of the bag *are* His work.
- 12** *It is* an abomination to kings to commit wickedness, for <sup>n</sup>the throne is established by righteousness.
- 13** <sup>o</sup>Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks right.
- 14** The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death, but a wise man will <sup>p</sup>appease it.
- 15** In the light of the king's countenance *is* life, and his favor *is* like a <sup>q</sup>cloud of the latter rain.
- 16** <sup>r</sup>How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold, and to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
- 17** The highway of the upright *is* to depart from evil, *and* he who keeps his way preserves his soul.
- 18** Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- 19** Better *to be* humble in spirit with the poor, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 20** He who handles a matter wisely will find good, and happy *is* the one who <sup>s</sup>trusts in the LORD.
- 21** The wise in heart will be called prudent, and the sweetness of the lips increases learning.
- 22** Understanding *is* a wellspring of life to him who has it, but the instruction of fools *is* folly.
- 23** The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.
- 24** Pleasant words *are as* a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones.
- 25** ¶ There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end *are* the ways of <sup>t</sup>death.
- 26** He who labors, labors for himself, for his hunger urges <sup>u</sup>him on.
- 27** An ungodly man digs up evil, and *it is* on his lips like a burning <sup>v</sup>fire.
- 28** A perverse man sows strife, and a <sup>w</sup>gossip separates best friends.
- 29** A violent man entices his neighbor, and he leads him into the way *that is* not good.
- 30** He winks his eyes to devise deceitful things, *and* he purses his lips to bring about evil.
- 31** <sup>x</sup>The gray head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it is attained by the way of righteousness.
- 32** <sup>y</sup>He who is slow to anger *is* better than the mighty, and he who controls his spirit than he who takes a city.
- 33** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

### Chapter 17

- 1** ¶ Better *is* a <sup>a</sup>dry morsel and quietness with it, than a house full of sacrifices *with* strife.
- 2** A wise servant will have rule over <sup>b</sup>a son who causes shame, and will share the inheritance among the brothers.
- 3** The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, <sup>c</sup>but the LORD tests the hearts.
- 4** An evildoer gives heed to false lips, *and* a liar gives ear to a worthless tongue.
- 5** <sup>d</sup>Whoever mocks the poor re-

m Lv 19:36 n Pv 25:5 o Pv 14:35 p Pv 25:15 q Zc 10:1 r Pv 8:10,11,19 s Ps 34:8 t Pv 14:12 u Ec 6:7 v Js 3:6 w Pv 17:9 x Pv 20:29 y Pv 14:29; 19:11 Chapter 17: a Pv 15:17 b Pv 10:5 c Jr 17:10 d Pv 14:31

proaches his Maker, *and* <sup>e</sup>he who gloats over calamity will not be unpunished.

**6** <sup>f</sup>Children's children *are* the crown of old men, and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

**7** Excellent speech does not become a fool, much less do lying lips a prince.

**8** A bribe *is as* a precious stone in the eyes of him who has it. It prospers wherever it turns.

**9** <sup>g</sup>He who covers a transgression seeks love, but <sup>h</sup>he who repeats a matter separates friends.

**10** <sup>i</sup>A rebuke enters more into a wise man than a hundred stripes on a fool.

**11** An evil *man* seeks only rebellion, therefore a merciless messenger will be sent against him.

**12** Let a man meet a <sup>j</sup>bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.

**13** ¶ <sup>k</sup>Whoever <sup>l</sup>rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.

**14** The beginning of strife *is as* when one lets out water, therefore <sup>m</sup>leave the quarrel before it breaks out.

**15** <sup>n</sup>He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, even both *are* an abomination to the LORD.

**16** Why *is there* a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, since *he has* no heart *for it*?

**17** <sup>o</sup>A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

**18** <sup>p</sup>A man void of understanding shakes hands, *and* becomes surety in the presence of his friend.

**19** He loves transgression who loves

strife, *and* <sup>q</sup>he who builds a high gate seeks destruction.

**20** He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a <sup>r</sup>perverse tongue falls into mischief.

**21** He who begets a fool *does it* to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.

**22** A <sup>s</sup>merry heart does good *like* a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

**23** A wicked *man* takes a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.

**24** <sup>t</sup>Wisdom *is* before him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool *wander* to the ends of the earth.

**25** A <sup>u</sup>foolish son *is* a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.

**26** Also, to punish the righteous *is* not good, *nor* to strike princes for *their* uprightness.

**27** <sup>v</sup>He who has knowledge spares his words, *and* a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

**28** <sup>w</sup>Even a fool when he holds his peace is counted wise. He who shuts his lips *is considered* a man of understanding.

## Chapter 18

**1** ¶ <sup>x</sup>A man who isolates himself seeks *his own* desire; he argues against all sound wisdom.

**2** A fool has no delight in understanding, but only in expressing his <sup>y</sup>own mind.

**3** When the wicked comes, so also

e Jb 31:29 f Ps 127:3; 128:3 g Pv 10:12 h Pv 16:28 i Mc 7:9 j Hs 13:8 k Ps 109:4,5 l Pv 20:3 m Ex 23:7 n Rt 1:16 o Pv 6:1 p Pv 16:18 q Js 3:8 r Pv 12:25; 15:13,15 s Ec 2:14 t Pv 10:1; 15:20; 19:13 u Js 1:19 v Jb 13:5 **Chapter 18:** a Ec 10:3

comes contempt, and with shame comes disgrace.

**4** <sup>b</sup>The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the <sup>c</sup>wellspring of wisdom *as* a flowing brook.

**5** *It is* not good to show partiality to the wicked, *or* to overthrow the righteous in <sup>d</sup>judgment.

**6** A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for a beating.

**7** <sup>e</sup>A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his <sup>f</sup>soul.

**8** <sup>g</sup>The words of a gossip *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

**9** He also who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great waster.

**10** The name of the LORD *is* a strong <sup>h</sup>tower; the righteous runs to it and is safe.

**11** The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city, and as a high wall in his own esteem.

**12** <sup>i</sup>Before destruction the heart of man is arrogant, and before honor *is* humility.

**13** He who answers a matter before he listens, *it is* his folly and shame.

**14** The spirit of a man will sustain his sickness, but who can bear a wounded spirit?

**15** The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

**16** <sup>j</sup>A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

**17** The first to plead his case *seems*

right, *until* another comes and examines him.

**18** The casting of <sup>k</sup>lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart.

**19** An offended brother *is harder to be won* than a strong city, and *their* contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.

**20** <sup>l</sup>A man's belly will be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth, *and* he will be filled with the increase of his lips.

**21** <sup>m</sup>Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

**22** <sup>n</sup>*Whoever* finds a wife finds a good *thing*, and obtains favor from the LORD.

**23** The poor pleads for mercy, but the rich answers <sup>o</sup>roughly.

**24** A man *who has* friends must show himself friendly, <sup>p</sup>but there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

## Chapter 19

**1** ¶ <sup>q</sup>Better *is* the <sup>a</sup>poor man who walks in his integrity, than *he who is* perverse in his lips and is a fool.

**2** Also, *it is* not good *that* the soul *be* without knowledge, and he who hastens with *his* feet sins.

**3** The foolishness of man perverts his way, and his heart rages against the LORD.

**4** <sup>b</sup>Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his neighbor.

**5** A <sup>c</sup>false witness will not be unpun-

**b** Pv 10:11 **c** Js 3:17 **d** Pv 17:15 **e** Pv 10:14 **f** Ec 10:12 **g** Pv 12:18 **h** 2 Sm 22:2,3,33 **i** Pv 15:33; 16:18 **j** Gn 32:20,21 **k** Pv 16:33 **l** Pv 12:14; 14:14 **m** Mt 12:37 **n** Pv 12:4; 19:14 **o** Js 2:3,6 **p** Pv 17:17 **Chapter 19: a** Pv 28:6 **b** Pv 14:20 **c** Ex 23:1

ished, and *he who* speaks lies will not escape.

**6** Many will ask for the favor of the prince, and every man *is* a friend to him who gives gifts.

**7** <sup>a</sup>All the brothers of the poor hate him, how much more do his friends go <sup>e</sup>far from him? He pursues *them* with words, *yet* they abandon *him*.

**8** He who acquires wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding <sup>f</sup>will find good.

**9** A false witness will not be unpunished, and *he who* speaks lies will perish.

**10** Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less <sup>g</sup>for a servant to have rule over princes.

**11** <sup>h</sup>The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and *it is* <sup>i</sup>his glory to overlook a transgression.

**12** <sup>j</sup>The king's wrath *is* as the roaring of a lion, but his favor *is* <sup>k</sup>as dew on the grass.

**13** <sup>l</sup>A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father, and <sup>m</sup>the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.

**14** <sup>n</sup>House and riches *are* inherited from the fathers, and a <sup>o</sup>prudent wife *is* from the LORD.

**15** <sup>p</sup>Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle soul will <sup>q</sup>suffer hunger.

**16** <sup>r</sup>He who keeps the commandment keeps his own soul, *but* he who despises his ways will die.

**17** <sup>s</sup>He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and that which he has given He will pay him again.

**18** ¶ <sup>t</sup>Chasten your son while there

is hope, and do not be a willing party to his destruction.

**19** A man of great wrath will suffer punishment, for if you rescue *him* you must do it again.

**20** Hear counsel and receive instruction, so that you may be wise <sup>u</sup>in your latter days.

**21** *There are* many plans in a man's heart, but <sup>v</sup>it is the Lord's will that will prevail.

**22** The desire of a man *is the measure of* his kindness, and a poor man *is* better than a liar.

**23** <sup>w</sup>The fear of the LORD *leads to* life, and *he who has it* will abide in contentment. He will not be visited with evil.

**24** <sup>x</sup>A slothful *man* hides his hand in *his* bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

**25** Smite a scoffer and the simple <sup>y</sup>will beware. <sup>z</sup>Rebuke one who has understanding *and* he will understand knowledge.

**26** He who mistreats *his* father *and* chases away *his* mother, *is* <sup>aa</sup>a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

**27** Cease listening, my son, to instruction *and you will* stray from the words of knowledge.

**28** An ungodly witness mocks judgment, and the <sup>ab</sup>mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

**29** Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and <sup>ac</sup>stripes for the back of fools.

## Chapter 20

**1** ¶ <sup>ad</sup>Wine *is* a mocker *and* strong

d Pv 14:20 e Ps 38:11 f Pv 16:20 g Pv 30:21,22 h Js 1:19 i Ep 4:32 j Pv 16:14 k Hs 14:5 l Pv 10:1 m Pv 21:9,19 n 2 Co 12:14 o Pv 18:22 p Pv 6:9 q Pv 10:4 r Lk 10:28; 11:28 s 2 Co 9:6-8 t Pv 13:24 u Ps 37:37 v Hb 6:17 w 1 Tm 4:8 x Pv 15:19 y Dt 13:11 z Pv 9:8 a Pv 17:2 b Jb 15:16 c Pv 26:3 Chapter 20: a Gn 9:21

drink a brawler, and whoever is deceived by it is not wise.

**2** The fear of a king *is* as the roaring of a lion. *Whoever* provokes him to anger sins *against* his own soul.

**3** <sup>b</sup>*It is* an honor for a man to cease from strife, but any fool can start an argument.

**4** <sup>c</sup>The sluggard will not plow because of the cold, *therefore* <sup>d</sup>he will beg in harvest and *have* nothing.

**5** Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

**6** Most men will proclaim their own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?

**7** <sup>e</sup>The just *man* walks in his integrity <sup>f</sup>His children *are* blessed after him.

**8** A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes.

**9** <sup>g</sup>Who can say, “I have made my heart clean. I am pure from my sin”?

**10** <sup>h</sup>Differing weights *and* differing measures, both of them alike *are* an abomination to the LORD.

**11** Even a child is <sup>i</sup>known by his actions, whether his conduct is pure and right.

**12** <sup>j</sup>The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made both of them.

**13** <sup>k</sup>Do not love sleep lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes *and* you will be satisfied with bread.

**14** “*It is* no good. *It is* no good,” says the buyer. But when he is gone

his way, then he boasts.

**15** <sup>l</sup>¶ There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the <sup>m</sup>lips of knowledge *are* a precious jewel.

**16** <sup>n</sup>Take the garment of one who is surety *for* a stranger, and hold him in pledge if he does it for a wayward woman.

**17** <sup>o</sup>Bread of deceit *is* sweet to a man, but afterwards his mouth will be filled with gravel.

**18** <sup>p</sup>Every purpose is established by counsel, and with <sup>q</sup>good advice make war.

**19** <sup>r</sup>He who goes about *as* a gossip reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with him <sup>s</sup>who flatters with his lips.

**20** <sup>t</sup>Whoever curses his father or his mother, <sup>u</sup>his lamp will be put out in obscure darkness.

**21** <sup>v</sup>An inheritance *may be* received hastily at the beginning, but its end <sup>w</sup>will not be blessed.

**22** <sup>x</sup>Do not say, “I will take revenge,” *but* <sup>y</sup>wait on the LORD and He will save you.

**23** Diverse weights *are* an abomination to the LORD, and a false balance *is* not good.

**24** A man’s steps *are* of the LORD. How then can a man understand his own way?

**25** *It is* a snare to the man *who* devours *what is* holy, then afterward vows to make inquiry.

**26** <sup>z</sup>A wise king scatters the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them.

b Pv 17:14 c Pv 10:4 d Pv 19:15 e 2 Co 1:12 f Ps 37:26 g 1 Kg 8:46 h Dt 25:13 i Mt 7:16 j Ex 4:11 k Rm 12:11 l Pv 3:13-15 m Pv 22:26 n Pv 9:17 o Pv 24:6 p Lk 14:31 q Pv 11:13 r Rm 16:18 s Mt 15:4 t Jb 18:5,6 u Pv 28:20 v Hk 2:6 w Rm 12:17-19 x 2 Sm 16:12 y Ps 101:8

**27** <sup>z</sup>The spirit of man *is* the candle of the LORD, searching all the depths of the heart.

**28** <sup>a</sup>Mercy and truth preserve the king, and his throne is made secure by mercy.

**29** The glory of young men *is* their strength, and the <sup>b</sup>beauty of old men *is* the grey head.

**30** Blows and wounds cleanse away evil, so *do* stripes the depths of the heart.

### Chapter 21

**1** ¶ The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD *as* the rivers of water. He turns it wherever He desires.

**2** <sup>a</sup>Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, <sup>b</sup>but the LORD weighs the hearts.

**3** <sup>c</sup>To do what is right and just *is* more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

**4** <sup>d</sup>Arrogant eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, *is* sin.

**5** <sup>e</sup>The thoughts of the diligent *lead* only to plenty, but everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.

**6** <sup>f</sup>The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue *is* a fantasy tossed to and fro by those who seek death.

**7** The robbery of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice.

**8** The way of the guilty is devious, but *as* for the pure, his work *is* right.

**9** *It is* better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a <sup>g</sup>contentious woman in a wide house.

**10** <sup>h</sup>The soul of the wicked desires

evil. His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

**11** When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise. And when the <sup>i</sup>wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

**12** The righteous *man* wisely considers the house of the wicked, *but God* overthrows the wicked for *their* wickedness.

**13** <sup>j</sup>Whoever stops his ears at the outcry of the poor, he also will cry out himself, but will not be heard.

**14** A gift *given* in secret pacifies anger, and a bribe *given* in concealment, great wrath.

**15** *It is* joy to the just to do justly, but destruction *will come* to the workers of iniquity.

**16** The man who wanders out of the way of understanding will remain in the assembly of the <sup>k</sup>dead.

**17** He who loves pleasure *will be* a poor man. He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

**18** The wicked *will be* a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

**19** *It is* better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.

**20** <sup>l</sup>*There is* treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.

**21** <sup>m</sup>He who follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor.

**22** A <sup>n</sup>wise *man* scales the city of the mighty, and casts down the stronghold in which they trust.

**z** 1 Co 2:11 **a** Pv 21:21 **b** Pv 16:31 **Chapter 21:** **a** Pv 16:2 **b** Pv 24:12 **c** 1 Sm 15:22 **d** Pv 6:17 **e** Pv 10:4 **f** 2 Pt 2:3 **g** Pv 19:13 **h** Js 4:5 **i** Pv 19:25 **j** Mt 7:2; 18:30-34 **k** Ps 49:14 **l** Ps 112:3 **m** Mt 5:6 **n** Pv 24:5

23 °Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

24 A proud *and* arrogant man: “Scoffer” *is* his name, who acts in arrogant wrath.

25 The °desire of the slothful kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

26 He covets greedily all the day long, but the righteous °gives and does not spare.

27 °The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination, how much more *when* he brings it with a wicked mind?

28 A false witness will perish, but the man who listens *to the truth* will speak forever.

29 A wicked man hardens his face, but *as for* the upright, he makes his way sure.

30 °*There is* no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

31 The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle, but °victory *is* from the LORD.

## Chapter 22

1 ¶ A °good name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favor rather than silver and gold.

2 The °rich and poor meet together. The °LORD *is* the maker of them all.

3 A prudent *man* foresees the evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are °punished.

4 By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honor and life.

5 Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way

of the deceitful. He who keeps his soul will be far from them.

6 °Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

7 The °rich rules over the poor, and the borrower *is* a servant to the lender.

8 He who sows iniquity will reap °trouble, and the rod of his anger will fail.

9 °He who has a generous eye will be °blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.

10 °Cast out the scoffer and contention will leave, yes, strife and reproach will cease.

11 °He who loves purity of heart *and* whose speech is with grace, the king *will be* his friend.

12 The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and He overthrows the words of the transgressor.

13 °The slothful *man* says, “*There is* a lion outside. I will be slain in the streets.”

14 °The mouth of an adulterous woman *is* a deep pit. °He who is abhorred of the LORD will fall in it.

15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child, *but* the °rod of correction will drive it far from him.

16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his *riches*, *and* he who gives to the rich, *will surely come* to poverty.

17 ¶ Bow down your ear and hear the words of the wise. Apply your heart to my knowledge,

o Js 3:2 p Pv 13:4 q Pv 22:9 r Jr 6:20 s Jr 9:23,24 t Ps 3:8 Chapter 22: a Ec 7:1 b Pv 29:13 c Jb 31:15 d Pv 27:12 e Ep 6:4 f Js 2:6 g Jb 4:8 h 2 Co 9:6 i Pv 19:17 j Ps 101:5 k Ps 101:6 l Pv 26:13 m Pv 2:16; 5:3; 7:5 n Ec 7:26 o Pv 13:24; 23:13,14 p Lk 1:3,4 q 1 Pt 3:15 r Ex 23:6 s 1 Sm 24:12 t Pv 29:22

18 for *it is* a pleasant thing if you keep them within you, so that they may be ready on your lips,

19 that your trust may be in the LORD. I have instructed you this day, even you.

20 Have I not written to you excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

21 <sup>p</sup>so that I might make you know the certainty of the words of truth, <sup>q</sup>that you might answer the words of truth to those who send to you?

22 ¶ Do not rob the poor because he *is* <sup>r</sup>poor, nor oppress the afflicted in the gate.

23 <sup>s</sup>For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those who spoiled them.

24 Make no friend of an angry man, and with a <sup>t</sup>furious man you will not go,

25 lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

26 <sup>u</sup>Do not be *one* of those who strike hands, *or* with those who are sureties for debts.

27 If you have nothing to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

28 <sup>v</sup>Do not remove the ancient landmark that your fathers have set.

29 Do you see a man diligent in his business? He will stand before kings. He will not stand before obscure *men*.

### Chapter 23

1 ¶ When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what *is* before you.

2 And put a knife to your throat if you *are* a man given to appetite.

3 Do not crave his delicacies, for they *are* deceitful food.

4 <sup>a</sup>Do not labor to be rich. <sup>b</sup>Cease because of your own wisdom.

5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings. They fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

6 Do not eat the food of a <sup>c</sup>stingy man, nor desire his delicacies.

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. "Eat and drink," <sup>d</sup>he says to you, but his heart *is* not with you.

8 The morsel *that* you have eaten you will vomit up, and lose your sweet words.

9 <sup>e</sup>Do not speak in the ears of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

10 Do not remove the old landmark, and do not enter into the fields of the fatherless,

11 <sup>f</sup>for their Redeemer *is* mighty. He will plead their cause with you.

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

13 <sup>g</sup>Do not withhold correction from the child, for *if* you beat him with a rod he will not die.

14 You will beat him with a rod, and will deliver his soul from Sheol.

15 ¶ My son, if your heart *is* wise, my heart will rejoice, even I myself.

16 Yes, my inner being will rejoice when your lips speak right things.

17 <sup>h</sup>Do not let your heart envy sinners, but <sup>i</sup>*be* in the fear of the LORD

throughout the day,

**18** <sup>j</sup>for surely there is an end, and your expectation will not be cut off.

**19** Hear, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way.

**20** <sup>k</sup>Do not associate with heavy drinkers of wine, *or* with gluttonous eaters of meat.

**21** For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

**22** <sup>l</sup>Hearken to your father who begat you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

**23** <sup>m</sup>Buy the truth and do not sell it, *also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.

**24** <sup>n</sup>The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise *child* will have joy in him.

**25** Your father and your mother will be glad, and she who bore you will rejoice.

**26** My son, give me your heart and let your eyes observe my ways.

**27** <sup>o</sup>For a whore *is* a deep ditch, and an adulterous woman *is* a narrow pit.

**28** <sup>p</sup>She also lies in wait as *for* a prey, and increases the transgressors among men.

**29** ¶ <sup>q</sup>Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has babbling? Who has wounds without cause? Who has <sup>r</sup>redness of eyes?

**30** <sup>s</sup>Those who linger long at the wine *and* those who go to seek <sup>t</sup>mixed wine.

**31** Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup,

when it swirls around smoothly.

**32** At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.

**33** Your eyes will behold strange things and your heart will utter perverse things.

**34** Yes, you will be as he who lies down in the midst of the sea, or as he who lies on the top of a mast.

**35** <sup>u</sup>“They have stricken me,” *you will say*, “yet I am not hurt. They have beaten me, *and* I did not feel it. When <sup>v</sup>I awake I will seek it yet again.”

### Chapter 24

**1** ¶ Do not be <sup>a</sup>envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them,

**2** for their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

**3** Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;

**4** and by knowledge the chambers will be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

**5** <sup>b</sup>A wise man *is* strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength.

**6** <sup>c</sup>For by wise counsel you will make your war, and in a multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

**7** <sup>d</sup>Wisdom *is* too high for a fool. He does not open his mouth in the gate.

**8** He who <sup>e</sup>plots to do evil will be called a mischievous person.

**9** The thought of foolishness *is* sin, and the scoffer *is* an abomination to men.

**10** *If* you <sup>f</sup>falter in the day of adversity, your strength *is* small.

j Ps 37:37 k Is 5:22 l Pv 1:8 m Mt 13:44 n Pv 10:1 o Pv 22:14 p Pv 7:12 q Is 5:11,22 r Gn 49:12 s Ep 5:18 t Ps 75:8 u Jr 5:3 v Ep 4:19 **Chapter 24:** a Ps 1:1; 37:1 b Pv 21:22 c Lk 14:31 d Ps 10:5 e Rm 1:30 f Hb 12:3

**11** <sup>g</sup>Rescue *those who are* drawn to death, and *those who are* ready to be slain.

**12** If you say, “Behold, we did not know it,” does not <sup>h</sup>He who weighs the heart consider *it*? And He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*? And will He *not* render to *every* man <sup>i</sup>according to his works?

**13** My son, <sup>j</sup>eat honey because *it is* good, and the honeycomb *that is* sweet to your taste.

**14** <sup>k</sup>So *will* the knowledge of wisdom *be* to your soul. When you have found *it*, then there will be a reward and your hope will not be cut off.

**15** Do not lie in wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous. Do not spoil his resting place,

**16** <sup>l</sup>for a just *man* falls seven times and rises up again, <sup>m</sup>but the wicked will fall into mischief.

**17** <sup>n</sup>Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles,

**18** lest the LORD see and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.

**19** <sup>o</sup>Do not fret yourself because of evil *men*, nor be envious of the wicked,

**20** for there will be no reward for the evil *man*. The candle of the wicked will be put out.

**21** My son, <sup>p</sup>fear the LORD and the king, *and* do not meddle with those who are given to rebellion,

**22** for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin of them both?

**23** ¶ <sup>q</sup>These *things* also *belong* to the wise. <sup>r</sup>*It is* not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

**24** <sup>s</sup>He who says to the wicked, “You *are* righteous,” him will the people curse. Nations will abhor him.

**25** But *for* those who rebuke *him* it <sup>t</sup>will go well and a good blessing will come on them.

**26** *Every man* will kiss the lips of *him* who gives a right answer.

**27** <sup>u</sup>Prepare your outside work and make it fit for yourself in the field, and afterwards build your house.

**28** <sup>v</sup>Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, and *do not* deceive with your lips.

**29** <sup>w</sup>Do not say, “I will do so to him as he has done to me. I will render to the man according to his work.”

**30** ¶ I went by the field of the slothful and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding,

**31** and behold, it was <sup>x</sup>all grown over with thorns *and* nettles had covered its surface, and its stone wall was broken down.

**32** Then I saw *and* considered *it* well. I looked on *it and* received instruction.

**33** <sup>y</sup>A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep;

**34** <sup>z</sup>so will your poverty come *as* a prowler, and your need as an armed man.

## Chapter 25

**1** ¶ <sup>a</sup>These *are* also proverbs of Solomon that the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.

g Ps 82:4 h Pv 21:2 i Ps 62:12 j Ss 5:1 k Ps 19:10; 58:11 l Mc 7:8 m Et 7:10 n Ob 12 o Ps 37:1 p 1 Pt 2:17 q Lv 19:15 r Is 5:23 s Pv 28:23 t Pv 27:23-27 u Ep 4:25 v Pv 20:22 w Gn 3:18 x Pv 6:9,10 y Pv 6:9-11 Chapter 25: a 1 Kg 4:32

- 2 <sup>b</sup>*It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of kings *is* to search out a matter.
- 3 The heaven for height and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings *is* unsearchable.
- 4 <sup>c</sup>Take away the dross from the silver, and there will come forth material for the silversmith.
- 5 Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne will be established in <sup>d</sup>righteousness.
- 6 Do not put forth yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great *men*;
- 7 <sup>e</sup>for *it is* better that it be said to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince whom your eyes have seen.
- 8 <sup>f</sup>Do not go forth hastily to argue your case lest *you not know* what to do in the end when your neighbor has put you to shame.
- 9 <sup>g</sup>Debate your case with your neighbor *alone*, and do not disclose a secret to another,
- 10 lest he who hears *it* put you to shame and your reputation be ruined.
- 11 ¶ A word aptly <sup>h</sup>spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.
- 12 As an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise reprove to a listening ear.
- 13 <sup>i</sup>As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters.
- 14 <sup>j</sup>Whoever boasts himself of a false gift *is like* <sup>k</sup>clouds and wind without rain.
- 15 ¶ <sup>l</sup>By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.
- 16 Have you found honey? Eat as much as is sufficient for you, lest you be filled with it and vomit it.
- 17 Withdraw your foot from your neighbor's house, lest he be weary of you and *so* hate you.
- 18 <sup>m</sup>A man who bears false witness against his neighbor *is like* a club and a sword and a sharp arrow.
- 19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in a time of trouble *is like* a broken tooth and a foot out of joint.
- 20 As he who takes away a garment in cold weather, *and as* vinegar on soda, *so is* he who <sup>n</sup>sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 21 <sup>o</sup>If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat. And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
- 22 for you will heap coals of fire on his head and <sup>p</sup>the LORD will reward you.
- 23 As the north wind brings forth rain, *so does* a <sup>q</sup>backbiting tongue *bring* an angry countenance.
- 24 <sup>r</sup>*It is* better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide house.
- 25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, *so is* <sup>s</sup>good news from a far country.
- 26 A righteous man falling down before the wicked *is as* a muddled spring and a polluted well.
- 27 *It is* not good to eat much honey, *so for men* <sup>t</sup>to seek their own glory *is not* glory.

b Dt 29:29 c 2 Tm 2:21 d Pv 16:12; 20:8 e Lk 14:7-11 f Mt 5:25 g Mt 18:15 h Pv 15:23 i Pv 13:17 j Pv 20:6 k Jd 12 l Pv 15:1 m Ps 57:4 n Dn 6:18 o Rm 12:20 p 2 Sm 16:12 q Ps 101:5 r Pv 19:13 s Pv 15:30 t Pv 27:2

**28** <sup>a</sup>He who *has* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down *and* without walls.

### Chapter 26

**1** ¶ As snow in summer, and as <sup>a</sup>rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.

**2** As a sparrow in *its* flitting, as a swallow in *its* flying, so <sup>b</sup>a curse without cause does not alight.

**3** <sup>c</sup>A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back.

**4** Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.

**5** <sup>d</sup>Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

**6** He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet *and* drinks damage.

**7** The legs of the lame are not equal, *so is* a proverb in the mouth of fools.

**8** As he who binds a stone in a sling, *so is* he who gives honor to a fool.

**9** As a thorn goes up into the hand of a drunkard, *so is* a proverb in the mouth of fools.

**10** The great *God* who formed all *things*, both rewards the fool and rewards transgressors.

**11** <sup>e</sup>As a dog returns to his vomit, <sup>f</sup>*so* a fool returns to his folly.

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

**13** ¶ The slothful *man* says, "*There is* a lion in the way. A lion *is* in the streets."

**14** As the door turns on its hinges,

*so does* the slothful on his bed.

**15** The <sup>h</sup>slothful buries his hand in *his* dish. It grieves him to bring it again to his mouth.

**16** The sluggard *is* wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer discreetly.

**17** ¶ He who passes by *and* meddles in an argument not *belonging* to him, *is like* one who takes a dog by the ears.

**18** As a mad *man* who casts fire-brands, arrows and death,

**19** *so is* the man *who* deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking."

**20** Where there *is* no wood, the fire goes out. So where *there is* no talebearer the strife ceases.

**21** <sup>i</sup>As charcoal *is* to burning coals and wood to fire, *so is* a contentious man to kindle strife.

**22** The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

**23** Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a potsherd covered with silver dross.

**24** He who hates, disguises *it* with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself.

**25** <sup>k</sup>When he speaks fair, do not believe him, for *there are* seven abominations in his heart.

**26** *His* hatred is covered by deceit. His wickedness will be revealed before the *whole* assembly.

**27** <sup>l</sup>Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone, it will return on him.

**28** A lying tongue hates *those who are* afflicted by it, and a flattering mouth works <sup>m</sup>ruin.

### Chapter 27

**1** ¶ <sup>a</sup>Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

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

**3** A stone *is* heavy and the sand weighty, but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both.

**4** Wrath *is* cruel and anger *is* outrageous, but <sup>c</sup>who *is* able to stand before envy?

**5** <sup>d</sup>Open rebuke *is* better than secret love.

**6** Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy *are* <sup>e</sup>deceitful.

**7** The satisfied soul loathes a honeycomb, but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

**8** As a bird that wanders from her nest, so *is* a man who wanders from his place.

**9** Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart, so a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.

**10** Do not forsake your own friend and your father's friend, nor go into your brother's house in the day of your calamity, *for* <sup>f</sup>better *is* a neighbor *who is* near than a brother far away.

**11** My son, be wise and make my heart glad, <sup>g</sup>so that I may answer him who reproaches me.

**12** A prudent *man* foresees the evil *and* hides himself, *but* the simple pass on *and* are <sup>h</sup>punished.

**13** Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge from him for a wayward woman.

**14** He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be counted *as* a curse to him.

**15** A <sup>i</sup>continual dropping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

**16** Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand.

**17** Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

**18** <sup>j</sup>Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit, so he who waits on his master will be honored.

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

**20** <sup>k</sup>Sheol and destruction are never full, so <sup>l</sup>the eyes of man are never satisfied.

**21** <sup>m</sup>As the refining pot for silver and the furnace for gold, so each *is* tested by the praise given to him.

**22** <sup>n</sup>Though you crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, *yet* his foolishness will not depart from him.

**23** ¶ Be diligent to know the state of your <sup>o</sup>flocks, *and* look well to your herds.

**24** For riches *are* not forever, nor does the crown *endure* to every generation.

m Pv 29:5 Chapter 27: a Js 4:13-16 b Pv 25:27 c 1 Jn 3:12 d Pv 28:23 e Mt 26:49 f Pv 17:17; 18:24 g Pv 10:1; 23:15-26 h Pv 22:3 i Pv 19:13 j 1 Co 3:8; 9:7-13 k Hk 2:5 l Ec 1:8; 4:8 m Pv 17:3 n Jr 5:3 o Pv 24:27

**25** <sup>p</sup>When the hay is removed, and the new growth shows itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered,  
**26** the lambs *are* for your clothing and the goats *are* the price of the field.  
**27** And *you will have* enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and *for* sustenance for your maidservants.

### Chapter 28

**1** ¶ The <sup>a</sup>wicked man flees when no man pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.  
**2** By the transgression of a land there are many princes, but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state will be prolonged.  
**3** <sup>b</sup>A ruler who oppresses the poor *is like* a driving rain that leaves no food.  
**4** <sup>c</sup>Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, <sup>d</sup>but such as keep the law contend with them.  
**5** <sup>e</sup>Evil men do not understand judgment, but <sup>f</sup>those who seek the LORD understand all *things*.  
**6** Better *is* the poor who walks in his uprightness, than *he who is* perverse in his ways, though he *is* rich.  
**7** Whoever keeps the law *is* a wise son, but he who is a companion of riotous *men* shames his father.  
**8** He who by usury and unjust gain increases his wealth, will gather it for him who will pity the poor.  
**9** He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, <sup>g</sup>even his prayer *will be* an abomination.  
**10** <sup>h</sup>Whoever causes the righteous

to go astray in an evil way, he will fall himself into his own pit. <sup>i</sup>But the upright will have good *things* in possession.

**11** The rich man *is* wise in his own eyes, but the poor who has understanding sees through him.

**12** When righteous *men* rejoice, *there is* great <sup>j</sup>glory. But when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

**13** <sup>k</sup>He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

**14** Happy *is* the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into mischief.

**15** <sup>l</sup>As a roaring lion and a raging bear, *so is* a <sup>m</sup>wicked ruler over the poor people.

**16** The prince who lacks understanding *is* also a great <sup>n</sup>oppressor, *but* he who hates covetousness will prolong *his* days.

**17** <sup>o</sup>A man who does violence to the blood of *any* person will flee to the pit. Let no man support him.

**18** Whoever walks uprightly will be saved, but *he who is* perverse in his ways will fall at once.

**19** <sup>p</sup>He who tills his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows after useless *persons* will have poverty in plenty.

**20** A faithful man will abound with blessings, <sup>q</sup>but he who makes haste to be rich will not be innocent.

**21** <sup>r</sup>To have respect of persons *is* not good, <sup>s</sup>because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

p Ps 104:14 Chapter 28: a Ps 53:5 b Mt 18:28 c Ps 49:18 d 1 Kg 18:18 e Ps 92:6 f Jn 17:17 g Pv 15:8 h Pv 26:27 i Mt 6:33 j Pv 11:10; 29:2 k Ps 32:3-5 l 1 Pt 5:8 m Mt 2:16 n Ec 10:16 o Gn 9:6 p Pv 12:11; 20:13 q 1 Tm 6:9 r Pv 18:5 s Ez 13:19

22 He who hastens to be rich *has* an evil eye, and does not consider that 'poverty will come on him.

23 <sup>u</sup>He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor than he who flatters with the tongue.

24 Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, "*It is* no transgression," the same *is* the <sup>v</sup>companion of a destroyer.

25 <sup>w</sup>He who has a proud heart stirs up strife, <sup>x</sup>but he who puts his trust in the LORD will be made fat.

26 He who <sup>y</sup>trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

27 <sup>z</sup>He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

28 When the wicked rise <sup>a</sup>men hide themselves, but when they perish the righteous increase.

### Chapter 29

1 ¶ <sup>a</sup>He who is often rebuked, *and* hardens *his* neck, will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

2 The <sup>b</sup>people rejoice when the righteous are in authority. But the <sup>c</sup>people mourn when the wicked have control.

3 Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but he who keeps company with harlots spends *his* substance.

4 The king by judgment establishes the land, but he who receives bribes overthrows it.

5 A man who <sup>d</sup>flatters his neighbor

spreads a net for his feet.

6 In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare, but the righteous sings and rejoices.

7 The righteous <sup>e</sup>considers the cause of the poor, *but* the wicked have no such concern.

8 Scornful men <sup>f</sup>bring a city into a snare, but wise *men* turn away wrath.

9 *If* a wise man contends with a foolish man, the <sup>g</sup>fool only rages or laughs, *and there is* no peace.

10 <sup>h</sup>The bloodthirsty detest the blameless, but the just seek his soul.

11 A fool speaks all his <sup>i</sup>mind, but a wise *man* keeps it in until later.

12 If a ruler hearkens to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together, *and* <sup>j</sup>the LORD enlightens the eyes of both.

14 The king who <sup>k</sup>faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

15 The rod and reproof give <sup>l</sup>wisdom, but a child left *to himself* brings his mother to shame.

16 When the wicked are multiplied transgression increases, but the righteous will see their <sup>m</sup>fall.

17 Correct your son and he will give you rest, yes, he will give delight to your soul.

18 <sup>n</sup>Where *there is* no vision the people perish, but <sup>o</sup>happy *is* he who keeps the law.

19 A servant will not be corrected by words, for though he understands he will not answer.

t Pv 21:5 u Pv 27:5,6 v Pv 18:9 w Pv 13:10 x 1 Tm 6:6 y Pv 3:5 z Dt 15:7 a Jb 24:4 Chapter 29: a 2 Ch 36:16 b Pv 28:12 c Et 4:3 d Pv 26:28 e Jb 29:16 f Pv 11:11 g Mt 11:17 h 1 Jn 3:12 i Pv 14:33 j Mt 5:45 k Is 11:4 l Pv 22:15 m Ps 37:34 n 1 Sm 3:1 o Jn 13:17

**20** Do you see a man *who is* hasty in his words? <sup>p</sup>*There is* more hope for a fool than for him.

**21** He who pampers his servant from youth will in the end find him to be a son.

**22** <sup>q</sup>An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.

**23** <sup>r</sup>A man's pride will bring him low, but honor will uphold the humble in spirit.

**24** Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own soul; <sup>s</sup>he puts himself under oath and does not testify.

**25** <sup>t</sup>The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever puts his trust in the LORD will be safe.

**26** <sup>u</sup>Many seek the ruler's favor, but *every* man's judgment *comes* from the LORD.

**27** An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just, and *he who is* upright in the way *is* an abomination to the wicked.

### Chapter 30

**1** ¶ The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle. This man spoke to Ithiel, even to Ithiel and Ucal:

**2** <sup>a</sup>Surely I *am* more ignorant than *any* man, and have not the understanding of a man.

**3** I neither learned wisdom, nor have the <sup>b</sup>knowledge of the holy.

**4** <sup>c</sup>Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended? <sup>d</sup>Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has estab-

lished all the ends of the earth? What *is* His name and what *is* His Son's name, if you can tell?

**5** <sup>e</sup>Every word of God *is* pure. <sup>f</sup>He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

**6** <sup>g</sup>Do not add to his words, lest He rebuke you and you are found a liar.

**7** Two *things* I have required from You (do not deny me *of them* before I die):

**8** Remove far from me falsehood and lies. Give me neither poverty nor riches. <sup>h</sup>Feed me with food allotted for me,

**9** <sup>i</sup>lest I be full and deny *You* and say, "Who *is* the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God *in vain*.

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

**11** *There is* a generation *that* curses their <sup>j</sup>father and does not bless their mother.

**12** *There is* a generation <sup>k</sup>*that is* pure in their own eyes, and *yet*, is not washed from their filthiness.

**13** *There is* a generation—O how <sup>l</sup>lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.

**14** <sup>m</sup>*There is* a generation whose teeth *are as* swords and their jaw teeth *as* knives, <sup>n</sup>to devour the poor from off the earth and the needy from *among* men.

**15** The leech has two daughters, *crying*, "Give! Give!" There are three things that will not be satisfied, four

p Pv 26:12 q Pv 26:21 r Is 66:2 s Lv 5:1 t Gn 12:12; 20:2 u Ps 20:9 **Chapter 30:** a Ps 73:22 b Pv 9:10 c Jn 3:13 d Jb 38:4 e Ps 12:6; 19:8; 119:140 f Ps 18:30; 84:11; 115:9-11 g Dt 4:2; 12:32 h Mt 6:11 i Dt 8:12-14 j Ex 21:17 k Lk 18:11 l Pv 6:17 m Jb 29:17 n Am 8:4

that will not say, "Enough":

**16** <sup>o</sup>The grave, and the barren womb, the earth *that* is not filled with water, and the fire *that* does not say, "It is enough."

**17** <sup>p</sup>The eye *that* mocks at *his* father and scorns obedience to *his* mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.

**18** ¶ There are three *things that* are too wonderful for me, yes, four that I do not know:

**19** the way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a maiden.

**20** ¶ Such *is* the way of an adulterous woman. She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wickedness."

**21** For three *things* the earth trembles, and for four *that* it cannot bear:

**22** <sup>q</sup>for a servant when he reigns, and a fool when he is filled with food,

**23** for a hateful *woman* when she is married, and a handmaid who is heir to her mistress.

**24** ¶ There be four *things that are* little on the earth, but they *are* exceedingly wise:

**25** <sup>r</sup>the ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer.

**26** <sup>s</sup>The rock badgers *are but* feeble creatures, yet they make their houses in the rocks.

**27** The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by ranks.

**28** The spider takes hold with her

hands and is in kings' palaces.

**29** ¶ There are three *things* that go well, yes, four are stately in their walk:

**30** a lion *that is* strongest among beasts and does not turn away for any,

**31** a greyhound, a male goat also, and a king with his army around him.

**32** ¶ If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, <sup>t</sup>lay your hand on your mouth.

**33** Surely the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the twisting of the nose brings forth blood, so the stirring up of wrath brings forth strife.

### Chapter 31

**1** ¶ The words of King Lemuel, the oracle that his mother taught him:

**2** O my son? O the son of my womb? O the <sup>u</sup>son of my vows?

**3** <sup>v</sup>Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways <sup>w</sup>to that which destroys kings.

**4** <sup>x</sup>*It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink,

**5** <sup>y</sup>lest they drink and forget the law and pervert the judgment of any of the oppressed.

**6** <sup>z</sup>Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish, and wine to those who are of heavy hearts.

**7** Let him drink and forget his poverty and remember his misery no more.

**8** ¶ <sup>aa</sup>Open your mouth for the mute in the cause of all who are left desolate.

**9** Open your mouth, <sup>h</sup>judge righteously and <sup>i</sup>plead the cause of the poor and needy.

**10** ¶ <sup>j</sup>Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price *is* far above rubies.

**11** The heart of her husband safely trusts in her, so that he will have no lack of gain.

**12** She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

**13** She seeks wool and flax, and works willingly with her hands.

**14** She is like the merchants' ships. She brings her food from afar.

**15** <sup>k</sup>She rises also while it is still night and <sup>l</sup>gives food to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

**16** She considers a field and buys it. With the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

**17** She girds her loins with strength and strengthens her arms.

**18** She perceives that her merchandise *is* good. Her candle does not go out at night.

**19** She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

**20** <sup>m</sup>She stretches out her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.

**21** She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.

**22** She makes herself coverings of tapestry, her clothing *is* silk and purple.

**23** <sup>n</sup>Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.

**24** She makes fine linen and sells *it*, and delivers sashes to the merchants.

**25** Strength and honor *are* her clothing, and she will rejoice in time to come.

**26** She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

**27** She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

**28** Her children arise up and call her blessed. Her husband praises her.

**29** Many women have done well, but you surpass them all.

**30** Charm *is* deceptive and beauty *is* fleeting. A woman *who* fears the LORD will be praised.

**31** Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.