

Lords words/Prophecy in red man's words pink

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

1:2 for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; **1:3** for receiving instruction in prudent behaviour, doing what is right and just and fair; **1:4** for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—**1:5** let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— **1:6** for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.**1:7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Warning Against the Invitation of Sinful Men:

1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. **1:9** They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. **1:10** My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them. **1:11** If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul; **1:12** let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; **1:13** we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; **1:14** cast lots with us; we will all share the loot"—**1:15** my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; **1:16** for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. **1:17** How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! **1:18** These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves **1:19** Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain. it takes away the life of those who get it. **1:20** Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; **1:21** on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech: **1:22** "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?**1:23** Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings. **1:24** But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, **1:25** since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, **1:26** I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—**1:27** when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you'. **1:28** "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me,**1:29** since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord. **1:30** Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, **1:31** they will eat the fruit of their way sand be filled with the fruit of their schemes.**1:32** For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; **1:33** but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

Moral Benefits of Wisdom

2:2 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, **2:2** turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— **2:3** indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, **2:4** and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, **2:5** then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. **2:6** For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. **2:7** He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, **2:8** for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. **2:9** Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. **2:10** For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. **2:11** Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. **2:12** Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, **2:13** who have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways, **2:14** who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, **2:15** whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. **2:16** Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words, **2:17** who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.**2:18** Surely her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. **2:19** None who go to her return or attain the paths of life. **2:20** Thus you will walk in the ways of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. **2:21** For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; **2:22** but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, **3:2** for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. **3:3** Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. **3:4** Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man. **3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **3:6** in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**3:7** Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. **3:8** This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. **3:9** Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; **3:10** then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. **3:11** My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, **3:12** because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. **3:13** Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, **3:14** for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. **3:15** She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can

Proverbs

378

compare with her. **3:16** Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. **3:17** Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. **3:18** She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed. **3:19** By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; **3:20** by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew. **3:21** My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; **3:22** they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. **3:23** Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. **3:24** When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. **3:25** Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, **3:26** for the Lord will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared. **3:27** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. **3:28** Do not say to your neighbour, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you. **3:29** Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you. **3:30** Do not accuse anyone for no reason—when they have done you no harm. **3:31** Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways. **33:32** For the Lord detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence. **3:33** The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. **3:34** He mocks proud mockers but shows favour to the humble and oppressed. **3:35** The wise inherit honour, but fools get only shame.

Proverbs 4

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. **4:2** I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. **4:3** For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother **4:4** Then he taught me, and he said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live. **4:5** Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. **4:6** Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. **4:7** The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. **4:8** Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you. **4:9** She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown." **4:10** Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. **4:11** I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. **4:12** When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. **4:13** Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. **4:14** Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. **4:15** Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. **4:16** For they cannot rest until they do evil; they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble.

4:17 They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. **4:18** The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. **4:19** But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. **4:20** My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. **4:21** Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; **4:22** for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. **4:23** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. **4:24** Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. **4:25** Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. **4:26** Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. **4:27** Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

Proverbs 5

Warning Against Adultery

5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, **5:2** that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. **5:3** For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; **5:4** but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. **5:5** Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. **5:6** She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it. **5:7** Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. **5:8** Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, **5:9** lest you lose your honour to others and your dignity to one who is cruel, **5:10** lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another. **5:11** At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. **5:12** You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! **5:13** I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. **5:14** And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God's people." **5:15** Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. **5:16** Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? **5:17** Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. **5:18** May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. **5:19** A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. **5:20** Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman? **5:21** For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths. **5:22** The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. **5:23** For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

Proverbs 6

Warnings Against Folly

6:6 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbour, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, **6:2** you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth. **6:3** So do this,

Proverbs

379

my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbour's hands: Go—to the point of exhaustion and give your neighbour no rest! **6:4** Allow no sleep to your eyes, no slumber to your eyelids. **6:5** Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler. **6:6** Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! **6:7** It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, **6:8** yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. **6:9** How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? **6:10** A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest **6:11** and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man. **6:12** A troublemaker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth, **6:13** who winks maliciously with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers, **6:14** who plots evil with deceit in his heart—he always stirs up conflict. **6:15** Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed without remedy. **6:16** There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: **6:17** haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, **6:18** a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, **6:19** a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Warning Against Adultery

6:20 My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. **6:21** Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. **6:22** When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. **6:23** For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life. **6:24** keeping you from your neighbour's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward **6:25** Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes. **6:26** For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife preys on your very life. **6:27** Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? **6:28** Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? **6:29** So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. **6:30** People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. **6:31** Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. **6:32** But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. **6:33** Blows and disgrace are his lot and his shame will never be wiped away. **6:34** For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. **6:35** He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse a bribe, however great it is.

Proverbs 7

Warning Against the Adulterous Woman

7:1 My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. **7:2** Keep my commands and you will live;

guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. **7:3** Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. **7:4** Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and to insight, "You are my relative." **7:5** They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words. **7:6** At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. **7:7** I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. **7:8** He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house **7:9** at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. **7:10** Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. **7:11** (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; **7:12** now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) **7:13** She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: **7:14** "Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home. **7:15** So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! **7:16** I have covered my bed with coloured linens from Egypt. **7:17** I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. **7:18** Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love! **7:19** My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. **7:20** He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon." **7:21** With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. **7:22** All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose **7:23** till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life. **7:24** Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. **7:25** Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. **7:26** Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. **7:27** Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 8

(Wisdom is t word of God...She must be read and meditated on to gain her understanding See Pr 2:6)

8:1 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? **8:2** At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; **8:3** beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: **8:4** "To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. **8:5** You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it. **8:6** Listen, for I have trust-worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. **8:7** My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. **8:8** All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. **8:9** To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge. **8:10** Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, **8:11** for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. **8:12** "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. **8:13** To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance,

Proverbs

380

evil behaviour and perverse speech. **8:14** Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. **8:15** By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; **8:16** by me princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth. **8:17** I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. **8:18** With me are riches and honour, enduring wealth and prosperity. **8:19** My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. **8:20** I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, **8:21** bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full. **8:22** “The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; **8:23** I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. **8:24** When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; **8:25** before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, **8:26** before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. **8:27** I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, **8:28** when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, **8:29** when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. **8:30** Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, **8:31** rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. **8:32** “Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. **8:33** Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. **8:34** Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. **8:35** For those who find me find life and receive favour from the Lord. **8:36** But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 9

Invitations of Wisdom and Folly

9:1 Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars. **9:2** She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. **9:3** She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, **9:4** “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, **9:5** “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. **9:6** Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.” **9:7** Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse. **9:8** Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you. **9:9** Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. **9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **9:11** For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. **9:12** If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. **9:13** Folly is an unruly woman; she is

simple and knows nothing. **9:14** She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, **9:15** calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way, **9:16** “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, **9:17** “Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!” **9:18** But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

Proverbs 10

The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother. **10:2** Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death. **10:3** The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. **10:4** Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth. **10:5** He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. **10:6** Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked. **10:7** The name of the righteous is used in blessings, but the name of the wicked will rot. **10:8** The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin. **10:9** Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out. **10:10** Who ever winks maliciously causes grief, and a chattering fool comes to ruin. **10:11** The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. **10:12** Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. **10:13** Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of one who has no sense. **10:14** The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. **10:15** The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor. **10:16** The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death. **10:17** Who ever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but who ever ignores correction leads others astray. **10:18** Who ever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool. **10:19** Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues. **10:20** The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. **10:21** The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of sense. **10:22** The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it. **10:23** A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes, but a person of understanding delights in wisdom. **10:24** What the wicked dread will overtake them; what the righteous desire will be granted. **10:25** When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever. **10:26** As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so are sluggards to those who send them. **10:27** The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. **10:28** The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing. **10:29** The way of the Lord is a refuge for the blameless, but it is the ruin of those who do evil. **10:30** The righteous will

Proverbs

381

never be uprooted, but the wicked will not remain in the land. **10:31** From the mouth of the righteous comes the fruit of wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be silenced. **10:32** The lips of the righteous know what finds favour, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.

Proverbs 11

11:1 The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favour with him. **11:2** When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. **11:3** The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. **11:4** Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. **11:5** The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. **11:6** The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires. **11:7** Hopes placed in mortals die with them; all the promise of their power comes to nothing. **11:8** The righteous person is rescued from trouble, and it falls on the wicked instead. **11:9** With their mouths the godless destroy their Neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape. **11:10** When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. **11:11** Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed. **11:12** Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. **11:13** A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. **11:14** For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers. **11:15** Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to shake hands in pledge is safe. **11:16** A kind-hearted woman gains honour, but ruthless men gain only wealth. **11:17** Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves. **11:18** A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. **11:19** Truly the righteous attain life, but whoever pursues evil finds death. **11:20** The Lord detests those whose hearts are perverse, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless. **11:21** Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free. **11:22** Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion. **11:23** The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath. **11:24** One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. **11:25** A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. **11:26** People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell. **11:27** Whoever seeks good finds favour, but evil comes to one who searches for it. **11:28** Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. **11:11:** Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.

11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives. **11:31** If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

Proverbs 12

12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid. **12:2** Good people obtain favour from the Lord, but he condemns those who devise wicked schemes. **12:3** No one can be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted. **12:4** A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones. **12:5** The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful. **12:6** The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them. **12:7** The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous stands firm. **12:8** A person is praised according to their prudence, and one with a warped mind is despised. **12:9** Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food. **12:10** The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. **12:11** Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense. **12:12** The wicked desire the stronghold of evildoers, but the root of the righteous endures. **12:13** Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk, and so the innocent escape trouble. **12:14** From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward. **12:15** The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. **12:16** Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult. **12:17** An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies. **12:18** The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. **12:19** Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. **12:20** Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy. **12:21** No harm overtakes the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble. **12:22** The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy. **12:23** The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves, but a fool's heart blurts out folly. **12:24** Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labour. **12:25** Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up. **12:26** The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. **12:26** The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt. **12:27** In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.

Proverbs 13

13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not respond to rebukes. **13:2** From the fruit of their lips people enjoy good things, but the unfaithful have an appetite for violence. **13:3** Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. **13:4** A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent

are fully satisfied. **13:5** The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked make themselves a stench and bring shame on themselves. **13:6** Righteousness guards the person of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. **13:7** One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. **13:8** A person's riches may ransom their life, but the poor cannot respond to threatening rebukes. **13:9** The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out. **13:10** Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. **13:11** Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow. **13:12** Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. **13:13** Whoever scorns instruction will pay for it, but who- ever respects a command is rewarded. **13:14** The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death. **13:15** Good judgment wins favour, but the way of the unfaithful leads to their destruction. **13:16** All who are prudent act with knowledge, but fools expose their folly. **13:17** A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing. **13:18** Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honoured. **13:19** A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil. **13:20** Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. **13:21** Trouble pursues the sinner, but the righteous are rewarded with good things. **13:22** A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. **13:23** An unploughed field produces food for the poor, but injustice sweeps it away. **13:24** Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them. **13:25** The righteous eat to their hearts' content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry.

Proverbs 14

14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down. **14:2** Who ever fears the Lord walks uprightly, but those who despise him are devious in their ways. **14:3** A fool's mouth lashes out with pride, but the lips of the wise protect them. **14:4** Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests. **14:5** An honest witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies. **14:6** The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning. **14:7** Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips. **14:8** The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. **14:9** Fools mock at making amends for sin, but good- will is found among the upright. **14:10** Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy. **14:11** The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish. **14:12** There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to

death. **14:13** Even in laughter the heart may ache, and rejoicing may end in grief. **14:14** The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good rewarded for theirs. **14:15** The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps. **14:16** The wise fear the Lord and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure. **14:17** A quick-tempered person does foolish things, and the one who devises evil schemes is hated. **14:18** The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. **14:19** Evildoers will bow down in the presence of the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. **14:20** The poor are shunned even by their Neighbors, but the rich have many friends. **14:21** It is a sin to despise one's neighbour, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy. **14:22** Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness. **14:23** All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. **14:24** The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly. **14:25** A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful. **14:26** Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge. **14:27** The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death. **14:28** A large population is a king's glory, but with- out subjects a prince is ruined. **14:29** Who- ever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly. **14:30** A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. **14:31** Who ever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God. **14:32** When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous seek refuge in God. **14:33** Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known. **14:34** Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. **14:35** A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant arouses his fury.

Proverbs 15

15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. **15:2** The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. **15:3** The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. **15:4** The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. **15:5** A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence. **15:6** The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings ruin. **15:7** The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the hearts of fools are not upright. **15:8** The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. **15:9** The Lord detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness. **15:10** Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die. **15:11** Death and Destruction lie open before the Lord—how much more do human hearts. **15:12** Mockers resent correction, so they avoid the

wise. **15:13** A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. **15:14** The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. **15:15** All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast. **15:16** Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil. **15:17** Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred. **15:18** A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel. **15:19** The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway. **15:20** A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother. **15:21** Folly brings joy to one who has no sense, but whoever has understanding keeps a straight course. **15:22** Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. **15:23** A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word! **15:24** The path of life leads upward for the prudent to keep them from going down to the realm of the dead. **15:25** The Lord tears down the house of the proud, but he sets the widow's boundary stones in place. **15:26** The Lord detests the thoughts of the wicked, but gracious words are pure in his sight. **15:27** The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live. **15:28** The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. **15:29** The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. **15:30** Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. **15:31** Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. **15:32** Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. **15:33** Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honour.

Proverbs 16

16:1 The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. **16:2** All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the spirits. **16:3** Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established. **16:4** The Lord has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom. **16:5** Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished. **16:6** In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil. **16:7** When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. **16:8** Better is a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice. **16:9** A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps. **16:10** Divination is on the lips of the king; His mouth must not transgress in judgment. **16:11** Honest weights and scales are the Lord's; All the weights in the bag are His work. **16:12** It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness. **16:13** Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And they love him who

speaks what is right. **16:14** As messengers of death is the king's wrath, But a wise man will appease it. **16:15** In the light of the king's face is life, And his favour is like a cloud of the latter rain. **16:16** How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. **16:17** The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who keeps his way preserves his soul. **16:18** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. **16:19** Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud. **16:20** He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he. **16:21** The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning. **16:22** Understanding is a well-spring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly. **16:23** The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips. **16:24** Pleasant words are like a honey-comb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones. **16:25** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. **16:26** The person who labours, labours for himself, For his hungry mouth drives him on. **16:27** An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire. **16:28** A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends. **16:29** A violent man entices his neighbor, And leads him in a way that is not good. **16:30** He winks his eye to devise perverse things; He purses his lips and brings about evil. **16:31** The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness. **16:32** He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. **16:33** The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.

Proverbs 17

The Lord Tests Hearts

17:1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife. **17:2** A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, And will share an inheritance among the brothers. **17:3** The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests the hearts. **17:4** An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue. **17:5** He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished. **17:6** Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father. **17:7** Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, Much less lying lips to a prince. **17:8** A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; Wherever he turns, he prospers. **17:9** He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends. **17:10** Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool. **17:11** An evil man seeks only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him. **17:12** Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly. **17:13** Whoever rewards evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house. **17:14** The beginning of strife is like releasing water;

Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

17:15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord. **17:16** Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, Since he has no heart for it? **17:17** A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity. **17:18** A man devoid of [c]understanding shakes hands in a pledge, And becomes surety for his friend. **17:19** He who loves transgression loves strife, And he who exalts his gate seeks destruction. **17:20** He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil. **17:21** He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy. **17:22** A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones. **17:23** A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice. **17:24** Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. **17:25** A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him. **17:26** Also, to punish the righteous is not good, Nor to strike princes for their uprightness. **17:27** He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. **17:28** Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

Proverbs 18

The Name of the Lord Is a Strong Tower **18:1** A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. **18:2** A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart. **18:3** When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; And with dishonour comes reproach. **18:4** The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. **18:5** It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment. **18:6** A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows. **18:7** A fool's mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul. **18:8** The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body. **18:9** He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. **18:10** The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe. **18:11** The rich man's wealth is his strong city, And like a high wall in his own esteem. **18:12** Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honour is humility. **18:13** He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him. **18:14** The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit? **18:15** The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. **18:16** A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men. **18:17** The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbour comes and examines him. **18:18** Casting lots causes contentions to cease, And keeps the mighty apart. **18:19** A brother offended is harder to win than a strong

city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

18:20 A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. **18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favour from the Lord. **18:23** The poor man uses entreaties, But the rich answers roughly. **18:24** A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 19

The Fear of the Lord Leads to Life

19:1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

19:2 Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with his feet.

19:3 The foolishness of a man twists his way, And his heart frets against the Lord. **19:4** Wealth makes many friends, But the poor is separated from his friend.

19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape. **19:6** Many entreat the favour of the nobility, And every man is a friend to one who gives gifts. **19:7** All the brothers of the poor hate him; How much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.

19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good. **19:9** A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish.

19:10 Luxury is not fitting for a fool, Much less for a servant to rule over princes. **19:11** The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

19:12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, But his favour is like dew on the grass. **19:13** A foolish son is the ruin of his father, And the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.

19:14 Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the Lord. **19:15** Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.

19:16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, But he who is careless of his ways will die. **19:17** He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.

19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction. **19:19** A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days. **19:21** There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand.

19:22 What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar. **19:23** The fear of the Lord leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.

19:24 A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again. **19:25** Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; Rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.

19:26 He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach. **19:27** Cease listening to instruction, my son, And you

will stray from the words of knowledge. **19:28** A disreputable witness scorns justice, And the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity. **19:29** Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools.

Proverbs 20

Wine Is a Mocker

20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise. **20:2** The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life. **20:3** It is honourable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel. **20:4** The lazy man will not plough because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing. **20:5** Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out. **20:6** Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man? **20:7** The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him. **20:8** A king who sits on the throne of judgment Scatters all evil with his eyes. **20:9** Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin”? **20:10** Diverse weights and diverse measures, They are both alike, an abomination to the Lord. **20:11** Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does is pure and right. **20:12** The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The Lord has made them both. **20:13** Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread. **20:14** “It is good for nothing,” cries the buyer; But when he has gone his way, then he boasts. **20:15** There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. **20:16** Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, And hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress. **20:17** Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel. **20:18** Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war. **20:19** He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips. **20:20** Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness. **20:21** An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end. **20:22** Do not say, “I will recompense evil”; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you. **20:23** Diverse weights are an abomination to the Lord, And dishonest scales are not good. **20:24** A man’s steps are of the Lord; How then can a man understand his own way? **20:25** It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows. **20:26** A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them. **20:27** The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart. **20:28** Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by loving kindness he upholds his throne. **20:29** The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendour of old men is their gray head. **20:30** Blows that hurt clean away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart

The Lord Considers the Heart

21:1 The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. **21:2** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts. **21:3** To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. **21:4** A haughty look, a proud heart, And the ploughing of the wicked are sin. **21:5** The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty. **21:6** Getting treasures by a lying tongue Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death. **21:7** The violence of the wicked will destroy them, Because they refuse to do justice. **21:8** The way of a guilty man is perverse; But as for the pure, his work is right. **21:9** Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman. **21:10** The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor finds no favour in his eyes. **21:11** When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. **21:12** The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, Overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness. **21:13** Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard. **21:14** A gift in secret pacifies anger, And a bribe behind the back, strong wrath. **21:15** It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity. **21:16** A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead. **21:17** He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich. **21:18** The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, And the unfaithful for the upright. **21:19** Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman. **21:20** There is desirable treasure, And oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man squanders it. **21:21** He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness, and honour. **21:22** A wise man scales the city of the mighty, And brings down the trusted stronghold. **21:23** Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles. **21:24** A proud and haughty man —“Scoffer” is his name; He acts with arrogant pride. **21:25** The desire of the lazy man kills him, For his hands refuse to labour. **21:26** He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare. **21:27** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; How much more when he brings it with wicked intent! **21:28** A false witness shall perish, But the man who hears him will speak endlessly. **21:29** A wicked man hardens his face, But as for the upright, he establishes his way. **21:30** There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the Lord. **21:31** The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the Lord.

Proverbs 22

The Value of a Good Name

22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favour rather than silver and gold.

22:2 The rich and the poor have this in common, The Lord is the maker of them all. **22:3** A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished. **22:4** By humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches and honour and life. **22:5** Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them. **22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. **22:7** The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender. **22:8** He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail. **22:9** He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor. **22:10** Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease. **22:11** He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend. **22:12** The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, But He overthrows the words of the faithless. **22:13** The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!" **22:14** The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the Lord will fall there. **22:15** Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. **22:16** He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty. Sayings of the Wise **22:17** Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge; **22:18** For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, **22:19** So that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you. **22:20** Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, **22:21** That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you? **22:22** Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; **22:23** For the Lord will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them. **22:24** Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, **22:25** Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul. **22:26** Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is surety for debts; **22:27** If you have nothing with which to pay, Why should he take away your bed from under you? **22:28** Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set. **22:29** Do you see a man who [h]excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

Proverbs 23

Listen to Your Father

23:1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; **23:2** And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite. **23:3** Do not desire his delicacies, For they are deceptive food. **23:4** Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease! **23:5** Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves

wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven. **23:6** Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies; **23:7** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you. **23:8** The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, And waste your pleasant words. **23:9** Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words. **23:10** Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless; **23:11** For their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you. **23:12** Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. **23:13** Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. **23:14** You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell. **23:15** My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself; **23:16** Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things. **23:17** Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; **23:18** For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off. **23:19** Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way. **23:20** Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; **23:21** For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. **23:22** Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. **23:23** Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding. **23:24** The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. **23:25** Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice. **23:26** My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways. **23:27** For a harlot is a deep pit, And a seductress is a narrow well. **23:28** She also lies in wait as for a victim, And increases the unfaithful among men. **23:29** Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? **23:30** Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. **23:31** Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; **23:32** At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. **23:33** Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. **23:34** Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: **23:35** "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

Proverbs 24

Do Not Envy Evil Men

24:1 Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; **24:2** For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking. **24:3** Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; **24:4** By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches. **24:5** A wise man is strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength;

Proverbs

387

24:6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counsellors there is safety. **24:7** Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate. **24:8** He who plots to do evil Will be called a schemer. **24:9** The devising of foolishness is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to men. **24:10** If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small. **24:11** Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. **24:12** If you say, “**Surely we did not know this,**” Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds? **24:13** My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; **24:14** So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off. **24:15** Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; **24:16** For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. **24:17** Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; **24:18** Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him. **24:19** Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; **24:20** For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out. **24:21** My son, fear the Lord and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; **24:22** For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring? Further Sayings of the Wise **24:22** These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment. **24:23** He who says to the wicked, “**You are righteous,**” Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him. **24:25** But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them. **24:26** He who gives a right answer kisses the lips. **24:27** Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house. **24:28** Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, For would you deceive with your lips? **24:29** Do not say, “**I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.**” **24:30** I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; **24:31** And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. **24:32** When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: **24:33** A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; **24:34** So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Proverbs 25

Further Wise Sayings of Solomon

25:1 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied: **25:2** It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. **25:3** As the heavens for height

and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable. **25:4** Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to the silversmith for jewellery. **25:5** Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness. **25:6** Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; **25:7** For it is better that he say to you, “**Come up here,**” Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen. **25:8** Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbour has put you to shame? **25:9** Debate your case with your neighbour, And do not disclose the secret to another; **25:10** Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined. **25:11** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. **25:12** Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear. **25:13** Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. **25:14** Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain. **25:15** By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone. **25:16** Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit. **25:17** Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you. **25:18** A man who bears false witness against his neighbour Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow. **25:19** Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. **25:20** Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. **25:21** If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; **25:22** For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the Lord will reward you. **25:23** The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance. **25:24** It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman. **25:25** As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country. **25:26** A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well. **25:27** It is not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory is not glory. **25:28** Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

Proverbs 26

26:1 As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So honour is not fitting for a fool. **26:2** Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight. **26:3** A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back. **26:4** Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. **26:5** Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes. **26:6** He who sends a message by the hand of a fool Cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. **26:7** Like the legs of the lame that hang limp Is a proverb in the mouth of fools. **26:8** Like one who binds a stone in a sling Is he who

Proverbs

388

gives honour to a fool. **26:9** Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard Is a proverb in the mouth of fools. **26:10** The great God who formed everything Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages. **26:11** As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly. **26:12** Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. **26:13** The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!" **26:14** As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. **26:15** The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. **26:16** The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly. **26:17** He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own Is like one who takes a dog by the ears. **26:18** Like a madman who throws fire- brands, arrows, and death, **26:19** Is the man who deceives his neighbour, And says, "I was only joking!" **26:20** Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. **26:21** As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. **26:22** The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body. **26:23** Fervent lips with a wicked heart Are like earthenware covered with silver dross. **26:24** He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; **26:25** When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart; **26:26** Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. **26:27** Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. **26:28** A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin. My Son, Be Wise

Proverbs 27

27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth. **27:2** Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips. **27:3** A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, But a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them. **27:4** Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy? **27:5** Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed. **27:6** Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. **27:7** A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. **27:8** Like a bird that wanders from its nest Is a man who wanders from his place. **27:9** Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel. **27:10** Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbour nearby than a brother far away. **27:11** My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, That I may answer him who reproaches me. **27:12** A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; The simple pass on and are punished. **27:13** Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger, And hold it in pledge when he is surety for a seductress.

27:14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, It will be counted a curse to him. **27:15** A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike; **27:16** Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand. **27:17** As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. **27:18** Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit; So he who waits on his master will be honoured. **27:19** As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man. **27:20** Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied. **27:21** The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, And a man is valued by what others say of him. **27:22** Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him. **27:23** Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds; **27:24** For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations. **27:25** When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, **27:26** The lambs will provide your clothing, And the goats the price of a field; **27:27** You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

Proverbs 28

The Righteous Are Bold as a Lion **28:1** The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion. **28:2** Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; But by a man of understanding and knowledge Right will be prolonged. **28:3** A poor man who oppresses the poor Is like a driving rain which leaves no food. **28:4** Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them. **28:5** Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the Lord understand all. **28:6** Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich. **28:7** Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, But a companion of gluttons shames his father. **28:8** One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion Gathers it for him who will pity the poor. **28:9** One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination. **28:10** Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, He himself will fall into his own pit; But the blameless will inherit good. **28:11** The rich man is wise in his own eyes, But the poor who has understanding searches him out. **28:12** When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves. **28:13** He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. **28:14** Happy is the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. **28:15** Like a roaring lion and a charging bear Is a wicked ruler over poor people. **28:16** A ruler who lacks understanding is a great oppressor, But he who hates covetousness will prolong his days. **28:17** A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit; Let no one help him. **28:18** Whoever walks blamelessly will

be saved, But he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall. **28:19** He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough! **28:20** A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. **28:21** To show partiality is not good, Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress. **28:22** A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him. **28:23** He who rebukes a man will find more favour afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue. **28:24** Whoever robs his father or his mother, And says, “It is no transgression,” The same is companion to a destroyer. **28:25** He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered. **28:26** He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered. **28:27** He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses. **28:28** When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase.

Proverbs 29

Happy Is He Who Keeps the Law

29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. **29:2** When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan. **29:3** Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, But a companion of harlots wastes his wealth. **29:4** The king establishes the land by justice, But he who receives bribes overthrows it. **29:5** A man who flatters his neighbour Spreads a net for his feet. **29:6** By transgression an evil man is snared, But the righteous sings and rejoices. **29:7** The righteous considers the cause of the poor, But the wicked does not understand such knowledge. **29:8** Scoffers set a city aflame, But wise men turn away wrath. **29:9** If a wise man contends with a foolish man, Whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace. **29:10** The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, But the upright seek his well-being. **29:11** A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back. **29:12** If a ruler pays attention to lies, All his servants become wicked. **29:13** The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The Lord gives light to the eyes of both. **29:14** The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever. **29:15** The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. **29:16** When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall. **29:17** Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul. **29:18** Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law. **29:19** A servant will not be corrected by mere words; For though he understands, he will not respond. **29:20** Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. **29:21** He who pampers his servant from childhood Will have him as a son in the

end. **29:22** An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression. **29:23** A man’s pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honour. **29:24** Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; He swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing. **29:25** The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe. **29:26** Many seek the ruler’s favour, But justice for man comes from the Lord. **29:27** An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, And he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.

Proverbs 30

The Wisdom of Agur

30:1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, his utterance. This man declared to Ithiel—to Ithiel and Ucal: **30:2** Surely I am more stupid than any man, And do not have the understanding of a man. **30:3** I neither learned wisdom Nor have knowledge of the Holy One. **30:4** Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, If you know? **30:5** Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **30:6** Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. **30:7** Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): **30:8** Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; **30:9** Lest I be full and deny You, And say, “Who is the Lord?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God. **30:10** Do not malign a servant to his master, Lest he curse you, and you be found guilty. **30:11** There is a generation that curses its father, And does not bless its mother. **30:12** There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness. **30:13** There is a generation—oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. **30:14** There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, And whose fangs are like knives, To devour the poor from off the earth, And the needy from among men. **30:15** The leech has two daughters— Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied, Four never say, “Enough!” **30:16** The grave, The barren womb, The earth that is not satisfied with water—And the fire never says, “Enough!” **30:17** The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it. **30:18** There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, four which I do not understand: **30:30** 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 virgin. **30:30** This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, “I have done no wickedness.” **30:30** For three things the earth is perturbed, Yes, for four it cannot bear up: **30:30** For a servant when he reigns, A fool when he is filled with food, **30:30** A hateful woman when she is married, And a maidservant who succeeds her mistress.

Proverbs

390

30:24 There are four things which are little on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise: **30:25** The ants are a people not strong, Yet they prepare their food in the summer; **30:26** The rock badgers are a feeble folk, Yet they make their homes in the crags; **30:27** The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks; **30:28** The spider skilfully grasps with its hands, And it is in kings' palaces. **30:29** There are three things which are majestic in pace, Yes, four which are stately in walk: **30:30** A lion, which is mighty among beasts And does not turn away from any; **30:31** A greyhound, A male goat also, And a king whose troops are with him. **30:32** If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth. **30:33** For as the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife.

Proverbs 31

The Words of King Lemuel's Mother

31:1 The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him: **31:2** What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows? **31:3** Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings. **31:4** It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; **31:5** Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted. **31:6** Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart. **31:7** Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more. **31:8** Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. **31:9** Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy. The Virtuous Wife

31:10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. **31:11** The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. **31:12** She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. **31:13** She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. **31:14** She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. **31:15** She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. **31:16** She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. **31:17** She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. **31:18** She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. **31:19** She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. **31:20** She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. **31:21** She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. **31:22** She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. **31:23** Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. **31:24** She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. **31:25** Strength and honour are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. **31:26** She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. **31:27** She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. **31:28** Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: **31:29** "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all." **31:30** Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. **31:31** Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.