

The Book of
Proverbs

1 Use of the Proverbs. 7 Caution against being enticed by sinners. 20 Wisdom's Warning to those who despise her.

1 *The* proverbs of Solomon *the* son of David, king of Israel:
 2 To know wisdom and instruction;
 To discern *the* words of understanding;
 3 To receive instruction in wise dealing,
 In righteousness and justice and equity;
 4 To give prudence to *the* simple,
 To *the* young man knowledge and discretion:
 5 That *the* wise *man* may hear, and increase in learning;
 And that *the* man of understanding may attain unto sound counsels:
 6 To understand a proverb, and ¹a figure,
The words of *the* wise, and their ²dark sayings.
 7 *The* fear of Jehovah *is* ³*the* beginning of knowledge;
 But *the* foolish despise wisdom and instruction.
 8 My son, hear *the* instruction of thy father,
 And forsake not *the* ⁴law of thy mother:
 9 For they *shall be* a chaplet of grace unto thy head,
 And chains about thy neck.
 10 My son, if sinners entice thee,
 Consent thou not.
 11 If they say, Come with us,
 Let us lay *in* wait for blood;
 Let us lurk privily for *the* innocent without cause;
 12 Let us swallow them up alive as Sheol,
⁵And whole, as those that go down into *the* pit;
 13 We shall find all precious substance;
 We shall fill our houses with spoil;
 14 ⁶Thou shalt cast thy lot among us;
 We will all have one purse:
 15 My son, walk not thou *in the* way with them;
 Refrain thy foot from their path:
 16 For their feet run to evil,
 And they make haste to shed blood.
 17 For in vain is the net spread
 In *the* sight of any bird:
 18 And these lay wait for their *own* blood;
 They lurk privily for their *own* souls.
 19 So *are the* ways of every one that is greedy of gain;
 It taketh away the soul of *the* owners thereof.
 20 Wisdom crieth aloud in the street;
 She uttereth her voice in the broad places;

¹ *Or*, an interpretation,

² *Or*, riddles.

³ *Or*, *the* chief part of knowledge;

⁴ *Or*, teaching

⁵ *Or*, Even *the* perfect,

⁶ *Or*, Cast in thy lot among us;

21 She crieth ⁷*in the* chief place of concourse;
 At *the* entrance of *the* gates,
 In the city, she uttereth her words:
 22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?
 And scoffers delight them in scoffing,
 And fools hate knowledge?
 23 Turn you at my reproof:
 Behold, I will pour out my spirit upon you;
 I will make known my words unto you.
 24 Because I have called, and ye have refused;
 I have stretched out my hand, and no man hath regarded;
 25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel,
 And would none of my reproof:
 26 I also will laugh in *the day* of your calamity;
 I will mock when your fear cometh;
 27 When your fear cometh as ⁸a storm,
 And your calamity cometh on as a whirlwind;
 When distress and anguish come upon you.
 28 Then will they call upon me, but I will not answer;
 They will seek me ⁹diligently but they shall not find me:
 29 For that they hated knowledge,
 And did not choose *the* fear of Jehovah:
 30 They would *have* none of my counsel;
 They despised all my reproof.
 31 Therefore shall they eat of *the* fruit of their own way,
 And be filled with their own devices.
 32 For *the* backsliding of *the* simple shall slay them,
 And *the* careless ease of fools shall destroy them.
 33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell securely,
 And shall be quiet without fear of evil.
 2 My son, if thou wilt receive my words,
 And lay up my commandments with thee;
 2 So as to incline thine ear unto wisdom,
 And apply thy heart to understanding;
 3 Yes, if thou cry after discernment,
 And lift up thy voice for understanding;
 4 If thou seek her as silver,
 And search for her as *for* hid treasures:
 5 Then shalt thou understand *the* fear of Jehovah,
 And find *the* knowledge of God.
 6 For Jehovah giveth wisdom;
 Out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding;

⁷ *Hb.* at *the* head of *the* noisy streets;

⁸ *Or*, desolation,

⁹ *Or*, early

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the upright;
¹⁰*He is* a shield to them that walk in integrity;
 8 ¹¹*That he* may guard *the* paths of justice,
¹²And preserve *the* way of his saints.
 9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness and
 justice,
 And equity, *yes*, every good path.
 10 For wisdom shall enter into thy heart,
 And knowledge shall be pleasant unto thy soul;
 11 Discretion shall watch over thee;
 Understanding shall keep thee:
 12 To deliver thee from *the* way of ¹³evil,
 From *the* men that speak perverse things;
 13 Who forsake *the* paths of uprightness,
 To walk in *the* ways of darkness;
 14 Who rejoice to do evil,
 And delight in *the* perverseness of evil;
 15 Who *are* crooked in their ways,
 And wayward in their paths:
 16 To deliver thee from *the* strange woman,
 Even from *the* foreigner that ¹⁴flattereth with her
 words;
 17 That forsaketh *the* ¹⁵friend of her youth,
 And forgetteth the covenant of her God:
 18 For ¹⁶her house inclineth unto death,
 And her paths unto ¹⁷*the* dead;
 19 None that go unto her return again,
 Neither do they attain unto *the* paths of life:
 20 That thou mayest walk in *the* way of good *men*,
 And keep *the* paths of *the* righteous.
 21 For *the* upright shall dwell in *the* ¹⁸land,
 And *the* perfect shall remain in it.
 22 But *the* wicked shall be cut off from *the* land,
 And *the* treacherous shall be rooted out of it.
3 My son, forget not my ¹⁹law;
 But let thy heart keep my commandments:
 2 For length of days, and years of life,
 And peace, will they add to thee.
 3 Let not kindness and truth forsake thee:
 Bind them about thy neck;
 Write them upon *the* tablet of thy heart:
 4 So shalt thou find favor and ²⁰good understanding
 In *the* sight of God and man.

¹⁰ *Or, And a shield for them that walk in integrity;*
¹¹ *Or, That they may keep the paths of justice,*
¹² *Or, Yes, he preserveth the way of his saints.*
¹³ *Or, the Evil One, or, the evil man, And in vs. 14.*
¹⁴ *Hb. maketh smooth her words; or, ...smooth talk*
¹⁵ *Or, guide*
¹⁶ *Or, she sinketh down unto death, which is her house,*
¹⁷ *Or, the shades; Hb. Rephaim;*
¹⁸ *Or, earth, And in vs. 22.*
¹⁹ *Or, teaching;*
²⁰ *Or, good repute*

5 Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart,
 And lean not upon thine own understanding:
 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him,
 And he will ²¹direct thy paths.
 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes;
 Fear Jehovah, and depart from evil:
 8 It will be health to thy ²²navel,
 And ²³marrow to thy bones.
 9 Honor Jehovah with thy substance,
 And with *the* firstfruits of all thine increase:
 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty,
 And thy vats shall overflow with new wine.
 11 My son, despise not *the* ²⁴chastening of Jehovah;
 Neither be weary of his reproof:
 12 For whom Jehovah loveth he reproveth;
 Even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.
 13 Happy *is the* man *that* findeth wisdom,
 And *the* man *that* ²⁵getteth understanding.
 14 For *the* gaining of it *is* better than *the* gaining of
 silver,
 And *the* profit thereof than fine gold.
 15 She *is* more precious than rubies:
 And none of *the* things thou canst desire are to be
 compared unto her.
 16 Length of days *is* in her right hand;
 In her left hand are riches and honor.
 17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,
 And all her paths *are* peace.
 18 She *is* a tree of life to them *that* lay hold upon her:
 And happy *is every one* that retaineth her.
 19 Jehovah by wisdom founded *the* earth;
 By understanding he established *the* heavens.
 20 By his knowledge *the* depths were broken up,
 And *the* skies drop down *the* dew.
 21 My son, let them not depart from thine eyes;
 Keep sound wisdom and discretion:
 22 So shall they be life unto thy soul,
 And grace to thy neck.
 23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way securely,
 And ²⁶thy foot shall not stumble.
 24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid:
 Yes, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be
 sweet.
 25 Be not afraid of sudden fear,
 Neither of *the* ²⁷desolation of *the* wicked, when it
 cometh:
 26 For Jehovah will be thy confidence,
 And will keep thy foot from being taken.

²¹ *Or, make straight (or, make plain) thy paths.*
²² *So Hb^{lxx} Aram. Sept., Vg. read flesh, or, body*
²³ *Or, refreshing Hb. moistening*
²⁴ *Or, instruction*
²⁵ *Hb. draweth forth understanding.*
²⁶ *Hb. thou shalt not dash thy foot.*
²⁷ *Or, storm*

27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due,
When it is in *the* power of thy hand to do it.

28 Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again,
And tomorrow I will give;
When thou hast it by thee.

29 Devise not evil against thy neighbor,
Seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

30 Strive not with a man without cause,
If he have done thee no harm.

31 Envy thou not *the* man of violence,
And choose none of his ways.

32 For *the* perverse *is* an abomination to Jehovah;
But his ²⁸friendship *is* with the upright.

33 The curse of Jehovah *is* in *the* house of *the* wicked;
But he blesseth *the* habitation of *the* righteous.

34 ²⁹Surely he scoffeth at the scoffers;
³⁰But he giveth grace unto the lowly.

35 *The* wise shall inherit glory;
³¹But shame shall be *the* promotion of fools.

4 Hear, *my* sons, *the* instruction of a father,
And attend to know understanding:

2 For I give you good doctrine;
Forsake ye not my ³²law.

3 For I was a son unto my father,
Tender and ³³only *beloved* in *the* sight of my mother.

4 And he taught me, and said unto me:
Let thy heart retain my words;
Keep my commandments, and live;

5 Get wisdom, get understanding;
Forget not, neither decline from *the* words of my
mouth;

6 Forsake her not, and she will preserve thee;
Love her, and she will keep thee.

7 ³⁴Wisdom *is* *the* principal thing; *therefore* get
wisdom;
Yes, with all ³⁵thy getting get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she will promote thee;
She will bring thee to honor, when thou dost
embrace her.

9 She will give to thy head a chaplet of grace;
A crown of ³⁶beauty will she deliver to thee.

10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings;
And *the* years of thy life shall be many.

11 I have taught thee in *the* way of wisdom;
I have led thee in paths of uprightness.

²⁸ Or, counsel

²⁹ Or, Though

³⁰ Or, Yet

³¹ Or, But fools carry away shame.

³² Or, teaching.

³³ Hb. an only *one* in *the* sight of my mother.

³⁴ Or, *The* beginning of wisdom *is*, Get wisdom;

³⁵ Or, thou hast gotten get understanding.

³⁶ Or, glory

12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened;
And if thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13 Take fast hold of instruction; let *her* not go:
Keep her; for she *is* thy life.

14 Enter not into *the* path of *the* wicked,
And walk not in *the* way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, pass not by it;
Turn from it, and pass on.

16 For they sleep not, except they do evil;
And their sleep is taken away, unless they cause
some to fall.

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

18 But *the* path of *the* righteous *is* as *the* dawning
light,
That shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19 *The* way of *the* wicked *is* as the darkness:
They know not at what they stumble.

20 My son, attend to my words;
Incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes;
Keep them in *the* midst of thy heart.

22 For they *are* life unto those that find them,
And health to all their flesh.

23 Keep thy heart ³⁷with all diligence;
For out of it *are* *the* issues of life.

24 Put away from thee a wayward mouth,
And perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let thine eyes look right on,
And let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 ³⁸Make level *the* path of thy feet,
And let all thy ways be ³⁹established.

27 Turn not to *the* right *hand* nor to the left:
Remove thy foot from evil.

5 My son, attend unto my wisdom;
Incline thine ear to my understanding:

2 That thou mayest preserve discretion,
And *that* thy lips may keep knowledge.

3 For *the* lips of a strange woman drop honey,
And her mouth *is* smoother than oil:

4 But in *the* end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death;
Her steps take hold on Sheol;

6 ⁴⁰So that she findeth not *the* level path of life;
Her ways are unstable, and ⁴¹she knoweth *it* not.

7 Now therefore, *my* sons, hearken unto me,
And depart not from *the* words of my mouth.

³⁷ Or, above all *that* thou guardest;

³⁸ Or, Weigh carefully *the* path of thy feet,

³⁹ Or, ordered aright.

⁴⁰ Or, Lest thou find *the* level path of life:

or, Lest thou weigh carefully *the* path of life:

⁴¹ Or, thou canst not know *them*.

8 Remove thy way far from her,
 And come not nigh *the* door of her house;
 9 Lest thou give thine honor unto others,
 And thy years unto *the* cruel;
 10 Lest strangers be filled with thy ⁴²strength,
 And thy labors *be* in *the* house of an alien,
 11 And thou ⁴³mourn at thy latter end,
 When thy flesh and thy body are consumed,
 12 And say, How have I hated instruction,
 And my heart despised reproof;
 13 Neither have I obeyed *the* voice of my teachers,
 Nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!
 14 I was well-nigh in all evil
 In *the* midst of the assembly and congregation.
 15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern,
 And running waters out of thine own well.
 16 ⁴⁴Should thy springs be dispersed abroad,
 And streams of water in the streets?
 17 Let them be for thyself alone,
 And not for strangers with thee.
 18 Let thy fountain be blessed;
 And rejoice in *the* wife of thy youth.
 19 As a loving hind and a pleasant doe,
 Let her breasts satisfy thee at all times;
 And ⁴⁵be thou ravished always with her love.
 20 For why shouldest thou, my son, be ravished with a
 strange woman,
 And embrace *the* bosom of a foreigner?
 21 For *the* ways of man *are* before *the* eyes of Jehovah;
 And he ⁴⁶maketh level all his paths.
 22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked,
 And he shall be holden with *the* cords of his sin.
 23 He shall die for lack of instruction;
 And in *the* greatness of his folly he shall go astray.
6 My son, if thou art become surety for thy neighbor,
 If thou hast stricken ⁴⁷thy hands for *a* stranger;
 2 Thou art snared with *the* words of thy mouth,
 Thou art taken with *the* words of thy mouth.
 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself,
 Seeing thou art come into *the* hand of thy neighbor:
 Go, ⁴⁸humble thyself, and importune thy neighbors;
 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes,
 Nor slumber to thine eyelids;
 5 Deliver thyself as a ⁴⁹roe from *the* hand of *the*
hunter,
 And as a bird from *the* hand of the fowler.

⁴² *Or*, wealth,

⁴³ *Or*, groan

⁴⁴ *Or*, Let

⁴⁵ *Hb.* go astray always with her love.

⁴⁶ *Or*, weigheth carefully all his paths.

⁴⁷ *Or*, thy hand with *a* stranger;

⁴⁸ *Or*, bestir

⁴⁹ *Or*, gazelle

6 Go to *the* ant, thou sluggard;
 Consider her ways, and be wise:
 7 Which having no ⁵⁰chief,
 Overseer, or ruler,
 8 Provideth her bread in the summer,
 And gathereth her food in the harvest.
 9 How long wilt thou ⁵¹sleep, O sluggard?
 When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
 10 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber,
 A little folding of *the* hands to sleep:
 11 So shall thy poverty come as a ⁵²robber,
 And thy want as ⁵³an armed man.
 12 A son of worthlessness, a man of iniquity,
 Is he that walketh with a perverse mouth;
 13 That winketh with his eyes, that ⁵⁴speaketh with his
 feet,
 That ⁵⁵maketh signs with his fingers;
 14 In whose heart *is* perverseness,
 Who deviseth evil continually,
 Who ⁵⁶soweth discord.
 15 Therefore shall his calamity suddenly come;
 Suddenly shall he be broken, and that without
 remedy.
 16 There are six *things* which Jehovah hateth;
 Yes, seven *which are* an abomination ⁵⁷unto him:
 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
 And hands that shed innocent blood;
 18 A heart that deviseth wicked purposes,
 Feet that are swift in running to mischief,
 19 A false witness *that* uttereth lies,
 And he that ⁵⁸soweth discord among brethren.
 20 My son, keep *the* commandment of thy father,
 And forsake not *the* ⁵⁹law of thy mother:
 21 Bind them continually upon thy heart;
 Tie them about thy neck.
 22 When thou walkest, it shall lead thee;
 When thou ⁶⁰ sleepest, it shall watch over thee;
 And *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.
 23 For ⁶¹*the* commandment *is* a lamp; and ⁶²*the* law
is light;
 And reproofs of instruction *are the* way of life:
 24 To keep thee from *the* evil woman,

⁵⁰ *Or*, judge,

⁵¹ *Hb.* lie down,

⁵² *Or*, rover,

⁵³ *Hb.* a man with a shield.

⁵⁴ *Or*, shuffleth

⁵⁵ *Or*, teacheth with his fingers;

⁵⁶ *Hb.* letteth loose discord.

⁵⁷ *Hb.* of his soul:

⁵⁸ *Hb.* breatheth out discord among brethren.

⁵⁹ *Or*, teaching

⁶⁰ *Hb.* liest down,

⁶¹ *Or*, *their* commandment

⁶² *Or*, *their* teaching *is* a light;

From *the* flattery of *the* foreigner's tongue.
 25 Lust not after her beauty in thy heart;
 Neither let her take thee with her eyelids.
 26 For on account of a harlot *a man is brought to*
 a piece of bread;
 And ⁶³*the* adulteress hunteth for *the* precious life.
 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom,
 And his clothes not be burned?
 28 Or can one walk upon hot coals,
 And his feet not be scorched?
 29 So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife;
 Whosoever toucheth her shall not be ⁶⁴unpunished.
 30 *Men* do not despise *a* thief, if he steal
 To satisfy ⁶⁵himself when he is hungry:
 31 But *if* he be found, he shall restore sevenfold;
 He shall give all the substance of his house.
 32 He that committeth adultery with a woman is void
 of ⁶⁶understanding:
 He doeth it *who* would destroy his own soul.
 33 Wounds and dishonor shall he get;
 And his reproach shall not be wiped away.
 34 For jealousy is *the* rage of a man;
 And he will not spare in *the* day of vengeance.
 35 He will not regard any payment;
 Neither will he rest content, though thou givest
 many gifts.
 7 My son, keep my words,
 And lay up my commandments with thee.
 2 Keep my commandments and live;
 And my law as *the* apple of thine eye.
 3 Bind them upon thy fingers;
 Write them upon *the* tablet of thy heart.
 4 Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister;
 And call understanding *thy* ⁶⁷kinswoman:
 5 That they may keep thee from *the* strange woman,
 From *the* foreigner that ⁶⁸flattereth with her words.
 6 For at *the* window of my house
 I looked forth through my lattice;
 7 And I beheld among the simple ones,
 I discerned among the youths,
 A young man void of understanding,
 8 Passing through the street near her corner;
 And he went *the* way to her house,
 9 In *the* twilight, in *the* evening of *the* day,
 In *the* ⁶⁹middle of *the* night and in *the* darkness.
 10 And, behold, there met him a woman
 With *the* attire of a harlot, and ⁷⁰wily of heart.

⁶³ *Hb.* a man's wife hunteth for *the* precious soul.

⁶⁴ *Hb.* held innocent.

⁶⁵ *Or,* his appetite

⁶⁶ *Hb.* heart:

⁶⁷ *Or,* familiar friend:

⁶⁸ *Hb.* maketh her words smooth.

⁶⁹ *Hb.* pupil (*of the eye*)

⁷⁰ *Or,* close *Hb.* guarded

11 She *is* ⁷¹clamorous and wilful;
 Her feet abide not in her house:
 12 Now *she is* in the streets, now in the broad places,
 And lieth in wait at every corner.
 13 So she caught him, and kissed him,
⁷²And with an impudent face she said unto him:
 14 Sacrifices of peace-offerings ⁷³*are* with me;
 This day have I paid my vows.
 15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee,
 Diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
 16 I have spread my couch *with* ⁷⁴carpets of tapestry,
 With striped cloths of *the* yarn of Egypt.
 17 I have ⁷⁵perfumed my bed
 With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning;
 Let us solace ourselves with loves.
 19 For the man *is* not at home;
 He is gone *on* a long journey:
 20 He hath taken a bag of money with him;
 He will come home at the full moon.
 21 With her much fair speech she causeth him to yield;
 With *the* flattering of her lips she forceth him along.
 22 He goeth after her ⁷⁶straightway
 As an ox goeth to *the* slaughter,
 Or as *one in* ⁷⁷fetters to *the* correction of *the* fool;
 23 Till an arrow strike through his liver;
 As a bird hasteth to *the* snare,
 And knoweth not that it *is* for his soul.
 24 Now therefore, *my* sons, hearken unto me,
 And attend to *the* words of my mouth.
 25 Let not thy heart decline to her ways;
 Go not astray in her paths.
 26 For she hath cast down many wounded:
 Yes, all her slain *are* a mighty host.
 27 Her house *is* *the* way to Sheol,
 Going down to *the* chambers of death.
 8 Doth not wisdom cry,
 And understanding put forth her voice?
 2 On *the* top of high places by *the* way,
 Where *the* paths meet, she standeth;
 3 Beside *the* gates, at *the* entry of *the* city,
 At *the* coming in at *the* doors, she crieth aloud:
 4 Unto you, O men, I call;
 And my voice *is* to *the* sons of men.
 5 O ye simple, understand prudence;
 And, ye fools, be of an understanding heart.
 6 Hear, for I will speak excellent things;
 And *the* opening of my lips *shall be* right things.

⁷¹ *Or,* turbulent

⁷² *Hb.* She hardened her face, and said unto him:

⁷³ *Or,* were due from me;

⁷⁴ *Or,* cushions

⁷⁵ *Or,* sprinkled

⁷⁶ *Hb.* suddenly

⁷⁷ *RV comments,* The Hebrew is obscure.

7 For my mouth shall utter truth;
 And wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.
 8 All *the* words of my mouth ⁷⁸*are* in righteousness;
There is nothing crooked or perverse in them.
 9 They *are* all plain to him *that* understandeth,
 And right to them that find knowledge.
 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver;
 And knowledge rather than choice gold.
 11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies;
 And all *the* things that may be desired are not to be
 compared unto it.
 12 I wisdom have made prudence my dwelling,
 And find out ⁷⁹knowledge *and* discretion.
 13 *The* fear of Jehovah *is* to hate evil:
 Pride, and arrogancy, and *the* evil way,
 And *the* perverse mouth, do I hate.
 14 Counsel *is* mine, and ⁸⁰sound knowledge:
 I *am* understanding; I have might.
 15 By me kings reign,
 And princes decree justice.
 16 By me ⁸¹princes rule,
 And nobles, *even* all *the* ⁸²judges of the earth.
 17 I love them that love me;
 And those that seek me ⁸³diligently shall find me.
 18 Riches and honor *are* with me;
Yes, ⁸⁴ durable wealth and righteousness.
 19 My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold;
 And my ⁸⁵revenue than choice silver.
 20 I walk in *the* way of righteousness,
 In *the* midst of *the* paths of justice;
 21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit
 substance,
 And that I may fill their treasuries.
 22 Jehovah ⁸⁶acquired me *as the* beginning of his way,
The first of his works of old.
 23 I was set up from everlasting, from *the* beginning,
 Before *the* earth was.
 24 When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth,
 When *there were* no fountains abounding with water.
 25 Before *the* mountains were settled,
 Before *the* hills was I brought forth;
 26 While as yet he had not made *the* earth, nor *the*
 fields,
 Nor *the* ⁸⁷beginning of *the* dust of *the* world.

⁷⁸ *Or,* are righteousness;

⁷⁹ *Or,* knowledge of witty inventions.

⁸⁰ *Or,* effectual working:

⁸¹ *Or,* rulers

⁸² Some mss., Aram., Vg. *read* righteous judges.

⁸³ *Or,* early

⁸⁴ *Or,* ancient

⁸⁵ *Or,* increase

⁸⁶ *Or,* possessed me *in the* beginning of his way,
 Before his works of old. *or,* bought me *etc.*
 Sept., Aram., Targ. *read* created me *etc.*

27 When he ⁸⁸established *the* heavens, I *was* there:
 When he set a circle upon *the* face of the deep,
 28 When he made firm *the* skies above,
 When *the* fountains of *the* deep became strong,
 29 When he gave to the sea ⁸⁹its bound,
 That *the* waters should not transgress his
 commandment,
 When he ⁹⁰marked out *the* foundations of *the* earth;
 30 Then I was by him, *as* a master workman;
 And I ⁹¹was daily *his* delight.
⁹²Rejoicing always before him,
 31 Rejoicing in his habitable earth;
 And my delight *was* with the sons of men.
 32 Now therefore, *my* sons, hearken unto me;
 For blessed *are they that* keep my ways.
 33 Hear instruction, and be wise,
 And refuse it not.
 34 Blessed *is the* man that heareth me,
 Watching daily at my gates,
 Waiting at *the* posts of my doors.
 35 For whoso findeth me findeth life,
 And shall ⁹³obtain favor of Jehovah.
 36 But ⁹⁴he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own
 soul:
 All they that hate me love death.
9 Wisdom hath builded her house;
 She hath hewn out her seven pillars:
 2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her
 wine;
 She hath also furnished her table:
 3 She hath sent forth her maidens;
 She crieth upon *the* highest places of *the* city:
 4 Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither:
As for him that is void of understanding, she saith
 to him,
 5 Come, eat ye of my bread,
 And drink of *the* wine *which* I have mingled.
 6 ⁹⁵Leave off, ye simple ones, and live;
 And walk in *the* way of understanding.
 7 He that correcteth a scoffer getteth to himself
 reviling;
 And he that reproveth a wicked *man* getteth himself
 a blot.
 8 Reprove not a scoffer, lest he hate thee:
 Reprove a wise man, and he will love thee.

⁸⁷ *Or,* sum

⁸⁸ *Or,* prepared *the* heavens,

⁸⁹ *Or,* his decree,

⁹⁰ *Or,* appointed *the* foundations of *the* earth;

⁹¹ *Or,* had delight continually,

⁹² *Or,* Sporting *Also in* vs. 31.

⁹³ *Hb.* draw forth favor

⁹⁴ *Or,* he that misseth me wrongeth his own soul:

⁹⁵ *Or,* Forsake *the* simple, and live;

9 Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser:
Teach a righteous *man*, and he will increase in learning.

10 *The* fear of Jehovah *is the* beginning of wisdom;
And *the* knowledge of *the* Holy Ones *is* understanding.

11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied,
And *the* years of thy life shall be increased.

12 If thou art wise, thou art wise for thyself;
And *if* thou scoffest, thou alone shalt bear *it*.

13 ⁹⁶*The* foolish woman *is* clamorous;
She is ⁹⁷simple, and knoweth nothing.

14 And she sitteth at *the* door of her house,
On a seat in *the* high places of *the* city,

15 To call to them that pass by,
Who go right on their ways:

16 Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither;
And *as for* him that is void of understanding, she saith to him,

17 Stolen waters are sweet,
And bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.

18 But he knoweth not that ⁹⁸*the* dead *are* there;
That her guests *are* in *the* depths of Sheol.

10 *The* proverbs of Solomon.
A wise son maketh a glad father;
But a foolish son *is the* heaviness of his mother.

2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing;
But righteousness delivereth from death.

3 Jehovah will not suffer *the* soul of *the* righteous to famish;
But he thrusteth away *the* desire of *the* wicked.

4 He becometh poor that worketh *with* a slack hand;
But *the* hand of *the* diligent maketh rich.

5 He that gathereth in summer *is* ⁹⁹a wise son;
But he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son ¹⁰⁰that causeth shame.

6 Blessings *are* upon *the* head of *the* righteous;
But ¹⁰¹violence covereth *the* mouth of *the* wicked.

7 *The* memory of *the* righteous *is* blessed;
But *the* name of *the* wicked shall rot.

8 *The* wise in heart will receive commandments;
But ¹⁰²a prating fool ¹⁰³shall fall.

9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely;
But he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

10 He that winketh with *the* eye causeth sorrow;

⁹⁶ *Or*, Folly *is* clamorous;

⁹⁷ *Hb.* simplicity,

⁹⁸ *Or*, *the* shades *Hb.* Rephaim

⁹⁹ *Or*, a son *that doeth* wisely;

¹⁰⁰ *Or*, that doeth shamefully.

¹⁰¹ *Or*, *the* mouth of *the* wicked covereth violence.

¹⁰² *Hb.* *the* foolish of lips *Also in vs. 10.*

¹⁰³ *Or*, shall be overthrown. *or*, shall be laid low.

But a prating fool ¹⁰⁴shall fall.

11 *The* mouth of *the* righteous *is* a fountain of life;
But ¹⁰⁵violence covereth *the* mouth of *the* wicked.

12 Hatred stirreth up strifes;
But love covereth all transgressions.

13 In *the* lips of him that hath discernment wisdom is found;
But a rod *is* for *the* back of him that is void of ¹⁰⁶understanding.

14 Wise *men* lay up knowledge;
But *the* mouth of *the* foolish *is* a present destruction.

15 *The* rich man's wealth *is* his strong city:
The destruction of *the* poor *is* their poverty.

16 *The* labor of *the* righteous *tendeth* to life;
The increase of *the* wicked to sin.

17 He ¹⁰⁷*is in the* way of life that heedeth ¹⁰⁸correction;
But he that forsaketh reproof ¹⁰⁹ereth.

18 He that hideth hatred *is of* lying lips;
And he that uttereth a slander *is* a fool.

19 In *the* multitude of words there wanteth not transgression;
But he that refraineth his lips ¹¹⁰*doeth* wisely.

20 *The* tongue of *the* righteous *is as* choice silver:
The heart of *the* wicked *is* little worth.

21 *The* lips of *the* righteous feed many;
But *the* foolish die for lack of ¹¹¹understanding.

22 *The* blessing of Jehovah, it maketh rich;
And ¹¹²he addeth no sorrow therewith.

23 *It is* as sport to a fool to do wickedness;
¹¹³And *so is* wisdom to a man of understanding.

24 *The* fear of *the* wicked, it shall come upon him;
And *the* desire of *the* righteous shall be granted.

25 ¹¹⁴When *the* whirlwind passeth, *the* wicked is no *more*;
But *the* righteous *is* an everlasting foundation.

26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes,
So is the sluggard to them that send him.

27 *The* fear of Jehovah ¹¹⁵prolongeth days;
But *the* years of *the* wicked shall be shortened.

28 *The* hope of *the* righteous *shall be* gladness;
But *the* expectation of *the* wicked shall perish.

¹⁰⁴ *Or*, shall be overthrown. *or*, shall be laid low.

¹⁰⁵ *Or*, *the* mouth of *the* wicked covereth violence.

¹⁰⁶ *Hb.* heart.

¹⁰⁷ *Or*, *is* a way of life

¹⁰⁸ *Or*, instruction;

¹⁰⁹ *Or*, causeth to err.

¹¹⁰ *Or*, *is* wise.

¹¹¹ *Hb.* heart.

¹¹² *Or*, toil addeth nothing thereto.

¹¹³ *Or*, But a man of understanding *hath* wisdom.

¹¹⁴ *Or*, As *the* whirlwind passeth, so is *the* wicked no *more*;

¹¹⁵ *Hb.* addeth days;

29 *The way of Jehovah is a stronghold to the upright;*
 But ¹¹⁶*it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.*

30 *The righteous shall never be removed;*
 But *the wicked shall not dwell in the* ¹¹⁷*land.*

31 *The mouth of the righteous* ¹¹⁸*bringeth forth wisdom;*
 But *the perverse tongue shall be cut off.*

32 *The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable;*
 But *the mouth of the wicked* ¹¹⁹*speaketh perverseness.*

11 *A false balance is an abomination to Jehovah;*
 But a just weight *is his delight.*

2 *When pride cometh, then cometh shame;*
 But with the lowly *is wisdom.*

3 *The integrity of the upright shall guide them;*
 But *the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy them.*

4 *Riches profit not in the day of wrath;*
 But righteousness delivereth from death.

5 *The righteousness of the perfect shall* ¹²⁰*direct his way;*
 But *the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.*

6 *The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them;*
 But *the treacherous shall be taken in their own iniquity.*

7 *When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish;*
 And *the hope of* ¹²¹*iniquity perisheth.*

8 *The righteous is delivered out of trouble,*
 And *the wicked cometh in his stead.*

9 *With his mouth the godless man destroyeth his neighbor;*
 But through knowledge shall *the righteous be delivered.*

10 *When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth;*
 And when *the wicked perish, there is shouting.*

11 *By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted;*
 But it is overthrown by *the mouth of the wicked.*

12 *He that despiseth his neighbor is void of* ¹²²*wisdom;*
 But a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

13 *He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets;*
 But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter.

14 *Where no wise guidance is, the people falleth;*
 But in *the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

15 *He that is surety for a stranger* ¹²³*shall smart for it;*
 But he that hateth ¹²⁴*suretyship is secure.*

¹¹⁶ *Or, destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.*
¹¹⁷ *Or, earth.*
¹¹⁸ *Or, buddeth with wisdom;*
¹¹⁹ *Or, is*
¹²⁰ *Or, make straight his way; or, make plain his way;*
¹²¹ *Or, strong men*
¹²² *Hb. heart;*
¹²³ *Hb. shall be sore broken;*

16 *A gracious woman obtaineth honor;*
¹²⁵*And violent men obtain riches.*

17 *The merciful man doeth good to his own soul;*
 But *he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.*

18 *The wicked earneth deceitful wages;*
 But he that soweth righteousness *hath a sure reward.*

19 ¹²⁶*He that is stedfast in righteousness shall attain unto life;*
 And he that pursueth evil *doeth it to his own death.*

20 *They that are perverse in heart are an abomination to Jehovah;*
 But *such as are perfect in their way are his delight.*

21 ¹²⁷*Though hand join to hand, the evil man shall not be unpunished;*
 But *the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.*

22 *As a ring of gold in a swine's snout,*
So is a fair woman that ¹²⁸*is without discretion.*

23 *The desire of the righteous is only good;*
 But *the expectation of the wicked is* ¹²⁹*wrath.*

24 *There is that scattereth, and increaseth yet more;*
 And *there is that withholdeth* ¹³⁰*more than is meet, but it tendeth only to want.*

25 *The liberal soul shall be made fat;*
 And he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

26 *He that withholdeth grain, the people shall curse him;*
 But blessing *shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.*

27 *He that diligently seeketh good seeketh favor;*
 But he that searcheth after evil, it shall come unto him.

28 *He that trusteth in his riches shall fall;*
 But *the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf.*

29 *He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind;*
 And *the foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart.*

30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;*
 And he that *is wise winneth souls.*

31 *Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth:*
 How much more *the wicked and the sinner!*

12 *Whoso loveth correction loveth knowledge;*
 But he that hateth reproof *is brutish.*

2 *A good man shall obtain favor of Jehovah;*
 But a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

¹²⁴ *Hb. those that strike hands is secure.*
¹²⁵ *Sept., Aram. read But a woman that hateth righteousness is a seat of disgrace. Slothful men do lack substance, But they that are diligent obtain riches.*
¹²⁶ *Or, So righteousness tendeth to life, And he etc.*
¹²⁷ *Or, My hand upon it! Hb. Hand to hand,*
¹²⁸ *Hb. turneth aside from discretion.*
¹²⁹ *Or, arrogance.*
¹³⁰ *Or, what is justly due,*

- 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness;
But *the* root of *the* righteous shall not be moved.
- 4 A worthy woman *is the* crown of her husband;
But she that maketh ashamed *is* as rottenness in his bones.
- 5 *The* thoughts of *the* righteous *are* just;
But *the* counsels of *the* wicked *are* deceit.
- 6 The words of the wicked ¹³¹*are* of lying in wait for blood;
But *the* mouth of *the* upright shall deliver them.
- 7 ¹³²*The* wicked are overthrown, and *are* not;
But *the* house of *the* righteous shall stand.
- 8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom;
But he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.
- 9 Better *is he that is* lightly esteemed, and ¹³³*hath* a servant,
Than he that honoreth himself, and lacketh bread.
- 10 A righteous *man* regardeth *the* soul of his beast;
But *the* tender mercies of *the* wicked *are* cruel.
- 11 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread;
But he that followeth after ¹³⁴*vain persons is* void of understanding.
- 12 *The* wicked desireth ¹³⁵*the* net of evil men;
But *the* root of *the* righteous yieldeth fruit.
- 13 In *the* transgression of *the* lips *is* ¹³⁶*a* snare to *the* evil man;
But *the* righteous shall come out of trouble.
- 14 A man shall be satisfied with good by *the* fruit of his mouth;
And *the* doings of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.
- 15 *The* way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes;
But he that *is* wise hearkeneth unto counsel.
- 16 A fool's vexation *is* ¹³⁷presently known;
But a prudent *man* concealeth shame.
- 17 He *that* ¹³⁸*uttereth* truth showeth forth righteousness;
But a false witness, deceit.
- 18 There *is he* that speaketh rashly like *the* piercings of a sword;
But *the* tongue of *the* wise *is* health.
- 19 *The* lip of truth shall be established for ever;
But a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.
- 20 Deceit *is in the* heart of them that devise evil;
But to *the* counsellors of peace *is* joy.
- 21 There shall no mischief happen to the righteous;

¹³¹ *Or, are* a lying in wait for blood;

¹³² *Or, Overthrow the* wicked, and they *are* not;

¹³³ Sept., Aram., Vg. *read* laboreth for himself,

¹³⁴ *Or, vain things*

¹³⁵ *Or, the* prey of evil men;

¹³⁶ *Or, an* evil snare.

¹³⁷ *Or, openly* *Hb.* in the day

¹³⁸ *Hb.* breatheth out truth

- But *the* wicked shall be filled with evil.
- 22 Lying lips *are* an abomination to Jehovah;
But they that deal truly *are* his delight.
- 23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge;
But *the* heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.
- 24 *The* hand of *the* diligent shall bear rule;
But ¹³⁹*the* slothful shall be put under taskwork.
- 25 ¹⁴⁰Heaviness in *the* heart of a man maketh it stoop;
But a good word maketh it glad.
- 26 *The* righteous *is* a guide to his neighbor;
But *the* way of *the* wicked causeth them to err.
- 27 *The* slothful *man* ¹⁴¹roasteth not that which he took in hunting;
But *the* precious substance of men ¹⁴²*is to the* diligent.
- 28 In *the* way of righteousness *is* life;
And in *the* pathway thereof there *is* no death.
- 13 A wise son *heareth* his father's ¹⁴³instruction;
But a scoffer *heareth* not rebuke.
- 2 A man shall eat good ¹⁴⁴by *the* fruit of his mouth;
But ¹⁴⁵*the* soul of *the* treacherous shall eat violence.
- 3 He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his soul;
But he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.
- 4 *The* soul of *the* sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing;
But *the* soul of *the* diligent shall be made fat.
- 5 A righteous *man* hateth lying;
But a wicked *man* ¹⁴⁶*is* loathsome, and cometh to shame.
- 6 Righteousness guardeth ¹⁴⁷*him that is* upright in *the* way;
But wickedness overthroweth ¹⁴⁸*the* sinner.
- 7 There *is* that ¹⁴⁹maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing;
There is that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great wealth.
- 8 *The* payment of a man's soul *is* his riches;
But *the* poor *heareth* no ¹⁵⁰threatening.
- 9 *The* light of *the* righteous rejoiceth;
But *the* lamp of *the* wicked shall be put out.
- 10 By pride cometh only contention;
But with the well-advised *is* wisdom.

¹³⁹ *Hb.* slothfulness *And so in* vs. 27.

¹⁴⁰ *Or, Care*

¹⁴¹ *Or, catcheth* not his prey;

¹⁴² *Or, is to be* diligent.

¹⁴³ *Or, correction;*

¹⁴⁴ *Or, from*

¹⁴⁵ *Or, the* desire of *the* treacherous *is for* violence.

¹⁴⁶ *Or, causeth* shame and bringeth reproach.

¹⁴⁷ *Hb.* uprightness of way;

¹⁴⁸ *Hb.* sin.

¹⁴⁹ *Or, feigneth*

¹⁵⁰ *Or, rebuke.*

11 Wealth *gotten* by vanity shall be diminished;
 But he that gathereth ¹⁵¹by labor shall have increase.
 12 Hope deferred maketh *the* heart sick;
 But *when the* desire cometh, *it is* a tree of life.
 13 Whoso despiseth *the* word ¹⁵²bringeth destruction
 on himself;
 But he that feareth *the* commandment shall be
 rewarded.
 14 *The* ¹⁵³law of *the* wise *is* a fountain of life,
 That one may depart from *the* snares of death.
 15 Good understanding ¹⁵⁴giveth favor;
 But *the* way of *the* transgressor is hard.
 16 Every prudent *man* worketh with knowledge;
 But a fool flaunteth *his* folly.
 17 A wicked messenger falleth into evil;
 But a faithful ambassador *is* health.
 18 Poverty and shame *shall be to* him that refuseth
¹⁵⁵correction;
 But he that regardeth reproof shall be honored.
 19 *The* desire accomplished is sweet to *the* soul;
 But *it is* an abomination to fools to depart from evil.
 20 ¹⁵⁶Walk with wise *men*, and thou shalt be wise;
 But *the* companion of fools shall ¹⁵⁷smart *for it*.
 21 Evil pursueth sinners;
 But the righteous shall be recompensed with good.
 22 A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's
 children;
 And *the* wealth of *the* sinner *is* laid up for the
 righteous.
 23 Much food *is in the* ¹⁵⁸tillage of *the* poor;
 But there is *that is* destroyed by reason of injustice.
 24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son;
 But he that loveth him chasteneth him ¹⁵⁹betimes.
 25 *The* righteous eateth to *the* satisfying of his soul;
 But *the* belly of *the* wicked shall want.
14 Every wise woman buildeth her house;
 But ¹⁶⁰*the* foolish plucketh it down with her own
 hands.
 2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth Jehovah;
 But *he that is* perverse in his ways despiseth him.
 3 In *the* mouth of *the* foolish *is* a rod for *his* pride;
 But *the* lips of *the* wise shall preserve them.
 4 Where no oxen *are*, *the* crib *is* clean;
 But much increase *is by the* strength of *the* ox.

¹⁵¹ *Hb.* with *the* hand shall have increase.

¹⁵² *Or*, maketh himself a debtor thereto;

¹⁵³ *Or*, teaching

¹⁵⁴ *Or*, getteth favor;

¹⁵⁵ *Or*, instruction;

¹⁵⁶ *Hb*^{mg} *reads* He that walketh with wise *men* shall be
 wise;

¹⁵⁷ *Hb.* be broken *for it*.

¹⁵⁸ *Or*, tilled land of *the* poor;

¹⁵⁹ *Or*, diligently.

¹⁶⁰ *Hb.* folly plucketh it down

5 A faithful witness will not lie;
 But a false witness ¹⁶¹uttereth lies.
 6 A scoffer seeketh wisdom, and *findeth it* not;
 But knowledge *is* easy unto him that hath
 understanding.
 7 ¹⁶²Go into *the* presence of a foolish man,
 And thou shalt not perceive *in him the* lips of
 knowledge.
 8 *The* wisdom of *the* prudent *is* to understand his way;
 But *the* folly of fools *is* deceit.
 9 ¹⁶³A trespass-*offering* mocketh fools;
 But among *the* upright *there is* ¹⁶⁴good will.
 10 *The* heart knoweth *the* bitterness of its soul;
 And a stranger doth not intermeddle with its joy.
 11 *The* house of *the* wicked shall be overthrown;
 But *the* tent of *the* upright shall flourish.
 12 There is a way which ¹⁶⁵seemeth right unto a man;
 But *the* end thereof *are the* ways of death.
 13 Even in laughter *the* heart is sorrowful;
 And *the* end of mirth *is* heaviness.
 14 *The* backslider in heart shall be filled with his own
 ways;
 And a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself.
 15 *The* simple believeth every word;
 But *the* prudent *man* looketh well to his going.
 16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil;
 But *the* fool beareth himself insolently, and is
 confident.
 17 *He that is* soon angry will deal 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 down before *the* good;
 And *the* wicked, at *the* gates of *the* righteous.
 20 *The* poor is hated even of his own neighbor;
 But *the* rich *hath* many friends.
 21 He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth;
 But he that hath pity on *the* poor, happy *is* he.
 22 Do they not err that devise evil?
 But mercy and truth *shall be to* them that devise
 good.
 23 In all labor there is profit;
 But *the* talk of *the* lips *tendeth* only to penury.
 24 ¹⁶⁶*The* crown of *the* wise *is* their riches;
 But *the* folly of fools *is* only folly.
 25 A true witness delivereth souls;
 But *he that* ¹⁶⁷uttereth lies *causeth* deceit.

¹⁶¹ *Hb.* breatheth out lies.

¹⁶² *Or*, Go from *the* presence of a foolish man,
 For thou wilt not perceive *in him the* lips *etc.*

¹⁶³ *Or*, Fools make a mock at sin;

¹⁶⁴ *Or*, *the* favor of *God*.

¹⁶⁵ *Or*, is straight before a man;

¹⁶⁶ *Or*, Their riches *is* a crown unto *the* wise;

¹⁶⁷ *Hb.* breatheth out lies

26 In *the* fear of Jehovah *is* strong confidence;
 And ¹⁶⁸his children shall have a place of refuge.
 27 *The* fear of Jehovah *is* a fountain of life,
 That one may depart from *the* snares of death.
 28 In *the* multitude of people *is* *the* king's glory;
 But in *the* want of people *is* *the* destruction of *the*
 prince.
 29 *He* that *is* slow to anger *is* of great understanding;
 But *he* that *is* hasty of spirit ¹⁶⁹exalteth folly.
 30 A tranquil heart *is* *the* life of *the* flesh;
 But ¹⁷⁰envy *is* *the* rottenness of *the* bones.
 31 He that oppresseth *the* poor reproacheth his Maker;
 But he that hath mercy on *the* needy honoreth him.
 32 *The* wicked *is* thrust down in his ¹⁷¹evil-doing;
 But *the* righteous hath a refuge ¹⁷²in his death.
 33 Wisdom resteth in *the* heart of him that hath
 understanding;
¹⁷³But *that* which *is* in *the* inward part of fools *is*
 made known.
 34 Righteousness exalteth a nation;
 But sin ¹⁷⁴*is* a reproach to any people.
 35 *The* king's favor *is* toward a servant that dealeth
 wisely;
 But his wrath will be *against* him that ¹⁷⁵causeth
 shame.

15 A soft answer turneth away wrath;
 But a grievous word stirreth up anger.
 2 *The* tongue of *the* wise uttereth knowledge aright;
 But *the* mouth of fools poureth out folly.
 3 *The* eyes of Jehovah *are* in every place,
 Keeping watch upon *the* evil and *the* good.
 4 ¹⁷⁶A gentle tongue *is* a tree of life;
 But perverseness therein *is* a breaking of *the* spirit.
 5 A fool despiseth his father's ¹⁷⁷correction;
 But he that regardeth reproof ¹⁷⁸getteth prudence.
 6 In *the* house of *the* righteous *is* much treasure;
 But in *the* revenues of *the* wicked *is* trouble.
 7 *The* lips of *the* wise disperse knowledge;
 But *the* heart of *the* foolish ¹⁷⁹doeth not so.
 8 *The* sacrifice of *the* wicked *is* an abomination to
 Jehovah;

¹⁶⁸ *Or*, *the* children of him *that* hath it shall have *etc.*

¹⁶⁹ *Or*, carrieth away folly.

¹⁷⁰ *Or*, jealousy

¹⁷¹ *Or*, calamity;

¹⁷² *So* Massoretic, 4QProv^b Vg.

Sept. (Aram.) *read* in their piety (*or*, integrity).

¹⁷³ *Or*, And in *the* midst of fools it maketh itself known.

¹⁷⁴ *Lit.* *is* a thing needing mercy to peoples. 4QProv^b

Sept., Vg. (Aram.) *read* diminishes peoples.

¹⁷⁵ *Or*, doeth shamefully.

¹⁷⁶ *Hb.* *The* healing of *the* tongue *is* a tree of life;

¹⁷⁷ *Or*, instruction;

¹⁷⁸ *Or*, dealeth prudently.

¹⁷⁹ *Or*, *is* not stedfast. *or*, *is* not right.

But *the* prayer of *the* upright *is* his delight.
 9 *The* way of *the* wicked *is* an abomination to
 Jehovah;
 But he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.
 10 *There* *is* grievous correction for him that forsaketh
the way;
 And he that hateth reproof shall die.
 11 Sheol and ¹⁸⁰Abaddon *are* before Jehovah:
 How much more than *the* hearts of *the* children of
 men!
 12 A scoffer loveth not to be reproved;
 He will not go unto *the* wise.
 13 A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance;
 But by sorrow of heart *the* spirit *is* broken.
 14 *The* heart of him that hath understanding seeketh
 knowledge;
 But *the* mouth of fools feedeth on folly.
 15 All *the* days of *the* afflicted *are* evil;
 But he that *is* of a cheerful heart *hath* a continual
 feast.
 16 Better *is* little, with *the* fear of Jehovah,
 Than great treasure and trouble therewith.
 17 Better *is* a ¹⁸¹dinner of herbs, where love *is*,
 Than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.
 18 A wrathful man stirreth up contention;
 But *he* that *is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.
 19 *The* way of *the* sluggard *is* as a hedge of thorns;
 But *the* path of *the* upright *is* made a highway.
 20 A wise son maketh a glad father;
 But a foolish man despiseth his mother.
 21 Folly *is* joy to *him* that *is* void of wisdom;
 But a man of understanding maketh straight his
 going.
 22 Where there *is* no counsel, purposes *are*
 disappointed;
 But in *the* multitude of counsellors they *are*
 established.
 23 A man hath joy in *the* answer of his mouth;
 And a word in due season, how good *is* it!
 24 To *the* wise *the* way of life *goeth* upward,
 That he may depart from Sheol beneath.
 25 Jehovah will root up *the* house of *the* proud;
 But he will establish *the* border of *the* widow.
 26 Evil devices *are* an abomination to Jehovah;
 But ¹⁸²pleasant words *are* pure.
 27 He that *is* greedy of gain troubleth his own house;
 But he that hateth bribes shall live.
 28 *The* heart of *the* righteous studieth to answer;
 But *the* mouth of *the* wicked poureth out evil
 things.
 29 Jehovah *is* far from *the* wicked;
 But he heareth *the* prayer of *the* righteous.

¹⁸⁰ *Or*, Destruction

¹⁸¹ *Or*, portion

¹⁸² *Or*, *the* pure speak pleasant words.

30 *The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart;*
And good tidings make the bones fat.
 31 *The ear that hearkeneth to the reproof of life*
Shall abide among the wise.
 32 He that refuseth ¹⁸³correction despiseth his own
 soul;
 But he that hearkeneth to reproof getteth
 understanding.
 33 *The fear of Jehovah is the instruction of wisdom;*
And before honor goeth humility.
16 *The plans of the heart belong to man;*
But ¹⁸⁴the answer of the tongue is from Jehovah.
 2 *All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes;*
But Jehovah weigheth the spirits.
 3 ¹⁸⁵Commit thy works unto Jehovah,
 And thy purposes shall be established.
 4 Jehovah hath made every thing for ¹⁸⁶its own end;
 Yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.
 5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination
 to Jehovah;
¹⁸⁷Though hand join to hand, he shall not be
 unpunished.
 6 By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for;
 And by the fear of Jehovah men depart from evil.
 7 When a man's ways please Jehovah,
 He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.
 8 Better is a little, with righteousness,
 Than great revenues with injustice.
 9 A man's heart deviseth his way;
 But Jehovah directeth his steps.
 10 ¹⁸⁸A divine sentence is in the lips of the king;
 His mouth shall not transgress in judgment.
 11 A just balance and scales are Jehovah's;
 All the weights of the bag are his work.
 12 *It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness;*
For the throne is established by righteousness.
 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings;
 And they love him that speaketh right.
 14 *The wrath of a king is as messengers of death;*
But a wise man will pacify it.
 15 *In the light of the king's countenance is life;*
And his favor is as a cloud of the latter rain.
 16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold!
 Yes, to get understanding is rather to be chosen
 than silver.
 17 *The highway of the upright is to depart from evil:*
He that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.
 18 *Pride goeth before destruction,*
And a haughty spirit before a fall.

¹⁸³ *Or, instruction*

¹⁸⁴ *Or, the final decree is from Jehovah. per Rotherham*

¹⁸⁵ *Hb. Roll*

¹⁸⁶ *Or, his own purpose;*

¹⁸⁷ *Hb. hand to hand See note on ch. 11:21.*

¹⁸⁸ *Hb. Divination is in the lips of the king;*

19 *Better it is to be of a lowly spirit with the ¹⁸⁹poor,*
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.
 20 He that ¹⁹⁰giveth heed unto the word shall find
 good;
 And whoso trusteth in Jehovah, happy is he.
 21 *The wise in heart shall be called prudent;*
And the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.
 22 *Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that*
hath it;
But the correction of fools is their folly.
 23 *The heart of the wise instructeth his mouth,*
And addeth 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 which ¹⁹¹seemeth right unto a man,*
But the end thereof are the ways of death.
 26 *The appetite of the laboring man laboreth for him;*
For his mouth urgeth him thereto.
 27 *A man of worthlessness deviseth mischief;*
And in his lips there is as a scorching fire.
 28 *A perverse man scattereth abroad strife;*
And a whisperer ¹⁹²separateth chief friends.
 29 *A man of violence enticeth his neighbor,*
And leadeth him in a way that is not good.
 30 ¹⁹³He that shutteth his eyes, it is to devise perverse
 things:
 He that compresseth his lips bringeth evil to pass.
 31 *The hoary head is a crown of ¹⁹⁴glory;*
¹⁹⁵*If it be found in the way of righteousness.*
 32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;*
And he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a
city.
 33 *The lot is cast into the lap;*
But the whole disposing thereof is of Jehovah.
17 *Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith,*
Than a house full of ¹⁹⁶feasting with strife.
 2 *A servant that dealeth wisely shall have rule over*
a son that ¹⁹⁷causeth shame,
And shall have part in the inheritance among the
brethren.
 3 *The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for*
gold;
But Jehovah trieth the hearts.
 4 *An evil-doer giveth heed to wicked lips;*
And ¹⁹⁸a liar giveth ear to a mischievous tongue.

¹⁸⁹ *Or, meek,*

¹⁹⁰ *Or, handleth a matter wisely shall find good;*

¹⁹¹ *Or, is straight before a man,*

¹⁹² *Or, alienateth his friend.*

¹⁹³ *Or, He that shutteth his eyes to devise perverse
 things, That compresseth his lips, bringeth evil etc.*

¹⁹⁴ *Or, beauty;*

¹⁹⁵ *Or, It shall be found in the way of righteousness.*

¹⁹⁶ *Hb. the sacrifices of strife.*

¹⁹⁷ *Or, doeth shamefully,*

- 5 Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker;
And he that is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished.
- 6 Children's children *are the* crown of old men;
And the glory of children *are* their fathers.
- 7¹⁹⁹ Excellent speech becometh not a fool;
 Much less do lying lips a prince.
- 8 The ²⁰⁰bribe *is as* a precious stone in *the* eyes of him that hath it;
 Whithersoever it turneth, ²⁰¹it ²⁰²prospereth.
- 9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love;
 But he that harpeth on a matter separateth *chief* friends.
- 10 A rebuke entereth deeper into one that hath understanding
 Than a hundred stripes into a fool.
- 11 ²⁰³An evil *man* seeketh only rebellion;
 Therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.
- 12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man,
 Rather than a fool in his folly.
- 13 Whoso rewardeth evil for good,
 Evil shall not depart from his house.
- 14 *The* beginning of strife *is as* when one letteth out water:
 Therefore leave off contention, before there is quarrelling.
- 15 He that justifieth *the* wicked, and he that condemneth *the* righteous,
 Both of them alike *are* an abomination to Jehovah.
- 16 Wherefore *is there* a price in *the* hand of a fool to buy wisdom,
 Seeing *he hath* no ²⁰⁴understanding?
- 17 A friend loveth at all times;
 And ²⁰⁵a brother is born for adversity.
- 18 A man void of understanding striketh hands,
And becometh surety in *the* presence of his neighbor.
- 19 ²⁰⁶He loveth transgression that loveth strife:
 He that raiseth high his gate seeketh destruction.
- 20 He that hath a wayward heart findeth no good;
 And he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into ²⁰⁷mischief.
- 21 He that begetteth a fool *doeth it* to his sorrow;

¹⁹⁸ *Hb.* falsehood giveth ear

¹⁹⁹ *Or,* Arrogant

²⁰⁰ *Or,* gift (*especially to escape punishment*)

²⁰¹ *Or,* he

²⁰² *Or,* dealeth wisely.

²⁰³ *Or,* A rebellious *man* (*Hb.* Rebellion) seeketh only evil;

²⁰⁴ *Hb.* heart

²⁰⁵ *Or,* is born *as* a brother for adversity.

²⁰⁶ *Or,* He that loveth transgression loveth strife:

²⁰⁷ *Or,* calamity.

- And the* father of a fool hath no joy.
- 22 A cheerful heart is a good medicine;
 But a broken spirit drieth up *the* bones.
- 23 A wicked *man* receiveth a bribe out of *the* bosom,
 To pervert *the* ways of justice.
- 24 Wisdom *is* before the face of him that hath understanding;
 But *the* eyes of a fool *are* in *the* ends of the earth.
- 25 A foolish son *is* a grief to his father,
 And bitterness to her that bare him.
- 26 Also to ²⁰⁸punish the righteous *is* not good,
Nor to smite *the* noble for *their* uprightness.
- 27 He ²⁰⁹that spareth his words hath knowledge;
And he that is of a cool spirit *is* a man of understanding.
- 28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise;
²¹⁰When he shutteth his lips, he is *esteemed as* prudent.
- 18** He that separateth himself seeketh *his own* desire,
And ²¹¹rageth against all sound wisdom.
- 2 A fool hath no delight in understanding,
 But only that his heart may reveal itself.
- 3 When *the* wicked cometh, *there* cometh also contempt,
 And with ignominy *cometh* reproach.
- 4 *The* words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters;
²¹²*The* wellspring of wisdom *is as* a flowing brook.
- 5 To respect *the* person of *the* wicked *is* not good,
²¹³*Nor* to turn aside *the* righteous in judgment.
- 6 A fool's lips ²¹⁴enter into contention,
 And his mouth calleth for stripes.
- 7 A fool's mouth *is* his destruction,
 And his lips *are the* snare of his soul.
- 8 *The* words of a whisperer *are* as dainty morsels,
 And they go down into *the* innermost parts.
- 9 He also that is slack in his work
 Is brother to him that is a destroyer.
- 10 *The* name of Jehovah *is* a strong tower;
The righteous runneth into it, and ²¹⁵is safe.
- 11 *The* rich man's wealth *is* his strong city,
 And as a high wall in his own imagination.
- 12 Before destruction *the* heart of man is haughty;
 And before honor *goeth* humility.
- 13 He that giveth answer before he heareth,
 It is folly and shame unto him.

²⁰⁸ *Or,* fine

²⁰⁹ *Or,* that hath knowledge spareth his words:

And a man of understanding *is* of a cool spirit.

²¹⁰ *Or,* He that shutteth his lips *is esteemed as* prudent.

²¹¹ *Or,* quarrelleth with all sound wisdom.

²¹² *Or,* A flowing brook, a wellspring of wisdom.

²¹³ *Or,* *So as* to turn aside *the* righteous in judgment.

²¹⁴ *Or,* bring contention,

²¹⁵ *Hb.* is set on high.

- 14 *The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity;*
 But a broken spirit who can ²¹⁶bear?
- 15 *The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge;*
 And *the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.*
- 16 A man's gift maketh room for him,
 And bringeth him before great men.
- 17 *He that pleadeth his cause first seemeth just;*
 But his neighbor cometh and searcheth him out.
- 18 The lot causeth contentions to cease,
 And parteth between the mighty.
- 19 A brother ²¹⁷offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city;
 And *such contentions are like the bars of a castle.*
- 20 A man's belly shall be filled with *the fruit of his mouth;*
 With *the increase of his lips shall he be satisfied.*
- 21 Death and life *are in the power of the tongue;*
 And they that love it shall eat *the fruit thereof.*
- 22 *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing,*
 And obtaineth favor of Jehovah.
- 23 *The poor useth entreaties;*
 But *the rich answereth roughly.*
- 24 ²¹⁸*He that maketh many friends doeth it to his own destruction;*
 But there is a ²¹⁹friend *that sticketh closer than a brother.*
- 19 *Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity*
 Than *he that is perverse in his lips and is a fool.*
- 2 Also, ²²⁰*that the soul be without knowledge is not good;*
 And he that hasteth with *his feet* ²²¹sinneth.
- 3 *The foolishness of man subverteth his way;*
 And his heart fretteth against Jehovah.
- 4 Wealth addeth many friends;
 But ²²²*the poor is separated from his friend.*
- 5 A false witness shall not be unpunished;
 And *he that* ²²³uttereth lies shall not escape.
- 6 Many will entreat *the favor of* ²²⁴*the liberal man;*
 And every man *is a friend to him that giveth gifts.*
- 7 All *the brethren of the poor do hate him;*
 How much more do his friends go far from him!
²²⁵*He pursueth them with words, but they are gone.*
-
- ²¹⁶ *Or, raise up*
²¹⁷ *Or, injured*
²¹⁸ *Hb. A man of friends*
²¹⁹ *Hb. lover*
²²⁰ *Or, desire without knowledge is not good;*
²²¹ *Or, misseth his way.*
²²² *Or, the friend of the poor separateth himself from him*
²²³ *Hb. breatheth out lies Also in vs. 9.*
²²⁴ *Or, a prince;*
²²⁵ *Or, He pursueth after words, which are nought.*

- 8 He that getteth ²²⁶wisdom loveth his own soul:
 He that keepeth understanding shall find good.
- 9 A false witness shall not be unpunished;
 And *he that* uttereth lies shall perish.
- 10 Delicate living is not seemly for a fool;
 Much less for a servant to have rule over princes.
- 11 *The discretion of a man maketh him slow to anger;*
 And *it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*
- 12 *The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion;*
 But his favor *is as dew upon the grass.*
- 13 A foolish son *is the calamity of his father;*
 And *the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.*
- 14 House and riches *are an inheritance from fathers;*
 But a prudent wife *is from Jehovah.*
- 15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep;
 And *the idle soul shall suffer hunger.*
- 16 He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his soul;
 But he that ²²⁷is careless of his ways shall die.
- 17 He that hath pity upon *the poor lendeth unto Jehovah,*
 And his good deed will he pay him again.
- 18 Chasten thy son, seeing there is hope;
 And set not thy heart on ²²⁸his destruction.
- 19 A man of great wrath shall bear *the penalty;*
 For if thou deliver *him*, thou must do it yet again.
- 20 Hear counsel, and receive ²²⁹instruction,
 That thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.
- 21 *There are many devices in a man's heart;*
 But *the counsel of Jehovah, that shall stand.*
- 22 *That which maketh a man to be desired is his kindness;*
 And a poor *man is better than a liar.*
- 23 *The fear of Jehovah tendeth to life;*
 And *he that hath it shall abide satisfied;*
 He shall not be visited with evil.
- 24 *The sluggard burieth his hand in the dish,*
 And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.
- 25 Smite a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence;
 And reprove one that hath understanding, *and he will understand knowledge.*
- 26 He that doeth violence to *his father, and chaseth away his mother,*
Is a son that causeth shame and bringeth reproach.
- 27 Cease, my son, to hear instruction
 Only to err from *the words of knowledge.*
- 28 A worthless witness mocketh at justice;
 And *the mouth of the wicked swalloweth iniquity.*
- 29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers,
 And stripes for *the back of fools.*
-
- ²²⁶ *Hb. heart.*
²²⁷ *Hb. despiseth his ways*
²²⁸ *Hb. causing him to die.*
²²⁹ *Or, correction,*

- 20** Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink a brawler;
 And whosoever ²³⁰ereth thereby is not wise.
2 The terror of a king *is* as *the* roaring of a lion:
 He that ²³¹provoketh him to anger sinneth *against*
 his own ²³²soul.
3 *It is* an honor for a man to ²³³keep aloof from strife;
 But every fool will be quarelling.
4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of *the* winter;
²³⁴Therefore he shall 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 ²³⁵Most men will proclaim every one his own
 kindness;
 But a faithful man who can find?
7 A righteous *man* that walketh in his integrity,
 Blessed *are* his children after him.
8 A king that sitteth on *the* throne of judgment
²³⁶Scattereth away all evil with his eyes.
9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean,
 I am pure from my sin?
10 ²³⁷Diverse weights, *and* diverse measures,
 Both of them alike *are* an abomination to Jehovah.
11 Even a child maketh himself known by his doings,
 Whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.
12 *The* hearing ear, and *the* seeing eye,
 Jehovah hath made even both of them.
13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty;
 Open thine eyes, *and* thou shalt be satisfied with
 bread.
14 *It is* bad, *it is* bad, saith the buyer;
 But when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.
15 There is gold, and abundance of rubies;
 But *the* lips of knowledge *are* a precious jewel.
16 Take his garment that is surety *for* a stranger;
 And ²³⁸hold him in pledge *that is* surety *for*
²³⁹foreigners.
17 Bread of falsehood *is* sweet to a man;
 But afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.
18 Every purpose is established by counsel;
 And by wise guidance make thou war.
19 He that goeth about *as* a talebearer revealeth
 secrets;

²³⁰ *Or*, reeleth

²³¹ *Or*, angereth himself against him sinneth *etc.*

²³² *Or*, life. *or*, being.

²³³ *Or*, cease from strife;

²³⁴ *Or*, Therefore when he seeketh in harvest, there shall be nothing.

²³⁵ *Or*, Many a man will meet one that is kind to him;

²³⁶ *Or*, Winnoweth all evil with his eyes.

²³⁷ *Hb.* A stone and a stone, an ephah and an ephah,

²³⁸ *Or*, take a pledge of him *that is* surety

²³⁹ *Hb*^{mg} reads a foreign woman.

- Therefore company not with him that openeth wide
 his lips.
20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother,
 His lamp shall be put out in blackness of darkness.
21 An inheritance *may be* gotten hastily at the
 beginning;
 But *the* end thereof shall not be blessed.
22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil:
 Wait for Jehovah, and he will save thee.
23 ²⁴⁰Diverse weights *are* an abomination to Jehovah;
 And ²⁴¹a false balance *is* not good.
24 A man's goings *are* of Jehovah;
 How then can man understand his way?
25 *It is* a snare to a man ²⁴²rashly to say, *It is* holy,
 And after vows to make inquiry.
26 A wise king winnoweth *the* wicked,
 And bringeth *the* threshing-wheel over them.
27 The spirit of man *is* the lamp of Jehovah,
 Searching all his innermost parts.
28 Kindness and truth preserve *the* king;
 And ²⁴³his throne is upholden by kindness.
29 The glory of young men *is* their strength;
 And *the* beauty of old men *is* the hoary head.
30 Stripes that wound cleanse away evil;
 And strokes *reach* the innermost parts.
21 The king's heart *is* in the hand of Jehovah *as* the
 watercourses:
 He turneth it whithersoever he will.
2 Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes;
 But Jehovah weigheth *the* hearts.
3 To do righteousness and justice
Is more acceptable to Jehovah than sacrifice.
4 A high look, and a proud heart,
²⁴⁴Even the lamp of *the* wicked, *is* sin.
5 The thoughts of *the* diligent *tend* only to
 plenteousness;
 But every one *that is* hasty *hasteth* only to want.
6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue
Is a vapor driven to and fro by them that seek death.
7 The violence of *the* wicked shall sweep them away,
 Because they refuse to do justice.
8 The way of him that is laden with guilt *is* exceeding
 crooked;
 But *as for* the pure, his work *is* ²⁴⁵right.
9 *It is* better to dwell in *the* corner of *the* housetop,
 Than with a contentious woman in ²⁴⁶a wide house.

²⁴⁰ *Hb.* A stone and a stone *are* an abomination *etc.*

²⁴¹ *Hb.* a balance of deceit *is* not good. *or*, ...no good.

²⁴² *Or*, rashly to utter holy words, *or*, to devour
that which is holy,

²⁴³ *Or*, he upholdeth his throne by kindness.

²⁴⁴ *Or*, and the tillage of *the* wicked *is* sin.

²⁴⁵ *Or*, straight.

²⁴⁶ *Or*, a house in common. *Hb.* a house of society.

- 10 *The soul of the wicked desireth evil:
His neighbor findeth no favor in his eyes.*
- 11 *When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made
wise;
And ²⁴⁷ when the wise is instructed, he receiveth
knowledge.*
- 12 ²⁴⁸ *The righteous man considereth the house of the
wicked,
How the wicked are overthrown to their ruin.*
- 13 *Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor,
He also shall cry, but shall not be heard.*
- 14 *A gift in secret ²⁴⁹ pacifieth anger;
And a present in the bosom, strong wrath.*
- 15 *It is joy to the righteous to do justice;
²⁵⁰ But it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.*
- 16 *The man that wandereth out of the way of
understanding
Shall rest in the assembly of ²⁵¹ the dead.*
- 17 *He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man:
He that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.*
- 18 *The wicked is a payment for the righteous;
And the treacherous cometh in the stead of the
upright.*
- 19 *It is better to dwell in a desert land,
Than with ²⁵² a contentious and fretful woman.*
- 20 *There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of
the wise;
But a foolish man swalloweth it up.*
- 21 *He that followeth after righteousness and kindness
Findeth life, righteousness, and honor.*
- 22 *A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty,
And bringeth down the strength of the confidence
thereof.*
- 23 *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue
Keepeth his soul from troubles.*
- 24 *The proud and haughty man, scoffer is his name;
He worketh in the arrogance of pride.*
- 25 *The desire of the sluggard killeth him;
For his hands refuse to labor.*
- 26 *There is that coveteth greedily all the day long;
But the righteous giveth and withholdeth not.*
- 27 *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination:
How much more, when he bringeth it ²⁵³ with a
wicked mind!*
- 28 *A false witness shall perish;
But the man that heareth shall speak so as to endure.*
- 29 *A wicked man hardeneth his face;*

²⁴⁷ *Or, when one considereth the wise,*

²⁴⁸ *Or, One that is righteous considereth ... the wicked,
He overthroweth the wicked to their ruin.*

²⁴⁹ *Hb. bendeth*

²⁵⁰ *Or, But destruction shall be to etc.*

²⁵¹ *Or, the shades. Hb. Rephaim.*

²⁵² *Or, a contentious woman and vexation.*

²⁵³ *Or, to atone for wickedness!*

- But as for the upright, ²⁵⁴ he establisheth his ways.*
- 30 *There is no wisdom nor understanding
Nor counsel against Jehovah.*
- 31 *The horse is prepared against the day of battle;
But the victory is of Jehovah.*
- 22 *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,
And ²⁵⁵ loving favor rather than silver and gold.*
- 2 *The rich and the poor meet together:
Jehovah is the maker of them all.*
- 3 *A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself;
But the simple pass on, and ²⁵⁶ suffer for it.*
- 4 *The reward of humility and the fear of Jehovah
Is riches, and honor, and life.*
- 5 *Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse:
He that keepeth his soul shall be far from them.*
- 6 *Train up a child ²⁵⁷ in the way he should go,
And even when he is old he will not depart from it.*
- 7 *The rich ruleth over the poor;
And the borrower is servant to the lender.*
- 8 *He that soweth iniquity shall reap ²⁵⁸ calamity;
And the rod of his wrath shall fail.*
- 9 *He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed;
For he giveth of his bread to the poor.*
- 10 *Cast out the scoffer, and contention will go out;
Yes, strife and ignominy will cease.*
- 11 *He that loveth ²⁵⁹ pureness of heart,
²⁶⁰ For the grace of his lips the king will be his
friend.*
- 12 *The eyes of Jehovah preserve him that hath
knowledge;
But he overthroweth the words of the treacherous
man.*
- 13 *The sluggard saith, There is a lion without:
I shall be lain in the streets.*
- 14 *The mouth of strange women is a deep pit:
He ²⁶¹ that is abhorred of Jehovah shall fall therein.*
- 15 *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
But the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*
- 16 *He that oppresseth the poor to increase his gain,
And he that giveth to the rich, shall come only to
want.*
- 17 *Incline thine ear, and hear the words of the wise,
And apply thy heart unto my knowledge.*
- 18 *For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within
thee,
If they be established together upon thy lips.*

²⁵⁴ *Hb^{mg} reads he considereth his way.*

²⁵⁵ *Or, favor is better than silver and gold.*

²⁵⁶ *Hb. are mulcted.*

²⁵⁷ *Hb. according to his way,*

²⁵⁸ *Or, vanity;*

²⁵⁹ *Hb^{mg} reads the pure of heart,*

²⁶⁰ *Or, Hath grace in his lips; or, That hath grace in
his lips,*

²⁶¹ *Or, against whom Jehovah hath indignation.*

19 That thy trust may be in Jehovah,
I have made *them* known to thee this day, even to thee.

20 Have not I written unto thee ²⁶²excellent things
²⁶³Of counsels and knowledge,

21 To make thee know ²⁶⁴*the* certainty of *the* words of truth,
That thou mayest carry back words of truth to them that send thee?

22 Rob not *the* poor, ²⁶⁵because he *is* poor;
Neither ²⁶⁶oppress *the* afflicted ²⁶⁷in the gate:

23 For Jehovah will plead their cause,
And despoil of life those that despoil them.

24 Make no friendship with *a* man that is given to anger;
And with *a* wrathful man thou shalt not go:

25 Lest thou learn his ways,
And get a snare to thy soul.

26 Be thou not *one* of them that strike hands,
Or of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If thou hast not wherewith to pay,
Why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

28 Remove not *the* ancient ²⁶⁸landmark,
Which thy fathers have set.

29 Seest thou a man ²⁶⁹diligent in his business?
he shall stand before kings;
He shall not stand before ²⁷⁰mean *men*.

23 When thou sittest to eat with *a* ruler,
Consider diligently ²⁷¹him *that is* before thee;

2 ²⁷²And put a knife to thy throat,
If thou *be* a man given to *thy* soul.

3 Be not desirous of his dainties;
Seeing they *are* deceitful food.

4 Weary not thyself to be rich;
Cease ²⁷³from thine own wisdom.

5 ²⁷⁴Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not?
For *riches* certainly make themselves wings,
Like an eagle that flieth toward heaven.

6 Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye,
Neither desire thou his dainties:

²⁶² *The word is doubtful.* Hb^{mg} reads heretofore

²⁶³ *Or, In*

²⁶⁴ *Or, of a certainty the words of truth,*

²⁶⁵ *Or, for*

²⁶⁶ *Or, crush*

²⁶⁷ *That is, in a legal court case:*

²⁶⁸ *That is, property marker,*

²⁶⁹ *Or, skilful*

²⁷⁰ *Hb. obscure men.*

²⁷¹ *Or, what is before thee;*

²⁷² *Or, For thou wilt put a knife to thy throat,*

²⁷³ *Or, by reason of thine own understanding.*

²⁷⁴ *Or, Wilt thou set thine eyes upon it? it is gone:*
Hb. Shall thine eyes fly upon it and it is not?

7 For ²⁷⁵as he thinketh within his soul, so *is* he:
Eat and drink, saith he to thee;
But his heart is not with thee.

8 *The morsel which* thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up,
And lose thy sweet words.

9 Speak not in *the* hearing of a fool;
For he will despise *the* wisdom of thy words.

10 Remove not *the* ancient ²⁷⁶landmark;
And enter not into *the* fields of *the* fatherless:

11 For their Ransomer *is* strong;
He will plead their cause against thee.

12 Apply thy heart unto ²⁷⁷instruction,
And thine ears to *the* words of knowledge.

13 Withhold not correction from *the* child;
For ²⁷⁸if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die.

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod,
And shalt deliver his soul from Sheol.

15 My son, if thy heart be wise,
My heart will be glad, even mine:

16 Yes, my ²⁷⁹heart will rejoice,
When thy lips speak right things.

17 Let not thy heart envy sinners;
But *be thou* in *the* fear of Jehovah all the day long:

18 For surely there is a ²⁸⁰reward;
And thy hope shall not be cut off.

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise,
And guide thy heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers,
Among gluttonous eaters of flesh:

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

22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee,
And despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 Buy *the* truth, and sell it not;
Yes, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

24 *The* father of *the* righteous will greatly rejoice;
And he that begetteth a wise *child* will have joy of him.

25 Let thy father and thy mother be glad,
And let her that bare thee rejoice.

26 My son, give me thy heart;
And let thine eyes ²⁸¹delight in my ways.

27 For a harlot *is* a deep ditch;
And a foreign woman *is* a narrow pit.

28 Yes, she lieth in wait ²⁸²as a robber,

²⁷⁵ *Or, as one that reckoneth within himself,*

²⁷⁶ *That is, property marker,*

²⁷⁷ *Or, correction,*

²⁷⁸ *Or, though*

²⁷⁹ *Hb. kidneys or, reins*

²⁸⁰ *Or, sequel; or, future; Hb. latter end;*

²⁸¹ *Hb^{mg} reads observe*

²⁸² *Or, as for a prey,*

And increaseth *the* treacherous among men.
 29 Who hath ²⁸³woe? who hath ²⁸⁴sorrow? who hath contentions?
 Who hath complaining? who hath wounds without cause?
 Who hath ²⁸⁵redness of eyes?
 30 They that tarry long at the wine;
 They that go to ²⁸⁶seek out mixed wine.
 31 Look not thou upon wine when it is red,
 When it sparkleth in the cup,
 When it ²⁸⁷goeth down smoothly:
 32 At *the* last it biteth like a serpent,
 And stingeth like an adder.
 33 Thine eyes shall behold ²⁸⁸strange things,
 And thy heart shall utter perverse thengs.
 34 Yes, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in *the* midst of *the* sea,
 Or as he that lieth upon *the* top of a mast.
 35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say*, and I was not hurt;
 They have beaten me, and I felt *it* not:
 When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

24 Be not thou envious against evil men;
 Neither desire to be with them:
 2 For their heart studieth oppression,
 And their lips talk of mischief.
 3 Through wisdom is a house builded;
 And by understanding it is established;
 4 And by knowledge are *the* chambers filled
 With all precious and pleasant riches.
 5 A wise man ²⁸⁹*is* strong;
 Yes, a man of knowledge ²⁹⁰increaseth might.
 6 For by wise guidance thou shalt make thy war;
 And in a multitude of counsellors *there is* ²⁹¹safety.
 7 Wisdom *is* too high for a fool:
 He openeth not his mouth in the gate.
 8 He that deviseth to do evil,
 Men shall call him a mischief-maker.
 9 *The* thought of foolishness is sin;
 And *the* scoffer *is* an abomination to men.
 10 *If* thou faint in *the* day of adversity,
 Thy strength *is* small.
 11 Deliver *them that are* carried away unto death,
 And *those that are* ²⁹²ready to be slain, ²⁹³see that thou hold *them* back.

²⁸³ *Hb.* Oh!
²⁸⁴ *Hb.* Alas!
²⁸⁵ *Or,* darkness
²⁸⁶ *Or,* try mixed wine.
²⁸⁷ *Or,* moveth itself aright:
²⁸⁸ *Or,* strange women,
²⁸⁹ *Hb.* *is* in strength;
²⁹⁰ *Hb.* strengtheneth might.
²⁹¹ *Or,* victory.
²⁹² *Hb.* tottering to the slaughter

12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew not ²⁹⁴this;
 Doth not he that weigheth *the* hearts consider *it*?
 And he that keepeth thy soul, doth *not* he know *it*?
 And shall *not* he render to *every* man according to his work?
 13 My son, eat thou honey, for *it is* good;
 And *the* drippings of *the* honeycomb, *which are*
 sweet to thy taste:
 14 So *shalt* thou know wisdom *to be* unto thy soul;
 If thou hast found *it*, then shall there be a reward,
 And thy hope shall not be cut off.
 15 Lay not wait, ²⁹⁵O wicked *man*, against *the*
²⁹⁶habitation of *the* righteous;
 Destroy not his ²⁹⁷resting-place:
 16 For a righteous *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again;
 But *the* wicked are overthrown by calamity.
 17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth,
 And let not thy heart be glad when he is overthrown;
 18 Lest Jehovah see *it*, and it displease him,
 And he turn away his wrath from him.
 19 Fret not thyself because of evil-*doers*;
 Neither be thou envious at the wicked:
 20 For there shall be no reward to the evil *man*;
The lamp of *the* wicked shall be put out.
 21 My son, fear thou Jehovah and *the* king;
 And company not with them that are given to change:
 22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly;
 And *the* destruction ²⁹⁸from them both, who knoweth *it*?
 23 These also *are sayings* of *the* wise.
 To have respect of persons in judgment *is* not good.
 24 He that saith unto *the* wicked, Thou *art* righteous;
 Peoples shall curse him, nations shall abhor him:
 25 But to them that rebuke *him* shall be delight,
 And a good blessing shall come upon them.
 26 He ²⁹⁹kisseth *the* lips
 Who giveth a straight answer.
 27 Prepare thy work without,
 And make it ready for thee in the field;
 And afterwards build thy house.
 28 Be not a witness against thy neighbor without cause;
³⁰⁰And deceive *not* with thy lips.
 29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me;
 I will render to the man according to his work.

²⁹³ *Or,* forbear thou not to deliver.
²⁹⁴ *Or,* this *man*;
²⁹⁵ *Or,* as a wicked man,
²⁹⁶ *Or,* pasture
²⁹⁷ *Or,* fold:
²⁹⁸ *Or,* of their years,
²⁹⁹ *Or,* shall kiss *with the* lips
³⁰⁰ *Hb.* And wouldest thou deceive with thy lips?

30 I went by *the* field of *the* sluggard,
 And by *the* vineyard of *the* man void of
 understanding;
 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
The face thereof was covered with ³⁰¹nettles,
 And *the* stone wall thereof was broken down.
 32 Then I beheld, *and* considered well;
 I saw, *and* received instruction:
 33 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber,
 A little folding of *the* hands to sleep;
 34 So shall thy poverty come *as* a robber,
 And thy want as an armed man.
25 These also *are* proverbs of Solomon, which *the* men
 of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.
 2 *It is the* glory of God to conceal a thing;
 But *the* glory of kings *is* to search out a matter.
 3 *As the* heavens for height, and *the* earth for depth,
 So *the* heart of kings *is* unsearchable.
 4 Take away *the* dross from *the* silver,
 And there cometh forth a vessel for the refiner:
 5 Take away *the* wicked from before *the* king,
 And his throne shall be established in righteousness.
 6 ³⁰²Put not thyself forward in *the* presence of *the* king,
 And stand not in *the* place of great *men*:
 7 For better *is it* that it be said unto thee, Come up
 hither,
 Than that thou shouldest be put lower in *the*
 presence of *the* prince,
 Whom thine eyes have seen.
 8 Go not forth hastily to strive,
³⁰³Lest *thou know not* what to do in *the* end thereof,
 When thy neighbor hath put thee to shame.
 9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbor *himself*,
³⁰⁴And disclose not *the* secret of another;
 10 Lest he that heareth *it* revile thee,
 And thine infamy turn not away.
 11 A word ³⁰⁵fitly spoken
Is like apples of gold in network of silver.
 12 *As* ³⁰⁶an ear-ring of gold, and an ornament of fine
 gold,
So is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.
 13 *As the* cold of snow in *the* time of harvest,
So is a faithful messenger to them that send him;
 For he refresheth *the* soul of his masters.
 14 *As* clouds and wind without rain,
So is he that boasteth himself ³⁰⁷of his gifts falsely.

³⁰¹ *Or*, wild vetches,

³⁰² *Hb.* Glorify not thyself in *the* presence of *the* king,

³⁰³ *Or*, Lest *it be said* in *the* end thereof, What wilt
 thou do? when thy neighbor *etc.*

³⁰⁴ *Or*, But

³⁰⁵ *Or*, in due season

³⁰⁶ *Or*, a nose-ring

³⁰⁷ *Hb.* in a gift of falsehood.

15 By long forbearing is a ³⁰⁸ruler persuaded,
 And a soft tongue breaketh *the* bone.
 16 Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient
 for thee,
 Lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.
 17 Let thy foot be seldom in thy neighbor's house,
 Lest he be ³⁰⁹wearied of thee, and hate thee.
 18 A man that beareth false witness against his
 neighbor
Is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.
 19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble
Is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.
 20 *As* one that taketh off a garment in cold weather,
and as vinegar upon soda,
So is he that singeth songs to a heavy heart.
 21 ³¹⁰If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat;
 And if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:
 22 For thou wilt heap coals of fire upon his head,
 And Jehovah will reward thee.
 23 *The* north wind bringeth forth rain:
So doth a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.
 24 *It is* better to dwell in *the* corner of *the* housetop,
 Than with a contentious woman in a wide house.
 25 *As* cold waters to a ³¹¹thirsty soul,
So is good news from a far country.
 26 *As* ³¹²a troubled fountain, and a corrupted spring,
So is a righteous man that ³¹³giveth way before *the*
 wicked.
 27 *It is* not good to eat much honey:
³¹⁴*So for men* to search out their own glory *is*
 grievous.
 28 ³¹⁵He whose spirit is without restraint
Is like a city that is broken down and without walls.
26 *As* snow in summer, and as rain in harvest,
 So honor is not seemly for a fool.
 2 *As* the sparrow in her wandering, as the swallow in
 her flying,
So the curse that is causeless ³¹⁶alighteth not.
 3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass,
 And a rod for *the* back of fools.
 4 Answer not a fool according to his folly,
 Lest thou also be like unto him.

³⁰⁸ *Or*, judge

³⁰⁹ *Hb.* full of thee,

³¹⁰ *Hb.* If he that hateth thee be hungry,

³¹¹ *Or*, weary soul,

³¹² *Hb.* a trampled fountain,

³¹³ *Or*, is moved before *the* wicked.

³¹⁴ *Or*, But *for men* to search out their own glory is
 glory. ARV says The Hebrew text is obscure.
 Franz Delitzsch uses *different pointing*, But to
 search out hard things is an honor.

³¹⁵ *Or*, He that hath no rule over his spirit *Is like* a city

³¹⁶ *Hb.* cometh not.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest he be wise in ³¹⁷his own conceit.
6 He that sendeth a message by *the* hand of a fool
Cutteth off *his own* feet, *and* drinketh in damage.
7 *The* legs of *the* lame hang loose:
So *is* a parable in *the* mouth of fools.
8 As one that bindeth a stone in a sling,
So *is* he that giveth honor to a fool.
9 As a thorn that goeth up into *the* hand of a drunkard,
So *is* a parable in *the* mouth of fools.
10 ³¹⁸As an archer that woundeth all,
So *is* he that hireth *the* fool and he that hireth them
that pass by.
11 As a dog that returneth to his vomit,
So *is* a fool that repeateth his folly.
12 ³¹⁹Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit?
There is more hope of a fool than of him.
13 *The* sluggard saith, *There is* a lion in the way;
A lion *is* in the streets.
14 As the door turneth upon its hinges,
So *doth the* sluggard upon his bed.
15 *The* sluggard burieth his hand in the dish;
It wearieth him to bring it again to his mouth.
16 *The* sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit
Than seven men that can ³²⁰render a reason.
17 ³²¹He that passeth by, *and* vexeth himself with
strife *belonging* not to him,
Is like one that taketh a dog by *the* ears.
18 As a madman who casteth firebrands,
Arrows, and death,
19 So *is the* man *that* deceiveth his neighbor,
And saith, Am not I in sport?
20 For lack of wood *the* fire goeth out;
And where *there is* no whisperer, contention
ceaseth.
21 As coals *are* to hot embers, and wood to fire,
So *is* a contentious man to inflame strife.
22 *The* words of a whisperer *are* as dainty morsels,
And they go down into *the* innermost parts.
23 Fervent lips and a wicked heart
Are like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross.
24 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips;
But he layeth up deceit within him:
25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not;
For *there are* seven abominations in his heart:

³¹⁷ *Hb.* his own eyes. Also in vs. 16.

³¹⁸ *Or,* A master worker formeth all things; But he that hireth *the* fool *is* as one that hireth them that pass by. ARV says The Hebrew text is obscure.

³¹⁹ Lamsa reads The body of a fool is greatly afflicted, and a drunkard thinks he can cross a sea.

³²⁰ *Or,* answer discretely.

³²¹ *Or,* He that vexeth himself with strife not his own, *Is like* one that taketh a passing dog by *the* ears.

26 *Though his* hatred cover itself with guile,
His wickedness shall be openly showed before *the*
assembly.
27 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein;
And he that rolleth a stone, it shall return upon him.
28 A lying tongue hateth those it hath ³²²wounded;
And a flattering mouth worketh ruin.
27 Boast not thyself of tomorrow;
For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own
mouth;
A stranger, and not thine own lips.
3 A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty;
But a fool's vexation *is* heavier than they both.
4 Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* ³²³overwhelming;
But who *is* able to stand before jealousy?
5 Better *is* open rebuke
Than love *that is* hidden.
6 Faithful *are the* wounds of a friend;
But *the* kisses of an enemy *are* profuse.
7 *The* full soul ³²⁴loatheth a honeycomb;
But to *the* hungry soul every bitter thing *is* sweet.
8 As a bird that wandereth from her nest,
So *is* a man that wandereth from his place.
9 Oil and perfume rejoice *the* heart;
So *doth the* sweetness of a man's friend *that cometh*
of *the* counsel of *the* soul.
10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake
not;
And go not to thy brother's house in *the* day of thy
calamity:
Better *is* a neighbor *that is* near than a brother far off.
11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad,
That I may answer him that reproacheth me.
12 A prudent *man* seeth *the* evil, *and* hideth himself;
But the simple pass on, *and* suffer for it.
13 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger;
And hold him in pledge *that is* surety for a foreign
woman.
14 He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising
early in the morning,
It shall be counted a curse to him.
15 ³²⁵A continual dripping in a very rainy day
And a contentious woman are alike:
16 ³²⁶He that would restrain her restraineth *the* wind;
And ³²⁷his right hand encountereth oil.

³²² *Hb.* crushed;

³²³ *Hb.* a flood;

³²⁴ *Hb.* trampleth upon a honeycomb;

³²⁵ REB says A constant dripping on a rainy day – That is what a woman's nagging is like.

16 As well try to control the wind as to control her!
As well try to pick up oil in ones fingers!

³²⁶ *Hb.* He that would hide her hideth *the* wind;

³²⁷ *Or,* *the* oil of his right hand betrayeth itself.

17 Iron sharpeneth iron;
 So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.
 18 Whoso keepeth *the* fig-tree shall eat *the* fruit thereof;
 And he that regardeth his master shall be honored.
 19 ³²⁸As in water face *answereth* to face,
 So *the* heart of man to man.
 20 ³²⁹Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied;
 And the eyes of man are never satisfied.
 21 *The* refining pot is for silver, and *the* furnace for gold;
 And a man *is tried* by ³³⁰his praise.
 22 Though thou shouldst bray *a* fool in *a* mortar with *a* pestle along with bruised grain,
Yet will not his foolishness depart from him.
 23 Be thou diligent to know *the* state of thy flocks,
 And look well to thy herds:
 24 For riches *are* not for ever;
 And doth *the* crown *endure* unto all generations?
 25 *The* ³³¹hay is carried, and *the* tender grass showeth itself,
 And *the* herbs of *the* mountains are gathered in.
 26 *The* lambs *are* for thy clothing,
 And *the* goats *are the* price of *the* field;
 27 And *there will be* goats' milk enough for thy food,
 for *the* food of thy household,
 And maintenance for thy maidens.
28 *The* wicked flee when no man pursueth;
 But *the* righteous are bold as a lion.
 2 For *the* transgression of a land many *are the* princes thereof;
 But by ³³²men of understanding *and* knowledge *the* state *thereof* shall be prolonged.
 3 A needy man that oppresseth *the* poor
Is like a sweeping rain ³³³which leaveth no food.
 4 They that forsake *the* law praise *the* wicked;
 But such as keep *the* law contend with them.
 5 Evil men understand not justice;
 But they that seek Jehovah understand all *things*.
 6 Better *is the* poor that walketh in his integrity,
 Than *he that is* ³³⁴perverse in *his* ways, though he *be* rich.
 7 Whoso keepeth *the* law *is* a wise son;
 But he that is a companion of gluttons shameth his father.

³²⁸ *Or,* As water *showeth* face to face,
 So *the* heart *showeth* man to man.

³²⁹ *Or possibly,* Hell and Destruction are never full;

³³⁰ *Or,* that which he praiseth. *or,* that whereof he boasteth.

³³¹ *Hb.* grass

³³² *Or,* a man of understanding

³³³ *Hb.* without food.

³³⁴ *Hb.* perverse of two ways,

8 He that augmenteth his substance by interest and increase,
 Gathereth it for him that hath pity on *the* poor.
 9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing *the* law,
 Even his prayer *is* an abomination.
 10 Whoso causeth *the* upright to go astray in an evil way,
 He shall fall himself into his own pit;
 But *the* perfect shall inherit good.
 11 *The* rich man *is* wise in ³³⁵his own conceit;
 But *the* poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.
 12 When *the* righteous triumph, *there is* great glory;
 But when *the* wicked rise, men ³³⁶hide themselves.
 13 He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper:
 But whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall obtain mercy.
 14 Happy *is the* man that feareth always;
 But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into ³³⁷mischief.
 15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear,
 So *is* a wicked ruler over a poor people.
 16 ³³⁸*The* prince that lacketh understanding *is* also a great oppressor;
 But he that hateth covetousness shall prolong *his* days.
 17 A man that is laden with *the* blood of *any* soul
 Shall flee unto *the* pit; let no man stay him.
 18 Whoso walketh uprightly shall be delivered;
 But ³³⁹*he that is* perverse in *his* ways shall fall at once.
 19 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread;
 But he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.
 20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings;
 But he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be unpunished.
 21 To have respect of persons *is* not good;
³⁴⁰Neither *that* a man should transgress for a piece of bread.
 22 He that *hath* an evil eye hasteth after riches,
 And knoweth not that want shall come upon him.
 23 He that rebuketh a man shall afterward find more favor
 Than he that flattereth with *the* tongue.
 24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith,
It is no transgression,
 The same *is the* companion of a destroyer.

³³⁵ *Hb.* his own eyes;

³³⁶ *Hb.* must be searched for.

³³⁷ *Or,* calamity.

³³⁸ *Or,* O prince that lackest understanding and *art* a great oppressor, He that hateth covetousness *etc.*

³³⁹ *Or,* *he that walketh* perversely in two ways shall

³⁴⁰ *Or,* For, for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

25 He that is of a greedy soul stirreth up strife;
But he that putteth his trust in Jehovah shall be made fat.

26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool;
But whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack;
But he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

28 When *the* wicked rise, men hide themselves;
But when they perish, *the* righteous increase.

29 He that being often reprov'd hardeneth *his* neck
Shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

2 When *the* righteous ³⁴¹are increased, the people rejoice;
But when a wicked man beareth rule, *the* people sigh.

3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father;
But he that keepeth company with harlots wasteth *his* substance.

4 *The* king by justice establisheth *the* land;
But ³⁴²he that exacteth gifts overthroweth it.

5 A man that flattereth his neighbor
Spreadeth a net for his steps.

6 In *the* transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare;
But *the* righteous doth sing and rejoice.

7 *The* righteous taketh knowledge of *the* cause of *the* poor;
The wicked ³⁴³hath not understanding to know *it*.

8 Scoffers set a city in a flame;
But wise *men* turn away wrath.

9 *If* a wise man hath a controversy with a foolish man,
³⁴⁴Whether he be angry or laugh, *there will be* no rest.

10 *The* bloodthirsty hate him that is perfect;
³⁴⁵And as for *the* upright, they seek his soul.

11 A fool uttereth all his ³⁴⁶anger;
But a wise *man* keepeth it back and stilleth it.

12 If a ruler hearkeneth to falsehood,
All his servants *are* wicked.

13 *The* poor man and *the* oppressor meet together;
Jehovah lighteneth *the* eyes of them both.

14 *The* king that faithfully judgeth *the* poor,
His throne shall be established for ever.

15 *The* rod and reproof give wisdom;
But a child left *to himself* causeth shame to his mother.

³⁴¹ *Or*, are in authority,

³⁴² *Or*, he that imposeth tribute overthroweth it.
Hb. a man of offerings overthroweth it.

³⁴³ *Or*, understandeth not knowledge.

³⁴⁴ *Or*, He rageth and laugheth, and *there is* no rest.

³⁴⁵ *Or*, But *the* upright care for his life.

³⁴⁶ *Hb.* spirit;

16 When *the* wicked are increased, transgression increaseth;
But *the* righteous shall look upon their fall.

17 Correct thy son, and he will give thee rest;
Yes, he will give delight unto thy soul.

18 Where *there is* no vision, *the* people cast off restraint;
But he that keepeth *the* law, happy *is* he.

19 A servant will not be corrected by words;
For though he understand, he will not ³⁴⁷give heed.

20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his ³⁴⁸words?
There is more hope of a fool than of him.

21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child
Shall have him ³⁴⁹*aspire to* be a son at the last.

22 An angry man stirreth up strife,
And a wrathful man aboundeth in transgression.

23 A man's pride shall bring him low;
But he that is of a lowly spirit shall obtain honor.

24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul;
He heareth *the* adjuration and uttereth nothing.

25 *The* fear of man bringeth a snare;
But whoso putteth his trust in Jehovah ³⁵⁰shall be safe.

26 Many seek *the* ruler's favor;
But a man's judgment *cometh* from Jehovah.

27 An unjust man *is* an abomination to *the* righteous;
And *he that is* upright in *the* way is an abomination to *the* wicked.

30 *The* words of Agur *the* son of ³⁵¹Jakeh; *the* ³⁵²burden.
The man ³⁵³saith unto Ithiel, unto Ithiel and Ucal:
2 Surely *I am* more brutish than *any* man,
And have not *the* understanding of a man;
3 And *I* have not learned wisdom,
³⁵⁴Neither have *I the* knowledge of *the* Holy Ones.
4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, and descended?
Who hath gathered *the* wind in his fists?
Who hath bound *the* waters in *his* garment?
Who hath established all *the* ends of *the* earth?
What *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name,
if thou knowest?
5 Every word of God *is* ³⁵⁵tried:
He *is* a shield unto them that take refuge in him.

³⁴⁷ *Hb.* answer.

³⁴⁸ *Or*, business

³⁴⁹ *Or*, become a son *or*, become stubborn
ARV says The meaning of the word is doubtful.

³⁵⁰ *Hb.* shall be set on high.

³⁵¹ *Or*, Jakeh, of Massa. See Ge 25:14.

³⁵² *Or perhaps*, oracle.

³⁵³ *Hb^{mg} reads* saith, I have wearied myself, O God,
I have wearied myself, O God, and am consumed:

For *I am* more brutish than *any* man,

³⁵⁴ *Or*, That *I* should have *the* knowledge of *etc.*

³⁵⁵ *Hb.* purified:

- 6 Add thou not unto his words,
Lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.
- 7 Two *things* have I asked of thee;
Deny me *them* not before I die:
- 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lies;
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with ³⁵⁶*the* food that is needful for me:
- 9 Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who is
Jehovah?
Or lest I be poor, and steal,
And ³⁵⁷use profanely *the* name of my God.
- 10 Slander not a servant unto his master,
Lest he ³⁵⁸curse thee, and thou be held guilty.
- 11 *There is* a generation *that* curseth their father,
And blesseth not their mother.
- 12 *There is* a generation *that is* pure in its own eyes,
And *yet* is not washed from its filthiness.
- 13 *There is* a generation, oh how lofty *are* their eyes!
And their eyelids are lifted up.
- 14 *There is* a generation whose teeth *are as* swords,
and their jaw teeth *as* knives,
To devour *the* poor from off *the* earth, and *the*
needy from *among* men.
- 15 The ³⁵⁹horseleach hath two daughters, ³⁶⁰*crying*,
Give, give.
There are three *things that* are never satisfied,
Yes, four *that* say not, Enough:
- 16 Sheol; and *the* barren womb;
The earth that is not satisfied with water;
And *the* fire that saith not, Enough.
- 17 *The* eye *that* mocketh at *his* father,
And despiseth to obey *his* mother,
The ravens of ³⁶¹*the* valley shall pick it out,
And *the* ³⁶²young eagles shall eat it.
- 18 There are three *things which* are too wonderful for
me,
Yes, four which I know not:
- 19 *The* way of *an* eagle in the air;
The way of a serpent upon a rock;
The way of a ship in *the* midst of *the* sea;
And *the* way of a man with a maiden.
- 20 *So is the* way of an adulterous woman;
She eateth and wipeth her mouth,
And saith, I have done no wickedness.
- 21 ³⁶³For three *things the* earth doth tremble,
And for four, *which* it cannot bear:

³⁵⁶ *Hb.* *the* bread of my portion:

³⁵⁷ *Hb.* handle *the* name of my God.

³⁵⁸ *Or*, disesteem *or*, ill-treat *Also in* vs. 11.

³⁵⁹ *Or*, vampire

³⁶⁰ *Or*, called

³⁶¹ *Or*, *the* brook

³⁶² *Or*, vultures shall eat it.

³⁶³ *Hb.* Under

- 22 For a servant when he is king;
And a fool when he is filled with food;
- 23 For an odious *woman* when she is married;
And a handmaid that is heir to her mistress.
- 24 There are four *things which* are little upon *the*
earth,
But they *are* exceeding wise:
- 25 The ants *are* a people not strong,
Yet they provide their food in the summer;
- 26 *The* conies *are but* a feeble folk,
Yet make they their houses in the rocks;
- 27 The locusts have no king,
Yet go they forth all of them by bands;
- 28 *The* lizard ³⁶⁴taketh hold with her hands,
Yet *is* she in kings' palaces.
- 29 There are three *things* which are stately in their
march,
Yes, four which are stately in going:
- 30 *The* lion, *which is* mightiest among beasts,
And turneth not away for any;
- 31 *The* ³⁶⁵greyhound; *the* he-goat also;
And *the* king ³⁶⁶against whom *there is* no rising up.
- 32 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself,
Or if thou hast thought evil,
Lay thy hand upon thy mouth.
- 33 For *the* ³⁶⁷churning of milk bringeth forth butter,
And *the* ³⁶⁸wringing of *the* nose bringeth forth
blood;
So *the* ³⁶⁹forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.
- 31 ³⁷⁰*The* words of king Lemuel; *the* ³⁷¹burden which
his mother taught him.
- 2 What, my son? and what, O son of my womb?
And what, O son of my vows?
- 3 Give not thy strength unto women,
Nor thy ways to ³⁷²that which destroyeth kings.
- 4 *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to
drink wine;
Nor for princes ³⁷³to say, Where is strong drink?
- 5 Lest they drink, and forget ³⁷⁴*the* law,
And pervert *the* justice *due* to ³⁷⁵any that is afflicted.

³⁶⁴ *Or*, thou canst seize with thy hands,

³⁶⁵ *Or*, war-horse; *Hb.* well girt (*or*, well knit) in *the*
loins;

³⁶⁶ *Or*, when his army is with him.

³⁶⁷ *Hb.* pressing

³⁶⁸ *Hb.* pressing

³⁶⁹ *Hb.* pressing

³⁷⁰ *Or*, *The* words of Lemuel king of Massa, which *etc.*
See ch. 30:1 footnotes.

³⁷¹ *Or perhaps*, oracle

³⁷² *Hb*^{mg} reads them that destroy kings.

³⁷³ *Hb*^{mg} reads to desire strong drink.

³⁷⁴ *Hb.* *that* which is decreed,

³⁷⁵ *Hb.* all *the* sons of affliction.

6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish,
And wine unto *the* bitter of soul:
7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty,
And remember his misery no more.
8 Open thy mouth for *the* dumb,
In *the* cause of all *such as are* ³⁷⁶left desolate.
9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously,
And minister justice to *the* poor and needy.
10 A worthy woman who can find?
For her price *is* far above rubies.
11 *The* heart of her husband trusteth in her,
And he shall have no lack of ³⁷⁷gain.
12 She doeth him good and not evil
All *the* days of her life.
13 She seeketh wool and flax,
And worketh ³⁷⁸willingly with her hands.
14 She is like *the* merchant-ships;
She bringeth her bread from afar.
15 She riseth also while it is yet night,
And giveth food to her household,
And their ³⁷⁹task to her maidens.
16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it;
With *the* fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
17 She girdeth her loins with strength,
And maketh strong her arms.
18 She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* profitable:
Her lamp goeth not out in the night.
19 She layeth her hands to the distaff,
And her ³⁸⁰hands hold *the* spindle.
20 She stretcheth out her ³⁸¹hand to the poor;
Yes, she reacheth 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 maketh for herself ³⁸²carpets of tapestry;
Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sitteth among *the* elders of *the* land.
24 She maketh linen garments and selleth *them*,
And delivereth girdles unto the ³⁸³merchant.
25 Strength and dignity *are* her clothing;
And she laugheth at *the* time to come.
26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
And *the* ³⁸⁴law of kindness *is* on her tongue.
27 She looketh well to *the* ways of her household,
And eateth not *the* bread of idleness.

³⁷⁶ *Or*, ready to pass away. *Hb.* *the* sons of passing away.

³⁷⁷ *Hb.* spoil.

³⁷⁸ *Or*, at *the* business of her hands.

³⁷⁹ *Or*, portion

³⁸⁰ *Hb.* palms

³⁸¹ *Hb.* palm

³⁸² *Or*, cushions

³⁸³ *Hb.* Canaanite.

³⁸⁴ *Or*, teaching

28 Her children rise up, and call her blessed;
Her husband *also*, and he praiseth her, *saying*:
29 Many daughters have done worthily,
But thou excellest them all.
30 Grace *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain;
But a woman *that* feareth Jehovah, she shall be
praised.
31 Give her of *the* fruit of her hands;
And let her works praise her in the gates.

End of the Book of Proverbs