

PROVERBS - NKJV

Month: _____

FOCUS: _____

CHAPTER 1

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
2 To know wisdom and instruction, To [a] perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—
5 A wise *man* will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will [b] attain wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to *shed* blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like [c] Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; 13 We shall find all *kinds* of precious [d] possessions, We shall fill our houses with [e] spoil; 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse” — 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely, in [f] vain the net is spread In the sight of any [g] bird; 18 But they lie in wait for their *own* blood, They lurk secretly for their *own* lives. 19 So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

20 Wisdom calls aloud [h] outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. 21 She cries out in the [i] chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: 22 “How long, you [j] simple ones, will you love [k] simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. 23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, 25 Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, 27 When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

28 “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the

Lord, 30 They would have none of my counsel *And* despised my every rebuke. 31 Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. 32 For the [l] turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be [m] secure, without fear of evil.”

CHAPTER 2

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding; 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity *and* every good path.

10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, 11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who rejoice in doing evil, *And* delight in the perversity of the wicked; 15 Whose ways *are* crooked, And *who are* devious in their paths; 16 To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words, 17 Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. 18 For her house [n] leads down to death, And her paths to the dead; 19 None who go to her return, Nor do they [o] regain the paths of life— 20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep *to* the paths of righteousness. 21 For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; 22 But the wicked will be [p] cut off from the [q] earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

CHAPTER 3

My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; ² For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴ And so find favor and ^[h]high esteem In the sight of God and man.

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall ^[d]direct your paths.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your ^[f]flesh, And strength ^[u]to your bones.

⁹ Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

¹¹ My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; ¹² For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

¹³ Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding; ¹⁴ For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. ¹⁵ She *is* more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹⁶ Length of days *is* in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, And all her paths *are* peace.

¹⁸ She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy *are all* who ^[r]retain her.

¹⁹ The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; ²⁰ By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.

²¹ My son, let them not depart from your eyes— Keep sound wisdom and discretion; ²² So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. ²³ Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble. ²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. ²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; ²⁶ For the Lord will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

²⁷ Do not withhold good from ^[w]those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do *so*. ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give *it*,” When you have it with you. ²⁹ Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety’s sake. ³⁰ Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm.

³¹ Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways;

³² For the perverse *person is* an abomination to the Lord,

But His secret counsel *is* with the upright. ³³ The curse of the Lord *is* on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. ³⁴ Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. ³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

CHAPTER 4

Hear, *my* children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; ² For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. ³ When I was my father’s son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ He also taught me, and said to me: “Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. ⁷ Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. ⁸ Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.

⁹ She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you.”

¹⁰ Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. ¹¹ I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. ¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. ¹³ Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she *is* your life.

¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. ¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶ For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is ^[t]taken away unless they make *someone* fall. ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸ But the path of the just *is* like the shining ^[s]sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from you a ^[d]deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.

²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. ²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

CHAPTER 5

My son, pay attention to my wisdom; ^[aa]Lend your ear to my understanding, ²That you may ^[ab]preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. ³For the lips of ^[ac]an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth *is* smoother than oil; ⁴But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of ^[ad]hell. ⁶Lest you ponder *her* path of life— Her ways are unstable; You do not know *them*.

⁷Therefore hear me now, *my* children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. ⁸Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, ⁹Lest you give your ^[ae]honor to others, And your years to the cruel *one*; ¹⁰Lest aliens be filled with your ^[af]wealth, And your labors *go* to the house of a foreigner; ¹¹And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, ¹²And say: “How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! ¹³I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

¹⁴I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation.”

¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, ^[ag]Streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As *a* loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. ²⁰For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

²¹For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the Lord, And He ^[ai]ponders all his paths. ²²His own iniquities entrap the wicked *man*, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. ²³He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

CHAPTER 6

My son, if you become ^[aj]surety for your friend, *If* you have ^[ak]shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, ²You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. ³So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. ⁴Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids. ⁵Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand *of the hunter*, And like a bird from the hand of the ^[al]fowler.

⁶Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷Which, having no ^[am]captain, Overseer or ruler,

⁸Provides her ^[an]supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest. ⁹How long will you ^[ao]slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? ¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— ¹¹So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

¹²A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; ¹³He winks with his eyes, He ^[ap]shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; ¹⁴Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. ¹⁵Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

¹⁶These six *things* the Lord hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to ^[aq]Him: ¹⁷A ^[ar]proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

²⁰My son, keep your father’s command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. ²¹Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. ²²When you roam, ^[as]they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And *when* you awake, they will speak with you. ²³For the commandment *is* a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life, ²⁴To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress.

²⁵Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. ²⁶For by means of a harlot *A man is reduced* to a crust of bread; And ^[at]an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. ²⁷Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? ²⁸Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? ²⁹So *is* he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

³⁰*People* do not despise a thief *If* he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. ³¹Yet *when* he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. ³²Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He *who* does so destroys his own soul. ³³Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. ³⁴For jealousy *is* a husband’s fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. ³⁵He will ^[au]accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

CHAPTER 7

My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. ² Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. ³ Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," And call understanding *your* nearest kin, ⁵ That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words.

⁶ For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, ⁷ And saw among the simple, I perceived among the ^[av]youths, A young man devoid ^[aw] of understanding,

⁸ Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house ⁹ In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night.

¹⁰ And there a woman met him, *With* the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. ¹¹ She *was* loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home. ¹² At times *she was* outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner. ¹³ So she caught him and kissed him; With an ^[ax]impudent face she said to him: ¹⁴ "I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows. ¹⁵ So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you. ¹⁶ I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.

¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love. ¹⁹ For ^[ay]my husband *is* not at home; He has gone on a long journey; ²⁰ He has taken a bag of money ^[az]with him, *And* will come home ^[ba]on the appointed day."

²¹ ^[bb]With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she ^[bc]seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or ^[bd]as a fool to the correction of the ^[be]stocks, ²³ Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it ^[bf]would cost his life.

²⁴ Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: ²⁵ Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; ²⁶ For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong *men*. ²⁷ Her house *is* the way to ^[bg]hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

CHAPTER 8

Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? ² She takes her stand on the top of the ^[bh]high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet. ³ She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors: ⁴ "To you, O men, I call, And my voice *is* to the sons of men. ⁵ O you ^[bi]simple ones, understand prudence, And

you fools, be of an understanding heart. ⁶ Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips *will come* right things; ⁷ For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips. ⁸ All the words of my mouth *are* with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse *is* in them. ⁹ They *are* all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰ Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; ¹¹ For wisdom *is* better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

¹² "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge *and* discretion. ¹³ The fear of the Lord *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. ¹⁴ Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom; I *am* understanding, I have strength. ¹⁵ By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. ¹⁶ By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of ^[bj]the earth. ¹⁷ I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. ¹⁸ Riches and honor *are* with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. ¹⁹ My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.

²⁰ I ^[bk]traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, ²¹ That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

²² "The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. ²³ I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. ²⁴ When *there were* no depths I was brought forth, When *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; ²⁶ While as yet He had not made the earth or the ^[bl]fields, Or the ^[bm]primal dust of the world.

²⁷ When He prepared the heavens, I *was* there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸ When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰ Then I was beside Him *as* ^[bn]a master craftsman; And I was daily *His* delight, Rejoicing always before Him, ³¹ Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight *was* with the sons of men.

³² "Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children, For blessed *are those who* keep my ways. ³³ Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain *it*. ³⁴ Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the Lord; ³⁶ But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

CHAPTER 9

Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also ^[bo] furnished her table. ³ She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, ⁴ “Whoever *is* simple, let him turn in here!” *As for* him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ⁵ “Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding. ⁷ “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked *man only* harms himself. ⁸ Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love you. ⁹ Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ “The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding. ¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. ¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And *if* you scoff, you will bear *it* alone.” ¹³ A foolish woman is ^[bo] clamorous; *She is* simple, and knows nothing. ¹⁴ For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat *by* the highest places of the city, ¹⁵ To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way: ¹⁶ “Whoever *is* ^[bo] simple, let him turn in here”; And *as for* him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ¹⁷ “Stolen water is sweet, And bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.” ¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead *are* there, *That* her guests *are* in the depths of ^[br] hell.

CHAPTER 10

The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son *is* the grief of his mother. ² Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death. ³ The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked. ⁴ He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. ⁵ He who gathers in summer *is* a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest *is* a son who causes shame. ⁶ Blessings *are* on the head of the righteous, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. ⁷ The memory of the righteous *is* blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot. ⁸ The wise in heart will receive commands, But ^[bs] a prating fool will ^[bt] fall. ⁹ He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known. ¹⁰ He who winks with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall.

¹¹ The mouth of the righteous *is* a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. ¹² Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins. ¹³ Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod *is* for the back of him who ^[bu] *is* devoid of understanding. ¹⁴ Wise *people* store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish *is* near 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 *leads* to life, The wages of the wicked to sin. ¹⁷ He who keeps instruction *is in* the way of life, But he who refuses correction ^[bv] goes astray. ¹⁸ Whoever hides hatred *has* lying lips, And whoever spreads slander *is* a fool. ¹⁹ In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise. ²⁰ The tongue of the righteous *is* choice silver; The heart of the wicked *is* *worth* little. ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of ^[bw] wisdom. ²² The blessing of the Lord makes *one* rich, And He adds no sorrow with it. ²³ To do evil *is* like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom. ²⁴ The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted. ²⁵ When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked *is* no *more*, But the righteous *has* an everlasting foundation. ²⁶ As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So *is* the lazy *man* to those who send him. ²⁷ The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. ²⁸ The hope of the righteous *will be* gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish. ²⁹ The way of the Lord *is* strength for the upright, But destruction *will come* to the workers of iniquity. ³⁰ The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the ^[bx] earth. ³¹ The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out. ³² The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked *what is* perverse.

CHAPTER 11

Dishonest ^[by] scales *are* an abomination to the Lord, But a ^[bz] just weight *is* His delight.

² When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble *is* wisdom.

³ The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. ⁴ Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

⁵ The righteousness of the blameless will ^[ca] direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

⁶ The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by *their* lust.

⁷ When a wicked man dies, *his* expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.

⁸ The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.

⁹ The hypocrite with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

¹⁰ When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, *there is* jubilation. ¹¹ By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

¹² He who ^[cb] is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace.

¹³ A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

¹⁴ Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

¹⁵ He who is surety ^[cc] for a stranger will suffer, But one who hates ^[cd] being surety is secure.

¹⁶ A gracious woman retains honor, But ruthless *men* retain riches. ¹⁷ The merciful man does good for his own soul, But *he who is* cruel troubles his own flesh.

¹⁸ The wicked *man* does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness *will have* a sure reward. ¹⁹ As righteousness *leads* to life, So he who pursues evil *pursues it* to his own death.

²⁰ Those who are of a perverse heart *are* an abomination to the Lord, But *the* blameless in their ways *are* His delight.

²¹ *Though they join* ^[ce] forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; But the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.

²² As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, *So is* a lovely woman who lacks ^[cf] discretion.

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

²⁴ There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, But it *leads* to poverty.

²⁵ The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. ²⁶ The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing *will be* on the head of him who sells *it*.

²⁷ He who earnestly seeks good ^[cg] finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks *evil*.

²⁸ He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

²⁹ He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool *will be* servant to the wise of heart.

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life, And he who ^[ch] wins souls *is* wise.

³¹ If the righteous will be ^[ci] recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.

CHAPTER 12

Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction *is* stupid.

² A good *man* obtains favor from the Lord, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.

³ A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.

⁴ An ^[cj] excellent wife *is* the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame *is* like rottenness in his bones.

⁵ The thoughts of the righteous *are* right, *But* the counsels of the wicked *are* deceitful. ⁶ The words of the wicked *are*, "Lie in wait for blood," But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

⁷ The wicked are overthrown and *are* no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.

⁸ A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.

⁹ Better *is the one* who is ^[ck] slighted but has a servant, Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.

¹⁰ A righteous *man* regards the life of his animal, But the tender mercies of the wicked *are* cruel.

¹¹ He who ^[cl] tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows ^[cm] frivolity *is* devoid of ^[cn] understanding.

¹² The wicked covet the catch of evil *men*, But the root of the righteous yields *fruit*. ¹³ The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of *his* lips, But the righteous will come through trouble. ¹⁴ A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.

¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel *is* wise. ¹⁶ A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent *man* covers shame.

¹⁷ He *who* speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit. ¹⁸ There is one who speaks like the

piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise *promotes* health. ¹⁹ The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue *is* but for a moment. ²⁰ Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy. ²¹ No grave ^[co]trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil. ²² Lying lips *are* an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully *are* His delight. ²³ A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. ²⁴ The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy *man* will be put to forced labor. ²⁵ Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad. ²⁶ The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray. ²⁷ The lazy *man* does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence *is* man's precious possession. ²⁸ In the way of righteousness *is* life, And in *its* pathway *there is* no death.

CHAPTER 13

A wise son *heeds* his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

² A man shall eat well by the fruit of *his* mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence. ³ He who guards his mouth preserves his life, *But* he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

⁴ The soul of a lazy *man* desires, and *has* nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

⁵ A righteous *man* hates lying, But a wicked *man* is loathsome and comes to shame. ⁶ Righteousness guards *him* whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.

⁷ There is one who makes himself rich, yet *has* nothing; *And* one who makes himself poor, yet *has* great riches.

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

⁹ The light of the righteous rejoices, But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

¹⁰ By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised *is* wisdom.

¹¹ Wealth *gained* by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase.

¹² Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life.

¹³ He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded. ¹⁴ The law of

the wise *is* a fountain of life, To turn *one* away from the snares of death.

¹⁵ Good understanding ^[co]gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful *is* hard. ¹⁶ Every prudent *man* acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open *his* folly.

¹⁷ A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador *brings* health.

¹⁸ Poverty and shame *will come* to him who ^[co]disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

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

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

²¹ Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.

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

²³ Much food *is in* the ^[cr]fallow *ground* of the poor, And for lack of justice there is ^[cs]waste.

²⁴ He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him ^[ct]promptly.

²⁵ The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, But the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.

CHAPTER 14

The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

² He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, But *he* who *is* perverse in his ways despises Him.

³ In the mouth of a fool *is* a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.

⁴ Where no oxen *are*, the ^[cu]trough *is* clean; But much increase *comes* by the strength of an ox.

⁵ A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.

⁶ A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not *find it*, But knowledge *is* easy to him who understands. ⁷ Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive *in* *him* the lips of knowledge. ⁸ The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way, But the folly of fools *is* deceit.

⁹ Fools mock at ^[cv]sin, But among the upright *there is* favor.

¹⁰ The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy.

¹¹ The house of the wicked will be overthrown, But the tent of the upright will flourish.

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

¹³ Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth *may be* grief.

¹⁴ The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man *will be satisfied* ^[cw] from above.

¹⁵ The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps. ¹⁶ A wise *man* fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident. ¹⁷ A quick-tempered *man* acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated.

¹⁸ The simple inherit folly, But the prudent are crowned with knowledge. ¹⁹ The evil will bow before the good, And the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

²⁰ The poor *man* is hated even by his own neighbor, But ^[cx] the rich *has* many friends. ²¹ He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

²² Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth *belong* to those who devise good.

²³ In all labor there is profit, But ^[cv] idle chatter *leads* only to poverty.

²⁴ The crown of the wise is their riches, *But* the foolishness of fools *is* folly.

²⁵ A true witness ^[cz] delivers souls, But a deceitful *witness* speaks lies.

²⁶ In the fear of the Lord *there is* strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. ²⁷ The fear of the Lord *is* a fountain of life, To turn *one* away from the snares of death.

²⁸ In a multitude of people *is* a king's honor, But in the lack of people *is* the downfall of a prince.

²⁹ *He who is* slow to wrath has great understanding, But *he who is* ^[da] impulsive exalts folly.

³⁰ A sound heart *is* life to the body, But envy *is* rottenness to the bones.

³¹ He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

³² The wicked is banished in his wickedness, But the righteous has a refuge in his death.

³³ Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, But *what is* in the heart of fools is made known.

³⁴ Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin *is* a ^[db] reproach to *any* people.

³⁵ The king's favor *is* toward a wise servant, But his wrath *is* against him who causes shame.

CHAPTER 15

A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. ² The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

³ The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

⁴ A ^[dc] wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

⁵ A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who ^[dd] receives correction is prudent.

⁶ *In* the house of the righteous *there is* much treasure, *But* in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.

⁷ The lips of the wise ^[de] disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool *does not do* so.

⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the Lord, But the prayer of the upright *is* His delight. ⁹ The way of the wicked *is* an abomination to the Lord, But He loves him who follows righteousness.

¹⁰ Harsh discipline *is* for him who forsakes the way, *And* he who hates correction will die.

¹¹ Hell ^[df] and ^[dg] Destruction *are* before the Lord; So how much more the hearts of the sons of men.

¹² A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.

¹³ A merry heart makes a cheerful ^[dh] countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

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

¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, But he who is of a merry heart *has* a continual feast.

¹⁶ Better *is* a little with the fear of the Lord, Than great treasure with trouble. ¹⁷ Better *is* a dinner of ^[di] herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.

¹⁸ A wrathful man stirs up strife, But *he who is* slow to anger allays contention.

¹⁹ The way of the lazy *man is* like a hedge of thorns, But the way of the upright *is* a highway.

²⁰ A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother.

²¹ Folly *is* joy to him who is destitute of ^[dj] discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.

²² Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

²³ A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken ^[dk] in due season, how good *it is!*

²⁴ The way of life *winds* upward for the wise, That he may turn away from ^[dl] hell below.

²⁵ The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.

²⁶ The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the Lord, But the words of the pure *are* pleasant.

²⁷ He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.

²⁸ The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

²⁹ The Lord *is* far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

³⁰ The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, *And* a good report makes the bones ^[dm] healthy.

³¹ The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. ³² He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. ³³ The fear of the Lord *is* the instruction of wisdom, *And* before honor *is* humility.

CHAPTER 16

The preparations ^[dn] of the heart *belong* to man, But the answer of the tongue *is* from the Lord.

² All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the spirits.

³ Commit ^[do] your works to the Lord, *And* your thoughts will be established.

⁴ The Lord has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of ^[dp] doom.

⁵ Everyone proud in heart *is* an abomination to the Lord; *Though they join* ^[dq] forces, none will go unpunished.

⁶ In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; *And* by the fear of the Lord *one* departs from evil.

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

⁸ Better *is* a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice.

⁹ A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

¹⁰ Divination *is* on the lips of the king; His mouth must not transgress in judgment. ¹¹ Honest weights and scales *are* the Lord's; All the weights in the bag *are* His ^[dr] work. ¹² *It is* an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness. ¹³ Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings, *And* they love him who speaks *what is* right.

¹⁴ As messengers of death *is* the king's wrath, But a wise man will appease it. ¹⁵ In the light of the king's face *is* life, *And* his favor *is* like a cloud of the latter rain.

¹⁶ How much better to get wisdom than gold! *And* to get understanding *is* to be chosen rather than silver.

¹⁷ The highway of the upright *is* to depart from evil; He who keeps his way preserves his soul.

¹⁸ Pride *goes* before destruction, *And* a haughty spirit before ^[ds] a fall. ¹⁹ Better *to be* of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the ^[dt] spoil with the proud.

²⁰ He who heeds the word wisely will find good, *And* whoever trusts in the Lord, happy *is* he.

²¹ The wise in heart will be called prudent, *And* sweetness of the lips increases learning.

²² Understanding *is* a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools *is* folly.

²³ The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, *And* adds learning to his lips.

²⁴ Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

²⁵ There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

²⁶ The person who labors, labors for himself, For his *hungry* mouth drives him *on*.

²⁷ ^[du] An ungodly man digs up evil, *And it is* on his lips like a burning fire. ²⁸ A perverse man sows strife, *And* a whisperer separates the best of friends. ²⁹ A violent man entices his neighbor, *And* leads him in a way *that is* not good. ³⁰ He winks his eye to devise perverse things; He ^[dv] purses his lips *and* brings about evil.

³¹ The silver-haired head *is* a crown of glory, *If* it is found in the way of righteousness.

³² *He who is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty, *And* he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

³³ The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision *is* from the Lord.

CHAPTER 17

Better *is* a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of ^[dw] feasting *with* strife.

² A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, *And* will share an inheritance among the brothers.

³ The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests the hearts.

⁴ An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a ^[dx] spiteful tongue.

⁵ He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

⁶ Children's children *are* the crown of old men, *And* the glory of children *is* their father.

⁷ Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, Much less lying lips to a prince.

⁸ A present *is* a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; Wherever he turns, he prospers.

⁹ He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

¹⁰ Rebuke is more effective for a wise *man* Than a hundred blows on a fool.

¹¹ An evil *man* seeks only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

¹² Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly.

¹³ Whoever rewards evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.

¹⁴ The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

¹⁵ He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike *are* an abomination to the Lord.

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

¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

¹⁸ A man devoid of ^[dy] understanding ^[dz] shakes hands in a pledge, And becomes ^[ea] surety for his friend.

¹⁹ He who loves transgression loves strife, And he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.

²⁰ He who has a ^[eb] deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

²¹ He who begets a scoffer *does so* to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.

²² A merry heart ^[ec] does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

²³ A wicked *man* accepts a bribe ^[ed] behind the back To pervert the ways of justice.

²⁴ Wisdom *is* in the sight of him who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool *are* on the ends of the earth.

²⁵ A foolish son *is* a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him.

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

²⁷ He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding *is* of a calm spirit. ²⁸ Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; *When* he shuts his lips, *he is considered* perceptive.

CHAPTER 18

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all ^[ee] wise judgment.

² A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

³ When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; And with dishonor *comes* reproach.

⁴ The words of a man's mouth *are* deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom *is* a flowing brook.

⁵ *It is* not good to show partiality to the wicked, *Or* to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

⁶ A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows. ⁷ A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, And his lips *are*

the snare of his soul. ⁸ The words of a ^[ef] talebearer *are* like ^[eg] tasty trifles, And they go down into the ^[eh] inmost body.

⁹ He who is slothful in his work *Is* a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

¹⁰ The name of the Lord *is* a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are ^[ei] safe. ¹¹ The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city, And like a high wall in his own esteem.

¹² Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor *is* humility.

¹³ He who answers a matter before he hears *it*, *It is* folly and shame to him.

¹⁴ The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit?

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

¹⁶ A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

¹⁷ The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

¹⁸ Casting lots causes contentions to cease, And keeps the mighty apart.

¹⁹ A brother offended *is harder to win* than a strong city, And contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.

²⁰ A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; *From* the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

²² *He who* finds a wife finds a good *thing*, And obtains favor from the Lord.

²³ The poor *man* uses entreaties, But the rich answers roughly.

²⁴ A man *who has* friends ^[ej] must himself be friendly, But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

CHAPTER 19

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

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

³ The foolishness of a man twists his way, And his heart frets against the Lord.

⁴ Wealth makes many friends, But the poor is separated from his friend.

⁵ A false witness will not go unpunished, And *he who* speaks lies will not escape.

⁶ Many entreat the favor of the nobility, And every man *is* a friend to one who gives gifts. ⁷ All the brothers of the poor hate him; How much more do his friends go far from him!

He may pursue *them with* words, *yet* they ^[ek] abandon *him*. ⁸ He who gets ^[el] wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.

⁹ A false witness will not go unpunished, And *he who* speaks lies shall perish.

¹⁰ Luxury is not fitting for a fool, Much less for a servant to rule over princes.

¹¹ The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory *is* to overlook a transgression.

¹² The king's wrath *is* like the roaring of a lion, But his favor *is* like dew on the grass.

¹³ A foolish son *is* the ruin of his father, And the contentions of a wife *are* a continual ^[em] dripping.

¹⁴ Houses and riches *are* an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife *is* from the Lord.

¹⁵ Laziness casts *one* into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.

¹⁶ He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, *But* he who ^[en] is careless of his ways will die.

¹⁷ He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.

¹⁸ Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart ^[eo] on his destruction.

¹⁹ A *man of* great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue *him*, you will have to do it again.

²⁰ Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.

²¹ There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand.

²² What is desired in a man is ^[ep] kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.

²³ The fear of the Lord *leads* to life, And *he who has it* will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.

²⁴ A lazy *man* buries his hand in the ^[eq] bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

²⁵ Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; Rebuke one who has understanding, *and* he will discern knowledge.

²⁶ He who mistreats *his* father *and* chases away *his* mother *is* a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

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

²⁸ A ^[er] disreputable witness scorns justice, And the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

²⁹ Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools.

CHAPTER 20

Wine *is* a mocker, Strong drink *is* a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

² The ^[es] wrath of a king *is* like the roaring of a lion; *Whoever* provokes him to anger sins *against* his own life.

³ *It is* honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.

⁴ The lazy *man* will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and *have* nothing.

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

⁶ Most men will proclaim each his own ^[et] goodness, But who can find a faithful man?

⁷ The righteous *man* walks in his integrity; His children *are* blessed after him.

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

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

¹⁰ Diverse weights *and* diverse measures, They *are* both alike, an abomination to the Lord.

¹¹ Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does *is* pure and right.

¹² The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The Lord has made them both.

¹³ Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, *and* you will be satisfied with bread.

¹⁴ "*It is* ^[eu] good for nothing," cries the buyer; But when he has gone his way, then he boasts.

¹⁵ There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But the lips of knowledge *are* a precious jewel.

¹⁶ Take the garment of one who is surety *for* a stranger, And hold it as a pledge *when it is* for a seductress.

¹⁷ Bread gained by deceit *is* sweet to a man, But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

¹⁸ Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war.

¹⁹ He who goes about *as* a talebearer reveals secrets;
Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.
²⁰ Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.
²¹ An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end.
²² Do not say, "I will ^[ev]recompense evil"; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.
²³ Diverse weights *are* an abomination to the Lord, And dishonest scales *are* not good.
²⁴ A man's steps *are* of the Lord; How then can a man understand his own way?
²⁵ *It is* a snare for a man to devote rashly *something as* holy, And afterward to reconsider *his* vows.
²⁶ A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them.
²⁷ The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the ^[ew]inner depths of his heart.
²⁸ Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by ^[ex]lovingkindness he upholds his throne.
²⁹ The glory of young men *is* their strength, And the splendor of old men *is* their gray head.
³⁰ Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As *do* stripes the ^[ev]inner depths of the heart.

CHAPTER 21

The king's heart *is* in the hand of the Lord, *Like* the ^[ez]rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.
² Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.
³ To do righteousness and justice *is* more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
⁴ A haughty look, a proud heart, *And* the ^[fa]plowing of the wicked *are* sin.
⁵ The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to plenty, But *those of* everyone *who is* hasty, surely to poverty.
⁶ Getting treasures by a lying tongue ^[fb]*is* the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.
⁷ The violence of the wicked will ^[fc]destroy them, Because they refuse to do justice.
⁸ The way of ^[fd]a guilty man *is* perverse; But *as for* the pure, his work *is* right.
⁹ Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
¹⁰ The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.
¹¹ When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

¹² The righteous *God* wisely considers the house of the wicked, Overthrowing the wicked for *their* wickedness.
¹³ Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard.
¹⁴ A gift in secret pacifies anger, And a bribe ^[fe]behind the back, strong wrath.
¹⁵ *It is* a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction *will come* to the workers of iniquity.
¹⁶ A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.
¹⁷ He who loves pleasure *will be* a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.
¹⁸ The wicked *shall be* a ransom for the righteous, And the unfaithful for the upright.
¹⁹ Better to dwell ^[ff]in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.
²⁰ *There is* desirable treasure, And oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man squanders it.
²¹ He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness, and honor.
²² A wise *man* ^[fg]scales the city of the mighty, And brings down the trusted stronghold.
²³ Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.
²⁴ A proud *and* haughty *man*—"Scoffer" *is* his name; He acts with arrogant pride.
²⁵ The desire of the lazy *man* kills him, For his hands refuse to labor. ²⁶ He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare.
²⁷ The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination; How much more *when* he brings it with wicked intent!
²⁸ A false witness shall perish, But the man who hears *him* will speak endlessly.
²⁹ A wicked man hardens his face, But *as for* the upright, he ^[fh]establishes his way.
³⁰ *There is* no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the Lord.
³¹ The horse *is* prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance *is* of the Lord.

CHAPTER 22

A *good* name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.
² The rich and the poor have this in common, The Lord *is* the maker of them all.
³ A prudent *man* foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.
⁴ By humility *and* the fear of the Lord *Are* riches and honor and life.

⁵Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them.

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go, ^[fi]And when he is old he will not depart from it.

⁷The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

⁸He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, ^[fi]And the rod of his anger will fail.

⁹He who has a ^[fk]generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.

¹⁰Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.

¹¹He who loves purity of heart *And has* grace on his lips, The king *will be* his friend.

¹²The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, But He overthrows the words of the faithless.

¹³The lazy *man* says, “*There is* a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!”

¹⁴The mouth of an immoral woman *is* a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the Lord will fall there.

¹⁵Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

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

¹⁷Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge; ¹⁸For *it is* a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, ¹⁹So that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you. ²⁰Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, ²¹That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who ^[fi]send to you?

²²Do not rob the poor because he *is* poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; ²³For the Lord will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man, *And* with a furious man do not go, ²⁵Lest you learn his ways *And* set a snare for your soul.

²⁶Do not be one of those who ^[fm]shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is ^[fn]surety for debts; ²⁷If you have nothing *with which* to pay, Why should he take away your bed from under you?

²⁸Do not remove the ancient ^[fo]landmark Which your fathers have set.

²⁹Do you see a man *who* ^[fp]excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before ^[fq]unknown *men*.

CHAPTER 23

When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what *is* before you; ²And put a knife to your throat If you *are* a man given to appetite. ³Do not desire his delicacies, For they *are* deceptive food.

⁴Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease! ⁵^[fr]Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.

⁶Do not eat the bread of a ^[fs]miser, Nor desire his delicacies; ⁷For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, But his heart is not with you. ⁸The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, *And* waste your pleasant words.

⁹Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

¹⁰Do not remove the ancient ^[ft]landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless; ¹¹For their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

¹²Apply your heart to instruction, *And* your ears to words of knowledge.

¹³Do not withhold correction from a child, For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴You shall beat him with a rod, *And* deliver his soul from ^[fu]hell.

¹⁵My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself; ¹⁶Yes, my ^[fv]inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things.

¹⁷Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *be zealous* for the fear of the Lord all the day; ¹⁸For surely there is a ^[fw]hereafter, *And* your hope will not be cut off.

¹⁹Hear, my son, and be wise; *And* guide your heart in the way. ²⁰Do not mix with winebibbers, *Or* with gluttonous eaters of meat; ²¹For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, *And* drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

²²Listen to your father who begot you, *And* do not despise your mother when she is old.

²³Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.

²⁴The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, *And* he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him. ²⁵Let your father and your mother be glad, *And* let her who bore you rejoice.

²⁶My son, give me your heart, *And* let your eyes observe my ways. ²⁷For a harlot *is* a deep pit, *And* a seductress *is* a narrow well. ²⁸She also lies in wait as *for* a victim, *And* increases the unfaithful among men.

²⁹Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰Those who linger long at the

wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, *When* it ^[fx] swirls around smoothly; ³² At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. ³⁴ Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the ^[fv] midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying*: ³⁵ “They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel *it*. When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink*?”

CHAPTER 24

Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; ² For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking.

³ Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; ⁴ By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.

⁵ A wise man *is* strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; ⁶ For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

⁷ Wisdom *is* too lofty for a fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate.

⁸ He who plots to do evil Will be called a ^[fz] schemer. ⁹ The devising of foolishness *is* sin, And the scoffer *is* an abomination to men.

¹⁰ *If* you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength *is* small.

¹¹ Deliver *those who* are drawn toward death, And hold back *those* stumbling to the slaughter. ¹² If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” Does not He who weighs the hearts consider *it*? He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*? And will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

¹³ My son, eat honey because *it is* good, And the honeycomb *which is* sweet to your taste; ¹⁴ *So shall* the knowledge of wisdom *be* to your soul; If you have found *it*, there is a ^[ga] prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.

¹⁵ Do not lie in wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; ¹⁶ For a righteous *man* may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

¹⁷ Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; ¹⁸ Lest the Lord see *it*, and ^[gb] it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.

¹⁹ Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; ²⁰ For there will be no prospect for the evil *man*; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

²¹ My son, fear the Lord and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; ²² For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring? ²³ These *things* also *belong* to the wise: *It is* not good to ^[gc] show partiality in judgment. ²⁴ He who says to the wicked, “You *are* righteous,” Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him. ²⁵ But those who rebuke *the wicked* will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.

²⁶ He who gives a right answer kisses the lips.

²⁷ Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

²⁸ Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, ^[gd] For would you deceive with your lips? ²⁹ Do not say, “I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”

³⁰ I went by the field of the lazy *man*, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; ³¹ And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. ³² When I saw *it*, I considered *it* well; I looked on *it* and received instruction: ³³ A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; ³⁴ So shall your poverty come *like* ^[ge] a prowler, And your need like ^[gf] an armed man.

CHAPTER 25

These also *are* proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied: ² *It is* the glory of God to conceal a matter, 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 silver, And it will go to the silversmith *for* jewelry. ⁵ Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness.

⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; ⁷ For *it is* better that he say to you, “Come up here,” Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

⁸ Do not go hastily to ^[gg] court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? ⁹ Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another; ¹⁰ Lest he who hears *it* expose your shame, And ^[gh] your reputation be ruined.

¹¹ A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold In settings of silver. ¹² *Like* an earring of gold and an ornament of fine

gold

Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

¹³ Like the cold of snow in time of harvest *Is* a faithful messenger to those who send him,

For he refreshes the soul of his masters.

¹⁴ Whoever falsely boasts of giving *Is like* clouds and wind without rain.

¹⁵ By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

¹⁶ Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

¹⁷ Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you.

¹⁸ A man who bears false witness against his neighbor *Is like* a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

¹⁹ Confidence in an unfaithful *man* in time of trouble *Is like* a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.

²⁰ *Like* one who takes away a garment in cold weather, *And like* vinegar on soda, *Is* one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; ²² For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the Lord will reward you.

²³ The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

²⁴ *It is* better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

²⁵ As cold water to a weary soul, So *is* good news from a far country.

²⁶ A righteous *man* who falters before the wicked *Is like* a murky spring and a ^[gu]polluted well.

²⁷ *It is* not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory *is not* glory.

²⁸ Whoever *has* no rule over his own spirit *Is like* a city broken down, without walls.

CHAPTER 26

As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool.

² Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight.

³ A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back. ⁴ Do not answer a fool according to his folly,

Lest you also be like him. ⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes. ⁶ He who sends a message by the hand of a fool Cuts off *his own* feet *and* drinks violence. ⁷ *Like* the legs of the lame that hang limp *Is* a proverb in the mouth of fools. ⁸ Like one who binds a stone in a sling *Is* he who gives honor to a fool. ⁹ *Like* a thorn *that* goes into the hand of a drunkard *Is* a proverb in the mouth of fools. ¹⁰ ^[gl]The great *God* who formed everything Gives the fool *his* hire and the transgressor *his* wages. ¹¹ As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly. ¹² Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.

¹³ The lazy *man* says, "*There is* a lion in the road! A fierce lion *is* in the ^[gk]streets!" ¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, So *does* the lazy *man* on his bed. ¹⁵ The lazy *man* buries his hand in the ^[gl]bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

¹⁶ The lazy *man is* wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.

¹⁷ He who passes by *and* meddles in a quarrel not his own *Is like* one who takes a dog by the ears.

¹⁸ Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, ¹⁹ *Is* the man *who* deceives his neighbor, And says, "*I* was only joking!"

²⁰ Where *there is* no wood, the fire goes out; And where *there is* no ^[gm]talebearer, strife ceases. ²¹ As charcoal *is* to burning coals, and wood to fire, So *is* a contentious man to kindle strife. ²² The words of a ^[gn]talebearer *are* like ^[go]tasty trifles, And they go down into the ^[gp]inmost body.

²³ Fervent lips with a wicked heart *Are like* earthenware covered with silver dross.

²⁴ He who hates, disguises *it* with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; ²⁵ When ^[gq]he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For *there are* seven abominations in his heart;

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

²⁷ Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

²⁸ A lying tongue hates *those who are* crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

CHAPTER 27

Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

² Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

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

⁴ Wrath *is* cruel and anger a torrent, But who *is* able to stand before jealousy?

⁵ Open rebuke *is* better Than love carefully concealed.

⁶ Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

⁷ A satisfied soul ^[gr] loathes the honeycomb, But to a hungry soul every bitter thing *is* sweet.

⁸ Like a bird that wanders from its nest *is* a man who wanders from his place.

⁹ Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend *gives delight* by ^[gs] hearty counsel.

¹⁰ Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better *is* a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

¹¹ My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, That I may answer him who reproaches me.

¹² A prudent *man* foresees evil *and* hides himself; The simple pass on *and* are punished.

¹³ Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger, And hold it in pledge *when* he is surety for a seductress.

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

¹⁵ A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike; ¹⁶ Whoever ^[gt] restrains her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

¹⁸ Whoever ^[ru] keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit; So he who waits on his master will be honored.

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

²⁰ Hell ^[lv] and ^[rw] Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

²¹ The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, And a man *is valued* by what others say of him.

²² Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds; ²⁴ For riches *are* not forever, Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations. ²⁵ When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs

of the mountains are gathered in, ²⁶ The lambs *will provide* your clothing, And the goats the price of a field; ²⁷ You *shall have* enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

CHAPTER 28

The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

² Because of the transgression of a land, many *are* its princes; But by a man of understanding *and* knowledge Right will be prolonged.

³ A poor man who oppresses the poor *is like* a driving rain ^[ex] which leaves no food.

⁴ Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them.

⁵ Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the Lord understand all.

⁶ Better *is* the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse *in his ways*, though he *be* rich.

⁷ Whoever keeps the law *is* a discerning son, But a companion of gluttons shames his father.

⁸ One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion Gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

⁹ One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer *is* an abomination.

¹⁰ Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, He himself will fall into his own pit; But the blameless will inherit good.

¹¹ The rich man *is* wise in his own eyes, But the poor who has understanding searches him out.

¹² When the righteous rejoice, *there is* great glory; But when the wicked arise, men ^[lv] hide themselves.

¹³ He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

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

¹⁵ Like a roaring lion and a charging bear *is* a wicked ruler over poor people.

¹⁶ A ruler who lacks understanding *is* a great oppressor, But he who hates covetousness will prolong *his* days.

¹⁷ A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit; Let no one help him.

¹⁸ Whoever walks blamelessly will be ^[gz] saved, But *he who is* perverse *in his ways* will suddenly fall.

¹⁹ He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

²⁰ A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

²¹ To ^[ha]show partiality is not good, Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.
²² A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.
²³ He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.
²⁴ Whoever robs his father or his mother, And says, “*It is no transgression,*” The same *is* companion to a destroyer.
²⁵ He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.
²⁶ He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.
²⁷ He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.
²⁸ When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase.

CHAPTER 29

He who is often rebuked, *and* hardens *his* neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.
² When the righteous ^[hb]are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.
³ Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, But a companion of harlots wastes *his* wealth.
⁴ The king establishes the land by justice, But he who receives bribes overthrows it.
⁵ A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.
⁶ By transgression an evil man is snared, But the righteous sings and rejoices.
⁷ The righteous considers the cause of the poor, *But* the wicked does not understand *such* knowledge.
⁸ Scoffers set a city aflame, But wise *men* turn away wrath.
⁹ *If* a wise man contends with a foolish man, Whether *the fool* rages or laughs, *there is* no peace.
¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, But the upright seek his ^[hc]well-being.
¹¹ A fool vents all his feelings, ^[hd]But a wise *man* holds them back.
¹² If a ruler pays attention to lies, All his servants *become* wicked.
¹³ The poor *man* and the oppressor have this in common: The Lord gives light to the eyes of both.
¹⁴ The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.
¹⁵ The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother.
¹⁶ When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall.

¹⁷ Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.
¹⁸ Where *there is* no ^[he]revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy *is* he who keeps the law.
¹⁹ A servant will not be corrected by mere words; For though he understands, he will not respond.
²⁰ Do you see a man hasty in his words? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.
²¹ He who pampers his servant from childhood Will have him as a son in the end.
²² An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression.
²³ A man’s pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.
²⁴ Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; He ^[hf]swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing.
²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be ^[hg]safe.
²⁶ Many seek the ruler’s ^[hh]favor, But justice for man *comes* from the Lord.
²⁷ An unjust man *is* an abomination to the righteous, And *he who is* upright in the way *is* an abomination to the wicked.

CHAPTER 30

The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, *his* utterance. This man declared to Ithiel—to Ithiel and Ucal:
² Surely I *am* more stupid than *any* man, And do not have the understanding of a man. ³ I neither learned wisdom Nor have knowledge of the Holy One.
⁴ Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What *is* His name, and what *is* His Son’s name, If you know? ⁵ Every word of God *is* ^[hi]pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
⁶ Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.
⁷ Two *things* I request of You (Deprive me not before I die):
⁸ Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me;
⁹ Lest I be full and deny *You*, And say, “Who *is* the Lord?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.
¹⁰ Do not malign a servant to his master, Lest he curse you, and you be found guilty.
¹¹ *There is* a generation *that* curses its father, And does not bless its mother. ¹² *There is* a generation *that is* pure in its own eyes, *Yet is* not washed from its filthiness. ¹³ *There is* a

generation—oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are ^[hi]lifted up. ¹⁴ *There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, And whose fangs are like knives, To devour the poor from off the earth, And the needy from among men.*

¹⁵ The leech has two daughters— Give and Give! There are three *things that* are never satisfied, Four never say, “Enough!”: ¹⁶ The ^[hk]grave, The barren womb, The earth *that* is not satisfied with water— And the fire never says, “Enough!”

¹⁷ The eye *that* mocks *his* father, And scorns obedience to *his* mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

¹⁸ There are three *things which* are too wonderful for me, Yes, four *which* I do not understand: ¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the ^[hl]midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin.

²⁰ This *is* the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, “I have done no wickedness.”

²¹ For three *things* the earth is perturbed, Yes, for four it cannot bear up: ²² For a servant when he reigns, A fool when he is filled with food, ²³ A ^[hm]hateful woman when she is married, And a maidservant who succeeds her mistress.

²⁴ There are four *things which* are little on the earth, But they *are* exceedingly wise: ²⁵ The ants *are* a people not strong, Yet they prepare their food in the summer; ²⁶ The ^[hn]rock badgers are a feeble folk, Yet they make their homes in the crags; ²⁷ The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks; ²⁸ The ^[ho]spider skillfully grasps with its hands, And it is in kings’ palaces.

²⁹ There are three *things which* are majestic in pace, Yes, four *which* are stately in walk: ³⁰ A lion, *which is* mighty among beasts And does not turn away from any; ³¹ A ^[hp]greyhound, A male goat also, And ^[hq]a king *whose* troops *are* with him.

³² If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, *put your* hand on *your* mouth. ³³ For *as* the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife.

CHAPTER 31

The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:

² What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows? ³ Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

⁴ *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *It is* not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; ⁵ Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all ^[hr]the afflicted. ⁶ Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart. ⁷ Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.

⁸ Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all *who are* ^[hs]appointed to die. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

¹⁰ Who ^[ht]can find a ^[hu]virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies. ¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. ¹³ She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. ¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. ¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; From ^[hv]her profits she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. ¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise *is* good, And her lamp does not go out by night. ¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. ²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household *is* clothed with scarlet. ²² She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells *them*, And supplies sashes for the merchants. ²⁵ Strength and honor *are* her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. ²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue *is* the law of kindness. ²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praises her: ²⁹ “Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.”

³⁰ Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing, But a woman *who* fears the Lord, she shall be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.