

Categorised Proverbs - Table of Contents

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Proverbs Chapters 1-9 , 22:17–24:34 "The Sayings of the Wise" - Categorised

(New Living Translation)

1:1 These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.

2 Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline,
to help them understand the insights of the wise.

3 Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,
to help them do what is right, just, and fair.

4 These proverbs will give insight to the simple,
knowledge and discernment to the young.

5 Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser.
Let those with understanding receive guidance

6 by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

Wisdom

1:7 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

1:20 Wisdom shouts in the streets.
She cries out in the public square.

21 She calls to the crowds along the main street,
to those gathered in front of the city gate:

22 'How long, you simpletons,
will you insist on being simple minded?

How long will you mockers relish your mocking?

How long will you fools hate knowledge?

23 Come and listen to my counsel.

I'll share my heart with you
and make you wise.

24 'I called you so often, but you wouldn't come.
I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.

25 You ignored my advice
and rejected the correction I offered.

26 So I will laugh when you are in trouble!

I will mock you when disaster overtakes you”
27 when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone,
and anguish and distress overwhelm you.
28 'When they cry for help, I will not answer.
Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.
29 For they hated knowledge
and chose not to fear the Lord.
30 They rejected my advice
and paid no attention when I corrected them.
31 Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way,
choking on their own schemes.
32 For simpletons turn away from me to death.
Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.
33 But all who listen to me will live in peace,
untroubled by fear of harm.'

2:1 My child, listen to what I say,
and treasure my commands.
2 Tune your ears to wisdom,
and concentrate on understanding.
3 Cry out for insight,
and ask for understanding.
4 Search for them as you would for silver;
seek them like hidden treasures.
5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord,
and you will gain knowledge of God.
6 For the Lord grants wisdom!
From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

2:9 Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair,
and you will find the right way to go.
10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will fill you with joy.
11 Wise choices will watch over you.
Understanding will keep you safe.

3:7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.
Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
8 Then you will have healing for your body

and strength for your bones.

3:13 Joyful is the person who finds wisdom,
the one who gains understanding.

14 For wisdom is more profitable than silver,
and her wages are better than gold.

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

16 She offers you long life in her right hand,
and riches and honour in her left.

17 She will guide you down delightful paths;
all her ways are satisfying.

18 Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her;
happy are those who hold her tightly.

19 By wisdom the Lord founded the earth;
by understanding he created the heavens.

20 By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth,
and the dew settles beneath the night sky.

3:35 The wise inherit honour,
but fools are put to shame!

4:5 Get wisdom; develop good judgment.

Don't forget my words or turn away from them.

6 Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you.

Love her, and she will guard you.

7 Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!

And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.

8 If you prize wisdom, she will make you great.

Embrace her, and she will honour you.

9 She will place a lovely wreath on your head;
she will present you with a beautiful crown.'

8:1 Listen as Wisdom calls out!

Hear as understanding raises her voice!

2 On the hilltop along the road,
she takes her stand at the crossroads.

3 By the gates at the entrance to the town,
on the road leading in, she cries aloud,

4 "I call to you, to all of you!

I raise my voice to all people.
5 You simple people, use good judgment.
You foolish people, show some understanding.
6 Listen to me! For I have important things to tell you.
Everything I say is right,
7 for I speak the truth
and detest every kind of deception.
8 My advice is wholesome.
There is nothing devious or crooked in it.
9 My words are plain to anyone with understanding,
clear to those with knowledge.
10 Choose my instruction rather than silver,
and knowledge rather than pure gold.
11 For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies.
Nothing you desire can compare with it.
12 "I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment.
I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.
13 All who fear the Lord will hate evil.
Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance,
corruption and perverse speech.
14 Common sense and success belong to me.
Insight and strength are mine.
15 Because of me, kings reign,
and rulers make just decrees.
16 Rulers lead with my help,
and nobles make righteous judgments.
17 "I love all who love me.
Those who search will surely find me.
18 I have riches and honour,
as well as enduring wealth and justice.
19 My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold,
my wages better than sterling silver!
20 I walk in righteousness,
in paths of justice.
21 Those who love me inherit wealth.
I will fill their treasuries.
22 "The Lord formed me from the beginning,
before he created anything else.
23 I was appointed in ages past,
at the very first, before the earth began.

24 I was born before the oceans were created,
before the springs bubbled forth their waters.
25 Before the mountains were formed,
before the hills, I was born—
26 before he had made the earth and fields
and the first handfuls of soil.
27 I was there when he established the heavens,
when he drew the horizon on the oceans.
28 I was there when he set the clouds above,
when he established springs deep in the earth.
29 I was there when he set the limits of the seas,
so they would not spread beyond their boundaries.
And when he marked off the earth's foundations,
30 I was the architect at his side.
I was his constant delight,
rejoicing always in his presence.
31 And how happy I was with the world he created;
how I rejoiced with the human family!
32 "And so, my children, listen to me,
for all who follow my ways are joyful.
33 Listen to my instruction and be wise.
Don't ignore it.
34 Joyful are those who listen to me,
watching for me daily at my gates,
waiting for me outside my home!
35 For whoever finds me finds life
and receives favor from the Lord.
36 But those who miss me injure themselves.
All who hate me love death."

9:1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has carved its seven columns.
2 She has prepared a great banquet,
mixed the wines, and set the table.
3 She has sent her servants to invite everyone to come.
She calls out from the heights overlooking the city.
4 "Come in with me," she urges the simple.
To those who lack good judgment, she says,
5 "Come, eat my food,
and drink the wine I have mixed.

6 Leave your simple ways behind, and begin to live;
learn to use good judgment.”

9:10 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom.
Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

11 Wisdom will multiply your days
and add years to your life.

12 If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit.
If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.

22:17 Listen to the words of the wise;
apply your heart to my instruction.

18 For it is good to keep these sayings in your heart
and always ready on your lips.

19 I am teaching you today—yes, you—
so you will trust in the Lord.

20 I have written thirty sayings for you,
filled with advice and knowledge.

21 In this way, you may know the truth
and take an accurate report to those who sent you.

23: Commit yourself to instruction;
listen carefully to words of knowledge.

24: 3 A house is built by wisdom
and becomes strong through good sense.

4 Through knowledge its rooms are filled
with all sorts of precious riches and valuables.

5 The wise are mightier than the strong,
and those with knowledge grow stronger and stronger.

6 So don't go to war without wise guidance;
victory depends on having many advisers.

7 Wisdom is too lofty for fools.
Among leaders at the city gate, they have nothing to say.

24: 13 My child, eat honey, for it is good,
and the honeycomb is sweet to the taste.

14 In the same way, wisdom is sweet to your soul.

If you find it, you will have a bright future,
and your hopes will not be cut short.

Folly

- 13 The woman named Folly is brash.
She is ignorant and doesn't know it.
- 14 She sits in her doorway
on the heights overlooking the city.
- 15 She calls out to men going by
who are minding their own business.
- 16 "Come in with me," she urges the simple.
To those who lack good judgment, she says,
- 17 "Stolen water is refreshing;
food eaten in secret tastes the best!"
- 18 But little do they know that the dead are there.
Her guests are in the depths of the grave.

Immoral Women

- 2:16 Wisdom will save you from the immoral woman,
from the seductive words of the promiscuous woman.
- 17 She has abandoned her husband
and ignores the covenant she made before God.
- 18 Entering her house leads to death;
it is the road to the grave.
- 19 The man who visits her is doomed.
He will never reach the paths of life.
- 6: 24 It will keep you from the immoral woman,
from the smooth tongue of a promiscuous woman.
- 25 Don't lust for her beauty.
Don't let her coy glances seduce you.
- 26 For a prostitute will bring you to poverty,
but sleeping with another man's wife will cost you your life.
- 27 Can a man scoop a flame into his lap
and not have his clothes catch on fire?
- 28 Can he walk on hot coals
and not blister his feet?
- 29 So it is with the man who sleeps with another man's wife.

He who embraces her will not go unpunished.
30 Excuses might be found for a thief
who steals because he is starving.
31 But if he is caught, he must pay back seven times what he stole,
even if he has to sell everything in his house.
32 But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool,
for he destroys himself.
33 He will be wounded and disgraced.
His shame will never be erased.
34 For the woman's jealous husband will be furious,
and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.
35 He will accept no compensation,
nor be satisfied with a payoff of any size.

7:4 Love wisdom like a sister;
make insight a beloved member of your family.
5 Let them protect you from an affair with an immoral woman,
from listening to the flattery of a promiscuous woman.
6 While I was at the window of my house,
looking through the curtain,
7 I saw some naive young men,
and one in particular who lacked common sense.
8 He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman,
strolling down the path by her house.
9 It was at twilight, in the evening,
as deep darkness fell.
10 The woman approached him,
seductively dressed and sly of heart.
11 She was the brash, rebellious type,
never content to stay at home.
12 She is often in the streets and markets,
soliciting at every corner.
13 She threw her arms around him and kissed him,
and with a brazen look she said,
14 "I've just made my peace offerings
and fulfilled my vows.
15 You're the one I was looking for!
I came out to find you, and here you are!
16 My bed is spread with beautiful blankets,
with coloured sheets of Egyptian linen.

17 I've perfumed my bed
with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
18 Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning.
Let's enjoy each other's caresses,
19 for my husband is not home.
He's away on a long trip.
20 He has taken a wallet full of money with him
and won't return until later this month."
21 So she seduced him with her pretty speech
and enticed him with her flattery.
22 He followed her at once,
like an ox going to the slaughter.
He was like a stag caught in a trap,
23 awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart.
He was like a bird flying into a snare,
little knowing it would cost him his life.
24 So listen to me, my sons,
and pay attention to my words.
25 Don't let your hearts stray away toward her.
Don't wander down her wayward path.
26 For she has been the ruin of many;
many men have been her victims.
27 Her house is the road to the grave.
Her bedroom is the den of death.

23:26 O my son, give me your heart.
May your eyes take delight in following my ways.
27 A prostitute is a dangerous trap;
a promiscuous woman is as dangerous as falling into a narrow well.
28 She hides and waits like a robber,
eager to make more men unfaithful.

Parents/Children

1:8 My child, listen when your father corrects you.
Don't neglect your mother's instruction.
9 What you learn from them will crown you with grace
and be a chain of honour around your neck.

3:1 My child, never forget the things I have taught you.

Store my commands in your heart.

2 If you do this, you will live many years,
and your life will be satisfying.

3:11 My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline,
and don't be upset when he corrects you.

12 For the Lord corrects those he loves,
just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

4:1 My children, listen when your father corrects you.

Pay attention and learn good judgment,

2 for I am giving you good guidance.

Don't turn away from my instructions.

3 For I, too, was once my father's son,
tenderly loved as my mother's only child.

4 My father taught me, 'Take my words to heart.

Follow my commands, and you will live.

4:10 My child, listen to me and do as I say,
and you will have a long, good life.

11 I will teach you wisdom's ways
and lead you in straight paths.

12 When you walk, you won't be held back;
when you run, you won't stumble.

13 Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go.
Guard them, for they are the key to life.

4:20 My child, pay attention to what I say.

Listen carefully to my words.

21 Don't lose sight of them.

Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

22 for they bring life to those who find them,
and healing to their whole body.

7:1 Follow my advice, my son;

always treasure my commands.

2 Obey my commands and live!

Guard my instructions as you guard your own eyes.

3 Tie them on your fingers as a reminder.

Write them deep within your heart.

23: 13 Don't fail to discipline your children.

The rod of punishment won't kill them.

14 Physical discipline

may well save them from death.

15 My child, if your heart is wise,

my own heart will rejoice!

16 Everything in me will celebrate

when you speak what is right.

23: 22 Listen to your father, who gave you life,
and don't despise your mother when she is old.

23 Get the truth and never sell it;

also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment.

24 The father of godly children has cause for joy.

What a pleasure to have children who are wise.

25 So give your father and mother joy!

May she who gave you birth be happy.

Money

1:10 My child, if sinners entice you,
turn your back on them!

1:18 ...these people set an ambush for themselves;
they are trying to get themselves killed.

19 Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money;
it robs them of life.

3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.

10 Then he will fill your barns with grain,
and your vats will overflow with good wine.

22:22 Don't rob the poor just because you can,
or exploit the needy in court.

23 For the Lord is their defender.

He will ruin anyone who ruins them.

22: 26 Don't agree to guarantee another person's debt

or put up security for someone else.
27 If you can't pay it,
even your bed will be snatched from under you.

23: Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich.
Be wise enough to know when to quit.
5 In the blink of an eye wealth disappears,
for it will sprout wings
and fly away like an eagle.

Honesty/Justice

2:7 He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest.
He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.

22: 28 Don't cheat your neighbor by moving the ancient boundary markers
set up by previous generations.

23: 10 Don't cheat your neighbor by moving the ancient boundary markers;
don't take the land of defenseless orphans.

11 For their Redeemer is strong;
he himself will bring their charges against you.

24: 11 Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die;
save them as they stagger to their death.

12 Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know."
For God understands all hearts, and he sees you.
He who guards your soul knows you knew.
He will repay all people as their actions deserve.

24: 23 Here are some further sayings of the wise:

It is wrong to show favoritism when passing judgment.

24 A judge who says to the wicked, "You are innocent,"
will be cursed by many people and denounced by the nations.

25 But it will go well for those who convict the guilty;
rich blessings will be showered on them.

26 An honest answer
is like a kiss of friendship.

28 Don't testify against your neighbours without cause;
don't lie about them.

29 And don't say, "Now I can pay them back for what they've done to me!
I'll get even with them!"

Righteousness

2:8 He guards the paths of the just
and protects those who are faithful to him.

2:20 Follow the steps of good men instead,
and stay on the paths of the righteous.

21 For only the godly will live in the land,
and those with integrity will remain in it.

3:3 Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!
Tie them around your neck as a reminder.
Write them deep within your heart.

4 Then you will find favour with both God and people,
and you will earn a good reputation.

4:18 The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.

Evil People

2:12 Wisdom will save you from evil people,
from those whose words are twisted.

13 These men turn from the right way
to walk down dark paths.

14 They take pleasure in doing wrong,
and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.

15 Their actions are crooked,
and their ways are wrong.

2:22 But the wicked will be removed from the land,
and the treacherous will be uprooted.

3:31 Don't envy violent people
or copy their ways.

32 Such wicked people are detestable to the Lord,
but he offers his friendship to the godly.

33 The Lord curses the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the home of the upright.

4:14 Don't do as the wicked do,
and don't follow the path of evildoers.

15 Don't even think about it; don't go that way.
Turn away and keep moving.

16 For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day.
They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble.

17 They eat the food of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence!

4:19 But the way of the wicked is like total darkness.
They have no idea what they are stumbling over.

22: 24 Don't befriend angry people
or associate with hot-tempered people,
25 or you will learn to be like them
and endanger your soul.

23:1 While dining with a ruler,
pay attention to what is put before you.

2 If you are a big eater,
put a knife to your throat;

3 don't desire all the delicacies,
for he might be trying to trick you.

23: 6 Don't eat with people who are stingy;
don't desire their delicacies.

7 They are always thinking about how much it costs.
"Eat and drink," they say, but they don't mean it.

8 You will throw up what little you've eaten,
and your compliments will be wasted.

9 Don't waste your breath on fools,
for they will despise the wisest advice.

23: 17 Don't envy sinners,
but always continue to fear the Lord.

18 You will be rewarded for this;

your hope will not be disappointed.

19 My child, listen and be wise:

Keep your heart on the right course.

20 Do not carouse with drunkards

or feast with gluttons,

21 for they are on their way to poverty,

and too much sleep clothes them in rags.

24:1 Don't envy evil people

or desire their company.

2 For their hearts plot violence,

and their words always stir up trouble.

24: 8 A person who plans evil

will get a reputation as a troublemaker.

9 The schemes of a fool are sinful;

everyone detests a mocker.

24: 15 Don't wait in ambush at the home of the godly,

and don't raid the house where the godly live.

16 The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.

But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.

17 Don't rejoice when your enemies fall;

don't be happy when they stumble.

18 For the Lord will be displeased with you

and will turn his anger away from them.

19 Don't fret because of evildoers;

don't envy the wicked.

20 For evil people have no future;

the light of the wicked will be snuffed out.

21 My child, fear the Lord and the king.

Don't associate with rebels,

22 for disaster will hit them suddenly.

Who knows what punishment will come

from the Lord and the king?

Choices

3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.

6 Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.

3:21 My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment.

Hang on to them,

22 for they will refresh your soul.

They are like jewels on a necklace.

23 They keep you safe on your way,
and your feet will not stumble.

24 You can go to bed without fear;
you will lie down and sleep soundly.

25 You need not be afraid of sudden disaster
or the destruction that comes upon the wicked,

26 for the Lord is your security.

He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.

4:25 Look straight ahead,
and fix your eyes on what lies before you.

26 Mark out a straight path for your feet;
stay on the safe path.

27 Don't get sidetracked;
keep your feet from following evil.

Drinking

23: 29 Who has anguish? Who has sorrow?

Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining?

Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

30 It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns,
trying out new drinks.

31 Don't gaze at the wine, seeing how red it is,
how it sparkles in the cup, how smoothly it goes down.

32 For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake;
it stings like a viper.

33 You will see hallucinations,
and you will say crazy things.

34 You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea,

clinging to a swaying mast.
35 And you will say, "They hit me, but I didn't feel it.
I didn't even know it when they beat me up.
When will I wake up
so I can look for another drink?"

Relationships/Communication

3:27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it
when it's in your power to help them.

28 If you can help your neighbour now, don't say,
'Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you.'

29 Don't plot harm against your neighbour,
for those who live nearby trust you.

30 Don't pick a fight without reason,
when no one has done you harm.

4:24 Avoid all perverse talk;
stay away from corrupt speech.

9:7 Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return.
Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt.

8 So don't bother correcting mockers;
they will only hate you.

But correct the wise,
and they will love you.

9 Instruct the wise,
and they will be even wiser.

Teach the righteous,
and they will learn even more.

Work

22: 29 Do you see any truly competent workers?
They will serve kings
rather than working for ordinary people.

24: 10 If you fail under pressure,
your strength is too small.

24: 27 Do your planning and prepare your fields
before building your house.

30 I walked by the field of a lazy person,
the vineyard of one with no common sense.

31 I saw that it was overgrown with nettles.
It was covered with weeds,
and its walls were broken down.

32 Then, as I looked and thought about it,
I learned this lesson:

33 A little extra sleep, a little more slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest—

34 then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit;
scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

Humility

3:34 The Lord mocks the mockers (opposes the proud)
but is gracious to the humble.

Your Heart

4:23 Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.

Couplet Proverbs – Chapters 10 - 22:16, 25 – 29 - Categorised

Family & Friends

10:1 A wise son brings joy to his father,
but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

11:29 Those who bring trouble on their families inherit the wind.
The fool will be a servant to the wise.

12:4 A worthy wife is a crown for her husband,
but a disgraceful woman is like cancer in his bones.

13:24 Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children.
Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.

14:1 A wise woman builds her home,
but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.

15:20 Sensible children bring joy to their father;
foolish children despise their mother.

17:6 Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged;
parents are the pride of their children.

17:17 A friend is always loyal,
and a brother is born to help in time of need.

17:21 It is painful to be the parent of a fool;
there is no joy for the father of a rebel.

17:25 Foolish children bring grief to their father
and bitterness to the one who gave them birth.

18:22 The man who finds a wife finds a treasure,
and he receives favor from the Lord.

18:24 There are “friends” who destroy each other,
but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

19:13 A foolish child is a calamity to a father;
a quarrelsome wife is as annoying as constant dripping.

19:14 Fathers can give their sons an inheritance of houses and wealth,
but only the Lord can give an understanding wife.

19:18 Discipline your children while there is hope.
Otherwise you will ruin their lives.

19:26 Children who mistreat their father or chase away their mother
are an embarrassment and a public disgrace.

20:6 Many will say they are loyal friends,
but who can find one who is truly reliable?

20:7 The godly walk with integrity;
blessed are their children who follow them.

20:20 If you insult your father or mother,
your light will be snuffed out in total darkness.

21:9 It's better to live alone in the corner of an attic
than with a quarrelsome wife in a lovely home.

21:19 It's better to live alone in the desert
than with a quarrelsome, complaining wife.

22:6 Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.

25: 17 Don't visit your neighbors too often,
or you will wear out your welcome.

25: It's better to live alone in the corner of an attic
than with a quarrelsome wife in a lovely home.

27: 9 The heartfelt counsel of a friend
is as sweet as perfume and incense.

10 Never abandon a friend—

either yours or your father's.

When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance.

It's better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away.

27: 15 A quarrelsome wife is as annoying
as constant dripping on a rainy day.

16 Stopping her complaints is like trying to stop the wind
or trying to hold something with greased hands.

17 As iron sharpens iron,
so a friend sharpens a friend.

Money/Generosity

10:2 Tainted wealth has no lasting value,
but right living can save your life.

10:15 The wealth of the rich is their fortress;
the poverty of the poor is their destruction.

10:16 The earnings of the godly enhance their lives,
but evil people squander their money on sin.

10:22 The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich,
and he adds no sorrow with it.

11:4 Riches won't help on the day of judgment,
but right living can save you from death.

11:15 There's danger in putting up security for a stranger's debt;
it's safer not to guarantee another person's debt.

11:16 A gracious woman gains respect,
but ruthless men gain only wealth.

11:18 Evil people get rich for the moment,
but the reward of the godly will last.

11:24 Give freely and become more wealthy;
be stingy and lose everything.

11:25 The generous will prosper;
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

11:26 People curse those who hoard their grain,
but they bless the one who sells in time of need.

11:28 Trust in your money and down you go!
But the godly flourish like leaves in spring.

12:12 Thieves are jealous of each other's loot,
but the godly are well rooted and bear their own fruit.

13:7 Some who are poor pretend to be rich;
others who are rich pretend to be poor.

13:8 The rich can pay a ransom for their lives,
but the poor won't even get threatened.

13:11 Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears;
wealth from hard work grows over time.

13:22 Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren,
but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.

14:20 The poor are despised even by their neighbors,
while the rich have many "friends."

14:21 It is a sin to belittle one's neighbor;
blessed are those who help the poor.

14:24 Wealth is a crown for the wise;
the effort of fools yields only foolishness.

14:31 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker,
but helping the poor honors him.

15:6 There is treasure in the house of the godly,
but the earnings of the wicked bring trouble.

15:16 Better to have little, with fear for the Lord,
than to have great treasure and inner turmoil.

16:8 Better to have little, with godliness,
than to be rich and dishonest.

16:19 Better to live humbly with the poor
than to share plunder with the proud.

17:5 Those who mock the poor insult their Maker;
those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.

17:18 It's poor judgment to guarantee another person's debt
or put up security for a friend.

18:11 The rich think of their wealth as a strong defense;
they imagine it to be a high wall of safety.

18:16 Giving a gift can open doors;
it gives access to important people!

18:23 The poor plead for mercy;
the rich answer with insults.

19:4 Wealth makes many "friends";
poverty drives them all away.

19:6 Many seek favors from a ruler;
everyone is the friend of a person who gives gifts!

19:7 The relatives of the poor despise them;
how much more will their friends avoid them!
Though the poor plead with them,
their friends are gone.

19:17 If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—
and he will repay you!

20:16 Get security from someone who guarantees a stranger's debt.
Get a deposit if he does it for foreigners.

20:21 An inheritance obtained too early in life
is not a blessing in the end.

21:6 Wealth created by a lying tongue
is a vanishing mist and a deadly trap.

21:13 Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor
will be ignored in their own time of need.

21:14 A secret gift calms anger;
a bribe under the table pacifies fury.

21:17 Those who love pleasure become poor;
those who love wine and luxury will never be rich.

21:20 The wise have wealth and luxury,
but fools spend whatever they get.

21:26 Some people are always greedy for more,
but the godly love to give!

22:1 Choose a good reputation over great riches;
being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.

22:2 The rich and poor have this in common:
The Lord made them both.

22:7 Just as the rich rule the poor,
so the borrower is servant to the lender.

22:9 Blessed are those who are generous,
because they feed the poor.

22:16 A person who gets ahead by oppressing the poor
or by showering gifts on the rich will end in poverty.

27: 13 Get security from someone who guarantees a stranger's debt.
Get a deposit if he does it for foreigners.

28: 8 Income from charging high interest rates
will end up in the pocket of someone who is kind to the poor.

28: 21 Showing partiality is never good,
yet some will do wrong for a mere piece of bread.

22 Greedy people try to get rich quick
but don't realize they're headed for poverty.

28: 25 Greed causes fighting;
trusting the Lord leads to prosperity.

27 Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing,
but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed.

Godliness/Wickedness

10:3 The Lord will not let the godly go hungry,
but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked.

10:6 The godly are showered with blessings;
the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

10:7 We have happy memories of the godly,
but the name of a wicked person rots away.

10:24 The fears of the wicked will be fulfilled;
the hopes of the godly will be granted.

10:25 When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away,
but the godly have a lasting foundation.

10:27 Fear of the Lord lengthens one's life,
but the years of the wicked are cut short.

10:28 The hopes of the godly result in happiness,
but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing.

10:30 The godly will never be disturbed,
but the wicked will be removed from the land.

11:6 The godliness of good people rescues them;
the ambition of treacherous people traps them.

11:8 The godly are rescued from trouble,
and it falls on the wicked instead.

11:10 The whole city celebrates when the godly succeed;
they shout for joy when the wicked die.

11:11 Upright citizens are good for a city and make it prosper,
but the talk of the wicked tears it apart.

11:19 Godly people find life;
evil people find death.

11:21 Evil people will surely be punished,
but the children of the godly will go free.

11:23 The godly can look forward to a reward,
while the wicked can expect only judgment.

11:27 If you search for good, you will find favor;
but if you search for evil, it will find you!

11:31 If the righteous are barely saved,
what will happen to godless sinners?

12:2 The Lord approves of those who are good,
but he condemns those who plan wickedness.

12:3 Wickedness never brings stability,
but the godly have deep roots.

12:5 The plans of the godly are just;
the advice of the wicked is treacherous.

12:7 The wicked die and disappear,
but the family of the godly stands firm.

12:21 No harm comes to the godly,
but the wicked have their fill of trouble.

12:28 The way of the godly leads to life;
that path does not lead to death.

13:5 The godly hate lies;
the wicked cause shame and disgrace.

13:6 Godliness guards the path of the blameless,
but the evil are misled by sin.

13:9 The life of the godly is full of light and joy,
but the light of the wicked will be snuffed out.

13:21 Trouble chases sinners,
while blessings reward the righteous.

13:25 The godly eat to their hearts' content,
but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

14:2 Those who follow the right path fear the Lord;
those who take the wrong path despise him.

14:11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed,
but the tent of the godly will flourish.

14:14 Backsliders get what they deserve;
good people receive their reward.

14:19 Evil people will bow before good people;
the wicked will bow at the gates of the godly.

14:22 If you plan to do evil, you will be lost;
if you plan to do good, you will receive unfailing love and faithfulness.

14:26 Those who fear the Lord are secure;
he will be a refuge for their children.

14:27 Fear of the Lord is a life-giving fountain;

it offers escape from the snares of death.

14:32 The wicked are crushed by disaster,
but the godly have a refuge when they die.

14:34 Godliness makes a nation great,
but sin is a disgrace to any people.

15:3 The Lord is watching everywhere,
keeping his eye on both the evil and the good.

15:8 The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked,
but he delights in the prayers of the upright.

15:9 The Lord detests the way of the wicked,
but he loves those who pursue godliness.

15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayers of the righteous.

16:3 Commit your actions to the Lord,
and your plans will succeed.

16:6 Unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin.
By fearing the Lord, people avoid evil.

16:7 When people's lives please the Lord,
even their enemies are at peace with them.

16:17 The path of the virtuous leads away from evil;
whoever follows that path is safe.

16:31 Gray hair is a crown of glory;
it is gained by living a godly life.

16:32 Better to be patient than powerful;
better to have self-control than to conquer a city.

17:11 Evil people are eager for rebellion,
but they will be severely punished.

17:26 It is wrong to punish the godly for being good
or to flog leaders for being honest.

18:3 Doing wrong leads to disgrace,
and scandalous behavior brings contempt.

18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong fortress;
the godly run to him and are safe.

19:16 Keep the commandments and keep your life;
despising them leads to death.

19:23 Fear of the Lord leads to life,
bringing security and protection from harm.

20:11 Even children are known by the way they act,
whether their conduct is pure, and whether it is right.

20:17 Stolen bread tastes sweet,
but it turns to gravel in the mouth.

21:3 The Lord is more pleased when we do what is right and just
than when we offer him sacrifices.

21:7 The violence of the wicked sweeps them away,
because they refuse to do what is just.

21:8 The guilty walk a crooked path;
the innocent travel a straight road.

21:10 Evil people desire evil;
their neighbors get no mercy from them.

21:12 The Righteous One knows what is going on in the homes of the wicked;
he will bring disaster on them.

21:18 The wicked are punished in place of the godly,
and traitors in place of the honest.

21:21 Whoever pursues righteousness and unfailing love
will find life, righteousness, and honor.

21:27 The sacrifice of an evil person is detestable,
especially when it is offered with wrong motives.

25: 26 If the godly give in to the wicked,
it's like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring.

26: 27 If you set a trap for others,
you will get caught in it yourself.
If you roll a boulder down on others,
it will crush you instead.

28: 1 The wicked run away when no one is chasing them,
but the godly are as bold as lions.

28: 3 A poor person who oppresses the poor
is like a pounding rain that destroys the crops.

4 To reject the law is to praise the wicked;
to obey the law is to fight them.

5 Evil people don't understand justice,
but those who follow the Lord understand completely.

28: 9 God detests the prayers
of a person who ignores the law.

10 Those who lead good people along an evil path
will fall into their own trap,
but the honest will inherit good things.

11 Rich people may think they are wise,
but a poor person with discernment can see right through them.

12 When the godly succeed, everyone is glad.
When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding.

13 People who conceal their sins will not prosper,

but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

14 Blessed are those who fear to do wrong,
but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.

28: 17 A murderer's tormented conscience will drive him into the grave.
Don't protect him!

18 The blameless will be rescued from harm,
but the crooked will be suddenly destroyed.

28:24 Anyone who steals from his father and mother
and says, "What's wrong with that?"
is no better than a murderer.

28: 28 When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding.
When the wicked meet disaster, the godly flourish.

29: 1 Whoever stubbornly refuses to accept criticism
will suddenly be destroyed beyond recovery.

2 When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice.
But when the wicked are in power, they groan.

29: 6 Evil people are trapped by sin,
but the righteous escape, shouting for joy.

7 The godly care about the rights of the poor;
the wicked don't care at all.

8 Mockers can get a whole town agitated,
but the wise will calm anger.

29: 10 The bloodthirsty hate blameless people,
but the upright seek to help them.

29: 25 Fearing people is a dangerous trap,
but trusting the Lord means safety.

26 Many seek the ruler's favor,

but justice comes from the Lord.

27 The righteous despise the unjust;
the wicked despise the godly.

Work/Laziness

10:4 Lazy people are soon poor;
hard workers get rich.

10:5 A wise youth harvests in the summer,
but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.

10:26 Lazy people irritate their employers,
like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes.

12:11 A hard worker has plenty of food,
but a person who chases fantasies has no sense.

12:24 Work hard and become a leader;
be lazy and become a slave.

12:27 Lazy people don't even cook the game they catch,
but the diligent make use of everything they find.

13:4 Lazy people want much but get little,
but those who work hard will prosper.

13:17 An unreliable messenger stumbles into trouble,
but a reliable messenger brings healing.

14:4 Without oxen a stable stays clean,
but you need a strong ox for a large harvest.

14:23 Work brings profit,
but mere talk leads to poverty!

15:19 A lazy person's way is blocked with briars,
but the path of the upright is an open highway.

16:26 It is good for workers to have an appetite;

an empty stomach drives them on.

17:2 A wise servant will rule over the master's disgraceful son
and will share the inheritance of the master's children.

18:9 A lazy person is as bad as
someone who destroys things.

19:15 Lazy people sleep soundly,
but idleness leaves them hungry.

19:24 Lazy people take food in their hand
but don't even lift it to their mouth.

20:4 Those too lazy to plow in the right season
will have no food at the harvest.

20:13 If you love sleep, you will end in poverty.
Keep your eyes open, and there will be plenty to eat!

21:5 Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity,
but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

21:25 Despite their desires, the lazy will come to ruin,
for their hands refuse to work.

22:13 The lazy person claims, "There's a lion out there!
If I go outside, I might be killed!"

25: 16 Do you like honey?
Don't eat too much, or it will make you sick!

26: 13 The lazy person claims, "There's a lion on the road!
Yes, I'm sure there's a lion out there!"

14 As a door swings back and forth on its hinges,
so the lazy person turns over in bed.

15 Lazy people take food in their hand
but don't even lift it to their mouth.

16 Lazy people consider themselves smarter
than seven wise counselors.

27: 18 As workers who tend a fig tree are allowed to eat the fruit,
so workers who protect their employer's interests will be rewarded.

27: 23 Know the state of your flocks,
and put your heart into caring for your herds,
24 for riches don't last forever,
and the crown might not be passed to the next generation.
25 After the hay is harvested and the new crop appears
and the mountain grasses are gathered in,
26 your sheep will provide wool for clothing,
and your goats will provide the price of a field.
27 And you will have enough goats' milk for yourself,
your family, and your servant girls.

28: 19 A hard worker has plenty of food,
but a person who chases fantasies ends up in poverty.

20 The trustworthy person will get a rich reward,
but a person who wants quick riches will get into trouble.

Instruction/Discipline

10:8 The wise are glad to be instructed,
but babbling fools fall flat on their faces.

10:17 People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life,
but those who ignore correction will go astray.

12:1 To learn, you must love discipline;
it is stupid to hate correction.

13:1 A wise child accepts a parent's discipline;
a mocker refuses to listen to correction.

13:13 People who despise advice are asking for trouble;
those who respect a command will succeed.

13:14 The instruction of the wise is like a life-giving fountain;
those who accept it avoid the snares of death.

13:18 If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace;
if you accept correction, you will be honored.

15:5 Only a fool despises a parent's discipline;
whoever learns from correction is wise.

15:10 Whoever abandons the right path will be severely disciplined;
whoever hates correction will die.

15:12 Mockers hate to be corrected,
so they stay away from the wise.

15:22 Plans go wrong for lack of advice;
many advisers bring success.

15:31 If you listen to constructive criticism,
you will be at home among the wise.

15:32 If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself;
but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.

16:20 Those who listen to instruction will prosper;
those who trust the Lord will be joyful.

17:10 A single rebuke does more for a person of understanding
than a hundred lashes on the back of a fool.

19:20 Get all the advice and instruction you can,
so you will be wise the rest of your life.

19:27 If you stop listening to instruction, my child,
you will turn your back on knowledge.

20:5 Though good advice lies deep within the heart,
a person with understanding will draw it out.

20:18 Plans succeed through good counsel;

don't go to war without wise advice.

20:30 Physical punishment cleanses away evil;
such discipline purifies the heart.

21:11 If you punish a mocker, the simpleminded become wise;
if you instruct the wise, they will be all the wiser.

22:15 A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness,
but physical discipline will drive it far away.

29: 15 To discipline a child produces wisdom,
but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.

29: 17 Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind
and will make your heart glad.

18 When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild.
But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

19 Words alone will not discipline a servant;
the words may be understood, but they are not heeded.

29: 21 A servant pampered from childhood
will become a rebel.

Justice/Honesty

10:9 People with integrity walk safely,
but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.

10:10 People who wink at wrong cause trouble,
but a bold reproof promotes peace.

10:29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity,
but it destroys the wicked.

11:1 The Lord detests the use of dishonest scales,
but he delights in accurate weights.

11:3 Honesty guides good people;

dishonesty destroys treacherous people.

11:5 The godly are directed by honesty;
the wicked fall beneath their load of sin.

11:20 The Lord detests people with crooked hearts,
but he delights in those with integrity.

12:17 An honest witness tells the truth;
a false witness tells lies.

12:20 Deceit fills hearts that are plotting evil;
joy fills hearts that are planning peace!

12:26 The godly give good advice to their friends (or; are cautious in friendship);
the wicked lead them astray.

13:23 A poor person's farm may produce much food,
but injustice sweeps it all away.

14:5 An honest witness does not lie;
a false witness breathes lies.

14:25 A truthful witness saves lives,
but a false witness is a traitor.

15:27 Greed brings grief to the whole family,
but those who hate bribes will live.

16:11 The Lord demands accurate scales and balances;
he sets the standards for fairness.

16:12 A king detests wrongdoing,
for his rule is built on justice.

16:29 Violent people mislead their companions,
leading them down a harmful path.

16:30 With narrowed eyes, people plot evil;
with a smirk, they plan their mischief.

17:8 A bribe is like a lucky charm;
whoever gives one will prosper!

17:15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—
both are detestable to the Lord.

17:20 The crooked heart will not prosper;
the lying tongue tumbles into trouble.

17:23 The wicked take secret bribes
to pervert the course of justice.

18:5 It is not right to acquit the guilty
or deny justice to the innocent.

19:1 Better to be poor and honest
than to be dishonest and a fool.

19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished,
nor will a liar escape.

19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished,
and a liar will be destroyed.

19:10 It isn't right for a fool to live in luxury
or for a slave to rule over princes!

19:22 Loyalty makes a person attractive.
It is better to be poor than dishonest.

19:28 A corrupt witness makes a mockery of justice;
the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil.

20:10 False weights and unequal measures—
the Lord detests double standards of every kind.

20:14 The buyer haggles over the price, saying, "It's worthless,"
then brags about getting a bargain!

20:23 The Lord detests double standards;
he is not pleased by dishonest scales.

21:15 Justice is a joy to the godly,
but it terrifies evildoers.

21:28 A false witness will be cut off,
but a credible witness will be allowed to speak.

21:29 The wicked bluff their way through,
but the virtuous think before they act.

22:5 Corrupt people walk a thorny, treacherous road;
whoever values life will avoid it.

22:8 Those who plant injustice will harvest disaster,
and their reign of terror will come to an end.

25: 14 A person who promises a gift but doesn't give it
is like clouds and wind that bring no rain.

28: 6 Better to be poor and honest
than to be dishonest and rich.

Words and Speech

10:11 The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain;
the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

10:13 Wise words come from the lips of people with understanding,
but those lacking sense will be beaten with a rod.

10:18 Hiding hatred makes you a liar;
slandering others makes you a fool.

10:19 Too much talk leads to sin.
Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

10:20 The words of the godly are like sterling silver;
the heart of a fool is worthless.

10:21 The words of the godly encourage many,
but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.

10:31 The mouth of the godly person gives wise advice,
but the tongue that deceives will be cut off.

10:32 The lips of the godly speak helpful words,
but the mouth of the wicked speaks perverse words.

11:9 With their words, the godless destroy their friends,
but knowledge will rescue the righteous.

11:12 It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor;
a sensible person keeps quiet.

11:13 A gossip goes around telling secrets,
but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

12:6 The words of the wicked are like a murderous ambush,
but the words of the godly save lives.

12:13 The wicked are trapped by their own words,
but the godly escape such trouble.

12:14 Wise words bring many benefits,
and hard work brings rewards.

12:18 Some people make cutting remarks,
but the words of the wise bring healing.

12:19 Truthful words stand the test of time,
but lies are soon exposed.

12:22 The Lord detests lying lips,
but he delights in those who tell the truth.

12:25 Worry weighs a person down;
an encouraging word cheers a person up.

13:2 Wise words will win you a good meal,

but treacherous people have an appetite for violence.

13:3 Those who control their tongue will have a long life;
opening your mouth can ruin everything.

14:3 A fool's proud talk becomes a rod that beats him,
but the words of the wise keep them safe.

15:1 A gentle answer deflects anger,
but harsh words make tempers flare.

15:2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge appealing,
but the mouth of a fool belches out foolishness.

15:4 Gentle words are a tree of life;
a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

15:7 The lips of the wise give good advice;
the heart of a fool has none to give.

15:23 Everyone enjoys a fitting reply;
it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!

15:26 The Lord detests evil plans,
but he delights in pure words.

15:28 The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking;
the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words.

16:13 The king is pleased with words from righteous lips;
he loves those who speak honestly.

16:23 From a wise mind comes wise speech;
the words of the wise are persuasive.

16:24 Kind words are like honey—
sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

16:27 Scoundrels create trouble;
their words are a destructive blaze.

16:28 A troublemaker plants seeds of strife;
gossip separates the best of friends.

17:4 Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip;
liars pay close attention to slander.

17:7 Eloquent words are not fitting for a fool;
even less are lies fitting for a ruler.

17:27 A truly wise person uses few words;
a person with understanding is even-tempered.

17:28 Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent;
with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.

18:4 Wise words are like deep waters;
wisdom flows from the wise like a bubbling brook.

18:6 Fools' words get them into constant quarrels;
they are asking for a beating.

18:7 The mouths of fools are their ruin;
they trap themselves with their lips.

18:8 Rumors are dainty morsels
that sink deep into one's heart.

18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts
is both shameful and foolish.

18:17 The first to speak in court sounds right—
until the cross-examination begins.

18:20 Wise words satisfy like a good meal;
the right words bring satisfaction.

18:21 The tongue can bring death or life;
those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

20:15 Wise words are more valuable
than much gold and many rubies.

20:19 A gossip goes around telling secrets,
so don't hang around with chatterers.

20:25 Don't trap yourself by making a rash promise to God
and only later counting the cost.

21:23 Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut,
and you will stay out of trouble.

22:11 Whoever loves a pure heart and gracious speech
will have the king as a friend.

25: 11 Timely advice is lovely,
like golden apples in a silver basket.

12 To one who listens, valid criticism
is like a gold earring or other gold jewelry.

13 Trustworthy messengers refresh like snow in summer.
They revive the spirit of their employer.

15 Patience can persuade a prince,
and soft speech can break bones.

25: 23 As surely as a north wind brings rain,
so a gossiping tongue causes anger!

25: 25 Good news from far away
is like cold water to the thirsty.

26: 2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow,
an undeserved curse will not land on its intended victim.

26: 17 Interfering in someone else's argument
is as foolish as yanking a dog's ears.

18 Just as damaging

- as a madman shooting a deadly weapon
19 is someone who lies to a friend
and then says, "I was only joking."
- 20 Fire goes out without wood,
and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.
- 21 A quarrelsome person starts fights
as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood.
- 22 Rumors are dainty morsels
that sink deep into one's heart.
- 23 Smooth words may hide a wicked heart,
just as a pretty glaze covers a clay pot.
- 24 People may cover their hatred with pleasant words,
but they're deceiving you.
- 25 They pretend to be kind, but don't believe them.
Their hearts are full of many evils.
- 26 While their hatred may be concealed by trickery,
their wrongdoing will be exposed in public.
- 26: 28 A lying tongue hates its victims,
and flattering words cause ruin.
- 27:1 Don't brag about tomorrow,
since you don't know what the day will bring.
- 2 Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth—
a stranger, not your own lips.
- 27: 5 An open rebuke
is better than hidden love!
- 6 Wounds from a sincere friend
are better than many kisses from an enemy.
- 27: 14 A loud and cheerful greeting early in the morning
will be taken as a curse!

28: 23 In the end, people appreciate honest criticism
far more than flattery.

29: 5 To flatter friends
is to lay a trap for their feet.

29: 20 There is more hope for a fool
than for someone who speaks without thinking.

Conflict

10:12 Hatred stirs up quarrels,
but love makes up for all offenses.

12:16 A fool is quick-tempered,
but a wise person stays calm when insulted.

14:9 Fools make fun of guilt,
but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation.

14:17 Short-tempered people do foolish things,
and schemers are hated.

14:29 People with understanding control their anger;
a hot temper shows great foolishness.

15:17 A bowl of vegetables with someone you love
is better than steak with someone you hate.

15:18 A hot-tempered person starts fights;
a cool-tempered person stops them.

17:1 Better a dry crust eaten in peace
than a house filled with feasting—and conflict.

17:9 Love prospers when a fault is forgiven,
but dwelling on it separates close friends.

17:12 It is safer to meet a bear robbed of her cubs

than to confront a fool caught in foolishness.

17:13 If you repay good with evil,
evil will never leave your house.

17:14 Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate,
so stop before a dispute breaks out.

17:19 Anyone who loves to quarrel loves sin;
anyone who trusts in high walls invites disaster.

18:1 Unfriendly people care only about themselves;
they lash out at common sense.

18:18 Flipping a coin can end arguments;
it settles disputes between powerful opponents.

18:19 An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.
Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

19:11 Sensible people control their temper;
they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

19:19 Hot-tempered people must pay the penalty.
If you rescue them once, you will have to do it again.

20:3 Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor;
only fools insist on quarreling.

22:10 Throw out the mocker, and fighting goes, too.
Quarrels and insults will disappear.

25:8 Just because you've seen something,
don't be in a hurry to go to court.
For what will you do in the end
if your neighbor deals you a shameful defeat?

9 When arguing with your neighbor,
don't betray another person's secret.

10 Others may accuse you of gossip,

and you will never regain your good reputation.

27: 4 Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood,
but jealousy is even more dangerous.

29: 22 An angry person starts fights;
a hot-tempered person commits all kinds of sin.

Wisdom/Foolishness

10:14 Wise people treasure knowledge,
but the babbling of a fool invites disaster.

10:23 Doing wrong is fun for a fool,
but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible.

12:8 A sensible person wins admiration,
but a warped mind is despised.

12:15 Fools think their own way is right,
but the wise listen to others.

12:23 The wise don't make a show of their knowledge,
but fools broadcast their foolishness.

13:15 A person with good sense is respected;
a treacherous person is headed for destruction.

13:16 Wise people think before they act;
fools don't—and even brag about their foolishness.

13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise;
associate with fools and get in trouble.

14:6 A mocker seeks wisdom and never finds it,
but knowledge comes easily to those with understanding.

14:7 Stay away from fools,
for you won't find knowledge on their lips.

14:8 The prudent understand where they are going,
but fools deceive themselves.

14:15 Only simpletons believe everything they're told!
The prudent carefully consider their steps.

14:16 The wise are cautious and avoid danger;
fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence.

14:18 Simpletons are clothed with foolishness,
but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

14:33 Wisdom is enshrined in an understanding heart;
wisdom is not found among fools.

15:14 A wise person is hungry for knowledge,
while the fool feeds on trash.

15:21 Foolishness brings joy to those with no sense;
a sensible person stays on the right path.

15:24 The path of life leads upward for the wise;
they leave the grave behind.

16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold,
and good judgment than silver!

16:21 The wise are known for their understanding,
and pleasant words are persuasive.

16:22 Discretion is a life-giving fountain to those who possess it,
but discipline is wasted on fools.

17:16 It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a fool,
since he has no heart for learning.

17:24 Sensible people keep their eyes glued on wisdom,
but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

18:2 Fools have no interest in understanding;

they only want to air their own opinions.

18:15 Intelligent people are always ready to learn.
Their ears are open for knowledge.

19:2 Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good;
haste makes mistakes.

19:3 People ruin their lives by their own foolishness
and then are angry at the Lord.

19:8 To acquire wisdom is to love oneself;
people who cherish understanding will prosper.

19:25 If you punish a mocker, the simpleminded will learn a lesson;
if you correct the wise, they will be all the wiser.

19:29 Punishment is made for mockers,
and the backs of fools are made to be beaten.

20:1 Wine produces mockers; alcohol leads to brawls.
Those led astray by drink cannot be wise.

21:16 The person who strays from common sense
will end up in the company of the dead.

21:22 The wise conquer the city of the strong
and level the fortress in which they trust.

22:3 A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions.
The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

22:12 The Lord preserves those with knowledge,
but he ruins the plans of the treacherous.

25: 28 A person without self-control
is like a city with broken-down walls.

26:1 Honor is no more associated with fools
than snow with summer or rain with harvest.

26: Guide a horse with a whip, a donkey with a bridle,
and a fool with a rod to his back!

4 Don't answer the foolish arguments of fools,
or you will become as foolish as they are.

5 Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools,
or they will become wise in their own estimation.

6 Trusting a fool to convey a message
is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison!

7 A proverb in the mouth of a fool
is as useless as a paralyzed leg.

8 Honoring a fool
is as foolish as tying a stone to a slingshot.

9 A proverb in the mouth of a fool
is like a thorny branch brandished by a drunk.

10 An employer who hires a fool or a bystander
is like an archer who shoots at random.

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

12 There is more hope for fools
than for people who think they are wise.

27:3 A stone is heavy and sand is weighty,
but the resentment caused by a fool is even heavier.

27: 11 Be wise, my child, and make my heart glad.
Then I will be able to answer my critics.

12 A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions.
The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

27: 22 You cannot separate fools from their foolishness,
even though you grind them like grain with mortar and pestle.

28:7 Young people who obey the law are wise;
those with wild friends bring shame to their parents.

28: 26 Those who trust their own insight are foolish,
but anyone who walks in wisdom is safe.

29: 3 The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father,
but if he hangs around with prostitutes, his wealth is wasted.

29: 9 If a wise person takes a fool to court,
there will be ranting and ridicule but no satisfaction.

29: 11 Fools vent their anger,
but the wise quietly hold it back.

Pride/Humility

11:2 Pride leads to disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.

11:7 When the wicked die, their hopes die with them,
for they rely on their own feeble strength.

12:9 Better to be an ordinary person with a servant
than to be self-important but have no food.

13:10 Pride leads to conflict;
those who take advice are wise.

15:25 The Lord tears down the house of the proud,
but he protects the property of widows.

15:33 Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom;
humility precedes honor.

16:5 The Lord detests the proud;
they will surely be punished.

16:18 Pride goes before destruction,
and haughtiness before a fall.

18:12 Haughtiness goes before destruction;
humility precedes honor.

21:4 Haughty eyes, a proud heart,
and evil actions are all sin.

21:24 Mockers are proud and haughty;
they act with boundless arrogance.

22:4 True humility and fear of the Lord
lead to riches, honor, and long life.

25: 6 Don't demand an audience with the king
or push for a place among the great.

7 It's better to wait for an invitation to the head table
than to be sent away in public disgrace.

25: 27 It's not good to eat too much honey,
and it's not good to seek honors for yourself.

27: 21 Fire tests the purity of silver and gold,
but a person is tested by being praised.

29: 23 Pride ends in humiliation,
while humility brings honor.

Leadership

11:14 Without wise leadership, a nation falls;
there is safety in having many advisers.

14:28 A growing population is a king's glory;
a prince without subjects has nothing.

14:35 A king rejoices in wise servants
but is angry with those who disgrace him.

16:10 The king speaks with divine wisdom;
he must never judge unfairly.

16:14 The anger of the king is a deadly threat;
the wise will try to appease it.

16:15 When the king smiles, there is life;
his favor refreshes like a spring rain.

19:12 The king's anger is like a lion's roar,
but his favor is like dew on the grass.

20:2 The king's fury is like a lion's roar;
to rouse his anger is to risk your life.

20:8 When a king sits in judgment, he weighs all the evidence,
distinguishing the bad from the good.

20:26 A wise king scatters the wicked like wheat,
then runs his threshing wheel over them.

20:28 Unfailing love and faithfulness protect the king;
his throne is made secure through love.

25: 2 It is God's privilege to conceal things
and the king's privilege to discover them.

3 No one can comprehend the height of heaven, the depth of the earth,
or all that goes on in the king's mind!

4 Remove the impurities from silver,
and the sterling will be ready for the silversmith.

5 Remove the wicked from the king's court,
and his reign will be made secure by justice.

28: 2 When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily.
But wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability.

28: 15 A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor
as a roaring lion or an attacking bear.

16 A ruler with no understanding will oppress his people,
but one who hates corruption will have a long life.

29: 4 A just king gives stability to his nation,
but one who demands bribes destroys it.

29: 12 If a ruler pays attention to liars,
all his advisers will be wicked.

29: 14 If a king judges the poor fairly,
his throne will last forever.

29: 16 When the wicked are in authority, sin flourishes,
but the godly will live to see their downfall.

Kindness/Relationships

11:17 Your kindness will reward you,
but your cruelty will destroy you.

11:30 The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life;
a wise person wins friends.

12:10 The godly care for their animals,
but the wicked are always cruel.

25:18 Telling lies about others
is as harmful as hitting them with an ax,
wounding them with a sword,
or shooting them with a sharp arrow.

19 Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble
is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot.

20 Singing cheerful songs to a person with a heavy heart
is like taking someone's coat in cold weather
or pouring vinegar in a wound.

21 If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat.
If they are thirsty, give them water to drink.

22 You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads,
and the Lord will reward you.

Women

11:22 A beautiful woman who lacks discretion
is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

22:14 The mouth of an immoral woman is a dangerous trap;
those who make the Lord angry will fall into it.

Other Truisms

27: 7 A person who is full refuses honey,
but even bitter food tastes sweet to the hungry.

8 A person who strays from home
is like a bird that strays from its nest.

29: 13 The poor and the oppressor have this in common—
the Lord gives sight to the eyes of both.

29: 24 If you assist a thief, you only hurt yourself.
You are sworn to tell the truth, but you dare not testify.

Hopes and Dreams

13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

13:19 It is pleasant to see dreams come true,
but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them.

The Heart/Spirit

14:10 Each heart knows its own bitterness,
and no one else can fully share its joy.

14:13 Laughter can conceal a heavy heart,
but when the laughter ends, the grief remains.

14:30 A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body;
jealousy is like cancer in the bones.

15:11 Even Death and Destruction hold no secrets from the Lord.
How much more does he know the human heart!

15:13 A glad heart makes a happy face;
a broken heart crushes the spirit.

15:15 For the despondent, every day brings trouble;
for the happy heart, life is a continual feast.

15:30 A cheerful look brings joy to the heart;
good news makes for good health.

17:3 Fire tests the purity of silver and gold,
but the Lord tests the heart.

17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine,
but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.

18:14 The human spirit can endure a sick body,
but who can bear a crushed spirit?

20:9 Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart;
I am pure and free from sin"?

20:27 The Lord's light penetrates the human spirit,
exposing every hidden motive.

21:2 People may be right in their own eyes,
but the Lord examines their heart.

27: 19 As a face is reflected in water,
so the heart reflects the real person.

20 Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied,
so human desire is never satisfied.

God's Providence

14:12 There is a path before each person that seems right,
but it ends in death.

16:1 We can make our own plans,
but the Lord gives the right answer.

16:2 People may be pure in their own eyes,
but the Lord examines their motives.

16:4 The Lord has made everything for his own purposes,
even the wicked for a day of disaster.

16:9 We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps.

16:25 There is a path before each person that seems right,
but it ends in death.

16:33 We may throw the dice,
but the Lord determines how they fall.

19:21 You can make many plans,
but the Lord's purpose will prevail.

20:12 Ears to hear and eyes to see—
both are gifts from the Lord.

20:22 Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong."
Wait for the Lord to handle the matter.

20:24 The Lord directs our steps,
so why try to understand everything along the way?

20:29 The glory of the young is their strength;
the gray hair of experience is the splendor of the old.

21:1 The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord;
he guides it wherever he pleases.

21:30 No human wisdom or understanding or plan

can stand against the Lord.

21:31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
but the victory belongs to the Lord.