**The Proverbs of Solomon**

**Proverbs Chapter 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel: |
| 2 | To know wisdom and teaching,[[1]](#footnote-13285)  to understand words *that give* understanding, |
| 3 | to receive wise teaching  *in* righteousness, justice, and integrity; |
| 4 | to give prudence to the naïve,  knowledge and discretion to the youth. |
| 5 | A wise person will listen and increase in learning,  and a discerning person will get wise guidance, |
| 6 | to understand a proverb and an obscure expression,  words of the wise and their riddles. |
| 7 | The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge,  *but* fools show contempt for wisdom and *sound* teaching. |
| 8 | Listen, my son, to your father’s teaching,  and do not ignore the instruction of your mother, |
| 9 | because they are a wreath of grace for your head,  and a necklace for your neck. |
| 10 | My son, if sinners entice you,  do not consent. |
| 11 | If they say, “Come with us, let’s lie in wait to *shed* blood,[[2]](#footnote-27903)  let’s ambush an innocent person for no *good* reason. |
| 12 | We will swallow them alive, just as Sheol does,  and whole, just as those who go down into the pit. |
| 13 | We will find all sorts of valuable things;  we will fill our houses with plunder. |
| 14 | Throw your lot in with us;  we will all share the loot.” |
| 15 | My son, do not walk on *that* road with them;  keep your feet from their pathway, |
| 16 | for their feet run to *do* evil,  and they make haste to shed blood. |
| 17 | For in vain the net is spread  in the sight of a bird, |
| 18 | but these lie in wait for their own blood;  they set an ambush for their *own* souls! |
| 19 | This is the way of everyone who pursues unjust gain;  it takes away the life of its owners. |
| 20 | *Lady* Wisdom shouts aloud in the street,  in the public plazas she raises her voice; |
| 21 | at the head of noisy *streets* she calls out,  where the city gates open she speaks her words: |
| 22 | “How long, O naïve ones, will you love naïvety?  *How long will* mockers delight in mocking,  and fools hate knowledge? |
| 23 | If you turn back *to me* at my reproof,  look, I will pour out my spirit upon you all,  I will make known my words to you all. |
| 24 | *But* since you refused me when I called,  I stretched out my hand but no one paid attention, |
| 25 | and you neglected all my counsel,  and you did not want my reproof— |
| 26 | I also will laugh at your distress;  I will mock when what you dread comes, |
| 27 | when your terror comes like a violent storm,  and your calamity like a whirlwind,  and trouble and distress come upon you all. |
| 28 | Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  they will diligently seek me, but will not find me. |
| 29 | Because they hated knowledge,  and they did not choose the fear of Yahweh; |
| 30 | they were not interested in my counsel,  *and* they spurned all my reproof, |
| 31 | so they will eat from the fruit of their *own* way,  and from their *own* schemes they will have *their* fill. |
| 32 | For the turning away of the naïve will kill them,  and the *false* security of fools will destroy them. |
| 33 | But the one who listens to me will live in safety,  and will be at ease from the dread of evil.” |

**Proverbs Chapter 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | My son, if you receive my words,  and store up my commandments with you, |
| 2 | making your ear attentive to Wisdom,  directing your heart to discernment, |
| 3 | for if you call out to understanding,  *if* you raise your voice to discernment, |
| 4 | if you seek her like silver,  and search for her like hidden treasure, |
| 5 | then you will understand the fear of Yahweh,  and you will find the knowledge of God. |
| 6 | For Yahweh gives Wisdom,  from his mouth *comes forth* knowledge and discernment. |
| 7 | He has stored up sound advice for the upright—  a shield for those who walk blamelessly— |
| 8 | guarding the paths of justice,  and watching over the way of his loyal ones. |
| 9 | Then you will understand righteousness and justice  and integrity—every good path. |
| 10 | For Wisdom will come into your heart,  and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; |
| 11 | discretion will watch over you,  *and* discernment will guard you, |
| 12 | to deliver you from the way of evil,  from the one speaking perverse things, |
| 13 | *from* the ones who forsake the upright paths  to walk on the roads of darkness; |
| 14 | *from* the ones who are glad in doing evil,  who rejoice in the perverseness of evil; |
| 15 | *from those* whose paths are twisted,  and *from* the devious in their ways; |
| 16 | *and* to deliver you from the strange woman,  from the foreign woman *who is* flattering *with* her words, |
| 17 | who leaves the mate of her youth,  and has forgotten the covenant she made before her God, |
| 18 | for her house sinks down to death,  and her paths *lead* to the dead. |
| 19 | All who go to her do not return;  they will not reach the paths of life. |
| 20 | Therefore you are to walk on the road of good people,  and you are to keep to the paths of the righteous. |
| 21 | For the upright will live in the land,  and the blameless will remain in it. |
| 22 | But the wicked will be cut off from the land,  and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it. |

**Proverbs Chapter 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | My son, do not forget my instruction,  and let your heart guard my commandments, |
| 2 | for they will add to you length of days,  years of life, and peace. |
| 3 | Do not let covenant loyalty and faithfulness leave you;  bind them around your neck;  write them upon the tablet of your heart, |
| 4 | then you will find favor and good judgment[[3]](#footnote-26898)  in the eyes of God and people. |
| 5 | Trust in Yahweh with all your heart,  and do not lean upon your own understanding; |
| 6 | be mindful of Him in all your ways,  and He will make your paths straight. |
| 7 | Do not be wise in your own eyes;  fear Yahweh and turn away from evil. |
| 8 | It will be healing for your flesh,[[4]](#footnote-29454)  and a refreshing drink to your bones. |
| 9 | Honor Yahweh from your wealth,  and from the firstfruits of all your revenue, |
| 10 | and your storehouses will be completely filled,  and your wine vats will overflow with new wine. |
| 11 | My son, do not reject the discipline of Yahweh,  and do not abhor his reproof. |
| 12 | For the one whom Yahweh loves, he reproves,  like a father to his cherished son. |
| 13 | Blessed is the person who finds Wisdom,  and the one who obtains discernment, |
| 14 | for the gain from her is better than the gain from silver,  and her revenue *is better* than gold. |
| 15 | She is more precious than gems,  and nothing you desire can compare with her. |
| 16 | In her right hand is length of days,  in her left hand are riches and glory. |
| 17 | Her ways are pleasant ways,  and all her pathways are peace. |
| 18 | She is a tree of life to those taking hold of her,  and blessed are those *who are* holding her fast. |
| 19 | Yahweh founded the earth by Wisdom;  he established the heavens by discernment, |
| 20 | the depths *of the ocean* were split open by his knowledge,  and the clouds drip dew. |
| 21 | My son, do not let these depart from *before* your eyes:  guard sound advice and discretion, |
| 22 | so they will be life to your soul,  and grace for your neck. |
| 23 | Then you will walk on your way in safety,  and your foot will not stumble. |
| 24 | When you lie down, you will not be afraid;  when you fall asleep, your sleep will be sweet. |
| 25 | Do not be afraid of sudden terror,  and of the devastation of the wicked when it comes, |
| 26 | for Yahweh will be your confidence,  and he will keep your foot from being caught. |
| 27 | Do not withhold a good thing from those to whom it is due,  *when* it is *in* the power of your hands to do *it*. |
| 28 | Do not tell your neighbors, “Go, and come back,  and tomorrow I will give *it,*” when it is with you. |
| 29 | Do not devise evil against your neighbor;  he lives near you and trusts *you*. |
| 30 | Do not quarrel with someone for no reason  if he has not committed evil against you. |
| 31 | Do not envy a violent person,  and do not choose any of his ways. |
| 32 | For devious people are an abomination to Yahweh,  but his counsel is with the upright. |
| 33 | Yahweh’s curse is upon the house of the wicked person,  but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous person. |
| 34 | He mocks at the mockers,  but he gives grace to the humble. |
| 35 | The wise will inherit glory,  but fools exalt shame.[[5]](#footnote-32308) |

**Proverbs Chapter 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Listen, O sons, to the teaching of a father,  and pay attention in order to learn understanding, |
| 2 | for I give good teaching to you all;  do not abandon my instruction. |
| 3 | When I was a son with my father,  a tender and only son in the sight of my mother, |
| 4 | he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold on to my words,  keep my commandments and live. |
| 5 | Get Wisdom! Get understanding!  Do not forget and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. |
| 6 | Do not abandon her and she will watch over you,  love her and she will guard you. |
| 7 | Wisdom is the principal thing, *so* get Wisdom;[[6]](#footnote-10124)  and with all your purchases, purchase understanding. |
| 8 | Exalt her and she will lift you up;  she will honor you because you embrace her. |
| 9 | She will place on your head a wreath of grace;  she will present to you a beautiful crown.” |
| 10 | Listen, my son, and receive my words,  and the years of your life will be many. |
| 11 | On the road of Wisdom I teach you;  I lead you on the upright paths. |
| 12 | When you walk, your steps will not be hampered,  and if you run, you will not stumble. |
| 13 | Hold on to *my* teaching, do not let her go.  Guard her because she is your life. |
| 14 | Do not enter the path of the wicked,  and do not proceed on the road of the evil ones. |
| 15 | Disregard it; do not pass upon it.  Turn away from it and pass on by. |
| 16 | For they cannot sleep unless they do evil,  and their sleep is stolen unless they cause *another* to stumble. |
| 17 | For they eat the bread of wickedness,  and they drink the wine of violence. |
| 18 | But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,  shining ever brighter until the full *light of* day. |
| 19 | The road of the wicked is like the *gloomy* darkness;  they do not know what they are stumbling over. |
| 20 | My son, pay attention to my words,  incline your ear to my sayings. |
| 21 | Do not let them depart from *before* your eyes;  keep them in the midst of your heart. |
| 22 | For they are life to the ones who discover them,  and health to a person’s whole body. |
| 23 | More than anything else you protect, guard your heart,  because from it *flow* the issues of life. |
| 24 | Put away from you a crooked mouth,  and put deceitful lips far away from you. |
| 25 | Focus your eyes in front of you,  and let your eyelids *look* straight ahead of you. |
| 26 | Carefully weigh[[7]](#footnote-20415) the path of your feet,  and let all your roads be established. |
| 27 | Do not turn to the right or to the left;  keep your foot away from evil. |

**Proverbs Chapter 5**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | My son, pay attention to my wisdom;  incline your ear to my discernment, |
| 2 | in order that you keep discretion,  and your lips guard knowledge. |
| 3 | For the lips of the strange woman drip honey,  and her mouth is smoother than oil, |
| 4 | but in the end she is bitter as wormwood;  *she* is sharp as a two-edged sword. |
| 5 | Her feet go down to death;  her steps proceed toward Sheol. |
| 6 | She will not consider the path of life;  her ways are unstable,[[8]](#footnote-21303) *yet* she is not aware *of it*. |
| 7 | But now, *my* sons, listen to me,  and do not depart from the words of my mouth. |
| 8 | Keep your road far from her,  and do not go near to the door of her house, |
| 9 | lest you give your honor[[9]](#footnote-30855) to others,  and your years to a cruel person; |
| 10 | lest strangers eat their fill from your strength,  and your hard-earned goods *end up* in the house of a foreigner, |
| 11 | and in the end you groan  when your flesh—even your body—are used up. |
| 12 | Then you will say, “O how I have hated discipline,  and my heart has spurned reproof. |
| 13 | I did not listen to the voice of my teachers,  nor did I incline my ear to those instructing me. |
| 14 | I was soon in all sorts of trouble  in the midst of the assembly and congregation.” |
| 15 | Drink water from your own cistern,  and fresh water from the midst of your own well. |
| 16 | Should your springs overflow outside,  streams of water in the public plazas? |
| 17 | Let them be for you alone,  and not for strangers with you. |
| 18 | Let your fountain be continually blessed,  and rejoice because of the wife of your youth. |
| 19 | *She is* a loving doe and a graceful mountain goat;  let her breasts satisfy you at every *opportune* time—  going astray in her love. |
| 20 | So why go astray, my son, with a strange woman,  and *why* do you embrace the bosom of a foreign woman? |
| 21 | For a person’s ways[[10]](#footnote-11494) are before the eyes of Yahweh,  and he weighs all his paths. |
| 22 | The one acting wickedly—his *own* iniquities will capture him,  and he will be seized by the cords of his *own* sin. |
| 23 | He will die because of lack of discipline,  and in the abundance of his foolishness he goes astray. |

**Proverbs Chapter 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,  *if* you have entered into an agreement[[11]](#footnote-30630) with a stranger, |
| 2 | *then* you have been ensnared by the words of your mouth,  you have been captured by the words of your mouth. |
| 3 | Do this now, my son, and be set free,  for you have put yourself into the hand of your neighbor.  Go! Humble yourself and pressure your neighbor. |
| 4 | Do not give *any* sleep to your eyes,  or slumber to your eyelids. |
| 5 | Be rescued like a gazelle from a hunter,  and like a bird from the hand of a fowler. |
| 6 | Go to the ant, O lazy one,  watch its ways and become wise. |
| 7 | Because it has no leader,  overseer, or ruler, |
| 8 | *yet* it prepares its bread in summer;  it gathers its food in the harvest. |
| 9 | How long, O lazy one, will you lie *there*?  When will you rise up from your sleep? |
| 10 | “Just a little *more* sleep, a little *more* slumber,  a little *more* folding of the arms to lie *here*,” |
| 11 | and your poverty will come like a thief,  and your needs like an armed man. |
| 12 | A person of Belial, a man of wickedness,  is the one walking *with* a crooked mouth, |
| 13 | winking with his eyes, signaling with his foot,  instructing with his fingers. |
| 14 | *With* perversions in his heart he devises evil,  at every moment he sows strife. |
| 15 | Therefore, his calamity will come suddenly,  in an instant he will be broken and there will be no remedy. |
| 16 | There are six things that Yahweh hates,  indeed, seven things are abominations to his soul: |
| 17 | prideful eyes, a lying tongue,  and hands shedding innocent blood; |
| 18 | a heart that devises wicked thoughts,  feet that are swift to run to *do* evil, |
| 19 | a false witness who breathes out lies,  and one who sows strife among brothers. |
| 20 | My son, keep your father’s commandments,  and do not ignore the instruction of your mother. |
| 21 | Bind them upon your heart always,  tie them around your neck. |
| 22 | As you walk here and there, she will lead you;  when you lie down, she will watch over you,  and *when* you wake up, she will speak with you. |
| 23 | For the commandment is a lamp and the instruction is a light,  and reproofs *that offer* correction are a road *leading to* life, |
| 24 | to keep you from the evil woman,  from the flattering tongue of the foreign woman. |
| 25 | Do not desire her beauty in your heart,  and do not allow her to capture you with her eyes. |
| 26 | For on account of a prostitute *a man is reduced to* a piece of bread,  and an adulteress hunts for a precious life. |
| 27 | Can a man snatch up fire against his chest  and his clothes not be burnt? |
| 28 | Or can a man walk upon hot coals  and his feet not get burned? |
| 29 | So is the one who goes into his neighbor’s wife;  all who touch her will not go unpunished. |
| 30 | People do not despise a thief when he steals  to feed himself when he is hungry. |
| 31 | But when he is caught, he will repay seven times;  he will repay with all the wealth of his house. |
| 32 | The man committing adultery with a woman lacks sense;  he who does this is destroying his *own* soul. |
| 33 | He will find affliction and dishonor,  and his disgrace will not be blotted out. |
| 34 | For jealousy enrages a husband,  and he will not spare *him* in the day of *his* vengeance. |
| 35 | He will not be persuaded by any ransom,  nor will he be satisfied when you make many bribes. |

**Proverbs Chapter 7**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | My son, keep my words,  and store up my commandments with you. |
| 2 | Keep my commandments and live,  and my instruction as the pupil of your eye. |
| 3 | Bind them upon your fingers;  write them upon the tablet of your heart. |
| 4 | Say to Wisdom, “You are my sister,”  and call understanding, “*my* relative,” |
| 5 | in order to keep you from *the* strange woman,  from the foreign woman *who* flatters with her words. |
| 6 | For at the window of my house,  I looked down through my lattice, |
| 7 | and I saw among the naïve,  and I discerned among the youths a young man lacking sense. |
| 8 | He was passing along the street near her corner,  and he was taking steps on the road to her house, |
| 9 | at dusk, in the evening of the day,  in the middle of the night and the *gloomy* darkness, |
| 10 | And look! A woman *comes* to meet him,  dressed as a prostitute and with a cunning heart. |
| 11 | She is boisterous and rebellious;  her feet do not stay in her house. |
| 12 | *She is* now on the street, now in the public plazas;  she lies in wait at every corner. |
| 13 | So she seizes him and kisses him,  and shamelessly she says to him, |
| 14 | “I *made* peace offerings;[[12]](#footnote-22627)  today I fulfilled my vows. |
| 15 | So I came out to meet you,  to diligently seek your face, and I have found you. |
| 16 | I have spread covers on my couch;  embroidered fabrics from Egypt. |
| 17 | I have perfumed my bed  with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. |
| 18 | Come, let’s drink our fill of lovemaking until the morning;  let’s delight ourselves with much love. |
| 19 | For *my* husband is not home;  he has gone on a long journey. |
| 20 | He took a bag of silver in his hand;  he will come home at the full moon.” |
| 21 | By her great persuasion she seduces him,  by the seductiveness of her lips she leads him astray. |
| 22 | Suddenly he walks after her,  like an ox goes to the slaughter,  like a stag stepping into a snare, |
| 23 | until an arrow pierces his liver.  *He is* like a bird rushing into a trap;  and he does not know that it *will cost him* his life*.* |
| 24 | And now, O sons, listen to me,  and pay attention to the words of my mouth. |
| 25 | Do not allow your heart to turn aside to her ways;  do not wander off onto her paths, |
| 26 | for she has brought down many victims,  and numerous are all her slain. |
| 27 | Her house *has many* paths to Sheol,  descending to the chambers of death. |

**Proverbs Chapter 8**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Doesn’t Wisdom call out,  and discernment raise her voice? |
| 2 | At the top of the heights overlooking the road,  at the crossroads she takes her stand. |
| 3 | Beside the gates, at the opening to the city,  *at the* entrance of the gateways she shouts aloud: |
| 4 | “To you, O men, I call out,  and my voice *is* to all humankind. |
| 5 | Understand prudence, O naïve ones,  and understand *good* sense, O foolish ones. |
| 6 | Listen, for I speak of things that are correct,  and the opening of my lips *brings forth* upright *words*. |
| 7 | For my mouth will utter truth,  and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips. |
| 8 | All the words of my mouth *are spoken* in righteousness;  nothing in them *is* twisted or perverted. |
| 9 | All of them *are* straightforward to the one who understands,  and they are right to those finding knowledge.” |
| 10 | Take my teaching, and not silver,  and knowledge rather than choice gold. |
| 11 | Because Wisdom is better than gems,  and all delightful things cannot be compared with her. |
| 12 | “I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence,  and I find knowledge and discretion. |
| 13 | The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil—  pride and arrogance and the path of evil  and a perverse mouth, I hate. |
| 14 | I possess counsel and sound advice.  I have understanding; I possess strength. |
| 15 | By me kings reign,  and *by me* rulers decree righteousness. |
| 16 | By me rulers govern;  even nobles—all who judge *with* righteousness. |
| 17 | I love those who love me,  and those who desire me will find me. |
| 18 | Riches and glory are with me,  enduring prosperity and righteousness. |
| 19 | My fruit is better than gold, even *better than* refined gold,  and my gain *is better* than silver. |
| 20 | I walk in the way of righteousness,  in the midst of the paths of justice, |
| 21 | to cause those who love me to inherit property,  and I will fill their storehouses. |
| 22 | Yahweh created me at the beginning of his work,[[13]](#footnote-31572)  prior to his deeds of long ago. |
| 23 | From antiquity I was established;  from the start,  from before the earth. |
| 24 | I was born *when there were* no deep *oceans*,  when there were no springs abounding with waters. |
| 25 | Before the mountains were settled,  before the hills *were formed* I was born; |
| 26 | when he had not *yet* made the earth and the fields,  or the initial dust of the world; |
| 27 | when he prepared the heavens, I was there;  when he inscribed the horizon above the face of the deep; |
| 28 | when he fixed the clouds above,  when he strengthened the springs of the deep; |
| 29 | when he set for the sea its limit  so the waters would not disobey his command;[[14]](#footnote-16781)  when he marked out the foundations of the earth; |
| 30 | then I was beside him growing up,  and I was *his* great delight daily,  playing in his presence at every moment; |
| 31 | playing in the world—his earth,  and full of delight with humankind. |
| 32 | So now, O sons, listen to me;  blessed are those who keep my ways. |
| 33 | Listen to *my* teaching and become wise,  and do not neglect it. |
| 34 | Blessed is the one who listens to me,  keeping watch at my doors day after day,  watching at the entrance to my gates, |
| 35 | because the one finding me finds life,  and he will obtain favor from Yahweh. |
| 36 | But the one sinning against me is doing violence to his *own* soul;  all those who hate me love death.” |

**Proverbs Chapter 9**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | *Lady* Wisdom has built her house;  she has carved out her seven pillars. |
| 2 | She has slaughtered her meat;  she has mixed her wine;  indeed, she has prepared her table. |
| 3 | She has sent out her female servants;  she calls out from the tops of the heights of the town, |
| 4 | “Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here.”  To the one lacking sense, she says, |
| 5 | “Come! Eat my food,  and drink the wine that I have mixed. |
| 6 | Leave *your* naïve ways and live.  And go straight *ahead* on the road of understanding.” |
| 7 | The one who rebukes a mocker brings shame upon himself,  and the one who reproves a wicked person *brings* injury upon himself. |
| 8 | Do not reprove a mocker or he will hate you;  reprove a wise man and he will love you. |
| 9 | Give *instruction* to a wise person and he will become even wiser;  teach a righteous person and he will increase in learning. |
| 10 | The fear of Yahweh is the starting point of wisdom,  and the knowledge of the Holy One is *the starting point of* understanding. |
| 11 | For by me[[15]](#footnote-21651) your days will be multiplied,  and years of life will be added to you. |
| 12 | If you are wise, you are wise for your own *benefit*;  and if you mock, you will bear *the consequence* by yourself. |
| 13 | Lady Folly is boisterous,  lacking in understanding, and does not know anything. |
| 14 | And she sits at the entrance of her house,  on a throne at the heights of the city, |
| 15 | calling out to those passing by *on the* road,  *to* the ones making their paths straight, |
| 16 | “Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here.”  And she says to the one lacking sense, |
| 17 | “Stolen waters are sweet,  and food *eaten in* secret is pleasant.” |
| 18 | But he does not know that the dead are there;  the ones who have accepted her *invitation* are in the depths of Sheol. |

**Proverbs Chapter 10**

1The proverbs of Solomon:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | A wise son makes *his* father glad,  but a foolish son *brings* grief *to* his mother. |
| 2 | Treasures *gained* by wickedness profit nothing,  but righteousness will deliver from death. |
| 3 | Yahweh does not cause the righteous soul to go hungry,  but he will push away what the wicked desire. |
| 4 | The poor person works with an idle palm,  but a diligent hand makes *one* rich. |
| 5 | The one who gathers in the summer is an insightful son;  the one who is fast asleep at the harvest is a shameful son. |
| 6 | Blessings are upon the head of a righteous person,  but the mouth of the wicked conceals wrongdoing. |
| 7 | The memory of a righteous person is a blessing,  but the name of the wicked will rot. |
| 8 | The wise heart accepts commandments,  but the one who is foolish with his lips will come to ruin. |
| 9 | The one who walks blamelessly walks securely,  but the one who perverts his ways will be made known. |
| 10 | The one winking *his* eye causes pain,  and the one who is foolish with his lips will come to ruin. |
| 11 | The mouth of a righteous person is a fountain of life,  but the mouth of the wicked conceals wrongdoing. |
| 12 | Hatred stirs up strife,  but love covers over all transgressions. |
| 13 | Wisdom is found upon the lips of the discerning,  but a rod *will* *strike* the back of the one lacking sense. |
| 14 | The wise store up knowledge,  but the mouth of the fool *brings* destruction near. |
| 15 | The rich person’s wealth is his fortified city;  the destruction of the poor is their poverty. |
| 16 | The wage of the righteous person is life;  the revenue of the wicked is sin. |
| 17 | The one who heeds *sound* teaching is *on the* path to life,  but the one who ignores reproof goes astray. |
| 18 | The one hiding *his* hatred *has* deceitful lips,  and the one spreading slander, he is a fool. |
| 19 | By an abundance of words transgression will not cease,  but the one who restrains his lips is insightful. |
| 20 | The tongue of a righteous person is choice silver;  the heart of the wicked is *worth* little. |
| 21 | The lips of a righteous person will shepherd many people,  but fools will die for a lack of sense. |
| 22 | The blessing from Yahweh is what makes one rich,  and he does not combine pain with *the blessing*. |
| 23 | Acting indecently is pleasure to a fool,  so also is wisdom for a person with discernment. |
| 24 | The wicked person’s horror will come upon him,  but the desire of the righteous will be given *to them*. |
| 25 | When the storm passes through, then the wicked person is no more,  but the righteous person *has* a foundation that endures. |
| 26 | As vinegar is to the teeth and as smoke is to the eyes,  so *too* is the lazy one to those who send him. |
| 27 | The fear of Yahweh adds to *one’s* days,  but the years of the wicked will be cut short. |
| 28 | The hope of the righteous is joy,  but the expectation of the wicked will perish. |
| 29 | The road of Yahweh is a place of refuge for the blameless person,  but it is destruction for those who act wickedly. |
| 30 | The righteous person will not ever be moved,  but the wicked will not live in the land. |
| 31 | The mouth of a righteous person will bring forth the fruit of wisdom,  but the tongue *speaking* perversions will be cut off. |
| 32 | The lips of a righteous person know *what is* acceptable,  but the mouth of the wicked *knows* perversions. |

**Proverbs Chapter 11**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Deceitful balances are an abomination to Yahweh,  but a fair weight is his delight. |
| 2 | Arrogance comes, then dishonor comes,  but wisdom is with the modest. |
| 3 | The integrity of the upright will lead them,  but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. |
| 4 | Riches will not profit on the day of wrath,  but righteousness will deliver from death. |
| 5 | The righteousness of the blameless person will make his road straight,  but the wicked person will fall by his wickedness. |
| 6 | The righteousness of the upright will deliver them,  but the unfaithful will be taken captive by their desire. |
| 7 | When a wicked person dies, his hope perishes,  and *his* hope of wealth perishes. |
| 8 | A righteous person is delivered from trouble,  but a wicked person takes his place. |
| 9 | The godless person ruins his neighbor with *his* mouth,  but the righteous will be delivered by knowledge. |
| 10 | A town rejoices at the prosperity of the righteous,  and there is joyful shouting at the death of the wicked. |
| 11 | By the blessing of the upright a town will be exalted,  but it will be thrown down by the mouth of the wicked. |
| 12 | The one who shows contempt for his neighbor lacks sense,  but a person with understanding remains silent. |
| 13 | A gossip walks around revealing secrets,  but the person who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. |
| 14 | Without wise guidance people will fall,  but with a multitude of advisors there is deliverance. |
| 15 | The one who puts up security *for* a stranger will suffer badly,  but the one who hates making *such* deals is secure. |
| 16 | A gracious woman will attain glory,  but ruthless men will attain riches. |
| 17 | The kind person benefits himself,[[16]](#footnote-10148)  but the cruel person does himself harm. |
| 18 | The wicked person makes a deceptive wage,  but the one who sows righteousness *receives* a true reward; |
| 19 | indeed, righteousness *leads* to life,  but the one who eagerly pursues evil is *heading* to his death. |
| 20 | A twisted heart is an abomination to Yahweh,  but the road of the blameless is his delight. |
| 21 | Be assured: an evil person will not go unpunished,  but the offspring of the righteous will escape. |
| 22 | *Like* a gold ring in a pig’s snout,  *so too* is a beautiful woman who turns aside from good judgment. |
| 23 | The desire of the righteous *ends* only *in* good,  but the hope of the wicked *ends in* wrath. |
| 24 | There is one who generously scatters *wealth*, and it is continually added *to him,*  and one who is withholding *what is* right, *which* surely *will end* in poverty. |
| 25 | The person who blesses *others* will be made prosperous,  and the one who waters, indeed, he himself will be watered. |
| 26 | The people will curse the one who withholds grain,  but a blessing *will be* upon the head of the one who sells grain. |
| 27 | The one who is on the lookout for *what is* good seeks favor,  but the one who is intent on evil, it will come to him. |
| 28 | The one who trusts in his wealth, he will fall,  but the righteous will bud like a leaf. |
| 29 | The one who troubles his household will inherit wind,  and the fool will be a servant to one who is wise of heart. |
| 30 | The fruit of a righteous person is a tree of life,  and the wise person takes away souls *from death*. |
| 31 | Behold! The righteous person will be repaid on the earth;  indeed, how much more the wicked person who sins! |

**Proverbs Chapter 12**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The one who loves discipline loves knowledge,  but the one who hates reproof is stupid. |
| 2 | A good person will obtain favor from Yahweh,  but a person with wicked schemes, he will condemn. |
| 3 | A person will not be established by wickedness,  but the root of the righteous will not be moved. |
| 4 | An excellent wife is the crown of her husband,  but she who acts shamefully is like decay in his bones. |
| 5 | The thoughts of the righteous are just,  but the guidance of the wicked is deceitful. |
| 6 | The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,  but the mouth of the upright will deliver them. |
| 7 | The wicked will be overthrown and will be no more,  but the house of the righteous will stand. |
| 8 | A person will be praised for his insightful mouth,  but the one who has a twisted heart will be *viewed with* contempt. |
| 9 | Better is one who is dishonored and *has* a servant for himself,  than one who glorifies himself and lacks bread. |
| 10 | The righteous person cares for the life of his animal,  but the compassion of the wicked is cruel. |
| 11 | The one who works his land will be satisfied with food,  but the one who pursues worthless things lacks sense. |
| 12 | The wicked person desires the spoils of evil people,  but the root of the righteous produces *its own fruit*. |
| 13 | By the transgression of *his* lips an evil person *will fall into* a snare,  but the righteous person will escape from trouble. |
| 14 | From the fruit of his mouth a person is satisfied with good,  and the accomplishments of a person’s hands will return to him. |
| 15 | The road of a fool is right in his own eyes,  but a wise person listens to counsel. |
| 16 | The anger of a fool is known at once,  but a prudent person conceals dishonor. |
| 17 | The one who speaks *what is* faithful declares an honest testimony,  but a false witness *utters* deceit. |
| 18 | There is one who speaks recklessly, like the stabbings of a sword,  but the tongue of the wise is healing. |
| 19 | Truthful lips will be established continually,  but a lying tongue will linger only for a moment. |
| 20 | Deceit *is* in the heart of those who devise evil,  but those who counsel peace *have* joy. |
| 21 | No disaster will come upon the righteous person,  but the wicked are filled *with* misfortune. |
| 22 | Lying lips are an abomination to Yahweh,  but those who do *what is* faithful *obtain* his favor. |
| 23 | A prudent person conceals knowledge,  but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. |
| 24 | The hand of the diligent will rule,  but the slack *hand* will become a forced laborer. |
| 25 | Anxiety in a person’s heart weighs it down,  but a good word makes it glad. |
| 26 | A righteous person shows the way for his neighbor,  but the road of the wicked causes them[[17]](#footnote-32432) to wander astray. |
| 27 | A lazy person will not catch his prey,  but the diligent *will obtain* precious wealth. |
| 28 | In the path of righteousness is life,  and the journey of *that* road does not *lead to* death. |

**Proverbs Chapter 13**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | A wise son *listens to his* father’s discipline,  but a mocker does not listen to rebuke. |
| 2 | From the fruit of his mouth a person enjoys[[18]](#footnote-27295) *what* is good,  but the desire[[19]](#footnote-29048) of unfaithful people is violence. |
| 3 | The one who guards his mouth watches over his life;  destruction will come to the one who opens his lips wide. |
| 4 | The appetite of the lazy person craves yet *gets* nothing,  but the desire of the diligent person will be fully satisfied. |
| 5 | A righteous person hates a deceptive word,  but a wicked person will become a stench and display *his* shame. |
| 6 | Righteousness guards the one whose way is blameless,  but wickedness overthrows a sinner. |
| 7 | There is one who pretends to be rich, but *has* nothing;  another pretends to be poor *but* *has* great wealth. |
| 8 | The ransom for a person’s soul is his wealth,  but the poor does not hear a *threatening* rebuke. |
| 9 | The light of the righteous shines *brightly*,[[20]](#footnote-11376)  but the lamp of the wicked will go out. |
| 10 | Arrogance only causes strife,  but Wisdom is with those who accept advice. |
| 11 | Wealth *obtained* by fraud[[21]](#footnote-30051) will dwindle away,  but the one who gathers little by little[[22]](#footnote-16483) increases *his wealth*. |
| 12 | Hope delayed makes the heart sick,  but a desire that arrives is a tree of life. |
| 13 | The one who despises a word *of instruction* will come to ruin,  but the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded. |
| 14 | The instruction of a wise person is a fountain of life,  that one may turn aside from the snares of death. |
| 15 | Good judgment brings favor,  but the road of the unfaithful never changes. |
| 16 | Every prudent person acts with knowledge,  but a fool displays foolishness. |
| 17 | A wicked messenger will fall into evil,  but a faithful messenger *brings* healing. |
| 18 | The one who ignores discipline *will get* poverty and dishonor,  but the one who heeds reproof will be honored. |
| 19 | A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul,  but it is an abomination to fools to turn away from evil. |
| 20 | The one who walks with the wise will become wise,  but the one who associates with fools will suffer harm. |
| 21 | Evil pursues sinners,  but goodness will reward the righteous. |
| 22 | A good person will provide an inheritance for his children’s children*,*  but the wealth of the sinner is being stored up for the righteous person. |
| 23 | The field of the poor *produces* an abundance of food,  but it is carried away because of a lack of justice. |
| 24 | The one who withholds his rod hates his son,  but the one who loves him desires discipline for him. |
| 25 | The righteous person eats to the satisfaction of his appetite,  but the belly of the wicked lacks *food*. |

**Proverbs Chapter 14**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | *Lady* Wisdom[[23]](#footnote-14868) builds her house,  but *Lady* Folly tears it down with her hands. |
| 2 | The one who walks in his integrity fears Yahweh,  but the one who is devious in his ways shows contempt for him. |
| 3 | In the mouth of a fool is a prideful rod,  but the lips of the wise will watch over them. |
| 4 | With no oxen, the feeding trough is clean,  but abundant revenue *comes* by the strength of an ox. |
| 5 | A faithful witness will not lie,  but a deceptive witness breathes out lies. |
| 6 | A mocker searches for wisdom but *finds* none,  but knowledge comes easily to the one who has understanding. |
| 7 | Walk away from the presence of a foolish person,  for *there* you will not know lips *that speak* knowledge. |
| 8 | The wisdom of a prudent person is to understand his road,  but the foolishness of fools is deceit. |
| 9 | Fools mock at a guilt offering,[[24]](#footnote-30177)  but among the upright is favor.[[25]](#footnote-14119) |
| 10 | The heart knows its own bitterness,  and a stranger does not take part in *its* joy. |
| 11 | The house of the wicked will be destroyed,  but the tent of the upright will sprout forth. |
| 12 | There is a road *that seems* upright to a person,  but its end is the road *leading to* death. |
| 13 | Even in laughter the heart *might* be in pain,  and the end of joy *may be* grief. |
| 14 | The one who is disloyal in *his* heart will be satisfied[[26]](#footnote-29387) from his *own* ways,  but a good person *will be satisfied* from his deeds. |
| 15 | A naïve person will believe any word,  but the prudent person carefully considers his steps. |
| 16 | A wise person is cautious and turns away from evil,  but a fool is angry and is overconfident. |
| 17 | An easily angered person acts foolishly,  and a schemer will be hated. |
| 18 | The naïve inherit foolishness,  but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. |
| 19 | An evil person will bow down in the presence of good people,  and the wicked *will bow* at the gates of a righteous person. |
| 20 | A poor person is hated even by his neighbor,  but there are many who love the rich. |
| 21 | The one who shows contempt toward his neighbor is sinning,  but blessed are those who show favor to the poor. |
| 22 | Do not those who plan evil go astray?  But loyalty and faithfulness *are with* those who plan good. |
| 23 | In all hard work there is profit,  but *mere* words from the lips surely *lead* to poverty. |
| 24 | The crown of the wise is *their* wealth,  but *the* foolishness of fools is *still* foolishness. |
| 25 | A faithful witness rescues lives,  but the one who breathes out lies is treacherous. |
| 26 | In the fear of Yahweh there is strong confidence,  and he will be a shelter for his children. |
| 27 | The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life,  that one may turn aside from the snares of death. |
| 28 | The king’s glory is in the abundance of people,  but a ruler’s ruin is in the lack of people. |
| 29 | The one who is slow to get angry *possesses* great understanding,  but the one who is easily angered[[27]](#footnote-18473) displays foolishness. |
| 30 | A peaceful heart is the life of the flesh,  but envy is decay to the bones. |
| 31 | The person who oppresses the poor taunts the one who created him,  but the person who shows favor to the needy glorifies him. |
| 32 | A wicked person will be cast down by his *own* evil,  but the righteous person takes refuge in his *own* blamelessness.[[28]](#footnote-20207) |
| 33 | Wisdom rests in the heart of the one who has understanding,  and *even* among fools she makes herself known. |
| 34 | Righteousness exalts a nation,  but sin is a shame to any people. |
| 35 | The king’s favor is toward an insightful servant,  but his anger will be *upon* the one who acts shamefully. |

**Proverbs Chapter 15**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | A gentle response turns away rage,  but a hurtful word increases anger. |
| 2 | The tongue of the wise produces good knowledge,  but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness. |
| 3 | The eyes of Yahweh are in every place,  watching the evil and the good. |
| 4 | A healing tongue is a tree of life,  but perversion in it breaks *one’s* spirit. |
| 5 | A fool spurns discipline from his father,  but the one who heeds reproof acts prudently. |
| 6 | The house of the righteous person *has* great treasure,  but trouble is stirred up by the revenue of the wicked person. |
| 7 | The lips of the wise spread knowledge,  but it is not so *with* the heart of fools. |
| 8 | A sacrifice *made by* the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh,  but the prayer of the upright *brings* his favor. |
| 9 | The road of the wicked person is an abomination to Yahweh,  but he loves the one who eagerly pursues righteousness. |
| 10 | Harsh discipline is for the one who abandons the path;  the one who hates reproof will die. |
| 11 | Sheol and Abaddon are in the sight of Yahweh,  how much more are human hearts! |
| 12 | A mocker will not love *anyone* who reproves him;  he will not go to the wise. |
| 13 | A joyful heart makes a face cheerful,  but a sorrowful heart *produces* a broken spirit. |
| 14 | The heart of the one who has understanding seeks knowledge,  but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. |
| 15 | All the days of the afflicted person are bad,  but a merry heart *has* a lasting banquet. |
| 16 | Better is a little with the fear of Yahweh  than great treasure and turmoil with it. |
| 17 | Better is a meal of vegetables when love is present,  than a fattened ox and hatred with it. |
| 18 | A hot-tempered person incites strife,  but one who is slow to get angry peacefully settles a dispute. |
| 19 | The road of the lazy person is like a hedge of thorns,  but the path of the upright is an *open* highway. |
| 20 | A wise son makes a father glad,  but a foolish person shows contempt for his mother. |
| 21 | Foolishness is a joy to the one who lacks *good* sense,[[29]](#footnote-30540)  but a person with understanding walks with integrity. |
| 22 | By a lack of counsel, plans are shattered,  but with a multitude of advisors *a plan* will stand. |
| 23 | A person *gets* joy from the answer of his mouth,  and how good is a word in its *proper* time! |
| 24 | The path of life leads upward for the one who has insight  in order to turn him away from Sheol below. |
| 25 | Yahweh will tear down the house of the proud,  but he will cause the territory of the widow to stand. |
| 26 | Evil thoughts are an abomination to Yahweh,  but pleasant words are pure. |
| 27 | The one who pursues unjust gain troubles his household,  but the one who hates gifts *that influence* will live. |
| 28 | The heart of a righteous person considers how to answer,  but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. |
| 29 | Yahweh is far from the wicked,  but he hears the prayer of the righteous. |
| 30 | Bright eyes[[30]](#footnote-19825) make the heart glad,  *and* good news fattens the bones. |
| 31 | An ear that listens to life-giving reproof  will dwell among the wise. |
| 32 | The one who ignores discipline despises his *own* soul,  but the one who listens to reproof acquires *good* sense.[[31]](#footnote-30516) |
| 33 | The fear of Yahweh is the instruction of Wisdom,  and humility goes before glory. |

**Proverbs Chapter 16**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The plans of the heart *belong* to the person,  but the answer of the tongue *comes* from Yahweh. |
| 2 | All a person’s ways[[32]](#footnote-10932) are pure in his own eyes,  but Yahweh examines the motives.[[33]](#footnote-23141) |
| 3 | Commit your works to Yahweh,  and your plans will be established. |
| 4 | Yahweh made everything with an answer to it,  and even the wicked person on a day of evil. |
| 5 | Every arrogant heart is an abomination to Yahweh;  be assured, he will not go unpunished. |
| 6 | Iniquity is atoned for by covenant loyalty and faithfulness,  and by the fear of Yahweh one turns away from evil. |
| 7 | When Yahweh takes pleasure in a person’s ways,  even his enemies will make peace with him. |
| 8 | Better is a little with righteousness,  than great income without justice. |
| 9 | A person’s heart devises his way,  but Yahweh prepares his steps. |
| 10 | A verdict is on the lips of the king;  his mouth should not violate justice. |
| 11 | A just balance and scales are according to Yahweh;  all the weights in the bag are established by him.[[34]](#footnote-13006) |
| 12 | It *is* an abomination for[[35]](#footnote-18486) kings to commit wickedness,  because the throne is established in righteousness. |
| 13 | Righteous lips are the delight of kings,  and the one who speaks with integrity will be loved. |
| 14 | A king’s rage *is like* messengers of death,  but a wise person will pacify *the anger*. |
| 15 | In the light of a king’s face there *is* life,  and his favor is like clouds *that bring* spring 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 turn away from evil;  the one who guards his road[[36]](#footnote-16492) is keeping watch over his life[[37]](#footnote-28257). |
| 18 | Pride goes before disaster,  and a puffed-up spirit before stumbling. |
| 19 | Better to be humble in spirit with the poor  than to share the plunder with the proud. |
| 20 | The one who comprehends a *wise* saying will find good,  and blessed is the one who trusts in Yahweh. |
| 21 | A person with a wise heart will be called “one who understands,”  and the sweetness of *his* lips will increase persuasiveness. |
| 22 | Good judgment is a fountain of life *for* its owner,  but the teaching of fools is foolishness. |
| 23 | The heart of a wise person gives insight to his mouth,  and it increases the persuasiveness of his lips. |
| 24 | Pleasant words are a honeycomb,  sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. |
| 25 | There is a road *that seems* upright to a person,  but its end is the road *leading to* death. |
| 26 | A laborer’s appetite labors for him,  for his mouth urges him on. |
| 27 | A person of Belial digs up evil,  and *the words* upon his lips are like a burning fire. |
| 28 | A perverse person sows strife,  and a gossip[[38]](#footnote-29657) separates close friends. |
| 29 | A violent person entices his neighbor,  and he leads him on a road that is not good. |
| 30 | The one who winks his eyes devises perversions;  the one who purses his lips brings evil to pass. |
| 31 | Gray hair is a crown of splendor;  it is found on the road of righteousness. |
| 32 | The one who is slow to get angry is better than a mighty person,  and one who rules his spirit is *better* than one who captures a city. |
| 33 | The lot is cast into the lap,  but each of its judgments is from Yahweh. |

**Proverbs Chapter 17**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Better is a dry *piece of* bread and peace with it,  than a household full of feasting with strife. |
| 2 | An insightful servant will rule over a shameful son,  and he will share the inheritance among brothers. |
| 3 | A crucible is for silver and a furnace is for gold,  but Yahweh tests hearts. |
| 4 | An evildoer pays attention to wicked lips;  a liar listens to a destructive tongue. |
| 5 | The one who mocks the poor taunts the one who created him;  the one who is joyful at a calamity will not go unpunished. |
| 6 | The crown of old men is *their* children’s children,  and the glory of children is their fathers. |
| 7 | Eloquent speech is not fitting for a godless person,  how much less *fitting* are deceptive lips for a nobleman? |
| 8 | A bribe is a ‘magic stone’ in the eyes of its owner;  every direction he turns, he prospers. |
| 9 | The one who covers over a transgression seeks love,  but the one who repeats the issue separates close friends. |
| 10 | A rebuke goes deeper into a person who has understanding  than a hundred blows on a fool. |
| 11 | Surely a rebellious person seeks evil,  so a cruel messenger[[39]](#footnote-22945) will be sent against him. |
| 12 | Better for a person to encounter a bear deprived of her cubs  than *to encounter* a fool in his foolishness. |
| 13 | *As for* the one who repays good with evil,  evil will not depart from his house. |
| 14 | The beginning of strife is *like* letting water out,  so abandon the dispute before it breaks out. |
| 15 | The one who declares the wicked to be righteous, and the one who condemns the righteous;  indeed, both of them are an abomination to Yahweh. |
| 16 | Why is there payment in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom  when *he has* no sense? |
| 17 | A friend loves at all times,  and a brother is born for *times of* distress. |
| 18 | A person lacking sense shakes hands on an agreement,  making a solemn pledge in the presence of his neighbor. |
| 19 | The one who loves transgression loves strife,  the one who exalts his doorway seeks disaster. |
| 20 | A twisted heart will not find good,  and the one who has a double tongue[[40]](#footnote-10828) will fall into evil. |
| 21 | He who fathers a fool *does so* to his own grief,  and the father of a godless person will have no joy. |
| 22 | A cheerful heart is a good cure,  but a broken spirit dries up the bones. |
| 23 | A wicked person takes a secret bribe[[41]](#footnote-11211)  to twist the paths of justice. |
| 24 | Wisdom is with the one who understands,  but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. |
| 25 | A foolish son is grief[[42]](#footnote-20923) to his father  and bitterness to the woman who bore him. |
| 26 | It is not good to issue a fine[[43]](#footnote-28611) to a righteous person,  *nor* to beat nobles for *their* uprightness. |
| 27 | The one who holds back his words has *attained* knowledge,[[44]](#footnote-26701)  and the one who has a cool spirit is a person of understanding. |
| 28 | Even a fool who remains silent is thought to be wise;  when he shuts his lips, he is *considered* to be discerning. |

**Proverbs Chapter 18**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The one who isolates himself seeks his *own* desire;  he quarrels with every piece of sound advice. |
| 2 | A fool does not delight in understanding,  but only in expressing his own mind. |
| 3 | When a wicked person enters, contempt also enters,  and with dishonor *comes* scorn. |
| 4 | The words of a person’s mouth *are* deep waters,  a flowing stream, a fountain of wisdom. |
| 5 | It is not good to show favoritism toward a wicked person,  *nor* to deprive a righteous person of justice. |
| 6 | The lips of a fool bring strife,  and his mouth calls for beatings. |
| 7 | The mouth of a fool *will bring* destruction to him,  and his lips are a snare to his soul. |
| 8 | The words of a gossip[[45]](#footnote-28722) are like delicacies,  and they go down into one’s innermost being. |
| 9 | The one who shows himself to be lax in his work  is a brother to the one who destroys. |
| 10 | Yahweh’s name is a strong tower;  the righteous person runs to it and is secure. |
| 11 | A rich person’s wealth is his strong city,  indeed, *it is* like a high wall in his imagination. |
| 12 | Before disaster the heart of a person is puffed up,  but humility goes before glory. |
| 13 | The person who gives an answer before he listens—  foolishness and disgrace belong to him. |
| 14 | A person’s spirit can endure his sickness,  but a broken spirit, who can bear that? |
| 15 | The heart of one who understands acquires knowledge,  and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. |
| 16 | A person’s gift creates opportunity for him  and leads him before great people. |
| 17 | The first person to present his case in a dispute *seems* right  *until* a neighbor comes and questions him. |
| 18 | *Casting* lots *causes* quarrels to cease  and decides between mighty *opponents*. |
| 19 | An offended brother is *harder to win* than a strong city,  and contentions are like the barred *gate* of a castle. |
| 20 | A person’s stomach will be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth;  he will be satisfied *from* the revenue of his lips. |
| 21 | Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  and those who love it will eat of its fruit. |
| 22 | He who finds a wife finds a good thing,  and he obtains favor from Yahweh. |
| 23 | The poor person speaks *with gentle* pleas,  but the rich person answers forcefully. |
| 24 | A person has many friends to socialize with,  but there is one who loves *him* who sticks closer than a brother. |

**Proverbs Chapter 19**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity  than one who has twisted lips and is a fool.[[46]](#footnote-15924) |
| 2 | It is not good *to have* a desire without knowledge,  and one who makes haste with his feet commits sin. |
| 3 | A person’s foolishness subverts his way,  but his heart rages against Yahweh. |
| 4 | Wealth will add many friends,  but a poor person will be separated from his friend. |
| 5 | A false witness will not go unpunished,  and the one who tells lies will not escape. |
| 6 | Many will entreat the favor[[47]](#footnote-30285) of a generous person,[[48]](#footnote-10881)  and everyone is a friend to a person who gives gifts. |
| 7 | All the brothers of a poor person hate him;  indeed, how much more do his friends distance themselves from him.  He pursues *them with* words, *but* they do not *respond*.[[49]](#footnote-31326) |
| 8 | The one who gets *good* sense loves his *own* soul;  the one who safeguards discernment will find good. |
| 9 | A false witness will not go unpunished,  and the one who tells lies will perish. |
| 10 | Luxury is not fitting for a fool;  how much less *fitting* for a servant to rule over princes. |
| 11 | A person’s good judgment makes him slow to anger,  and it is his honor to overlook an offense. |
| 12 | The king’s rage is like the growl of a lion,  but his favor is like the dew upon the grass. |
| 13 | A foolish son *brings* destruction to his father,  and the contentions of a wife are *like* a constant drip. |
| 14 | A house and wealth are the inheritance from fathers,  but an insightful wife is from Yahweh. |
| 15 | Laziness causes one to fall into deep sleep,  and the idle person[[50]](#footnote-12330) will go hungry. |
| 16 | The one who keeps the commandment watches over his life,[[51]](#footnote-31961)  but the one who has contempt for his road will die. |
| 17 | The one who shows favor to a poor person lends to Yahweh,  and he will repay him according to his *good* work. |
| 18 | Correct your son, for there is hope,  and do not be intent[[52]](#footnote-19450) on causing his death. |
| 19 | A person with great anger will bear the penalty;  surely, if you deliver him, then you will have to do it again. |
| 20 | Listen to counsel and accept discipline  in order that you may be wise in your latter *days*. |
| 21 | Many plans are in a person’s heart,  but Yahweh’s counsel will stand. |
| 22 | A person’s delight[[53]](#footnote-14833) is his loyalty,  and it is better to be poor than one who tells lies. |
| 23 | The fear of Yahweh *leads* to life,  and the one *who has it* will sleep satisfied through the night *and* not be visited by evil. |
| 24 | The lazy person buries his hand in the dish;  indeed, he will not bring it back to his mouth. |
| 25 | Strike a mocker and a naïve person will act prudently,  and if you reprove the one who has understanding, he will discern knowledge. |
| 26 | He who assaults *his* father and drives *his* mother away  is a shameful and disgraceful son. |
| 27 | My son, cease listening to teaching  and you will go astray from words of knowledge. |
| 28 | An ungodly witness[[54]](#footnote-13337) mocks justice,  and the mouth of criminals devours wickedness. |
| 29 | Judgments have been prepared for mockers,  and beatings *have been prepared* for the backs of fools. |

**Proverbs Chapter 20**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Wine is a mocker, beer is a loudmouth,  and everyone who goes astray by them is not wise. |
| 2 | The terror of a king is like the growl of a lion;  the one who infuriates him does wrong to his *own* life. |
| 3 | It is an honor for a person to cease from strife,  but every fool will quarrel. |
| 4 | A lazy person does not plow in the proper season,  so he looks[[55]](#footnote-13792) *for grain* at the harvest but has nothing. |
| 5 | The counsel in a person’s heart is *like* deep water,  but a person with discernment will draw it out. |
| 6 | Many people claim to be loyal,  but a faithful man, who can find? |
| 7 | A righteous person who walks in his integrity—  blessed are his children after him. |
| 8 | A king sitting upon the throne of justice  scatters every evil with his eyes. |
| 9 | Who can declare, “I have made my heart pure,  I am cleansed from my sin”? |
| 10 | Unequal weights and unequal measures;  both of them are an abomination to Yahweh. |
| 11 | Even a young boy is known by his actions,  whether *or not* his conduct is pure and upright. |
| 12 | The ear that hears and the eye that sees,  indeed, Yahweh made them both. |
| 13 | Do not love sleep, lest you become impoverished;  open your eyes *and* be satisfied with food. |
| 14 | “Bad! Bad!” says the buyer,  but when he goes his way, he boasts. |
| 15 | There is gold and a multitude of gems,  but lips bearing knowledge are a rare jewel. |
| 16 | Take his garment since he has *agreed to* give security for a stranger;  hold it as security *when he has pledged* for a foreigner. |
| 17 | Bread *gained* by deceit is sweet to a person,  but afterwards his mouth will be filled with gravel. |
| 18 | Plans are established by counsel,  so make war by wise guidance. |
| 19 | A gossip walks around revealing secrets,  *so* do not get involved with a person who speaks loosely with his lips. |
| 20 | The one who curses his father or his mother,  his lamp will go out in a time of darkness. |
| 21 | An inheritance *gained* quickly at the beginning  will not be blessed in the end. |
| 22 | Do not say, “I will repay evil!”  Wait for Yahweh and he will deliver you. |
| 23 | Unequal weights are an abomination to Yahweh,  and deceitful scales are not good. |
| 24 | A person’s steps are *directed* by Yahweh;  how then can a person understand his road? |
| 25 | It is a snare for a person to carelessly declare, “It is holy!”  and *then* to inquire *about it* after making his vows. |
| 26 | A wise king separates out the wicked,  and he rolls the *threshing* wheel over them again *and again*. |
| 27 | The breath of a person is the lamp of Yahweh,  searching out his innermost being. |
| 28 | Covenant loyalty and faithfulness[[56]](#footnote-17547) guard the king,  yes, he upholds his throne by covenant loyalty. |
| 29 | Strength is the splendor of young men,  and gray hair is the majesty of old men. |
| 30 | Blows that wound cleanse away evil,  and beatings *cleanse* the innermost being. |

**Proverbs Chapter 21**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The heart of a king is *like* water canals in Yahweh’s hand;  he turns it wherever he delights. |
| 2 | Every person’s road is right in his own eyes,  but Yahweh examines the hearts. |
| 3 | To do righteousness and justice  is preferred by Yahweh rather than a sacrifice. |
| 4 | Haughty eyes and an arrogant heart—  the lamp of the wicked—is sin. |
| 5 | The plans of a diligent person surely *will lead* to abundance,  but everyone who acts hastily surely *will come to* poverty. |
| 6 | Acquiring treasures by a lying tongue  is a fleeting vapor *of* those who seek death. |
| 7 | The violence of the wicked will drag them away  because they refused to act with justice. |
| 8 | The road of a guilty person is crooked,  but *as for* the pure person, his works are upright. |
| 9 | It is better to live on the corner of a rooftop  than in a house with a contentious wife. |
| 10 | The soul of the wicked person desires evil;  his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes. |
| 11 | When a mocker gets punished, the naïve person becomes wise,  and when a wise person is instructed, he accepts knowledge. |
| 12 | A righteous person keeps an eye on the house of the wicked person,  bringing the wicked to ruin. |
| 13 | The one who closes his ear to the cry of the poor,  he will also cry out and not be answered. |
| 14 | A gift *given* in secret subdues anger,  and a secret bribe *averts* strong wrath. |
| 15 | To do justice is joyful for the righteous person,  but it is a terror to those doing wickedness. |
| 16 | The person who wanders from the road of understanding  will rest in the assembly of the dead. |
| 17 | The one who loves pleasure *will become* a poor person;  the one who loves wine and oil will not become rich. |
| 18 | A wicked person is a ransom for a righteous person,  and the one acting unfaithfully is *a ransom* in place of the upright. |
| 19 | It is better to live in a desolate land  than *with* a contentious and angry woman. |
| 20 | Desirable treasure and oil are in the dwelling place of the wise person,  but the foolish person consumes it. |
| 21 | The one who pursues righteousness and loyalty  will find life, righteousness, and glory.[[57]](#footnote-29795) |
| 22 | A wise person scales the city of the mighty,  and he brings down the strength of *the city’s* confidence. |
| 23 | The one who watches over his mouth and his tongue  guards his life[[58]](#footnote-31928) from trouble. |
| 24 | The presumptuous *and* proud person—“Mocker” is his name—  acts with arrogant presumptuousness. |
| 25 | The lazy person’s desire will kill him  because his hands refuse to work. |
| 26 | All day *long* he craves *what he* desires,  but the righteous person gives and does not withhold *his generosity*. |
| 27 | A sacrifice *offered by* the wicked is an abomination;  how much more when he brings it with deceitful intent. |
| 28 | A false witness will perish,  but a person who listens will *be able to* continue speaking. |
| 29 | A wicked person hardens his face,  but an upright person, he gives thought to his ways. |
| 30 | There is no wisdom and no discernment  and no counsel that can stand against Yahweh. |
| 31 | A horse is prepared for a day of battle,  but the deliverance belongs to Yahweh. |

**Proverbs Chapter 22**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | A *good* name is to be chosen over great wealth;  favor is better than silver and gold. |
| 2 | The rich and the poor have this in common:  Yahweh is the one who creates them all. |
| 3 | A prudent person sees evil and hides,  but the naïve continue on and are punished. |
| 4 | The reward of humility—the fear of Yahweh—  is wealth, glory, and life. |
| 5 | Thorns and traps are on the road of the twisted person;  the one who watches over his life will stay far from them. |
| 6 | Train a child in the way he should go;  even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it. |
| 7 | The rich person rules over the poor,  and the borrower is a slave to the lender. |
| 8 | The one who sows injustice will reap wickedness,  and the rod of his anger will fail. |
| 9 | The generous person will be blessed  because he gave some of his bread to the poor. |
| 10 | Drive out the mocker and strife will go out,  and quarrelling and insults will cease. |
| 11 | The person who loves a pure heart,  whose lips are gracious—a king is his friend. |
| 12 | The eyes of Yahweh guard knowledge,  but he overturns the words of the one acting unfaithfully. |
| 13 | The lazy person says, “There is a lion outside!  I will be killed in the public plaza.” |
| 14 | The mouth of strange women is a deep pit;  the person with whom Yahweh is angry will fall in there. |
| 15 | Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;  a rod of discipline will remove it far from him. |
| 16 | The one who oppresses the poor for his own gain,  *and* the one who gives to the rich—both will come to poverty. |
| 17 | Incline your ear and listen to the words of the wise,  and apply your heart to my knowledge, |
| 18 | for it is delightful when you keep them within you,  *then* they will be established together upon your lips. |
| 19 | So that your trust may be in Yahweh,  I have made *them* known to you today—yes, you. |
| 20 | Have I not written to you 30 sayings  containing counsel and knowledge, |
| 21 | to make known to you true words of faithfulness,  *and* to return words of faithfulness to those who sent you? |
| 22 | Do not rob a poor person because he is poor,  and do not crush the needy at the *city* gate, |
| 23 | for Yahweh will defend their case,  and he will rob the life of those who robbed them. |
| 24 | Do not make friends with an angry person,  and do not associate with a person who is hot-tempered, |
| 25 | lest you learn his path  and get yourself[[59]](#footnote-28373) *caught in* a snare. |
| 26 | Do not be among those who shake hands *in a pledge*,  among those who put up security for loans. |
| 27 | If you have nothing with which to pay,  why should he take your bed out from under you? |
| 28 | Do not move the ancient boundary marker  that your fathers made. |
| 29 | Do you see a man skilled in his occupation?  He will stand in the presence of kings;  he will not stand in the presence of obscure people. |

**Proverbs Chapter 23**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | When you sit to eat with a ruler,  carefully discern who[[60]](#footnote-29438) is before you, |
| 2 | and put a knife in your throat  if you *have* a greedy appetite. |
| 3 | Do not crave his tasty foods,  for it is deceptive bread. |
| 4 | Do not wear yourself out by attempting to get rich;  cease from *relying upon* your *own* understanding.[[61]](#footnote-26085) |
| 5 | If your eyes fly to it, then it is gone,  for it surely makes wings for itself like an eagle,  and it flies *into* the sky. |
| 6 | Do not eat the bread of a stingy person,[[62]](#footnote-14830)  and do not crave his tasty foods. |
| 7 | For as he calculates in his soul, so he is.  “Eat and drink,” he says to you,  but his heart is not with you. |
| 8 | The piece *of bread* you ate, you will vomit,  and you have wasted your pleasant words. |
| 9 | Do not speak into the ears of a fool,  for he will have contempt for the prudence of your words. |
| 10 | Do not move an ancient boundary marker,  and do not enter into the fields of orphans, |
| 11 | for the one who redeems them is strong;  he will defend their case against you. |
| 12 | Apply your heart to *sound* teaching,  and *apply* your ears to words of knowledge. |
| 13 | Do not withhold discipline from a child;  if you strike him with the rod, he will not die. |
| 14 | If you strike him with the rod,  you will deliver his soul from Sheol. |
| 15 | My son, if your heart is wise,  my own heart will indeed rejoice. |
| 16 | My inward parts[[63]](#footnote-25129) will rejoice  when your lips speak with great integrity. |
| 17 | Do not let your heart be envious of the sinners;  rather, fear Yahweh all day *long*, |
| 18 | for certainly there is a future,  and your hope will not be cut off. |
| 19 | You, my son, must listen and be wise,  and direct your heart on the *upright* road. |
| 20 | Do not be among those who drink too much wine,  *or* with gluttonous meat-eaters. |
| 21 | For the drunkard and the glutton will become impoverished,  and drowsiness wears rags. |
| 22 | Listen to your father who begot you,  and do not show contempt for[[64]](#footnote-10939) your mother when she is old. |
| 23 | Get truth and do not sell it;  *get* wisdom and teaching and understanding. |
| 24 | The father of a righteous person will rejoice exceedingly,  and the man who fathers a wise *son* will delight in him; |
| 25 | may your father and your mother be glad,  and may she who gave birth to you rejoice. |
| 26 | My son, give your heart to me,  and let your eyes observe my ways, |
| 27 | for a prostitute is a deep pit,  and a foreign woman is a narrow well. |
| 28 | Indeed, she lies in wait like a robber,  and she increases *the number of* unfaithful people. |
| 29 | Who has woe? Who has sorrow?  Who has contentions? Who has a complaint?  Who has wounds without cause? Who has bleary eyes? |
| 30 | *It is* those who linger over wine;  those who come in to taste mixed wine. |
| 31 | Do not look at the wine when it sparkles with red,  when it gleams in the cup,  *when* it goes down smoothly. |
| 32 | In the end it bites like a serpent,  and it poisons like a viper. |
| 33 | Your eyes will see strange things,  and your heart will speak perverse things. |
| 34 | And you will become like one who lies down in the middle of the sea,  or like one who lies down on the top of a ship’s mast. |
| 35 | “They struck me, *but* I did not feel pain.  They hit me, *but* I did not know *it*.  When will I awaken? I will seek another *drink*.” |

**Proverbs Chapter 24**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Do not envy evil people,  and do not desire to be with them. |
| 2 | For their hearts plot violence,  and their lips speak trouble. |
| 3 | By wisdom a house is built,  and by understanding it is established, |
| 4 | and by knowledge *its* rooms are filled  with all precious and pleasant wealth. |
| 5 | A wise man is strong,  and a person with knowledge grows in strength. |
| 6 | For with *wise* guidance you should wage your war,  and with a multitude of advisors there is deliverance. |
| 7 | Wisdom is too high for a fool;  he does not open his mouth at the *city* gate. |
| 8 | He who devises to do evil,  they will call him, “Schemer.” |
| 9 | A foolish plan is sin,  and a mocker is an abomination to humankind. |
| 10 | If you show yourself to be lax on a day of trouble,  your strength is limited. |
| 11 | Deliver those who are being dragged off to death,  and do not hold back from *helping* those who are stumbling to the slaughter. |
| 12 | If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”  doesn’t he who examines the hearts discern it?  Doesn’t he who guards your soul know it?  Will he not repay a person according to his work? |
| 13 | My son, eat some honey, for it is good,  and honey from the comb is sweet in your mouth; |
| 14 | likewise, know that wisdom is *sweet* to your soul.  If you find it, then there will be a future,  and your hope will not be cut off. |
| 15 | Do not lie in wait like the wicked against the dwelling place of the righteous;  do not assault his place of rest. |
| 16 | For a righteous person will fall seven times, and he stands back up,  but the wicked stumble in *times of* distress. |
| 17 | Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,  and let not your heart celebrate when he stumbles, |
| 18 | lest Yahweh sees *it*, and it is evil in his eyes,  and he turns away his anger from him. |
| 19 | Do not be agitated because of those who do evil;  do not be envious of the wicked. |
| 20 | For there will be no future for the evil person;  the lamp of the wicked will go out. |
| 21 | My son, fear Yahweh and the king;  do not get involved with those who think otherwise, |
| 22 | for disaster will suddenly arise from them,  and who knows the ruin *that can come* from the two of them? |
| 23 | These *proverbs* also are for the wise:  To show favoritism in judgment is not good. |
| 24 | The one who says to the wicked person, “You are righteous,”—  peoples will curse him, *and* nations will be indignant with him. |
| 25 | But for those who offer rebuke, it will go well,[[65]](#footnote-20439)  and upon them will come a good blessing. |
| 26 | He kisses the lips—he who replies with a straight answer. |
| 27 | Prepare your outdoor work,  and carefully prepare it for yourself in the field;  afterwards, then, build your house. |
| 28 | Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause;  would you deceive with your lips? |
| 29 | Do not say, “Just as he does to me, so I will do to him,  I will repay the man according to his *evil* work.” |
| 30 | I passed by the field of a lazy person,  and by the vineyard of a person lacking sense, |
| 31 | and behold, it was all overgrown with thistles;  its surface was covered with weeds,  and its stone wall had fallen down. |
| 32 | When I noticed, I paid attention;  I observed, *and* I learned *this* lesson: |
| 33 | “Just a little *more* sleep, a little *more* slumber,  a little *more* folding of the arms to lie *here*,” |
| 34 | and your poverty will come like a robber,  and your needs like an armed man. |

**Proverbs Chapter 25**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | These also are the proverbs of Solomon that the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, copied: |
| 2 | It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,  but it is the glory of kings to search out a matter. |
| 3 | *As* the heavens are high and the earth is deep,  so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. |
| 4 | Remove the dross from silver,  and a vessel comes out for the refiner; |
| 5 | remove the wicked person from the presence of the king,  and his throne will be established in righteousness. |
| 6 | Do not honor yourself in the presence of the king,  and do not stand among great people; |
| 7 | for it is better that it be said to you, “Come up here,”  than to be placed lower in the presence of a noble.  What your eyes have seen, |
| 8 | do not go out to argue *your dispute* too hastily;  otherwise, what will you do in the end  when your neighbor humiliates you? |
| 9 | Argue your dispute with your neighbor,  but do not reveal another person’s secret, |
| 10 | lest the one who hears *it* puts you to shame,  and your bad reputation will not go away. |
| 11 | *Like* apples[[66]](#footnote-20563) of gold in settings of silver  is a word spoken at the *proper* moment.[[67]](#footnote-18241) |
| 12 | *Like* an earring of gold or an ornament of *fine* gold  is a wise person reproving a listening ear. |
| 13 | Like the cold of snow at the time of harvest  is a faithful messenger to those who send him,  for he refreshes the soul of his masters.[[68]](#footnote-29439) |
| 14 | *Like* clouds and wind but no rain  is a person who boasts of a gift never given. |
| 15 | With patience a ruler can be persuaded,  and a gentle tongue can break a bone. |
| 16 | Did you find some honey? Eat just enough for you,  lest you have too much of it and then vomit it up. |
| 17 | Let your foot visit your neighbor’s house sparingly,  lest he have too much of you and hate you. |
| 18 | *Like* a club or a sword or a sharp arrow  is a person bearing false witness against his neighbor. |
| 19 | *Like* a bad tooth or a foot that slips  is confidence in a person who acts unfaithfully in a time of distress. |
| 20 | *Like* one who removes clothing on a cold day,  *or* vinegar upon a wound,[[69]](#footnote-20206)  is one who sings a song to a heavy heart. |
| 21 | If the one who hates you is hungry, give him food to eat,  and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, |
| 22 | for you will heap burning coals upon his head,  and Yahweh will reward you. |
| 23 | The north wind brings rain,  and a tongue *telling* secrets brings an angry face. |
| 24 | It is better to sit on the corner of a rooftop  than in a house with a contentious wife. |
| 25 | As cold water is to a weary soul,  so is good news from a distant land. |
| 26 | Like a spring *that has been* trampled *in* and *like* a ruined fountain  is a righteous person who wavers in the presence of a wicked person. |
| 27 | It is not good to eat much honey,  nor *for people* to seek glory *on top of* glory. |
| 28 | *Like* a city broken into, *one* without a wall,  is a person who has no self-control over his emotions. |

**Proverbs Chapter 26**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Like snow in the summer and rain during the harvest,  so too honor is not fitting for a fool. |
| 2 | Like a fluttering bird *and* like a flying swallow,  so too an undeserved curse fails to arrive. |
| 3 | A whip is for the horse, a bridle is for the donkey,  and a rod is for the backs of fools. |
| 4 | Do not answer a fool according to his foolishness,  lest you, too, become just like him. |
| 5 | Answer a fool according to his foolishness,  lest he become wise in his own eyes. |
| 6 | One who cuts off *his own* feet, *and* one who drinks violence,  is a person who sends a message by the hand of a fool. |
| 7 | *Like* the legs of a lame person that dangle *uselessly*,  so is a proverb in the mouth of fools. |
| 8 | Like one who entangles a stone in a sling,  so is a person who gives honor to a fool. |
| 9 | *Like* a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard,  so is a proverb in the mouth of fools. |
| 10 | *Like* an archer who wounds everyone,  so is the one who hires a fool or hires those who are just passing by. |
| 11 | Like a dog that returns to its vomit,  *so* a fool repeats his foolishness. |
| 12 | Do you see a person who is wise in his own eyes?  There is more hope for a fool than for him. |
| 13 | A lazy person says, “*There is* a lion on the road!  A lion in the public plaza!” |
| 14 | As a door turns on its hinges,  so does a lazy person upon his bed. |
| 15 | A lazy person buries his hand in the dish,  *but* he is too tired to bring it back to his mouth. |
| 16 | A lazy person is wiser in his own eyes  than seven people who answer with good judgment. |
| 17 | Like a person who seizes a dog by its ears  is one who while passing by gets angry over a dispute that is not his own. |
| 18 | Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows,  arrows, and death, |
| 19 | so is a person who deceives his neighbor,  then says, “Was I not simply joking?” |
| 20 | When the wood is gone, a fire will go out,  and when there is no gossip, contentions will grow quiet. |
| 21 | Like charcoal for hot coals and wood for fire,  so is a contentious person for kindling strife. |
| 22 | The words of a gossip are like delicacies,  and they go down into one’s innermost being. |
| 23 | Like a clay vessel covered with silver dross  are smooth[[70]](#footnote-31251) lips and a wicked heart. |
| 24 | A person who hates disguises himself with his lips,  but he harbors deceit in his inner being; |
| 25 | when his speech is gracious, do not believe him,  for in his heart are seven abominations. |
| 26 | *Though his* hatred is covered by deception,  his evil will be exposed in *the midst of* the congregation. |
| 27 | The person who digs a pit will fall into it,  and the person rolling a stone, it will come back upon him. |
| 28 | A lying tongue hates those it oppresses,  and a flattering mouth creates a calamity. |

**Proverbs Chapter 27**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Do not boast about tomorrow,  for you do not know what the day will bring forth. |
| 2 | Let another praise you and not your *own* mouth—  a stranger—and not your *own* lips. |
| 3 | A stone is heavy and the sand is weighty,  but vexation by a fool is heavier than both of them. |
| 4 | Rage is cruel and anger is a flood,  but who is able to stand in the presence of jealously? |
| 5 | Better is open reproof  than hidden love. |
| 6 | Faithful are the wounds of one who loves *you*,[[71]](#footnote-19617)  but deceptive are the kisses of one who hates *you*.[[72]](#footnote-15258) |
| 7 | A satisfied soul tramples on a honeycomb,  but *to* a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. |
| 8 | Like a bird that wanders from her nest,  so is a person who wanders from his place. |
| 9 | Oil and incense make the heart glad,  and the sweetness of a friend is better than one’s own counsel.[[73]](#footnote-15476) |
| 10 | Do not forsake your friend or your father’s friend,  and do not enter into your brother’s house on the day of your distress;  better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away. |
| 11 | Become wise, my son, and make my heart glad,  so that I may give an answer to the one who reproaches me. |
| 12 | A prudent person sees evil *and* hides,  *but* the naïve continue on and are punished. |
| 13 | Take his garment since he has *agreed to* give security for a stranger;  hold it as security *when he has pledged* for a foreign woman. |
| 14 | The one who blesses his friend with a loud voice in the early morning,  it will be regarded as a curse to him. |
| 15 | A constant dripping on a day of steady rain  and a contentious wife are alike; |
| 16 | whoever can restrain[[74]](#footnote-23853) her can *even* restrain the wind,  and can *even* grasp oil in his right hand. |
| 17 | Iron sharpens iron,  and a person sharpens his friend. |
| 18 | The one who guards[[75]](#footnote-27848) a fig tree will eat of its fruit,  and the one who watches over[[76]](#footnote-31775) his master will be honored. |
| 19 | As the surface of the water reflects a face,  so the heart of a person reflects a person. |
| 20 | Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,  nor are the eyes of a person ever satisfied. |
| 21 | A crucible is for silver and a furnace is for gold,  and a person is *tested* by the praise he receives. |
| 22 | Although you grind the fool with a pestle  among the grain in the mortar,  his foolishness will not depart from him. |
| 23 | Know well the condition of your flock;  pay attention to your herds, |
| 24 | for treasure will not last,  nor does a crown *last* for multiple generations. |
| 25 | *When* the grass is removed and *new* growth appears,  and the plants of the mountains are gathered together, |
| 26 | lambs *will provide* your clothing,  and male goats *will cover* the price of a field, |
| 27 | and *there will be* enough milk from the female goats for your food,  for the food of your house,  and the care of your female servants. |

**Proverbs Chapter 28**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | A wicked person flees when no one is pursuing,  but the righteous are confident like a lion. |
| 2 | On account of the transgression of the land, many are its rulers,  but by a person with understanding *and* knowledge order will be prolonged. |
| 3 | A poor man who oppresses the weak  is *like* a beating rain that does not *leave* food. |
| 4 | Those who abandon the Law praise the wicked,  but those who keep the Law contend against them. |
| 5 | Evil people do not understand justice,  but those who are seeking Yahweh will come to understand it all. |
| 6 | Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity  than a person who is crooked in his ways, even though he is rich. |
| 7 | He who keeps the Law is a discerning son,  but he who associates with those who lack restraint brings shame upon his father. |
| 8 | The person who increases his wealth by interest and by profiteering  collects it for the one who shows favor to the poor. |
| 9 | The person who turns his ear away from listening to the Law,  even his prayer is an abomination. |
| 10 | The person who leads the upright astray onto an evil road  will fall into his *own* pit,  but the blameless will inherit what is good. |
| 11 | A rich person is wise in his own eyes,  but the poor person with understanding sees right through him. |
| 12 | When the righteous triumph,[[77]](#footnote-11544) there is great glory,  but when the wicked rise up, people conceal themselves. |
| 13 | The person who hides his transgressions will not prosper,  but the person who confesses and forsakes *them* will be shown mercy. |
| 14 | Blessed is the person who trembles *before God* continually,  but the one who hardens his heart will fall into evil. |
| 15 | *Like* a roaring lion and a charging bear,  *so* is a wicked person ruling over a poor[[78]](#footnote-26996) people. |
| 16 | A ruler who lacks understanding *commits* many extortions,  *but* the one who hates unjust gain will prolong *his* days. |
| 17 | A person who is burdened by *shedding* the blood of another[[79]](#footnote-17337) will flee until death;[[80]](#footnote-27338)  do not let anyone support him. |
| 18 | The one who walks blamelessly will be delivered,  but the one who is crooked in his ways will fall suddenly. |
| 19 | The one who works his land will be satisfied with food,  but the one who pursues worthless things will be “satisfied” with poverty. |
| 20 | A faithful person *will have* many blessings,  but the one who makes haste to get rich will not go unpunished. |
| 21 | To show favoritism is not good,  nevertheless, a person will do wrong for a piece of bread. |
| 22 | A stingy person[[81]](#footnote-12281) makes haste toward wealth,  but he does not know that poverty will come to him. |
| 23 | One who reproves a person will afterward find more favor  than the person who flatters with the tongue. |
| 24 | The person who robs his father or his mother and says, “It is not a transgression,”  he is a friend of a person *who causes* destruction. |
| 25 | A greedy soul stirs up strife,  but the person who trusts in Yahweh will be made prosperous. |
| 26 | The person who trusts in his own heart—he is a fool;  but the one who walks in wisdom—he will be delivered. |
| 27 | The person who gives to the poor will not *be in* need,  but the one who shuts his eyes *to them* *will receive* many curses. |
| 28 | When the wicked rise up, people hide themselves,  but when they perish, the righteous increase. |

**Proverbs Chapter 29**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | A person who stiffens his neck *after multiple* rebukes  will suddenly be broken and there will be no remedy. |
| 2 | When the righteous increase, the people rejoice,  but when a wicked person rules, the people groan. |
| 3 | A person who loves wisdom makes his father glad,  but the man who gets involved with prostitutes destroys his wealth. |
| 4 | A king brings stability to the land by justice,  but a person who *demands* “contributions” will overthrow *the land.* |
| 5 | A person who flatters his neighbor  spreads a net for his feet. |
| 6 | An evil person is ensnared by transgression,  but a righteous person sings aloud and rejoices. |
| 7 | A righteous person knows the legal claim of the poor;  a wicked person does not understand *this* knowledge. |
| 8 | Scornful people inflame a city,  but the wise turn away anger. |
| 9 | *If* a wise person disputes with a foolish person,  he rages or laughs, but there is no calm. |
| 10 | People who cause bloodshed hate a blameless person,  but the upright show concern for his life.[[82]](#footnote-31833) |
| 11 | A fool lets out all of his emotions,  but a wise person keeps them calm within. |
| 12 | A ruler who pays attention to deceptive words—  all his officials *become* wicked. |
| 13 | The poor person and the one who oppresses *others* have this in common:  Yahweh gives light to the eyes of them both. |
| 14 | A king who judges the poor with faithfulness—  his throne will be established forever. |
| 15 | A rod and reproof give wisdom,  but a child who is left *to himself* puts his mother to shame. |
| 16 | When the wicked increase, transgression increases,  but the righteous will see their ruin. |
| 17 | Correct your son, and he will give you rest,  and he will give delight to your soul. |
| 18 | When there is no vision, people are unrestrained,  but blessed is the one who keeps the Law.[[83]](#footnote-10007) |
| 19 | A servant cannot be corrected *simply* with words,  for he understands, but he does not respond. |
| 20 | Do you see a person who is hasty with his words?  There is more hope for a fool than for him. |
| 21 | The one who spoils his servant from childhood—  in the end he will become rebellious. |
| 22 | An angry person stirs up strife,  and a vengeful person *commits* much transgression. |
| 23 | A person’s pride will bring him low,  but a humble spirit will obtain glory.[[84]](#footnote-32561) |
| 24 | The person who partners with a thief hates his *own* soul;  he is put under oath[[85]](#footnote-26504) *to testify*, but discloses nothing. |
| 25 | The fear of people will bring a snare,  but the one who trusts in Yahweh will be protected.[[86]](#footnote-30081) |
| 26 | Many seek the attention of the one who rules,  but a person *receives* justice from Yahweh. |
| 27 | A dishonest person is an abomination to the righteous,  and the one whose road is upright is an abomination to a wicked person. |

**Proverbs Chapter 30**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The words of Agur, son of Yakeh—an inspired utterance.  The declaration of *this* man to Ithiel,  to Ithiel and Ucal. |
| 2 | Surely I am more stupid than anyone,  and I do not have the understanding of a man. |
| 3 | And I did not learn wisdom,  nor do I know the knowledge of the Holy One. |
| 4 | Who has ascended into heaven and come down?  Who has gathered the wind into the palms of both hands?  Who has bound up the waters into *his* garment?  Who has set up all the ends of the earth?  What is his name, and what is the name of his son?  Surely you know! |
| 5 | Every word of God is refined;  he is a shield for those who take refuge in him. |
| 6 | Do not add to his words or else he will reprove you,  and you will be found *to be* a liar. |
| 7 | Two things I ask from you,  do not withhold *these* from me before I die: |
| 8 | remove deceitfulness and false speech far from me;  give me neither poverty nor wealth;  provide to me my portion of bread. |
| 9 | Lest I become satisfied and deny *you* and say,  “Who is Yahweh?”  Or lest I become impoverished and steal  and desecrate the name of my God. |
| 10 | Do not slander a servant to his master,  lest he curse you and you will be found guilty. |
| 11 | *There is* a generation that curses its father  and that does not bless its mother. |
| 12 | A generation that is pure in its own eyes  but has not been washed from its excrement. |
| 13 | A generation—how haughty are its eyes,  and *how high* its eyelids are lifted up! |
| 14 | A generation whose teeth are swords  and fangs are knives,  to devour the poor from the land  and the needy from humankind. |
| 15 | The leech has two daughters:  “Give!” “Give!”  There are three things that will never be satisfied,  four that will never say, “Enough!” |
| 16 | Sheol and the barren womb;  land, which is never satisfied with water;  and fire, which never says, “Enough!” |
| 17 | An eye that mocks at his father  and despises[[87]](#footnote-32365) obedience to his mother—  ravens of the valley will peck it out,  and the offspring of a vulture will eat it. |
| 18 | These three things are difficult for me,  and four that I do not understand: |
| 19 | the way of an eagle in the heavens,  the way of a serpent upon a rock,  the way of a ship in the heart of the sea,  and the way of a man with a young woman. |
| 20 | This is the way of the woman who commits adultery:  she eats and wipes her mouth,  and says, “I have not committed *any* wickedness.” |
| 21 | The land trembles under three things,  and under four it cannot bear up: |
| 22 | under a servant when he becomes king,  and a godless person when he is satisfied with food, |
| 23 | under a hated woman when she gets married,  and a servant when she displaces her mistress. |
| 24 | These four things are small on the earth,  but they are exceedingly wise: |
| 25 | the ants are creatures who are not mighty,  but they prepare their food in the summer; |
| 26 | the hyraxes are creatures who are not mighty,  yet they make their dwellings in the cliffs; |
| 27 | the locusts have no king,  yet they all go out organized *in ranks*; |
| 28 | you can grab a lizard with the hands,  yet it *lives* in the king’s palaces. |
| 29 | These three are confident as they step,  and four are confident as they walk: |
| 30 | the lion is mighty among the beasts  and it does not retreat in the face of anything; |
| 31 | the strutting rooster, also the male goat,  and a king *when his* army is with him. |
| 32 | If you acted foolishly by exalting yourself,  or if you plan *to do so*, *put* your hand over your mouth! |
| 33 | For the churning of milk brings forth butter,  and the churning of the nose brings forth blood,  so the churning of anger brings forth strife. |

**Proverbs Chapter 31**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | The words of King Lemuel,  an inspired utterance that his mother taught him: |
| 2 | What, O my son? And what, O son of my womb?  And what, O son of my vows? |
| 3 | Do not give your strength to women,  or your ways to those who destroy kings. |
| 4 | It is not for kings, O Lemuel,  not for kings to drink wine,  nor for those who rule *to drink* beer. |
| 5 | Lest they drink and forget that which has been decreed,  and alter the legal claim of all the afflicted people. |
| 6 | Give beer to the person who is disheartened,  and wine to the bitter soul. |
| 7 | Let him drink and forget his poverty,  and no longer remember his troubles. |
| 8 | Open your mouth for those who have no voice,  for the legal claim of all defenseless people. |
| 9 | Open your mouth, judge with righteousness,  and defend the cause of the afflicted and needy person. |
| 10 | An excellent wife,[[88]](#footnote-16760) who can find?  For her value is far more than gems. |
| 11 | The heart of her husband trusts in her,  and he will have no lack of gain. |
| 12 | She brings him good and not evil  all the days of her life. |
| 13 | She seeks out wool and linen  and with delight she works with her hands. |
| 14 | She is like the ships of a merchant;  she brings in her food from afar. |
| 15 | She gets up while it is still night,  and provides food for her household  and tasks[[89]](#footnote-13698) for her female servants. |
| 16 | She considers a field and purchases it;  from the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. |
| 17 | She wraps her waist with strength  and makes her arms strong. |
| 18 | She perceives that her gain is good;  her lamp does not go out during the night. |
| 19 | She stretches out her hand to the distaff,  and her hands grasp the spindle. |
| 20 | She extends her hands to the afflicted,  and stretches out her hands to the needy. |
| 21 | She is not afraid for her household *when* it snows  because her whole household is clothed in scarlet. |
| 22 | She makes coverings for herself,  and her clothing is fine linen and purple. |
| 23 | Her husband is known at the *city* gates,  when he sits with the elders of the land. |
| 24 | She makes and sells linen garments,  and provides belts to the traders. |
| 25 | Strength and majesty are her clothing,  and she laughs at the days to come. |
| 26 | She opens her mouth with wisdom,  and instruction about covenant faithfulness is upon her tongue. |
| 27 | She keeps watch over the activities of her household,  and she does not eat the bread of idleness. |
| 28 | Her children rise up and call her blessed,  and her husband praises her, |
| 29 | “Many daughters have demonstrated themselves to be excellent,  but you have risen up above them all.” |
| 30 | Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting,  *but* a woman who fears Yahweh—she will be praised. |
| 31 | Give her the fruit of her hands,  and let her works praise her at the *city* gates. |

1. Or “discipline” [↑](#footnote-ref-13285)
2. Lit. “for blood” [↑](#footnote-ref-27903)
3. Or “good repute” [↑](#footnote-ref-26898)
4. Lit. “navel” [↑](#footnote-ref-29454)
5. Or “he lifts up fools to shame” [↑](#footnote-ref-32308)
6. Or “The beginning of wisdom is: get Wisdom” [↑](#footnote-ref-10124)
7. Or “Make level” [↑](#footnote-ref-20415)
8. Or “wander” [↑](#footnote-ref-21303)
9. Or “vigor, vitality” [↑](#footnote-ref-30855)
10. Lit. “roads” [↑](#footnote-ref-11494)
11. Lit. “shaken hands” [↑](#footnote-ref-30630)
12. Lit. “Sacrifices of peace offerings are before me” [↑](#footnote-ref-22627)
13. Lit. “road,” referring to his acts of creation. [↑](#footnote-ref-31572)
14. Lit. “his mouth” [↑](#footnote-ref-16781)
15. Refers to Wisdom, who is speaking. [↑](#footnote-ref-21651)
16. Lit. “his soul” [↑](#footnote-ref-10148)
17. Refers to the wicked people themselves [↑](#footnote-ref-32432)
18. Lit. “eats” [↑](#footnote-ref-27295)
19. Lit. “soul,” referring to the activities of the mind, including desire. [↑](#footnote-ref-29048)
20. Or “rejoices” [↑](#footnote-ref-11376)
21. Lit. “from nothing” [↑](#footnote-ref-30051)
22. Lit. “by hand” [↑](#footnote-ref-16483)
23. Lit. “wise ones of women” [↑](#footnote-ref-14868)
24. Or “guilt” [↑](#footnote-ref-30177)
25. Or “acceptance” [↑](#footnote-ref-14119)
26. Or “paid back” [↑](#footnote-ref-29387)
27. Or “hasty of spirit” [↑](#footnote-ref-18473)
28. LXX reads “blamelessness,” MT reads “death” [↑](#footnote-ref-20207)
29. Lit. “heart,” but here referring to the activity of the mind, thus, good sense. [↑](#footnote-ref-30540)
30. Lit. “light of the eyes” [↑](#footnote-ref-19825)
31. Lit. “heart” [↑](#footnote-ref-30516)
32. Lit. “roads” [↑](#footnote-ref-10932)
33. Lit. “spirits,” but here referring to the activities of the mind, including thoughts, emotions, attitudes, and motives. [↑](#footnote-ref-23141)
34. Lit. “are his work” [↑](#footnote-ref-13006)
35. Or “to” [↑](#footnote-ref-18486)
36. “His road” refers to his way of life. [↑](#footnote-ref-16492)
37. Lit. “soul” [↑](#footnote-ref-28257)
38. Or “slanderer” [↑](#footnote-ref-29657)
39. Or “cruel angel” The Hebrew word can refer to human messengers, angels, or demons. [↑](#footnote-ref-22945)
40. Lit. “is turning his tongue” [↑](#footnote-ref-10828)
41. Lit. “a bribe from the bosom,” i.e., the fold in the garment. [↑](#footnote-ref-11211)
42. Or “vexation” [↑](#footnote-ref-20923)
43. A synecdoche for “punishment” in general. [↑](#footnote-ref-28611)
44. Lit. “knows knowledge” [↑](#footnote-ref-26701)
45. Or “slanderer” [↑](#footnote-ref-28722)
46. MT reads “fool,” other Hebrew MSS read “rich” [↑](#footnote-ref-15924)
47. Lit. “face” [↑](#footnote-ref-30285)
48. Or “a noble” [↑](#footnote-ref-10881)
49. Or “they are not [there],” or “they are of no [help]” [↑](#footnote-ref-31326)
50. Lit. “soul,” here put for an individual person. [↑](#footnote-ref-12330)
51. Lit. “soul,” here put for a person’s life. [↑](#footnote-ref-31961)
52. Lit. “lift up your soul” [↑](#footnote-ref-19450)
53. Or “What is desired from a person” [↑](#footnote-ref-14833)
54. Lit. “witness of Belial” [↑](#footnote-ref-13337)
55. Or “begs” [↑](#footnote-ref-13792)
56. Or “truth” [↑](#footnote-ref-17547)
57. Or “honor” [↑](#footnote-ref-29795)
58. Or “soul” [↑](#footnote-ref-31928)
59. Lit. “your soul” [↑](#footnote-ref-28373)
60. Or “what” [↑](#footnote-ref-29438)
61. Or “be wise enough to cease” [↑](#footnote-ref-26085)
62. Lit. “man with an evil eye” [↑](#footnote-ref-14830)
63. Lit. “kidneys” [↑](#footnote-ref-25129)
64. Or “have contempt for,” “count as insignificant,” “despise” [↑](#footnote-ref-10939)
65. Lit. “it will be a delight” [↑](#footnote-ref-20439)
66. Or perhaps “apricots” [↑](#footnote-ref-20563)
67. Or “in the appropriate way” [↑](#footnote-ref-18241)
68. Or “the ones over him” [↑](#footnote-ref-29439)
69. LXX reads “wound,” MT reads “lye/soda” [↑](#footnote-ref-20206)
70. LXX reads “smooth,” MT reads “burning” [↑](#footnote-ref-31251)
71. Or “a friend” [↑](#footnote-ref-19617)
72. Or “an enemy” [↑](#footnote-ref-15258)
73. Referring to “self-counsel” [↑](#footnote-ref-15476)
74. Lit. “hide her...hide the wind” [↑](#footnote-ref-23853)
75. Or “tends” [↑](#footnote-ref-27848)
76. Or “cares for” [↑](#footnote-ref-31775)
77. Lit. “rejoice” [↑](#footnote-ref-11544)
78. Or “helpless” [↑](#footnote-ref-26996)
79. Lit. “a life” [↑](#footnote-ref-17337)
80. Lit. “to the pit” [↑](#footnote-ref-27338)
81. Lit. “man with an evil eye” [↑](#footnote-ref-12281)
82. Or “and they [the wicked] seek the life of the upright” [↑](#footnote-ref-31833)
83. Or “instruction” [↑](#footnote-ref-10007)
84. Or “honor” [↑](#footnote-ref-32561)
85. Lit. “hears an oath,” but the Hebrew can also mean “curse.” [↑](#footnote-ref-26504)
86. Lit. “set on high,” and can also mean “exalted.” [↑](#footnote-ref-30081)
87. Or “has contempt for” [↑](#footnote-ref-32365)
88. Or “A woman of virtue/strength” [↑](#footnote-ref-16760)
89. Or “portions” of food [↑](#footnote-ref-13698)