English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Proverbs

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## Proverbs

Chapter 1

1The proverbs of Solomon son of David, the king of Israel.

2These proverbs are to teach wisdom and instruction,to teach words of insight,3that you may receive instruction in prudent behavior,righteousness, justice, and uprightness.4These proverbs are also to give wisdom to the naive,and to give knowledge and discretion to the youth.5Let wise people listen and increase their learning,and let discerning people get wise counsel,6to understand proverbs, parables,and words of wise people and their riddles.

7The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge—fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8My son, hear the instruction of your fatherand do not abandon the rules of your mother;9they will be a graceful wreath for your headand pendants hanging from your neck.

10My son, if sinners try to entice you into their sin,do not go with them.11If they say, "Come with us,let us lie in wait for blood,let us hide and attack innocent people for no reason;12let us swallow them up alive, like Sheol takes away those who are healthy,and make them like those who go down into the pit;13we will find all kinds of valuable things;we will fill our houses with plunder;14throw in your lot with us,and we will all have one purse together"—15my son, do not walk down that path with them;do not let your foot touch where they walk;16their feet run to eviland they hurry to shed blood.17For it is useless to spread the netin the sight of any bird.18These men lie in wait for their own blood—they set an ambush for their own lives.19So are the ways of everyone who gains profit by violence;unjust gain takes away the lives of those who hold on to it.

20Wisdom cries aloud in the street,she raises her voice in the open places;21at the head of the noisy streets she cries out,at the entrance of the city gates she speaks her sayings,

22"How long, you naive people, will you love being naive?How long, you mockers, will you delight in mockery,and how long, you fools, will you hate knowledge?23Turn at my correction;I will pour out my spirit to you;I will make my words known to you.24I have called, and you have refused to listen;I reached out with my hand, but there was no one who paid attention.25But you have ignored all my instructionand paid no attention to my correction.26I will laugh at your calamity,I will mock you when the terror comes—27when your fearful dread comes like a stormand disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,when distress and anguish come upon you.

28Then they will call upon me, and I will not answer;they will diligently seek me, but they will not find me.29Because they hate knowledgeand did not choose the fear of Yahweh,30they would not follow my instruction,and they despised all my correction.31They will eat the fruit of their ways,and with the fruit of their schemes they will be filled.32For the naive are killed when they turn away,and the indifference of fools will destroy them.33But whoever listens to me will dwell in safetyand will rest secure with no fear of disaster."

Chapter 2
1My son, if you receive my wordsand treasure up my commandments with you,2make your ears pay attention to wisdomand incline your heart to understanding.3If you cry out for discernmentand raise your voice for understanding,4if you seek it like you would seek silverand search for understanding as you would seek hidden treasures,5then you will understand the fear of Yahwehand you will find the knowledge of God.6For Yahweh gives wisdom;from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.7He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;he is a shield for those who walk in integrity;8he guards the paths of justiceand he will preserve the way of his faithful ones.

9Then you will understand righteousness, justice, and equity,and every good path.10For wisdom will come into your heart,and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.11Discretion will watch over you;understanding will guard you.

12They will rescue you from the way of evil,from those who speak perverse things,13who abandon the paths of uprightnessand walk in the ways of darkness.14They rejoice when they do eviland delight in the perversities of evil.15They follow crooked paths,and using deception they hide their tracks.

16Wisdom and discretion will save you from an adulteress,from an immoral woman and her flattering words.17She abandons the companion of her youthand forgets the covenant of her God.18For her house sinks down to death,and her tracks will lead you to those in the grave.19All who go to her will not return againand they will not reach the paths of life.

20So you will walk in the way of good peopleand follow the paths of righteous people.21For the upright will make a home in the land,and those with integrity will remain in it.22But the wicked will be cut off from the land,and the faithless will be cut off from it.

Chapter 3
1My son, do not forget my teaching,and keep my commandments in your heart,2for the length of your days and years of your life,they will add peace to you.

3Do not let steadfast love and faithfulness ever leave you;tie them together about your neck;write them on the tablet of your heart.4Then you will find favor and a good reputationin the sight of God and man.

5Trust in Yahweh with all your heartand do not lean on your own understanding;6in all your ways acknowledge himand he will make your paths straight.

7Do not be wise in your own eyes;fear Yahweh and turn away from evil.8It will be healing to your fleshand refreshment for your bones.

9Honor Yahweh with your wealthand with the firstfruits of all your produce,10and your storehouses will be filled upand your vats will be bursting, full of new wine.

11My son, do not despise Yahweh's instructionand do not hate his rebuke,12for Yahweh disciplines those he loves,as a father deals with a son who pleases him.

13The one who finds wisdom is blessed;he also gets understanding.14What you gain from wisdom is better than what silver will give in returnand its profit is better than gold.15Wisdom is more precious than jewelsand nothing you desire can compare to her.16She has the length of her days in her right hand;in her left hand are riches and honor.17Her ways are ways of pleasantnessand all her paths are peace.18She is a tree of life to those who take hold of it;those who hold on to it are happy.

19By wisdom Yahweh founded the earth;by understanding he established the heavens.20By his knowledge the depths broke openand the clouds dropped their dew.

21My son, do not let these depart from your eyes:guard sound wisdom and discretion.22They will be life to your souland an adornment of favor to wear around your neck.23Then you will walk on your way in safetyand your foot will not stumble;24when you lie down, you will not be afraid;when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.25Do not be afraid of sudden terroror devastation caused by the wicked, when it comes,26for Yahweh will be on your sideand will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.

27Do not withhold good from those who deserve it,when it is in your power to act.28Do not say to your neighbor,"Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give it,"when you have the money with you.

29Do not make a plan to harm your neighbor—the one who dwells in safety with you.30Do not argue with a person without a reason,when he has done nothing to harm you.

31Do not envy a violent personor choose any of his ways.32For the devious person is an abomination to Yahweh,but he brings the upright person into his confidence.

33The curse of Yahweh is on the house of the wicked person,but he blesses the home of righteous people.34He mocks mockers,but he gives his favor to humble people.35Wise people inherit honor,but fools will be lifted up in their shame.

Chapter 4
1Listen, sons, to a father's instruction,and pay attention so you will know what understanding is.2I am giving you good instructions;do not abandon my teaching.3When I was a son of my father,the tender and only child of my mother,4he taught me and said to me,"Let your heart hold fast to my words;keep my commands and live.5Acquire wisdom and understanding;do not forget and do not reject the words of my mouth;6do not abandon wisdom and she will watch over you;love her and she will keep you safe.7Wisdom is the most important thing, so acquire wisdomand spend all you own so you can get understanding.8Cherish wisdom and she will exalt you;she will honor you when you embrace her.9She will put a wreath of honor on your head;she will give you a beautiful crown."

10Listen, my son, and receive my words,and you will have many years in your life.11I am teaching you in the way of wisdom;I am leading you in upright paths.12When you walk, no one will stand in your wayand if you run, you will not stumble.13Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;guard it, for it is your life.14Do not follow the path of the wickedand do not go along the way of those who do evil.15Avoid it, do not go on it;turn away from it and go another way.16For they cannot sleep until they do eviland they are robbed of sleep until they cause someone to stumble.17For they devour the bread of wickednessand drink the wine of violence.

18But the path of righteous people is like the first light that grows brighter;it shines more and more until the fullness of the day comes.19The way of the wicked is like darkness—they do not know what it is they stumble over.

20My son, pay attention to my words;incline your ear to my sayings.21Do not let them turn away from your eyes;keep them in your heart.22For my words are life to those who find themand health to their whole body.23Keep your heart safe and guard it with all diligence,for from it flow the springs of life.24Put crooked speech away from youand put corrupt talk far from you.25Let your eyes look straight aheadand fix your gaze straight before you.26Make a level path for your foot;then all your ways will be established.27Do not turn aside to the right or to the left;turn your foot away from evil.

Chapter 5
1My son, pay attention to my wisdom;incline your ears to my understanding,2so you may learn about discretionand your lips may protect knowledge.3For the lips of an adulteress drip with honeyand her mouth is smoother than oil,4but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood,cutting like a sharp sword.5Her feet go down to death;her steps go all the way to Sheol.6She gives no thought to the path of life.Her footsteps wander; she does not know where she is going.

7Now, my sons, listen to me;do not turn away from listening to the words of my mouth.8Keep your path far away from herand do not come near the door of her house.9In that way you will not give away your honor to othersor years of your life to a cruel person;10strangers will not feast on your strength;your labor will not go into the house of foreigners.11At the end of your life you will groanwhen your flesh and your body waste away.12You will say, "How I hated instructionand my heart despised correction!13I would not listen to the voice of my teachersor incline my ear to my instructors.14I was almost completely ruinedin the midst of the assembly,among the gathering of the people."

15Drink water from your own cisternand drink running water from your own well.16Should your springs be dispersed everywhereand your streams of water flow in the public squares?17Let them be for yourself aloneand not for strangers with you.18May your fountain be blessedand may you rejoice in the wife of your youth,19for she is a loving deer and a graceful doe.Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;may you be continually intoxicated by her love.20For why should you, my son, be captivated by an adulteress?Why should you embrace the bosom of an immoral woman?

21Yahweh sees everything a person doesand watches all the paths he takes.22A wicked person will be seized by his own iniquities;the cords of his sin will hold him tight.23He will die because he lacks instruction;he is led astray by his great foolishness.

Chapter 6
1My son, if you set aside your money as a guarantee for your neighbor's loan,if you gave your promise for a loan of someone you do not know,2then you have laid a trap for yourself by your promiseand you have been caught by the words of your mouth.3When you are caught by your words, my son,do this and save yourself,since you have fallen into the hand of your neighbor;go and humble yourself and make your case before your neighbor.4Give your eyes no sleepand your eyelids no slumber.5Save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6Look at the ant, you lazy person,consider her ways, and be wise.7It has no commander,officer, or ruler,8yet it prepares its food in the summerand during the harvest it stores up what it will eat.

9How long will you lie down, you lazy person?When will you rise from your sleep?10"A little sleep, a little slumber,a little folding of the hands to rest"—11and your poverty will come like a robberand your needs like an armed soldier.

12A worthless person—a wicked man—lives by the crookedness of his speech,13winking his eyes, making signals with his feetand pointing with his fingers.14He plots evil with perversity in his heart;he always stirs up strife.15Therefore his disaster will overtake him in an instant;in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

16There are six things that Yahweh hates,seven that are an abomination to him:17the eyes of a proud person, a tongue that lies,hands that shed the blood of innocent people,18a heart that invents wicked schemes,feet that quickly run to do evil,19a witness who breathes out liesand one who sows discord among brothers.

20My son, obey the command of your fatherand do not abandon the teaching of your mother.21Always bind them on your heart;tie them about your neck.22When you walk, they will guide you;when you lie down, they will watch over you;and when you wake up, they will teach you.23For the commands are a lamp, and the teaching is a light;the corrections that come by instruction are the way of life.24It keeps you from the evil woman,from the smooth tongue of an immoral woman.25Do not lust in your heart after her beautyand do not let her capture you with her eyelashes.26The price of a prostitute is the cost of a loaf of bread,but the wife of another man hunts for a precious life.27Can a man carry a fire against his chestwithout burning his clothes?28Can a man walk on hot coalswithout scorching his feet?29So is the man who goes to his neighbor's wife;the one who touches her will not go unpunished.

30People do not despise a thief if he stealsto satisfy his need when he is hungry.31Yet if he is caught, he will pay back seven times what he stole;he must give up everything of value in his house.32The one who commits adultery lacks sense;the one who does it destroys himself.33Wounds and shame are what he deservesand his disgrace will not be blotted out.34For jealousy makes a man furious;he will show no mercy on the day of vengeance.35He will accept no ransomand he cannot be bought off,though you offer him many gifts.

Chapter 7
1My son, keep my wordsand store up my commands within yourself.2Keep my commands and live,and keep my instruction as the apple of your eye.3Tie them on your fingers;write them on the tablet of your heart.4Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"and call understanding your kinsman,5in order to keep yourself from the adulterous woman,from the immoral woman who makes her words smooth.

6At the window of my houseI was looking out through the lattice.7I looked at the naive people,and I noticed among the young mena youth who had no sense.8That young man passed down the street near her corner,and he went toward her house.9It was twilight, in the evening of the day,at the time of night and darkness.

10There a woman met him,dressed like a prostitute, with a false heart.11She was loud and rebellious;her feet did not stay at home.12Now in the streets, then in the marketplace,and at every corner she waited in ambush.13So she grabbed him and kissed him,with a strong face she said to him,

14"I made my peace offering today,I fulfilled my vows,15so I came out to meet you,to eagerly seek your face,and I have found you.16I have spread coverings on my bed,colored linens from Egypt.17I have sprinkled my bedwith myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.18Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning;let us take great pleasure in acts of love.19For my husband is not at his house;he has gone on a long journey.20He took a bag of money with him;he will come home on the day of the full moon."

21With her great persuasiveness she turned him;with her smooth lips she compelled him.22Suddenly he went after herlike an ox going to slaughter,and like a fool is punished with shackles, [1](#footnote-target-1)23until an arrow pierces through his liver.He was like a bird rushing into a snare.He did not know that it would cost him his life.

24Now, my sons, listen to me;pay attention to the words of my mouth.25May your heart not turn aside onto her paths;do not be led astray onto her paths.26She has caused many people to fall down pierced;those she has killed are numerous.27Her house is on the paths to Sheol;they go down to the dark bedrooms of death.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The Hebrew text is difficult to understand. The ancient Greek translation has: like a dog to the muzzle. Some translations have like a deer to the trap .

Chapter 8
1Does not Wisdom call out?Does not Understanding raise her voice?2On the hilltops beside the road,at the crossroads, Wisdom has taken her stand.3Before the gates at the entrance into the city,at the entrances into the city, she cries out.4"It is to you, people, that I call;my voice is for the sons of mankind.5You who are naive, learn wisdom;and you who are foolish, you must get an understanding mind.6Listen, because I will speak of noble things,and when my lips open I will say upright things.7For my mouth speaks what is trustworthy,and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.8All the words of my mouth are just;in them is nothing twisted or perverse.9All of them are straight for the person who understands;my words are upright for those who find knowledge.10Acquire my instruction rather than silver;acquire knowledge rather than choicest gold.11For Wisdom is better than jewels;no desirable thing is equal to her.

12I, Wisdom, live with Prudence,and I possess knowledge and discretion.13The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil.I hate pride and arrogance, the evil way,and perverted speech. I hate them.14I have good advice and sound wisdom;I am insight; strength belongs to me.15By me kings reign, and rulers make laws that are just.16By me princes rule,nobles, and all who judge with justice.17I love those who love me,and those who diligently seek me, find me.18With me are riches and honor,lasting wealth and righteousness.19My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold;my produce is better than pure silver.20I walk in the path of righteousness,in the midst of the paths of justice.21As a result, I make those who love me inherit wealth;I fill up their treasuries.

22Yahweh created me at the beginning,the first of his deeds long ago.23In ages long ago I was established—from the first,from the beginnings of the earth.24Before there were oceans, I was given birth—before there were springs abounding with water.25Before the mountains were settledand before the hills, I was born.26I was born before Yahweh had made the earth or the fields,or even the first dust in the world.27I was there when he established the heavens,when he drew a circle on the surface of the deep.28I was there when he established the clouds aboveand when the springs in the deep became fixed.29I was there when he made his limit for the sea,so the waters should not spread beyond his command,and when there was set the limit for the foundations of the dry land.30I was beside him, as a skilled craftsman;I was his delight day after day,always rejoicing before him.31I was rejoicing in his whole world,and my delight was in the sons of mankind.

32Now, my sons, listen to me,for those who keep my ways will be blessed.33Listen to my instruction and be wise;do not neglect it.34The one who listens to me will be blessed.He will be watching every day at my doors,waiting beside the posts of my doors.35For whoever finds me, finds life,and he will find the favor of Yahweh.36But he who fails, harms his own life;all who hate me love death."

Chapter 9
1Wisdom has built her own house;she has carved seven pillars out of rocks.2She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,and she has set her table.3She has sent out her maids; she calls outfrom the highest points of the city,4"Who is naive? Let him turn aside here!"To the one lacking good sense she speaks.5"Come, eat my food,and drink the wine I have mixed.6Leave your naive actions and live;walk in the path of understanding.

7Whoever disciplines a mocker receives dishonor,and whoever rebukes a wicked person receives abuse.8Do not reprove a mocker, or he will hate you;reprove a wise man, and he will love you.9Give to a wise person, and he will become even wiser;teach a righteous person, and he will add to his learning.

10The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom,and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.11For through me your days will be multiplied,and years of life will be added to you.12If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,and if you mock, you will carry it by yourself."

13The woman of foolishness is ignorant;she is untaught and knows nothing.14She sits at the door of her house,on a seat in the highest places of the town.15She is calling out to those who pass by in the streets,to people walking straight on their way.16"Let anyone who is naive turn aside here,"she says to those who have no sense.17"Stolen waters are sweet,and bread of secrecy is delicious."18But he does not know that the dead are there,that her invited guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Chapter 10

1The proverbs of Solomon.

A wise son makes his father rejoicebut a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

2Treasures accumulated by wickedness give no profit,but doing what is right delivers from death.

3Yahweh does not let the soul of the righteous person go hungry,but he frustrates the cravings of the wicked.

4A lazy hand causes a person to be poor,but the hand of the diligent person gains riches.

5A wise son gathers a crop in the summer,but it is disgraceful for him to sleep during harvest.

6Blessings from God are upon the head of the righteous person,but the mouth of the wicked covers up violence.

7The righteous person makes those who remember him happy,but the name of the wicked will rot away.

8The wise of heart accept commands,but a talkative fool will come to ruin.

9He who walks in integrity walks in safety,but the one who makes his ways crooked, he will be found out.

10He who winks the eye causes grief,but a talkative fool will come to ruin.

11The mouth of the righteous person is a water spring of life,but the mouth of the wicked covers up violence.

12Hatred stirs up conflicts,but love covers over all transgressions.

13Wisdom is found on the lips of a discerning person,but a rod is for the back of the one who has no sense.

14Wise men store up knowledge,but the mouth of a fool brings destruction near.

15The wealth of a rich man is his fortified city;the poverty of the poor is their destruction.

16The wage of the righteous person leads to life;the income of the wicked leads them to sin.

17There is a path to life for the one who follows discipline,but the one who rejects correction is led astray.

18Whoever conceals hatred has lying lips,and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

19When there are many words, transgression is not lacking,but he who is careful in what he says is wise.

20The tongue of the righteous person is pure silver;there is little value in the heart of the wicked.

21The lips of the righteous person nourish many,but fools die because of their lack of sense.

22The blessings of Yahweh bring wealthand he adds no pain to it.

23Wickedness is a game a fool plays,but wisdom is a pleasure to a man of understanding.

24The fear of the wicked person will overtake him,but the desire of righteous people will be granted.

25The wicked are like the storm that passes by, and they are no more,but the righteous person is a foundation that lasts forever.

26Like vinegar on the teeth and smoke in the eyes,so is the lazy person to those who send him.

27The fear of Yahweh prolongs life,but the years of the wicked will be short.

28The hope of righteous people is their joy,but the hope of wicked people will perish.

29The way of Yahweh is a stronghold for those who have integrity,but it is destruction for those who behave wickedly.

30The righteous person will never be overthrown,but the wicked will not remain in the land.

31Out of the mouth of the righteous person comes the fruit of wisdom,but the perverse tongue will be cut out.

32The lips of the righteous person know what gains favor,but the mouth of the wicked, they know what is perverse.

Chapter 11
1False scales are an abomination to Yahweh,but he delights in a precise weight.

2When pride comes, then comes disgrace,but with humility comes wisdom.

3The integrity of the upright guides them,but the crooked ways of the treacherous destroy them.

4Wealth is worthless on the day of wrath,but doing right delivers you from death.

5The right conduct of a blameless person makes his way straight,but the wicked will fall because of their own wickedness.

6The right conduct of the upright keeps them safe,but the treacherous are trapped by their cravings.

7When a wicked man dies, his hope perishesand the hope that was in his strength comes to nothing.

8The righteous person is delivered from troubleand it comes upon the wicked instead.

9With his mouth the godless person destroys his neighbor,but through knowledge righteous people are kept safe.

10When righteous people prosper, a city rejoices;when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.

11Through the blessings of the upright the city is exalted;by the mouth of the wicked the city is thrown down.

12The man who has contempt for his friend has no sense,but a man of understanding keeps quiet.

13Whoever goes around slandering reveals secrets,but the trustworthy in spirit keeps a matter covered.

14Where there is no counsel, a nation falls,but victory comes through many counselors.

15Whoever guarantees a loan for a stranger will surely suffer harm,but the one who hates giving a pledge in that kind of promise is safe.

16A gracious woman gets honor,but violent people grasp for wealth.

17A merciful person benefits himself,but one who is cruel hurts himself.

18The wicked person lies to get his wages,but one who sows what is right reaps the wages of truth.

19An honest person who does what is right will live,but the one who pursues evil will die.

20Those whose hearts are perverse are an abomination to Yahweh,but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

21Be sure of this—the wicked person will not go unpunished,but the descendants of righteous people will be kept safe.

22Like a gold ring in a pig's noseis a beautiful woman without discretion.

23The desires of righteous people result in good,but wicked people can only hope for wrath.

24There is one who scatters—he will accumulate even more;another withholds what is just—he comes to poverty.

25The generous person will prosperand the one who gives water to others will have water for himself.

26People curse the man who refuses to sell grain,but good gifts crown the head of him who sells it.

27The one who diligently seeks good is also seeking favor,but the one who searches for evil will find it.

28Those who trust in their riches will fall,but like the leaf, righteous people will flourish.

29The one who brings trouble on his own household will inherit the windand the fool will become a servant to the wise of heart.

30The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,but violence takes away lives.

31Behold! The righteous person is rewarded on earth;how much more the wicked and the sinner!

Chapter 12
1Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,but the one who hates correction is stupid.

2Yahweh gives favor to a good man,but he condemns a man who makes evil plans.

3A person cannot be established by wickedness,but righteous people cannot be uprooted.

4A worthy wife is her husband's crown,but she who brings shame is like a disease that rots his bones.

5The plans of the righteous are just,but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.

6The words of wicked people are an ambush waiting for bloodshed,but the words of the upright keep them safe.

7Wicked people are overthrown and they are gone,but the house of the righteous person will stand.

8A man is praised for prudent lips,but the perverse heart is despised.

9Better the person of low position who has a servantthan the one who honors himself but has no food.

10The righteous person cares about the needs of his animal,but even the compassion of the wicked is cruel.

11The one who works his land will have plenty of food,but whoever chases after worthless projects has no sense.

12The evil person desires the plunder of the wicked,but the righteous root endures.

13An evil person is trapped by the transgression of his lips,but the righteous person escapes from trouble.

14From the fruit of his words a person is filled with good things,just as the work of his hands rewards him.

15The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,but a wise man listens to advice.

16A fool shows his anger at once,but one who ignores an insult is prudent.

17The one who speaks the truth says what is right,but a false witness, deceit.

18The words of one who speaks rashly are like the thrusts of a sword,but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

19Truthful lips last forever,but a lying tongue is only for a moment.

20There is deceit in the hearts of those who plan to do evil,but joy comes to the advisors of peace.

21No ill comes upon the righteous,but the wicked are filled with distress.

22Lying lips are an abomination to Yahweh,but those who live faithfully are his delight.

23A prudent man conceals his knowledge,but the heart of fools shouts out folly.

24The hand of the diligent will rule,but lazy people will be put to forced labor.

25Anxiety in the heart of a person weighs him down,but a good word makes him glad.

26The righteous person is a guide for his friend,but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

27Lazy people would not roast their own game,but the diligent man will obtain precious wealth.

28Those who walk in the right way find lifeand in its path there is no death.

Chapter 13
1A wise son hears his father's instruction,but a mocker will not listen to rebuke.

2From the fruit of his mouth a person enjoys good things,but the appetite of the treacherous is for violence.

3The one who guards his mouth protects his life,but the one who opens wide his lips will ruin himself.

4The appetite of the lazy person craves but gets nothing,but the appetite of the diligent person will be richly satisfied.

5The righteous person hates deceptive words,but a wicked person makes himself repugnant, and he does what is shameful.

6Righteousness protects those who are faultless in their path,but wickedness ruins those who commit sin.

7There is someone who enriches himself, but has nothing at all,and there is someone who gives everything away, yet has much wealth.

8The ransom of a rich man's life is his wealth,but a poor person does not hear a threat.

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

10Pride only breeds conflict,but for those who listen to good advice there is wisdom.

11Wealth dwindles away when there is too much vanity,but the one who makes money by working with his handwill make his money grow.

12When hope is postponed, it breaks the heart,but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

13Whoever despises instruction brings destruction on himself,but he who respects the commandment will be rewarded.

14The teaching of a wise person is a fountain of life,turning you away from the snares of death.

15Good insight wins favor,but the way of the treacherous is disaster.

[1](#footnote-target-1)16Prudent people act out of knowledge in every decision,but a fool parades his folly.

17A wicked messenger falls into trouble,but a faithful envoy brings healing.

18The one who ignores instruction will have poverty and shame,but honor will come to him who learns from correction.

19A longing realized is sweet to the appetite,but turning away from evil is an abomination to fools.

20Walk with wise people and you will be wise,but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

21Disaster runs after sinners,but righteous people are rewarded with good.

22A good person leaves an inheritance for his grandchildren,but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous person.

23An unplowed field owned by the poor could produce much food,but it is swept away by injustice.

24The one who does not use his rod hates his son,but one who loves his son is careful to instruct him.

25The righteous person eats until he satisfies his appetite,but the stomach of the wicked is always hungry.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The ULB is following the ancient Greek translation because the Hebrew is difficult to understand. The Hebrew has: the way of the treacherous is unending.

Chapter 14
1The wise woman builds her house,but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.

2The one who walks uprightly fears Yahweh,but the one who is dishonest in his ways despises him.

3From the mouth of a fool comes a rod for his back,but the lips of the wise will preserve them.

4Where there are no cattle, the feeding trough is clean,but an abundant crop comes from the strength of an ox.

5A faithful witness does not lie,but a false witness breathes out lies.

6A mocker seeks wisdom and there is none,but knowledge comes easily to the one who is discerning.

7Walk away from a foolish person,for you will not find knowledge on his lips.

8The wisdom of the prudent person is to understand his own way,but the folly of fools is deception.

9Fools mock when the guilt offering is sacrificed,but among the upright favor is shared.

10The heart knows its own bitternessand no stranger shares its joy.

11The house of wicked people will be destroyed,but the tent of the upright will flourish.

12There is a way that seems right to a man,but its end only leads to death.

13A heart can laugh but still be in painand joy may end up being grief.

14The faithless in heart will get what his ways deserve,but a good person will get what is his.

15The one who is naive believes everything,but the prudent man thinks about his steps.

16A wise man fears and turns away from evil,but the fool confidently dismisses a warning.

17One who is quick to become angry does foolish things,and a person who makes evil schemes is hated.

18The naive inherit foolishness,but prudent people are crowned with knowledge.

19Evil people will bow down before those who are goodand those who are wicked will bow down at the gates of the righteous person.

20The poor person is hated even by his own companions,but the rich people have many friends.

21The one who shows contempt for his neighbor is sinning,but the one who shows favor to the poor is blessed.

22Do not those who plot evil go astray?But those who plan to do good will receive steadfast love and faithfulness.

23With all hard work comes a profit,but when there is only talk, it leads to poverty.

24The crown of wise people is their wealth,but the folly of fools brings them only more folly.

25A truthful witness saves lives,but he who breathes out lies brings betrayal.

26In the fear of Yahweh is strong confidence;it will be a refuge for his children.

27The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life,so that a person may turn away from the snares of death.

28The glory of a king is found in the great number of his people,but without people the prince is ruined.

29A patient person has great understanding,but the quick-tempered person exalts folly.

30A tranquil heart is life for the body,but envy rots the bones.

31The one who oppresses the poor insults his Maker,but the one who shows favor to the needy honors him.

32The wicked person is brought down by his evil actions,but the righteous person has a refuge even in death.

33Wisdom rests in the heart of the discerning,but even among fools she lets herself be known.

34Doing what is right exalts a nation,but sin is a disgrace to any people.

35The favor of the king is with the servant who acts prudently,but his anger is for the one who acts shamefully.

Chapter 15
1A gentle answer turns away wrath,but a harsh word stirs up anger.

2The tongue of wise people compliments knowledge,but the mouth of fools pours out folly.

3The eyes of Yahweh are everywhere,keeping watch over the evil and the good.

4A healing tongue is a tree of life,but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

5A fool has contempt for his father's instruction,but he who learns from correction is prudent.

6In the house of the righteous person there is great treasure,but the earnings of the wicked person give him trouble.

7The lips of wise people scatter knowledge about,but not so the hearts of fools.

8The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh,but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

9The way of wicked people is an abomination to Yahweh,but he loves the one who pursues what is right.

10Harsh discipline awaits anyone who abandons the wayand he who hates correction will die.

11Sheol and destruction are open before Yahweh;how much more the hearts of the sons of mankind?

12The mocker does not love the one who corrects him;he will not go to the wise.

13A joyful heart makes the face cheerful,but by an injured heart the spirit is broken.

14The heart of the discerning seeks knowledge,but the mouth of fools feeds on folly.

15All the days of the afflicted are miserable,but a cheerful heart has an unending feast.

16Better is little with the fear of Yahwehthan great treasure with tumult.

17Better is a meal with vegetables where there is lovethan a fattened calf served with hatred.

18An angry man stirs up strife,but a person who is slow to anger quiets a quarrel.

19The path of the lazy person is like a place with a hedge of thorns,but the path of the upright is a built-up highway.

20A wise son brings joy to his father,but a foolish person despises his mother.

21Folly delights a person who lacks sense,but the one who has understanding walks a straight path.

22Plans go wrong where there is no advice,but with numerous advisors they succeed.

23A person finds joy when he gives a pertinent reply;how good is a timely word!

24The path of life leads upward for prudent people,that they may turn away from Sheol beneath.

25Yahweh tears down the house of the proud,but he protects the property of the widow.

26The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to Yahweh,but pleasant words are pure.

27The person who profits from unjust gain brings trouble to his family,but the one who hates bribes will live.

28The heart of the righteous person ponders before it answers,but the mouth of wicked people pours out all its evil.

29Yahweh is far away from wicked people,but he hears the prayer of righteous people.

30The light of the eyes brings joy to the heartand good news is health to the body.

31The ear that listens to life-giving rebukewill dwell among wise people.

32The one who rejects discipline despises himself,but he who listens to correction gains understanding.

33The fear of Yahweh instructs in wisdom,and humility comes before honor.

Chapter 16
1The plans of the heart belong to a person,but the answer from his tongue comes from Yahweh.

2All of a person's ways are pure in his own eyes,but Yahweh weighs the spirits.

3Commit your works to Yahwehand your plans will succeed.

4Yahweh has made everything for its purpose,even the wicked for the day of trouble.

5Every exalted heart is an abomination to Yahweh,but be sure of this, they will not go unpunished.

6By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned forand by the fear of Yahweh people turn away from evil.

7When a person's ways are pleasing to Yahweh,he makes even that person's enemies to be at peace with him.

8Better is a little with what is right,than a large income with injustice.

9In his heart a person plans out his way,but Yahweh directs his steps.

10Insightful decisions are on the lips of a king;his mouth should not betray justice.

11Honest scales come from Yahweh;all the weights in the bag are his work.

12Doing evil is an abomination to kings,for a throne is established by doing what is right.13Righteous lips are the delight of the king,and he loves the person who speaks upright words.

14A king's wrath is a messenger of deathbut a wise man will try to calm his anger.

15In the light of a king's face is lifeand his favor is like a cloud that brings a spring rain.

16How much better it is to get wisdom than gold.To get understanding should be chosen more than silver.

17The highway of the upright turns away from evil;the one who guards his way preserves his life.

18Pride comes before destructionand a haughty spirit before a downfall.

19It is better to be of humble spirit among poor peoplethan to divide the plunder with proud people.

20Whoever contemplates what they are taught will find what is good,and those who trust in Yahweh will be blessed.

21The one who is wise in heart is called discerningand sweetness of speech improves the ability to teach.

22Understanding is a fountain of life to the one who has it,but the instruction of fools is their foolishness.

23The heart of a wise person gives insight to his mouthand adds persuasiveness to his lips.

24Pleasant words are a honeycomb—sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

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

26The laborer's appetite works for him;his hunger urges him on.

27A worthless person digs up mischiefand his speech is like a scorching fire.

28A perverse person stirs up conflictand a gossip separates close friends.

29A man of violence lies to his neighborand leads him down a path that is not good.

30The one who winks the eye is plotting perverse things;those who purse the lips will bring evil to pass.

31Gray hair is a crown of glory;it is gained by living the right way.

32It is better to be slow to anger than to be a warriorand one who rules his spirit is stronger than one who conquers a city.

33The lots are cast into the lap,but the decision is from Yahweh.

Chapter 17
1It is better to have quiet with a dry morsel of breadthan a house full of feasting with strife.

2A wise servant will rule over a son who acts shamefullyand will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

3The crucible is for silver and the furnace is for gold,but Yahweh tests hearts.

4The evildoer pays attention to wicked lips;a liar gives ear to a destructive tongue.

5Whoever mocks the poor insults his Makerand the one who rejoices at misfortune will not go unpunished.

6Grandchildren are the crown of the agedand parents bring honor to their children.

7Eloquent speech is not suitable for a fool;much less are lying lips suitable for a prince.

8A bribe is like a magic stone to the one who gives it;wherever he turns, he succeeds.

9Whoever overlooks an offense seeks love,but the one who repeats a matter alienates close friends.

10A rebuke goes deeper into a person who has understandingthan a hundred blows go into a fool.

11An evil person only seeks rebellion,so a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

12It is better to meet a bear robbed of her cubsthan to meet a fool in his foolishness.

13When someone returns evil for good,evil will never leave his house.

14The beginning of conflict is like one who releases water everywhere,so walk away from the dispute before it has broken out.

15The person who acquits the wicked person and the person who condemns the righteous person—both are an abomination to Yahweh.

16Why should a fool pay money to learn about wisdomwhen he has no sense?

17A friend is loving at all timesand a brother is born for times of trouble.

18A man having no sense makes binding promisesand becomes responsible for his neighbor's debts.

19Whoever loves conflict loves sin;whoever raises his door seeks destruction.

20A person who has a crooked heart finds nothing that is good;the one who has a perverse tongue falls into calamity.

21Whoever is the parent of a fool brings grief to himself;and the father of a fool has no joy.

22A joyful heart is good medicine,but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

23A wicked man accepts a secret bribeto pervert the ways of justice.

24The one who has understanding sets his face toward wisdom,but the eyes of a fool are set on the ends of the earth.

25A foolish son is a grief to his fatherand bitterness to the woman who bore him.

26Also, it is never good to punish the righteous;neither is it good to flog the noble for their integrity.

27One who has knowledge uses few wordsand he who is cool of spirit has understanding.

28Even a fool is thought to be wise if he keeps silent;when he keeps his mouth shut, he is considered to be intelligent.

Chapter 18
1One who isolates himself seeks his own desire,and he quarrels with all sound wisdom.

2A fool finds no pleasure in understanding,but only in revealing what is in his own heart.

3When a wicked person comes, contempt comes with him—along with shame and disgrace.

4The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;the fountain of wisdom is a flowing stream.

5It is not good to be partial to the wicked person,nor to deny justice to the righteous person.

6A fool's lips bring him conflictand his mouth invites a beating.

7A fool's mouth is his ruinand he ensnares himself with his lips.

8The words of a gossip are like delicious morselsand they go down into the inner parts of the body.

9Also, one who is slack in his workis a brother to the one who destroys the most.

10The name of Yahweh is a strong tower;the righteous person runs into it and is safe.

11The wealth of the rich is his fortified cityand in his imagination it is like a high wall.

12Before his downfall a person's heart is proud,but humility comes before honor.

13One who answers before listening—it is his folly and shame.

14A person's spirit will endure sickness,but who can bear a broken spirit?

15The heart of the intelligent acquires knowledgeand the hearing of the wise seeks it out.

16A man's gift may open the wayand bring him before great men.

17The first to plead his case seems justuntil his opponent comes and examines him.

18Casting the lot settles disputesand separates strong opponents.

19An offended brother is harder to be won than a strong city,and quarrels are like the bars of a castle.

20From the fruit of his mouth one's stomach is filled;with the harvest of his lips he is satisfied.

21Death and life are controlled by the tongue,and those who love the tongue will eat its fruit.

22He who finds a wife finds a good thingand receives favor from Yahweh.

23A poor person pleads for mercy,but a rich person answers harshly.

24The one who claims many friends is brought to ruin by them,but there is a friend who comes closer than a brother.

Chapter 19
1Better is a poor person who walks in his integritythan one who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

2Also, it is not good to have desire without knowledgeand the one who runs too fast misses the path.

3A person's folly ruins his lifeand his heart rages against Yahweh.

4Wealth adds many friends,but a poor person is separated from his friends.

5A false witness will not go unpunishedand he who breathes out lies will not escape.

6Many will ask for a favor from a generous personand everyone is a friend of the one who gives gifts.

7All the brothers of a poor man hate him;how much more do his friends who go far away from him!He pursues them with words, but they are gone.

8He who gets wisdom loves his own life;he who keeps understanding will find what is good.

9A false witness will not go unpunished,but the one who breathes out lies will perish.

10It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury—much less for a slave to rule over princes.

11Discretion makes a person slow to angerand it is his glory to overlook an offense.

12The wrath of the king is like the roaring of a young lion,but his favor is like dew on the grass.

13A foolish son is ruin to his fatherand a quarreling wife is a constant dripping of water.

14A house and wealth are inherited from parents,but a prudent wife is from Yahweh.

15Laziness throws a person into a deep sleep,but the one not willing to work will go hungry.

16The one who obeys the command guards his life,but the one who despises his ways will die.

17Whoever is gracious to the poor lends to Yahwehand he will repay him for what he has done.

18Discipline your son while there is hopeand do not set your desire on putting him to death.

19A person with great anger must bear the penalty;if you rescue him, you will have to do it a second time.

20Listen to advice and accept instruction,so you may become wise by the end of your life.

21Many are the plans in a person's heart,but it is the purpose of Yahweh that will stand.

22Loyalty is what a person desiresand a poor person is better than a liar.

23Honor for Yahweh leads people to life;anyone who has it will rest satisfied and not afflicted by harm.

24The lazy person buries his hand in the dish;he will not even bring it back up to his mouth.

25Strike a mocker, and the naive person will become prudent;discipline one who is discerning, and he will gain knowledge.

26The one who robs his father and drives his mother awayis a son who brings shame and disgrace.

27If you cease to hear instruction, my son,you will stray from the words of knowledge.

28A corrupt witness mocks justiceand the mouth of the wicked swallows iniquity.

29Judgments are ready for mockersand flogging for the backs of fools.

Chapter 20
1Wine is a mocker and strong drink is a brawler;whoever is led astray by drink is not wise.

2The fear of a king is like the fear of a young lion that is roaring;the one who makes him angry forfeits his life.

3It is an honor for anyone to avoid conflict,but every fool jumps into an argument.

4The lazy person does not plow in autumn;he seeks a crop at harvest time but will have nothing.

5The purpose in a human heart is like deep water,but someone with understanding will draw it out.

6Many a person proclaims he is loyal,but who can find one who is faithful?

7The righteous person walks in his integrity,and his sons who follow after him will be blessed.

8A king who sits on the throne performing the duties of a judgeis winnowing with his eyes all the evil that is before him.

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

10Differing weights and unequal measures—both are abominations to Yahweh.

11Even a youth is known by his actions,by whether his conduct is pure and upright.

12Ears that hear and eyes that see—Yahweh made them both.

13Do not love sleep or you will come to poverty;open your eyes and you will have plenty to eat.

14"Bad! Bad!" says the buyer,but when he goes away he boasts.

15There is gold and an abundance of costly stones,but lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

16Take a garment of one who has put up security for a stranger,and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for an immoral woman.

17Bread gained by deceit tastes sweet,but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel.

18Plans are established by adviceand only with wise guidance should you wage war.

19A slanderer reveals secrets,and so you should not associate with people who talk too much.

20If a person curses his father or his mother,his lamp will be put out in the middle of darkness.

21An inheritance gained quickly at the beginningwill not be blessed in the end.

22Do not say, "I will pay you back for this wrong!"Wait for Yahweh and he will rescue you.

23Unequal weights are an abomination to Yahweh,and deceptive scales are not good.

24A person's steps are directed by Yahweh;how then can he understand his way?

25It is a snare for a person to say rashly, "This thing is holy,"and begin to think about what it means only after making his vow.

26A wise king winnows the wickedand he turns a threshing wheel over them.

27The spirit of a person is the lamp of Yahweh,searching all his inmost parts.

28Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king;he makes his throne strong by love.

29The glory of young men is their strengthand the splendor of old people is their gray hair.

30Blows that make a wound cleanse away eviland beatings make the innermost parts clean.

Chapter 21
1The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of Yahweh;he turns it wherever he pleases.

2Every person's way is right in his own eyes,but it is Yahweh who weighs the hearts.

3To do what is right and justis more acceptable to Yahweh than sacrifice.

4Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the lamp of the wicked—are sin.

5The plans of the diligent lead only to prosperity,but everyone who acts too quickly comes only to poverty.

6Acquiring treasures by a lying tongueis a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

7The violence of the wicked will drag them away,for they refuse to do what is just.

8The way of a guilty person is crooked,but the one who is pure does what is right.

9It is better to live on a corner of the roofthan in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

10The appetite of the wicked craves evil;his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

11When the mocker is punished, the naive become wise,and when the wise person is instructed, he lays hold of knowledge.

12The righteous person watches the house of the wicked person;he brings wicked people to disaster.

13The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor,he also will cry out, but he will not be answered.

14A gift in secret appeases angerand a concealed gift appeases strong wrath.

15When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous person,but it brings terror to workers of iniquity.

16The one who wanders from the way of understanding,he will rest in the assembly of the dead.

17Whoever loves pleasure will become poor;the one who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

18A wicked person is ransom for the righteous,and the treacherous person is ransom for the upright.

19It is better to live in the desertthan with a quarreling and angry wife.

20Desirable treasure and oil are kept in the dwelling of the wise,but a foolish person swallows it all up.

21The one who does right and is kind—this person finds life, righteousness, and honor.

22A wise man scales the city of the mighty ones,and he brings down the stronghold in which they trusted.

23Whoever guards his mouth and tonguekeeps himself out of trouble.

24The proud and haughty person—"Mocker" is his name—acts with arrogant pride.

25The desire of the lazy person kills him,for his hands refuse to work.26All day long he craves and craves more,but the righteous person gives and does not hold back.

27The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination;it is even more detestable when he brings it with evil motives.

28A false witness will perish,but the one who listens will speak for all time.

29A wicked man makes his face hard,but the upright is certain about his ways.

[1](#footnote-target-1)30There is no wisdom, there is no understanding, and there is no advicethat can stand against Yahweh.

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

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Some ancient copies of the Hebrew text have but the upright thinks about his way .

Chapter 22
1A good name is to be chosen over great richesand favor is better than silver and gold.

2Rich and poor people have this in common—Yahweh is the maker of all of them.

3The prudent sees trouble and hides himself,but the naive go on and suffer because of it.

4The reward for humility and fear of Yahwehis riches, honor, and life.

5Thorns and snares lie in the path of the perverse;whoever guards his life will keep far from them.

6Teach a child the way he should goand when he is old he will not turn away from that instruction.

7Rich people rule over poor peopleand one who borrows is a slave to the one who lends.

8He who sows injustice will reap troubleand the rod of his fury will fade away.

9The one who has a generous eye will be blessed,for he shares his bread with the poor.

10Drive away the mocker, and out goes strife;disputes and dishonor will cease.

11The one who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious,he will have the king for his friend.

12The eyes of Yahweh keep watch over knowledge,but he overthrows the words of the treacherous.

13The lazy person says, "There is a lion in the street!I will be killed in the open places."

14The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit;Yahweh's anger is stirred up against anyone who falls into it.

15Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child,but the rod of discipline drives it far away.

16The one who oppresses poor people to increase his wealth,or gives to rich people, will come to poverty.

17Incline your ear and listen to the words of the wiseand apply your heart to my knowledge,18for it will be pleasant for you if you keep them within you,if all of them are ready on your lips.19So your trust may be in Yahweh,I teach them to you today—even to you.20Have I not written for you thirty sayingsof instruction and knowledge,21to teach you truth in these trustworthy words,so you may give trustworthy answers to those who sent you?

22Do not rob the poor because he is poor,or crush the needy at the gate,23for Yahweh will plead their case,and he will rob of life those who robbed them.

24Do not make a friend of someone who is ruled by angerand you must not go with one who rages,25or you will learn his waysand entangle yourself in a snare.

26Do not be one who strikes hands in making a pledge,or who puts up security for debts.27If you lack the means to pay,what could stop someone from taking away your bed from under you?

28Do not remove the ancient boundary stonethat your fathers have set.

29Do you see a man skilled at his work? He will stand before kings;he will not stand before common people.

Chapter 23
1When you sit to eat with a ruler,observe carefully what is before you,2and put a knife to your throatif you are a person who likes to eat a lot of food.3Do not crave his delicacies,for it is the food of lies.

4Do not work too hard to gain wealth;be wise enough to know when to stop.5Will you let your eyes light upon it? It will be gone,for it will surely take up wings like an eagleand fly off to the sky.

6Do not eat the food of one with an evil eye—and do not crave his delicacies,7for he is the kind of man who counts the price of the food."Eat and drink!" he says to you,but his heart is not with you.8You will vomit up the little you have eatenand you will have wasted your compliments.

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

10Do not move an ancient boundary stoneor encroach on the fields of orphans,11for their Redeemer is strongand he will plead their case against you.

12Apply your heart to instructionand your ears to words of knowledge.

13Do not withhold instruction from a child,for if you beat him with the rod, he will not die.14It is you who must beat him with the rodand save his soul from Sheol.

15My son, if your heart is wise,then my heart also will be glad;16my kidneys will rejoicewhen your lips speak what is right.

17Do not let your heart envy sinners,but continue in the fear of Yahweh all the day.18Surely there is a futureand your hope will not be cut off.

19Hear—you!—my son, and be wiseand direct your heart in the way.20Do not associate with those who drink much wine,or with gluttonous eaters of meat,21for the drunkard and the glutton become poorand slumber will clothe them with rags.

22Listen to your father who begot youand do not despise your mother when she is old.23Buy the truth, but do not sell it;buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.24The father of the righteous person will greatly rejoice,and he who begets a wise child will be glad in him.25Let your father and your mother be gladand let her who bore you rejoice.

26My son, give me your heartand let your eyes observe my ways.27For a prostitute is a deep pit,and an immoral woman is a narrow well.28She lies in wait like a robberand she increases the number of the treacherous among humanity.

29Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has bloodshot eyes?30Those who linger over wine,those who try the mixed wine.31Do not look at the wine when it is red,when it sparkles in the cupand goes down smoothly.32In the last it bites like a serpentand it stings like an adder.33Your eyes will see strange thingsand your heart will utter perverse things.34You will be as one who sleeps on the high seasor lies down on the top of a mast.35"They hit me," you will say, "but I was not hurt.They beat me, but I did not feel it.When will I wake up? I will seek another drink."

Chapter 24
1Do not be envious of those who are evil,nor desire to associate with them,2because their hearts plot violenceand their lips talk about trouble.

3Through wisdom a house is builtand by understanding it is established.4By knowledge the rooms are filledwith all precious and pleasant riches.

5A warrior of wisdom is strong,and a man of knowledge increases his strength;6for with guidance you can wage your warand with many advisors there is victory.

7Wisdom is too high for a fool;in the gate he does not open his mouth.

8There is one who plans to do evil—people call him a master of schemes.9A foolish plan is sinand a mocker is an abomination to people.

10If you become weak with fear in the day of trouble,then your strength is small.

11Rescue those who are being taken away to deathand hold back those who are staggering to the slaughter.12If you say, "Behold, we knew nothing about this,"does not the one who weighs the heart understand what you are saying?The one who guards your life, does he not know it?Will God not give to each one what he deserves?

13My son, eat honey because it is good,because the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.14Such is wisdom for your soul—if you find it, there will be a futureand your hope will not be cut off.

15Do not lie in wait like the wicked person who attacks the house of the righteous person.Do not destroy his home!16For the righteous person falls down seven times and rises again,but wicked people stumble at calamity.

17Do not rejoice when your enemy fallsand let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,18or Yahweh will see and disapproveand turn away his wrath from him.

19Do not be angry because of evildoers,and do not envy wicked people,20for the evil person has no futureand the lamp of wicked people will go out.

21Fear Yahweh, and fear the king, my son;do not associate with those who rebel against them,22for suddenly their disaster will come,and who knows the extent of the destruction that will come from both of them?

23These also are sayings of the wise.

Partiality in judging a case at law is not good.24Whoever says to the wicked person, "You are a righteous person,"will be cursed by peoples and abhorred by nations.25But those who discipline the wicked will have delightand gifts of goodness will come to them.

26The one who gives a straight answergives a kiss on the lips.

27Prepare your outdoor work,and make everything ready for yourself in the field;after that, build your house.

28Do not bear witness against your neighbor without causeand do not deceive with your lips.29Do not say, "I will do to him what he has done to me;I will pay him back for what he has done."

30I went by the field of a lazy person,past the vineyard of the man having no sense.31Thorns had grown up everywhere,the ground was covered with nettles,and its stone wall was broken down.32Then I saw and considered it;I looked and received instruction.33A little sleep, a little slumber,a little folding of the hands to rest—34and poverty comes marching upon you,and your needs like an armed soldier.

Chapter 25

1These are more proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah.2It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,but the glory of kings to search it out.

3Like the heavens are for height and the earth is for depth,so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

4Remove the dross from the silverand a metal worker can use the silver in his craft.5Even so, remove wicked people from the presence of the kingand his throne will be established by doing what is right.

6Do not honor yourself in the king's presenceand do not stand in the place designated for great people.7It is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.

What you have witnessed,8do not bring quickly to trial.For what will you do in the endwhen your neighbor puts you to shame?

9Argue your case between you and your neighbor himselfand do not reveal another's secret,10or else the one who hears you will bring shame upon youand an evil report about you that cannot be silenced.

11Apples of gold in settings of silveris a word spoken in the right situation.

12A gold ring or jewelry made of fine goldis a wise rebuke to a listening ear.

13Like the cold of snow at harvest timeis a faithful messenger for those who sent him;he brings back the life of his masters.

14Clouds and wind without rainis the one who boasts about a gift he does not give.

15With patience a ruler can be persuadedand a soft tongue can break a bone.

16If you find honey, eat just enough—otherwise, having too much of it, you vomit it up.17Do not set your foot in your neighbor's house too often;he may become tired of you and hate you.

18A man who bears false witness against his neighboris like a club used in war, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

19An unfaithful man in whom you trust in a time of troubleis like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

20Like a person who takes off a garment in cold weather,or like vinegar poured upon carbonate of soda,is the one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

21If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat,and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,22for you will shovel coals of fire on his headand Yahweh will reward you.

23As surely as the north wind brings rain,so a tongue that tells secrets will result in angry faces.

24It is better to live on a corner of the roofthan in a house shared with a quarreling wife.

25Like cold waters to one who is thirsty,so is good news from a far country.

26Like a fouled spring or a ruined fountainis a righteous person tottering before wicked people.

27It is not good to eat too much honey;that is like searching for honor after honor.

[1](#footnote-target-1)28A person without self-controlis like a city breached and without walls.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Many modern translations have different interpretations of this difficult verse.

Chapter 26
1Like snow in summer or rain in harvest,so a fool does not deserve honor.

2As the sparrow flutters and the swallow darts when they fly,so an undeserved curse does not alight.

3A whip is for the horse, a bridle is for the donkeyand a rod is for the back of fools.

4Do not answer a fool according to his folly,or you will become like him.

5Answer a fool and join in on his folly,so he will not become wise in his own eyes.

6Whoever sends a message by the hand of a foolcuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

7Like the legs of a paralytic which hang downis a proverb in the mouth of fools.

8Like tying a stone in a slingis giving honor to a fool.

9Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkardis a proverb in the mouth of fools.

10Like an archer who wounds all those around himis one who hires a fool or hires anyone who passes by.

11As a dog returns to his own vomit,so is a fool who repeats his folly.

12Do you see someone who is wise in his own eyes?There is more hope for a fool than for him.

13The lazy person says, "There is a lion on the road!There is a lion between the open places!"

14As the door turns on its hinges,so is the lazy person upon his bed.

15The lazy person puts his hand into the dishand yet he has no strength to lift it up to his mouth.

16The lazy person is wiser in his own eyesthan seven men who respond with good judgment.

17Like one who takes hold of the ears of a dogis a passerby who becomes angry at a dispute that is not his own.

18Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death19is the one who deceives his neighborand says, "Was I not telling a joke?"

20For lack of wood, the fire goes out;and where there is no gossiper, quarreling ceases.

21As charcoal is to burning coals and wood is to fire,so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.

22The words of a gossip are like delicious morsels;they go down into the inner parts of the body.

23Like the glaze overlaying an earthen vessel,so are burning lips and an evil heart.

24One who hates others disguises his feelings with his lipsand he lays up deceit within himself.25He will speak graciously, but do not believe him,for there are seven abominations in his heart.26Though his hatred is covered with deception,his wickedness will be revealed in the assembly.

27Whoever digs a pit will fall into itand the stone will roll back on the one who pushed it.

28A lying tongue hates the people it crushesand a flattering mouth brings about ruin.

Chapter 27
1Do not boast about tomorrow,for you do not know what a day may bring.

2Let someone else praise you and not your own mouth;a stranger and not your own lips.

3Consider the heaviness of a stone and the weight of sand—the provocation of a fool is heavier than both.

4There is the cruelty of rage and the flood of anger,but who is able to stand before jealousy?

5Better is a rebuke that is clearly seenthan hidden love.

6Faithful are the wounds caused by a friend,but many are the kisses of an enemy.

7A person who has eaten to the full rejects even a honeycomb,but to the hungry person, every bitter thing is sweet.

8Like a bird that wanders from its nestis a man who strays from where he lives.

9Perfume and incense make the heart rejoice,but the sweetness of a friend comes from his sincere counsel.

[1](#footnote-target-1)10Do not abandon your friend and your friend's father,and do not go to your brother's house on the day of your calamity.Better is a neighbor who is nearby than a brother who is far away.

11Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice;then I will give back an answer to the one who mocks me.

12The prudent sees trouble and hides himself,but the naive go on and suffer for it.

13Take a garment of one who has put up security for a stranger,and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for an immoral woman.

14Whoever gives his neighbor a blessing with a loud voice early in the morning,that blessing will be considered to be a curse!

15A quarreling wife is likethe constant dripping on a rainy day;16restraining her is like restraining the wind,or trying to catch oil in your right hand.

17Iron sharpens iron;in the same way, a man sharpens his friend.

18The one who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,and the one who protects his master will be honored.

19Just as water reflects a person's face,so a person's heart reflects the person.

20Just as Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,so a man's eyes are never satisfied.

21A crucible is for silver and a furnace is for gold;and a person is tested when he is praised.

22Even if you crush a fool with the pestle—along with the grain—yet his foolishness will not leave him.

23Be sure you know the condition of your flocksand be concerned about your herds,24for wealth is not forever.Does a crown endure for all generations?25You should know when the hay is gone and the new growth appears,and the time when the grass from the hills is gathered in.26Those lambs will provide your clothingand the goats will provide the price of the field.27There will be goats' milk for your food—the food for your household—and nourishment for your servant girls.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)Many modern translations have different interpretations of this difficult verse.

Chapter 28
1The wicked people run away when no one chases them,but righteous people are as bold as a young lion.

2Because of the transgression of a land, it has many rulers,but with a man of understanding and knowledge, it will last a long time.

3A poor person who oppresses other poor peopleis like a beating rain that leaves no food.

4Those who abandon the law praise wicked people,but those who keep the law fight against them.

5Evil men do not understand justice,but those who seek Yahweh understand everything.

6It is better for a poor person who walks in his integritythan for a rich person who is crooked in his ways.

7He who keeps the law is a son who has understanding,but one who is a companion of gluttons shames his father.

8The one who makes his fortune by usury and interestgathers his wealth for another who will be gracious to the poor.

9If one turns away his ear from hearing the law,even his prayer is an abomination.

10Whoever misleads the upright into an evil waywill fall into his own pit,but the blameless will have a good inheritance.

11The rich person may be wise in his own eyes,but a poor person who has understanding will find him out.

12When the righteous triumph, there is great glory;but when the wicked arise, people are sought out.

13The one who hides his sins will not prosper,but the one who confesses them and abandons them will be shown mercy.

14The one who always lives with reverence is blessed,but whoever hardens his heart will fall into trouble.

15Like a roaring lion or a charging bearis a wicked ruler over poor people.

16The ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor,but the one who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.

17If a man is burdened with a person's blood,he will be a fugitive until deathand no one will help him.

18Whoever walks with integrity will be kept safe,but the one whose way is crooked will suddenly fall.

19The one who works his land will have plenty of food,but whoever follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

20A faithful man will have great blessings,but the one who gets rich quickly will not go unpunished.

21It is not good to show partiality,but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong.

22A stingy man hurries after riches,but he does not know that poverty will come upon him.

23Whoever disciplines someone, afterward will find more favor from himthan from the one who flatters him with his tongue.

24Whoever robs his father and his mother and says, "That is no sin,"he is the companion of the one who destroys.

25A greedy man stirs up conflict,but the one who trusts in Yahweh will prosper.

26One who trusts in his own heart is a fool,but whoever walks in wisdom will be delivered.

27The one who gives to the poor will lack nothing,but whoever closes his eyes to them will receive many curses.

28When the wicked arise, people hide themselves;but when they perish, the righteous increase.

Chapter 29
1A person who has received many rebukes but who stiffens his neckwill be broken in a moment beyond healing.

2When righteous people increase, the people rejoice,but when a wicked person is the ruler, the people sigh.

3Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice,but he who keeps company with prostitutes destroys his wealth.

4The king establishes the land by justice,but the one who demands bribes throws it down.

5A man who flatters his neighboris spreading a net for his feet.

6In the sin of an evil person is a trap,but the righteous person sings and rejoices.

7The righteous person knows the rights of the poor;the wicked person does not understand such knowledge.

8Mockers set a city on fire,but those who are wise turn away wrath.

9When a wise person has a legal dispute with a fool,he rages and laughs, and there will be no rest.

10Men of bloodshed hate the one who is blamelessand seek the life of the upright.

11A fool brings forth all his spirit,but a wise man soothes it back.

12If a ruler pays attention to lies,all his officials will be wicked.

13The poor person and the oppressor are similar,for Yahweh gives light to the eyes of them both.

14If a king judges the poor by the truth,his throne will be established forever.

15The rod and correction give wisdom,but a child freed from discipline puts his mother to shame.

16When wicked people are in power, transgression increases,but righteous people will see the downfall of those wicked people.

17Discipline your son and he will give you rest;he will bring delight into your life.

18Where there is no prophetic vision the people run wild,but the one who keeps the law is blessed.

19A slave will not be corrected by words,for though he understands, there will be no response.

20Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?There is more hope for a fool than for him.

21One who pampers his slave from youth,at the end of it there will be trouble.

22An angry person stirs up strifeand a master of rage commits many sins.

23A person's pride brings him low,but one who has a humble spirit will be given honor.

24One who shares with a thief hates his own life;he hears the curse and says nothing.

25The fear of man makes a snare,but the one who trusts in Yahweh will be protected.

26Many are those who seek the face of the ruler,but from Yahweh is justice for a person.

27An unjust man is an abomination to righteous people,but the one whose way is upright is an abomination to the wicked person.

Chapter 30

1The words of Agur son of Jakeh—the burden.This man declares to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal: [1](#footnote-target-1)2Surely I am more like an animal than any human,and I do not have the understanding of a human being.3I have not learned wisdom,nor do I have knowledge of the Holy One.4Who has gone up to heaven and come down?Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands?Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak?Who has established all the ends of the earth?What is his name, and what is the name of his son? Surely you know!

5Every word of God is tested;he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.6Do not add to his words,or he will discipline you,and you will be proved to be a liar.

7Two things I ask of you;do not withhold them from me before I die:8Put vanity and lies far away from me.Give me neither poverty nor riches,just let me eat the food that is my portion.9For if I have too much, I might deny you and say, "Who is Yahweh?"Or if I become poor, I might steal and profane the name of my God.

10Do not slander a slave before his master,or he will curse you and you will be held guilty.

11There is a generation that curses their fatherand does not bless their mother.12There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes,and yet they are not washed of their filth.13There is a generation whose eyes are raised up,and how high are their eyelids lifted up!14There is a generation whose teeth are swordsand whose jawbones are knives,so they may devour the poor from the earthand the needy from among humanity.

15The leech has two daughters: "Give and give," they cry.

There are three things that are never satisfied,four that never say, "Enough":16Sheol; the barren womb;land that is never satisfied with water;and the fire that never says, "Enough!"

17The eye that mocks a fatherand scorns obedience to a motherwill be pecked out by the ravens of the valleyand will be eaten by the vultures.

18There are three things that are too wonderful for me,four that I do not understand:19the way of an eagle in the sky;the way of a snake on a rock;the way of a ship in the heart of the sea;and the way of a man with a young woman.

20This is the way of an adulteress:she eats and she wipes her mouthand says, "I have not behaved wickedly."

21Under three things the earth trembles,and under four it cannot bear up:22a slave when he becomes king;a fool when he is filled with food;23a hated woman when she marries;and a slave girl when she takes the place of her mistress.

24Four things on earth are smalland yet they are very wise:25the ants are creatures that are not strong,but they prepare their food in the summer;26the rock badgers are not mighty creatures,but they make their homes in the rocks.27Locusts have no king,but all of them march in rank.28As for the lizard, you can hold it in your two hands,yet it is found in kings' palaces.

29There are three things that are stately in their strideand four that are stately in how they walk:30a lion, strongest among wild animals—it does not turn away from anything;31a strutting rooster; a goat;and a king whose soldiers are beside him.

32If you have been foolish, exalting yourself,or if you have been devising evil—put your hand over your mouth.33As churning milk makes butterand as one's nose will produce blood if it is twisted,so deeds done in anger produce conflict.

[1](#footnote-caller-1)The second line of some ancient Greek translations of the ancient Hebrew reads This man declares: I am weary. I am weary and helpless. They appear to have translated the Hebrew names Ithiel and Ucal into the Greek as weary and helpless .

Chapter 31

1The words of King Lemuel—a burden his mother taught him.2What, my son? What is it, son of my womb?What do you want, son of my vows?3Do not give your strength to women,or your ways to those who destroy kings.

4It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine,or for rulers to crave strong drink,5because when they drink they forget what has been decreed,and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.6Give strong drink to a person who is perishingand wine to those in bitter distress.7He will drink and he will forget his povertyand he will not remember his trouble.

8Speak for those who cannot speak,for the causes of all who are perishing.9Speak out and judge by the measure of what is rightand plead the cause of poor and needy people.

10Who can find a capable wife?Her value is far more than jewels.11The heart of her husband trusts in her,and he will never be poor.12She does good things for him and not evilall the days of her life.13She searches for wool and flaxand works with the delight of her hands.14She is like the merchant ships;she brings her food from far away.15She rises while it is nightand gives food to her household,and she distributes portions to her female servants.16She considers a field and buys it;with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.17She girds herself with strengthand makes her arms strong.18She knows what will make a good profit for her;all night long her lamp is not extinguished.19She puts her hands on the spindle,and her hands grasp the twisting thread.20She reaches out with her hand to poor people;she reaches out with her hands to needy people.21She is not afraid of the snow for her household,for all her household are clothed in scarlet.22She makes coverings for her bed,and she wears clothes of fine purple linen.23Her husband is known at the gates,when he sits with the elders of the land.24She makes linen garments and sells them,and she supplies sashes to the merchants.25She is clothed with strength and honor,and she laughs at the future.26She opens her mouth with wisdomand the law of kindness is on her tongue.27She watches over the ways of her householdand does not eat the bread of idleness.28Her children rise up and call her blessed,and her husband praises her, saying,29"Many women have done well,but you surpassed them all."30Elegance is deceptive, beauty is vain,but a woman who fears Yahweh, she will be praised.31Give her the fruit of her handsand let her works praise her in the gates.