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1 Kings 4:29-34

God Gave Solomon Wisdom

29 ¶ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. 30 Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31

For he was wiser than all men — than Ethan ["enduring"] the Ezrahite, and Heman ["faithful"], Chalcol ["sustaining"], and Darda ["pearl of knowledge"], the sons of Mahol ["dancing"]; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32

He spoke three thousand [3,000] proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five [1,005]. 33 Also he spoke of trees,

from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall;

he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. 34

And men of all nations, from all the kings of the lands [earth] who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

The Writings of Solomon

Starting With Some Background
(1 Ki 4:26-34) & Psalms (72 & 127)

Psalm 72

Give The King Your Judgments, O God

72:1 ¶ <A Psalm of Solomon.>

Give the king

Your judgments, O God, and
Your righteousness

to the king's Son.

2 ¶

He will judge

Your people with righteousness, and
Your poor with justice. 3

The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. 4

He will bring justice

to the poor of the people;

He will save the children of the needy, and

will break in pieces the oppressor. 5

They shall fear You

as long as the sun and moon endure,
throughout all generations. 6

[vv6-17: He/Him/His or he/him/his?]

He [God/king? v15b] shall come down like rain upon the grass

before mowing,

like showers

that water the land [earth]. 7

In His days

the righteous shall flourish, and
abundance of peace,

until the moon is no more. 8

He shall have dominion also

from sea to sea, and

from the [Euphrates] River

to the ends of the land [earth]. 9

Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust. 10

The kings

of Tarshish and

of the isles

will bring presents;

The kings of Sheba and Seba

will offer gifts. 11

Yes,

All kings shall fall down before Him;

All nations shall serve Him. 12

For He will deliver

the needy when he cries,

the poor also, and

him who has no helper. 13

He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. 14

He will redeem their life

from oppression and violence;

And precious shall be their blood in His sight. 15

And He shall live;

And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him;

Prayer also will be made

for Him continually,

And daily He shall be praised. 16

There will be an abundance of grain in the land [earth],

in the top of the mountains;

Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city shall flourish

like grass of the land [earth]. 17

His name shall endure

forever;

His name shall continue

as long as the sun.

And men shall be blessed in Him;

All nations shall call Him blessed.

18 ¶

Blessed be

the LORD God, the God of Israel,

Who only does wondrous things! 19

And blessed be

His glorious name forever!

And let the whole land [earth] be filled with His glory.

Amen and Amen. 20

The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended. [Prayers, not songs.]

Psalm 127

Unless The LORD Builds The House

127:1 ¶ <A Song of Ascents.

Of Solomon.>

Unless the LORD builds the house,

They labor in vain who build it;

Unless the LORD guards the city,

The watchman stays awake in vain. 2

It is vain for you

to rise up early,

to sit up late,

to eat the bread of sorrows;

For so He gives His beloved sleep. 3

Behold,

children are a heritage from the LORD,

the fruit of the womb is a reward; 4

like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are

the children of one's youth; 5

happy is the man

who has his quiver full of them;

they

shall not be ashamed, but

shall speak with their enemies

in the gate.

May 27

Proverbs

Proverbs 1

The Proverbs of Solomon

[Genre of literature: wisdom, along with Ecclesiastes, Job, etc.]

Introduction (1:1-7)

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

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

8
Warning: Youthful Neglect of Wisdom
My son, (1:8-19)
Hear the instruction of your father, and
Do not forsake the law of your mother; 9
For they *will be*
a graceful ornament on your head, and
chains about your neck.

10 ¶
My son,
If sinners entice you, do not consent. 11
If they say,
“Come with us,
Let us lie in wait to *shed* blood;

Let us lurk secretly
for the innocent without cause; 12
Let us swallow them alive
like **Sheol**, and whole,
like those who go down to **the Pit**; 13
We shall find
all kinds of **precious possessions**,
We shall fill our houses with **spoil**; 14
Cast in your lot among us,
Let us all have one purse” — 15

My son,
Do not walk in the way with them,
Keep your foot from their path; 16
For
their feet run to evil, and
they make haste to shed blood. 17
Surely,
in vain the net is spread
in the sight of any bird; 18 but
they lie in wait for their *own* blood,
They lurk secretly for their *own* lives. 19
So *are* the ways of everyone
who is greedy for gain;
it takes away the life of its owners.

20 ¶
Wisdom, to the Simple-Minded (1:20-33)
Wisdom calls aloud
outside;
She raises her voice
in the open squares; 21
She cries out
in the chief concourses;
at the openings of the gates in the city
She speaks her words: 22
“How long, you simple ones,
will you love simplicity? For
Scorners delight in their scorning, and
Fools hate knowledge. 23
Turn at my rebuke;
Surely
I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words known to you. 24
Because
I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out my hand and
no one regarded, 25

Because you
disdained all my counsel, and
would have none of my rebuke, 26
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock
when your terror comes, 27
when your terror comes
like a storm,
and your destruction comes
like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish
come upon you. 28
Then they will call on me, but
I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but
they will not find me. 29
because they
hated knowledge and
did not choose
the fear of **the LORD**. 30
They would have none of my counsel
And despised my every rebuke. 31
Therefore they shall
eat the fruit of their own way, and
be filled to the full
with their own fancies. 32
For
the turning away of the simple
will slay them, and
the complacency of fools
will destroy them; 33
But whoever listens to me
will dwell safely, and
will be secure,
without fear of evil.”

Proverbs 2

Exhortation to Observe Parental Instructions and Commands (Ch. 2-7)

2:1 ¶ My son,
If you
receive my words, and
treasure my commands within you, 2
so that you
incline your ear to wisdom, *and*
apply your heart to understanding; 3

Yes,
If you
cry out for discernment, *and*
lift up your voice for understanding, 4
If you
seek her as silver, and
search for her as *for* hidden treasures, 5
Then you will
understand the fear of **the LORD**, and
find the knowledge of God. 6
For **the LORD** gives wisdom;
From **His mouth** come
knowledge and understanding; 7
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8
He guards the paths of justice, and
preserves the way of **His saints**. 9
Then you will understand
righteousness and justice,
equity *and* every good path.
10 ¶
When
wisdom enters your heart, and
knowledge is pleasant to your soul, 11
Discretion will **preserve** you;
Understanding will **keep** you, 12
to deliver you
from the way of evil,
from the man
who speaks perverse things, 13
from those
who leave
the paths of uprightness
to walk in
the ways of darkness; 14
who rejoice in doing evil, *and*
delight in the perversity
of the wicked; 15
whose ways *are* crooked, and
who are devious in their paths; 16
to deliver you
from the immoral woman,
from the seductress
who flatters with her words, 17
who forsakes the companion
of her youth, and

who forgets the covenant
of her God; 18
for her house leads down to death,
and her paths to the dead; 19
none who go to her return,
nor do they regain the paths of life
— 20

So you may
walk in the way of goodness, and
keep *to* the paths of righteousness. 21
For the upright will dwell in the land,
and the blameless will remain in it; 22
but the wicked will be
cut off from the land [earth],
and the unfaithful will be
uprooted from it.

Proverbs 3

3:1 ¶ My son,
Do not forget my law, but
Let your heart keep my commands; 2 for
length of days and long life and peace
they will add to you. 3
Let not mercy and truth forsake you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4
and so find favor and high esteem
in the sight of God and man. 5
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and
Lean not on your own understanding; 6
in all your ways
Acknowledge Him, and
He shall direct your paths.
7 ¶
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and
Depart from evil. 8
It will be
health to your flesh, and
strength to your bones. 9
Honor the LORD
with your possessions, and
with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10

So
your barns will be filled with plenty, and
your vats will overflow with new wine.
[Quoted in He 12:5b-6 (LXX?)]

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

13 ¶
Happy is
the man *who* finds wisdom, and
the man *who* gains understanding; 14
For her proceeds *are* better than
the profits of silver, and
her gain than
fine gold. 15
She *is* more precious than
rubies, and
all the things you may desire
cannot compare with her. 16
Length of days *is*
in her right hand,
in her left hand
riches and honor. 17
Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all
Her paths *are* peace. 18

She *is* a tree of life to those
who take hold of her, and
happy *are* all
who retain her. 19

The LORD
by wisdom
founded the land [earth];
by understanding
He established the heavens; 20
by His knowledge
the depths were broken up, and
clouds drop down the dew.

21 ¶ My son,
Let them not depart from your eyes —
Keep sound wisdom and discretion; 22 so
they will be
life to your soul and
grace to your neck. 23

Then you will walk safely in your way,
And your foot will not stumble. 24
When you lie down,
you will not be afraid;
Yes, you will lie down and
your sleep will be sweet. 25
Do not be afraid
of sudden terror, nor
of trouble from the wicked
when it comes; 26 for
The LORD
will be your confidence, and
will keep your foot from being caught.

27 ¶
Do not withhold good
from those to whom it is due,
when it is in the power of your hand
to do good [so]. 28
Do not say to your neighbor,
“Go, and come back, and
tomorrow I will give it,”
when you have it with you. 29
Do not devise evil against your neighbor,
for he dwells by you for safety’s sake. 30
Do not strive with a man without cause,
if he has done you no harm. 31
Do not envy the oppressor, and
choose none of his ways; 32 for:
The perverse person *is*
an abomination to the LORD, but
His secret counsel *is* with the upright. 33

The curse of the LORD *is* on
the house of the wicked, but
He blesses
the home of the just. 34 Surely
He scorns the scornful, but
gives grace to the humble. 35
[Quoted in Ja 4:6b; 1Pe 5:5c]

The wise
shall inherit
glory, but
shame
shall be the legacy of
fools.

Proverbs 4

4:1 ¶
Hear, my children,
the instruction of a father, and
Give attention to know understanding; 2
for I give you good doctrine:
Do not forsake my law. 3
When I was my father’s son,
tender and [an only child of my mother:]
the only one in the sight of my mother, 4
He also taught me, and said to me:
“Let your heart retain my words;
Keep my commands, and live. 5
Get wisdom!
Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from
the words of my mouth. 6
Do not forsake her, and
she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you. 7
Wisdom *is* the principal thing;
therefore
Get wisdom; and
in all your getting,
Get understanding. 8
Exalt her, and
She will promote you;
She will bring you honor,
when you embrace her. 9
She will place on your head
an ornament of grace;
a crown of glory
She will deliver to you.” 10
Hear, my son, and
Receive my sayings, and
the years of your life will be many. 11
I have taught you in the way of wisdom;
I have led you in right paths. 12
When you walk,
your steps will not be hindered, and
When you run,
you will not stumble. 13
Take firm hold of instruction,
Do not let go;
Keep her, for she *is* your life.

14 ¶

Avoid The Ways Of The Wicked

Do not enter **the path of the wicked**, and
Do not walk in **the way of evil**. 15

Avoid it,

Do not travel on **it**;

Turn away from **it** and pass on. 16

For

they do not sleep

unless they have done evil; and

their sleep is taken away

unless they make *someone* fall. 17

For they

eat the bread of wickedness, and

drink the wine of violence. 18

But

the path of the just *is* like

the shining sun,

that shines ever brighter

unto the perfect day; 19

the way of the wicked *is* like

darkness; they do not know

what makes them stumble.

20 ¶

Incline Your Ear To My Sayings

My son,

Give attention to

my words;

Incline your ear to

my sayings. 21

Do not let

them depart from your eyes;

Keep **them** in the midst of your heart; 22

for **they are**

life to those who find them, and

health to all their flesh. 23

Keep your heart with all diligence,

for out of it *springs* the issues of life. 24

Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and

Put perverse lips far from you. 25

Let your eyes look straight ahead, and

your eyelids look right before you. 26

Ponder **the path** of your feet, and

Let **all your ways** be established. 27

Do not turn to the right or the left;

Remove your foot from evil.

May 28

Proverbs 5

Wisdom, Not The Immoral Woman

5:1 ¶ My son,

Pay attention to my **wisdom**;

Lend your ear to my **understanding**, 2

[two reasons:] that

you may preserve **discretion**, and

your lips may keep **knowledge**. 3

For

the lips of an **immoral woman**

drip honey, and

her mouth *is* smoother than oil; 4

but in the end **she** is

bitter as wormwood,

sharp as a two-edged **sword**; 5

her feet go down to **death**. *[↓ Sheol]*

her steps lay hold of **the grave** *[hell]*. 6

Lest you ponder *her* path of life —

her ways are **unstable**;

you do not know *them*. 7

Therefore,

Hear me now, *my* children, and

Do not depart from

the words of my mouth. 8

Remove your way far from **her**, and

Do not go near the door of **her** house, 9

lest you give

your honor to others, and

your years to the cruel *one*; 10

lest

aliens be filled with your wealth, and

your labors *go* to

the house of a foreigner; 11 and

you mourn at last,

when your flesh and your body

are consumed, 12 and *[you]* say:

“How

I have hated instruction, and

My heart despised correction! 13

I have

not obeyed

the voice of my teachers,

nor inclined my ear to those

who instructed me! 14

**I was on the verge of total ruin,
in the midst of the
assembly and
congregation.”**

15 ¶

Be Enraptured By Your Own Wife

Drink

water from your own cistern, and

running water from your own well; 16

should

your fountains be dispersed abroad,

streams of water in the streets? 17

Let **them** be

only your own, and

not for strangers with you. 18

Let your fountain

be blessed, and

rejoice in *[with]*

the wife of your youth. 19 *As*

a loving deer and

a graceful doe,

let her breasts satisfy you

at all times; and

always

be enraptured with her love; 20

for why should you, my son,

be enraptured by

an immoral woman, and

be embraced in the arms of

a seductress? 21

For

the ways of man *are*

before the eyes of **the LORD**, and

He *[the LORD]* ponders

all his paths; 22

his own iniquities

entrap the wicked *man*, and

he is caught in the cords of

his sin; 23

he shall die

for lack of instruction, and

in the greatness of his folly

he shall go astray.

Proverbs 6

Free Yourself From Surety

6:1 ¶ My son,

If you become

surety for your friend,

If you have shaken hands in

pledge for a stranger, 2

[Then]

you are **snared**

by the words of your mouth;

you are **taken**

by the words of your mouth. 3

So

do this, my son, and

deliver yourself —

for you have come into

the hand of your friend — :

go and humble yourself;

pled with your friend; 4

give

no sleep to your eyes,

nor slumber to your eyelids; 5

deliver yourself

like a gazelle from

the hand of the hunter, and

like a bird from

the hand of the fowler.

6 ¶

Learn From The Ant, Sluggard!

Go to the **ant**, you sluggard!

Consider **her** ways and be wise, 7

which, having no

captain,

overseer or

ruler, 8

provides her supplies

in the summer, *and*

gathers her food

in the harvest. 9

How long will you slumber, O sluggard?

When will you rise from your sleep? 10

A little sleep,

A little slumber,

A little folding of the hands to sleep — 11

so shall

your poverty come on you

like a prowler, and
your need
like an armed man.

12 ¶

A Wicked Man

A worthless person, a wicked man,
walks with a perverse mouth; 13
he winks with his eyes,
he shuffles his feet,
he points with his fingers; 14
perversity *is* in his heart,
he devises evil continually,
he sows discord; 15
therefore
his calamity
shall come
suddenly;
suddenly he
shall be

broken without remedy.

16

Seven Things The LORD Hates

These six things the LORD hates, yes,
Seven are an abomination to Him: 17
a proud look,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood, 18
a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that are swift in running to evil, 19
a false witness who speaks lies, and
one who sows discord among brethren.

20 ¶

Aviod The Adulteress

My son,
Keep your father's command, and
Do not forsake the law of your mother. 21
Bind them continually upon your heart;
Tie them around your neck. 22
When you roam, they will lead you;
When you sleep, they will keep you; and
When you awake, they will speak with you. 23

For

the commandment *is* a lamp, and
the law a light;

[the] reproofs of instruction are
the way of life, 24 to keep you

from the evil woman,
from the flattering tongue of
a seductress. 25

Do not lust after her beauty in your heart,
Nor let her allure you with her eyelids; 26
for by means of a harlot
A man is reduced to
a crust of bread; and
An adulteress will prey upon
his precious life. 27
Can a man take fire to his bosom,
and his clothes not be burned? 28
Can one walk on hot coals,
and his feet not be seared? 29
So *is* he
who goes in to his neighbor's wife;
whoever touches her
shall not be innocent. 30

People do not despise a thief
if he steals to satisfy himself
when he is starving; 31
yet when he is found,
he must restore sevenfold;
he may have to give up
all the substance of his house. 32

Whoever commits adultery with a woman
lacks understanding;
He who does so
destroys his own soul: 33
wounds and dishonor he will get, and
his reproach will not be wiped away; 34
for jealousy *is* a husband's fury;
therefore
he will not spare
in the day of vengeance; 35
he will accept no recompense, nor
will
he be appeased
though you give many gifts.

Proverbs 7

Keep My Words to Aviod Seduction

7:1 ¶ My son,
Keep my words, and
Treasure my commands within you. 2

Keep

my commands and live, and
my law as the apple of your eye. 3

Bind them on your fingers;
Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4
Say to wisdom,

“You are my sister”, and

Call understanding your nearest kin, 5
[Reason:] that they may keep you
from the immoral woman,
from the seductress

who flatters with her words;

6 ¶

for at the window of my house
I looked through my lattice, 7 and saw
among the simple,
I perceived among the youths,
a young man
devoid of understanding, 8
passing along the street
near her corner; and
he took the path to her house 9
in the twilight,
in the evening,
in the black and dark night; 10
and there

a woman met him, with

the attire of a harlot, and
a crafty heart; 11

she was loud and rebellious,
her feet would not stay at home: 12
at times outside,
at times in the open square,
lurking at every corner; 13 so
she caught him and kissed him;
with an impudent face,
she said to him: 14

“I have peace offerings with me; today

I have paid my vows; 15 so

I came out to meet you,
diligently to seek your face, and
I have found you. 16

I have spread my bed with tapestry,
colored coverings of Egyptian linen. 17

I have perfumed my bed with
myrrh,
aloes, and
cinnamon. 18

Come,

Let us take our fill of love
until morning;

Let us delight ourselves with love; 19
for my husband *is* not at home;
he has gone on a long journey; 20
he has taken a bag of money with
him, and will come home on the
appointed day.” 21

With her enticing speech
she caused him to yield,
With her flattering lips
she seduced him. 22

Immediately,
he went after her,
as an ox goes
to the slaughter, or
as a fool
to the correction of the stocks, 23
till an arrow struck his liver.
As a bird hastens to the snare,
he did not know it would cost his life.

24 ¶

Now therefore,
Listen to me, my children;
Pay attention to the words of my mouth: 25
Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,
Do not stray into her paths; 26 for
she has cast down
many wounded, and
all who were slain by her
were strong men. 27
her house *is* [↓ Hebrew: Sheol]
the way to the grave [hell],
descending to
the chambers of death.

May 29

Proverbs 8

8:1 ¶

Wisdom Personified

Does not

wisdom cry out, and
understanding lift up her voice? 2

She takes her stand

on the top of the high hill,
beside the way,
where the paths meet. 3

She cries out

by the gates,
at the entry of the city,
at the entrance of the doors: 4

“To you, O men,

I call, and
my voice is

To the sons of men. 5

O you simple ones,

understand prudence, and
you fools,
be of an understanding heart. 6

Listen,

for I will speak of
excellent things, and
from the opening of my lips will come
right things; 7

for my mouth will speak
truth;

wickedness is
an abomination to my lips. 8
All the words of my mouth are with
righteousness;
nothing crooked or perverse
is in them. 9

They are all

plain [*straight: cf. 9:15*] to him
who understands, and
right [*straight: cf. 9:15*] to those
who find knowledge. 10

Receive

my instruction, and
not silver, and
knowledge

rather than choice gold; 11

for wisdom is better than

rubies, and
all the things one may desire
cannot be compared with

her.

12 ¶

I, wisdom,

dwell with prudence, and
find out

knowledge and
discretion. 13

The fear of the LORD is to hate

evil;
pride and
arrogance and
the evil way and
the perverse mouth

I hate. 14

Counsel is mine, and
sound wisdom;

I am understanding,

I have strength. 15

By me

kings reign, and
rulers decree justice. 16

By me

princes rule, and
nobles,
all the judges of the land [earth]. 17

I love

those who love me, and
those who seek me diligently

will find me. 18

Riches and honor

are with me,

Enduring riches and righteousness. 19

My fruit is better

than gold, yes,
than fine gold, and

My revenue

than choice silver. 20

I traverse

the way of righteousness,
in the midst of
the paths of justice, 21

That I may cause those who love me
to inherit wealth,

That I may

fill their treasuries.

22 ¶

The LORD [already] possessed me

at the beginning of His way,
before His works of old. 23

I have been established

from everlasting,
from the beginning, [←Ge 1:1 ↓]
before there was ever dirt [earth]. 24
When there were no depths [Ge 1:2]

I was brought forth,

When there were no fountains
abounding with water. 25

Before the mountains were settled,
Before the hills,

I was brought forth, 26

While as yet He had not made
the dirt [earth] or the fields, or
the primeval dust of the world. 27

When He prepared the heavens,

I was there,

When He drew

a circle on the face of the deep, 28
When He made strong [established]

the clouds above,
When He strengthened
the fountains of the deep, 29

When He assigned
to the sea its limit, so that
the waters would not transgress

His command,

When He marked out

the foundations of the land [earth],

30 Then

I was beside Him
as a master craftsman; and

I was daily His delight,
Rejoicing always before Him, 31

Rejoicing in His inhabited world, and

My delight was with the sons of men.

32 ¶

Now therefore, listen to me, my children,
for blessed are those who

Keep my ways. 33

Hear instruction and
be wise, and

Do not disdain it. 34

Blessed is the man who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting at the posts of my doors. 35

For whoever finds me

finds life, and
obtains favor from the LORD; 36

But he who sins against me
wrongs his own soul;

All those who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 9 Contrast of Pleas

9:1 ¶

Wisdom's Plea

Wisdom has built her house,
She has hewn out her seven pillars; 2
She has slaughtered her meat,
She has mixed her wine,
She has also furnished her table. 3

She has sent out her maidens,
She cries out from

the highest places of the city, 4

“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

As for him who lacks understanding,
She says to him, 5

“Come,

eat of my bread and
drink of the wine I have mixed. 6
Forsake foolishness and live, and
Go in the way of understanding. 7

He who corrects a scoffer

gets shame for himself, and

He who rebukes a wicked man
only harms himself. 8

Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;
Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9

Give instruction to a wise man,

and he will be still wiser;

Teach a just [righteous] man,
and he will increase in learning. 10

The fear of the LORD is
the beginning of wisdom, and
The knowledge of the Holy One is
understanding. 11

For by me [wisdom]
your days will be multiplied, and
years of life will be added to you.” 12

If you are wise,
you are wise for yourself, and
If you scoff,
you will bear it alone.

13 ¶
The Foolish Woman's Plea

A foolish woman
is clamorous,
is simple, and
knows nothing. 14

For she sits
at the door of her house,
on a seat by
the highest places of the city, 15
to call to those
who pass by,
who go straight on their way: 16

“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”;
[Same as wisdom, above.] and
As for him who lacks understanding,

she says to him, 17
“Stolen water is sweet, and
Bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” 18

But he does not know
that the dead are
there,
that her guests are in [↘ Hebrew: Sheol]
the depths of the grave [hell].

Proverbs 10

Solomon's Notebook (10:1-22:16)

10:1 ¶ The Proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son makes a glad father, but
A foolish son is the grief of his mother.

2 ¶
Treasures of wickedness
profit nothing, but
righteousness
delivers from death.

3
The LORD will not allow
the righteous soul to famish, but
He casts away the desire of
the wicked.

4 ¶
He who has a slack hand becomes poor,
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

5 ¶
He who gathers in summer is a wise son;
He who sleeps in harvest is a son
who causes shame.

6 ¶
Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
but

Violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

7 ¶
The memory of the righteous is blessed,
but
The name of the wicked will rot.

8 ¶
The wise in heart will receive commands,
But a prating fool will fall. [Cf. v10b]

9 ¶
He who walks with integrity
walks securely, but

He who perverts his ways
will become known.

10 ¶
He who winks with the eye
causes trouble,
But a prating fool will fall. [Cf. v8b]

11 ¶
The mouth of the righteous is
a well of life, but
violence covers

The mouth of the wicked.

12 ¶
Hatred stirs up strife, but
Love covers all sins.

13 ¶
Wisdom is found on the lips of him
who has understanding, but
A rod is for the back of him
who is devoid of understanding.

14 ¶
Wise people store up knowledge, but
The mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

15 ¶

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

16 ¶
The labor of the righteous leads to life,
The wages of the wicked to sin.

17 ¶
He who keeps instruction
is in the way of life, but
He who refuses correction
goes astray.

18 ¶
Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and
Whoever spreads slander is a fool.

19 ¶
In the multitude of words
sin is not lacking, but
He who restrains his lips is wise.

20 ¶
The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;
The heart of the wicked is worth little.

21
The lips of the righteous feed many,
But fools die for lack of wisdom.

22 ¶
The blessing of the LORD makes one rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.

23 ¶
To do evil is like sport to a fool,
But a man of understanding has wisdom.

24 ¶
The fear of the wicked
will come upon him, and
The desire of the righteous
will be granted.

25
When the whirlwind passes by,
the wicked is no more, but
the righteous has

An everlasting foundation.

26 ¶
As vinegar to the teeth and
smoke to the eyes, so is
the lazy man to those who send him.

27 ¶
The fear of the LORD prolongs
days, but the
years of the wicked will be
shortened.

28

The hope of the righteous
will be [is?] gladness, but
The expectation of the wicked
will perish.

29 ¶
The way of the LORD is
strength for the upright, but
destruction for the workers of iniquity.

30
The righteous will never be removed², but
The wicked will not inhabit
the land [earth].

31 ¶
The mouth of the righteous
brings forth wisdom, but
the perverse tongue
will be cut out; 32
the lips of the righteous
know what is acceptable, but
The mouth of the wicked
[knows/brings forth] what is perverse.

May 30

Proverbs 11

11:1 ¶
Dishonest scales are
an abomination to the LORD, but
a just weight is
His delight.

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

3 ¶
The integrity of the upright
will guide them, but
The perversity of the unfaithful
will destroy them.

4 ¶
Riches
do not profit in
the day of wrath, but
Righteousness
delivers from
death.

¹ NKJ: will come to

² [from the land of their inheritance]

5 ¶
The righteousness of the blameless
will direct **his** way aright, but
the wicked
will fall by **his** own wickedness. 6
The righteousness of the upright
will deliver **them**, but
the unfaithful
will be caught by **their** lust.

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

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

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

10 ¶
When it goes well with the righteous,
the city rejoices; and
When the wicked perish,
there is jubilation. 11
By the blessing of the upright
the city is exalted,
but
it is overthrown
By the mouth of the wicked.

12 ¶
He who is devoid of wisdom
despises his neighbor, but
A man of understanding
holds his peace. 13
A talebearer
reveals secrets, but
He who is of a faithful spirit
conceals a matter.

14 ¶
Where *there is* no counsel,
the people fall; but
In the multitude of counselors
there is safety.

15 ¶
He who is surety for a stranger
will suffer, but
One who hates being surety
is secure.

16 ¶
A **gracious** woman retains **honor**,
But **ruthless men** retain **riches**.

17 ¶
The merciful man does good for
his own soul, but
He who is cruel troubles
his own flesh.

18 ¶
The wicked man
does deceptive work, but
He who sows righteousness
will have a sure reward.

19 ¶
As **righteousness** leads
to **life**,
So he who pursues **evil** pursues it
to his own **death**.

20 ¶
Those who are of **a perverse heart** are
an abomination to **the LORD**, but
The blameless in their ways are
His delight.

21 ¶
Though they join forces, **the wicked**
will not go **unpunished**; but
The posterity of **the righteous**
will be **delivered**.

22 ¶
As a ring of gold in a swine's snout,
So a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

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

24 ¶
There is *one* who scatters,
yet increases more; and
There is *one* who withholds
more than is right,
but it *leads* to poverty.

25 ¶
The generous soul
will be made **rich**, and
He who waters
will also be **watered himself**.

26 ¶
The people will
curse him
who withholds grain, but
blessing *will be* on the head of him
Who sells it.

27 ¶
He who earnestly **seeks good**
finds **favor**, but
trouble will come to
Him who **seeks evil**.

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

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

30 ¶
The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life,
And he who wins souls *is* wise.

31 ¶ **[Quoted in 1Pe 4:18]**
If **the righteous** will be
recompensed on the land [earth],
How much more
the ungodly and
the sinner.

Proverbs 12

12:1 ¶
Whoever
loves **instruction**
loves **knowledge**, but
He who
hates **correction** *is* stupid.

2 ¶
A good man
obtains favor from **the LORD**, but
A man of wicked intentions
He will condemn.

3 ¶
A man is **not established** by wickedness,
but
The root of the righteous **cannot be moved**.

4 ¶
An excellent wife *is*
the crown of her husband, but
She who causes shame *is*
like rottenness in his bones.

5 ¶
The **thoughts** of the **righteous** are **right**,
The **counsels** of the **wicked** are **deceitful**.

6 ¶
The words of the wicked *are*,
“Lie in wait for blood”, but
The mouth of the upright
will deliver them.

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

8 ¶
A man
will be commended
according to his wisdom, but
He who is of a perverse heart
will be despised.

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

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

11 ¶
He who tills his land will be
satisfied with bread, but
He who follows frivolity *is*
devoid of understanding.

12 ¶
The wicked covet the catch of evil men,
But the root of **the righteous** yields fruit.

13 ¶
The wicked
is ensnared
by the transgression of *his* lips, but
The righteous
will come
through trouble.

14 ¶
A man will be satisfied with good by
the fruit of *his* mouth, and
the recompense of a man's hands
will be rendered to him.

15 ¶
The way of a **fool** is right in his own eyes,
But he who heeds counsel is **wise**.

16 ¶
A fool's wrath is known at once,
But a prudent *man* covers shame.

17 ¶
He *who* speaks **truth** declares
righteousness, but
A **false** witness,
deceit.

18 ¶
There is one who speaks like
the piercings of a sword, but
the tongue of the wise
promotes health.

19 ¶
The truthful lip shall be
established forever, but
A lying tongue is
but for a moment.

20 ¶
Deceit is in the heart of
those who devise evil, but
counselors of peace

Have **joy**.

21 ¶
No grave trouble will overtake
the righteous, but
the wicked
Shall be filled with evil.

22 ¶
Lying lips are
an abomination to the LORD, but
Those who deal **truthfully are**
His delight.

23 ¶
A prudent man conceals knowledge, but
The heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

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

25 ¶
Anxiety in the heart of man
causes depression, but
A good word makes it glad.

26 ¶
The righteous should
choose his friends carefully,
for the way of
The wicked leads them astray.

27 ¶
The lazy man does not roast
what he took in hunting, but
Diligence is man's precious possession.

28 ¶
In the **way** of righteousness is **life**, and
In *its* pathway *there is* **no death**.

Proverbs 13

13:1 ¶
A wise son *heeds* his father's **instruction**,
But a **scoffer** does not listen to rebuke.

2 ¶
A man shall eat well by the fruit of *his*
mouth, but
The soul of the unfaithful
feeds on violence.

3 ¶
He who guards his mouth
preserves his life,
He who opens wide his lips
shall have destruction.

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

5 ¶
A **righteous man**
hates lying, but
A **wicked man**
is loathsome and
comes to shame.

6 ¶
Righteousness guards *him*
whose way is **blameless**, but
Wickedness overthrows **the sinner**.

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

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

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

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

11 ¶
Wealth *gained* by dishonesty
will be diminished, but
He who gathers by labor
will increase.

12 ¶
Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but
When the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life.

13 ¶
He who despises
the word
will be **destroyed**, but
He who fears
the commandment
will be **rewarded**.

14 ¶
The law of the wise is
a fountain of life,
To turn *one* away from
the snares of death.

15 ¶
Good understanding gains favor, but
The way of the unfaithful is hard.

16 ¶
Every **prudent man** acts with knowledge,
But a **fool** lays open *his* folly.

17 ¶
A wicked messenger falls into **trouble**, but
A faithful ambassador brings **health**.

18 ¶
Poverty and shame *will come to*
him who **disdains correction**, but
he who **regards a rebuke**
will be **honored**.

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

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

21 ¶
Evil pursues **sinners**,
but to **the righteous**,
Good shall be repaid.

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

23 ¶
There is much food [*potentially, but*
for lack of plowing and sowing] in
the fallow ground of the poor, and
for lack of justice
There is waste.

24 ¶
He who spares his rod hates his son, but
He who loves him disciplines him promptly.

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

May 31

Proverbs 14

14:1 ¶

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

2 ¶

He who walks in his uprightness
fears the LORD, but

He who is perverse in his ways
despises Him.

3 ¶

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

4 ¶

Where no oxen are,
the trough is clean, but
much increase comes
by the strength of an ox.

5 ¶

A faithful witness does not lie, but
A false witness will utter lies.

6 ¶

A scoffer seeks
wisdom and does not find it, but
knowledge is easy [to find] to
Him who understands.

7 ¶

Go from the presence of
a foolish man,
when you do not perceive in him
the lips of knowledge.

8 ¶

The wisdom of the prudent is
to understand his way, but
The folly of fools is
deceit.

9 ¶

Fools mock at sin, but
Among the upright there is favor.

10 ¶

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

11 ¶

The house of the wicked
will be overthrown, but

The tent of the upright
will flourish.

12 ¶

There is a way
that seems right to a man, but
its end is

The way of death.

13 ¶

Even in laughter the heart may sorrow,
and the end of mirth may be grief.

14 ¶

The backslider in heart
will be filled
with his own ways, but

A good man
will be satisfied [filled]
from above.

15 ¶

The simple believes every word, but
The prudent considers well his steps.

16 ¶

A wise man fears and departs from evil, but
A fool rages and is self-confident.

17 ¶

A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and
A man of wicked intentions is hated.

18 ¶

The simple inherit folly, but
The prudent are crowned with knowledge.

19 ¶

The evil will bow before the good, and
The wicked, at the gates of the righteous.

20 ¶

The poor man is hated
even by his own neighbor, but
The rich has many "friends".

21 ¶

He who despises his neighbor sins, but
He who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

22 ¶

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

23 ¶

In all labor there is profit, but
Idle chatter leads only to poverty.

24 ¶

The crown of the wise is their riches, but
The foolishness of fools is folly.

25 ¶

A true witness delivers souls, but
A deceitful witness speaks lies.

26 ¶

In the fear of the LORD there is
strong confidence, and

His children will have
a place of refuge.

27

The fear of the LORD is
a fountain of life,
to turn one away from
the snares of death.

28 ¶

In a multitude of people is
a king's honor, but
In the lack of people is
the downfall of a prince.

29 ¶

He who is slow to wrath
has great understanding, but
He who is impulsive
exalts folly.

30 ¶

A sound heart is life to the body, but
Envy is rottenness to the bones.

31 ¶

He who
oppresses the poor [cf. 17:5]
reproaches his Maker, but

He who

honors Him
has mercy on the needy.

32 ¶

The wicked is banished in his wickedness,
but

The righteous has a refuge in his death.

33 ¶

Wisdom
rests in the heart of him
who has understanding, but
what is in the heart of fools
Is made known.

34 ¶

Righteousness exalts a nation, but
Sin is a reproach to any people.

35 ¶

The king's favor is toward a wise servant,
but
His wrath is against him who causes shame.

Proverbs 15

15:1 ¶

A soft answer turns away wrath, but
A harsh word stirs up anger.

2 ¶

The tongue of the wise
uses knowledge rightly, but
The mouth of fools
pours forth foolishness.

3 ¶

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

4 ¶

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but
Perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

5 ¶

A fool despises his father's instruction, but
He who receives correction is prudent.

6 ¶

In the house of the righteous
there is much treasure, but
In the revenue of the wicked
is trouble.

7 ¶

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but
The heart of the fool does not do so.

8 ¶

The sacrifice of the wicked is
an abomination to the LORD, but
The prayer of the upright is
His delight.

9 ¶

The way of the wicked is
an abomination to the LORD, but
He loves him who follows righteousness.

10 ¶

Harsh discipline is for him
who forsakes the way, and
He who hates correction will die.

11 ¶
 The Grave [Hell] [*Hebrew: Sheol*] and
 Destruction [*cf. 27:20*]
are before **the LORD**; So how much
 more the hearts of the sons of men.

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

13 ¶
 A merry heart makes
 a cheerful countenance, but
 by sorrow of the heart
 The spirit is broken.

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

15 ¶
 All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, but
 He who is of a merry heart
has a continual feast.

16 ¶
 Better *is* a little with **the fear of the LORD**,
 Than great treasure with trouble. 17
 Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love is,
 Than a fatted calf with hatred.

18 ¶
 A wrathful man stirs up strife, but
He who is slow to anger allays contention.

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

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

21 ¶
 Folly *is* joy to *him*
 who *is* destitute of discernment, but
 A man of understanding walks uprightly.

22 ¶
 Without counsel,
 plans go awry, but
 In the multitude of counselors,
 they are established.

23 ¶
 A man has joy by
 the answer of his mouth, and
 a word *spoken* in due season,
 How good *it is*!

24 ¶
 The way of life *winds* upward for the wise,
 That he may turn away from the grave [hell]
 [*Hebrew: sheol; the pit*] below.

25 ¶
The LORD will destroy
 the house of the proud, but
 He will establish
 the boundary of the widow.

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

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

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

29 ¶
The LORD *is* far from the wicked, but
 He hears the prayer of the righteous.

30 ¶
 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart;
 A good report makes the bones healthy.

31 ¶
 The ear that hears the rebukes of life
 will abide among the wise.

32 ¶
 He who disdains instruction
 despises his own soul, but
 He who heeds rebuke
 gets understanding.

33 ¶
The fear of the LORD *is*
 the instruction of wisdom, and
 Before honor *is*
 humility.

Proverbs 16

16:1 ¶
 The preparations of the heart
belong to man, but
 The answer of the tongue *is*
 from **the LORD**.

2 ¶
 All the ways of a man *are* pure
 in his own eyes, but
The LORD weighs the spirits.

3 ¶
 Commit
 your works
 to **the LORD**, and
 your thoughts
 will be established.

4 ¶
The LORD has made all for Himself, yes,
 even the wicked for the day of doom.

5 ¶
 Everyone proud in heart *is*
 an abomination to **the LORD**;
Though they join forces,
 none will go unpunished.

6 ¶
 In mercy and truth
 atonement is provided for iniquity; and
 by **the fear of the LORD**
one departs from evil.

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

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

9 ¶
 A man's heart plans his way, but
The LORD directs his steps.

10 ¶
 Divine sentence³ *is* on the lips of the king;
 His mouth must not transgress in judgment.

11 ¶
 Honest weights and scales *are* **the LORD's**;
 All the weights in the bag *are* **His work**.

12 ¶

It is an abomination for kings
 to commit wickedness, for
 A throne is established by righteousness.

13 ¶
 Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings, and
 they love him who speaks *what is* right.

14 ¶
 As messengers of death *is* the king's wrath,
 But a wise man will appease it.

15
 In the light of the king's face *is* life, and
 His favor *is* like a cloud of the latter rain.

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

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

18 ¶
 Pride *goes* before destruction, and
 A haughty spirit before a fall.

19 ¶
 Better *to be* of a humble spirit
 with the lowly,
 Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 ¶
 He who heeds the word wisely
 will find good, and
 Whoever trusts in **the LORD**,
 happy *is* he.

21 ¶
 The wise in heart will be called prudent,
 and
 Sweetness of the lips increases learning.

22 ¶
 Understanding *is* a wellspring of life
 to him who has it, but
 The correction of fools *is* folly.

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

24 ¶
 Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb:
 sweetness to the soul and
 health to the bones.

³ NKJ: Divination

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

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

27 ¶
 An ungodly man digs up evil, and
 it is on his lips like a burning fire. 28
 A perverse man sows strife, and [cf. 17:9]
 A whisperer separates the best of friends.

29 ¶
 A violent man
 entices his neighbor, and
 leads him in a way *that is* not good. 30
 He winks his eye to devise perverse things;
 He purses his lips *and* brings about evil.

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

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

33 ¶
 The lot is cast into the lap, but
 Its every decision *is* from **the LORD**.

June 1

Proverbs 17

17:1 ¶
 Better *is* a dry morsel with quietness,
 Than a house full of feasting *with* strife.

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

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

4 ¶
 An evildoer gives heed to false lips;
 A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

5 ¶
 He who mocks the poor
 reproaches his Maker; [cf. 14:31]
 He who is glad at calamity
 will not go unpunished.

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

7 ¶
Excellent speech *is* not becoming
 to a **fool**,
 much less **lying lips**
 to a **prince**.

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

9 ¶
 He who covers a transgression seeks love,
 but [cf. 16:28]
 He who repeats a matter separates friends.

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

11 ¶
 An evil *man* seeks only rebellion;
 therefore
 A cruel messenger will be sent against him.

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

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

14 ¶
 The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water;
 therefore
 Stop contention before a quarrel starts.

15 ¶
 He who justifies the wicked, and
 He who condemns the just,
 both of them alike *are*
 An abomination to **the LORD**.

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

17 ¶
 A friend loves at all times, and
 A brother is born for adversity.

18 ¶
 A man devoid of understanding
 shakes hands in a pledge, *and*
 Becomes surety for his friend.

19 ¶
 He who loves transgression loves strife,
 and
 He who exalts his gate seeks destruction.

20 ¶
 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good,
 and
 He who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

21 ¶
 He who begets a scoffer
 does so to his sorrow, and
 The father of a fool has no joy.

22 ¶
 A merry heart does good, *like* medicine,
 But a broken spirit dries the bones. [18:14]

23 ¶
 A wicked *man* accepts a bribe
 behind the back
 To pervert the ways of justice.

24 ¶

Wisdom *is* in the sight of him
 who has understanding, but
 the eyes of a fool *are* on
 The ends of the land [earth].

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

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

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

Proverbs 18

18:1 ¶
 A man who **isolates himself**
 seeks his own desire;
 He rages against **all wise judgment**.

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

3 ¶
 When **the wicked** comes,
 contempt comes also; and
 With **dishonor** *comes*
 reproach.

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

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

6 ¶
 A fool's lips enter into contention, and
 his mouth calls for blows. 7
 A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and
 his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

8 ¶

The words of a talebearer *are*
 like tasty trifles, and
 They go down into the inmost body.
 9 ¶
 He who is slothful in his work
 is a brother to him
 who is a great destroyer.
 10 ¶
 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
 The righteous run to it and are safe.
 11 ¶
 The rich man's wealth is
 his strong city, and
 like a high wall in his own esteem.
 12 ¶
 Before destruction
 the heart of a man is **haughty**, and
 Before honor is **humility**.
 13 ¶
 He who answers a matter before he hears it,
 It is folly and shame to him.
 14 ¶
 The spirit of a man
 will sustain him in sickness,
 but who can bear
 A broken spirit? [cf. 17:22]
 15 ¶
 The heart of the prudent
 acquires knowledge, and
 The ear of the wise
 seeks knowledge.
 16 ¶
 A man's gift
 makes room for him, and
 brings him before great men.
 17 ¶
 The first one to plead his cause *seems* right,
 Until his neighbor comes
 and examines him.
 18 ¶
 Casting lots
 causes contentions to cease, and
 keeps the mighty apart.
 19 ¶
 A brother offended is *harder to win*
 than a strong city, and
 Contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.
 20 ¶

A man's stomach shall be satisfied
 from the fruit of his mouth,
 from the produce of his lips
 He shall be filled.
 21 ¶
 Death and life *are* in
 the power of the tongue, and
 Those who love it will eat its fruit.
 22 ¶
 He who finds a wife
 finds a good *thing*, and
 obtains favor from the LORD.
 23 ¶
 The poor *man* uses entreaties, but
 The rich [*man*] answers roughly.
 24 ¶
 A man who has friends must
 himself be friendly, but
 there is a friend
 Who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 19
 19:1 ¶
 Better *is* the poor
 who walks in his integrity
 Than one
 who is perverse in his lips, and
 [who] is a fool.
 2 ¶
 Also it is not good *for*
 a soul *to be* without knowledge, and
 He sins who hastens with *his* feet.
 3 ¶
 The foolishness of a man twists his way,
 And his heart frets against the LORD.
 4 ¶
 Wealth makes many friends, but
 The poor is separated from his friend.
 5 ¶ [cf. v9]
 A false witness will not go unpunished,
 And he who speaks lies **will not escape**.
 6 ¶
 Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and
 Every man *is* a friend to one who gives gifts.
 7
 All the brothers of the poor hate him;
 How much more
 do his friends go far from him!

He may pursue *them with* words,
 yet they abandon *him*.
 8 ¶
 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;
 He who keeps understanding will find good.
 9 ¶ [cf. v5]
 A false witness will not go unpunished,
 And he who speaks lies **shall perish**.
 10 ¶
 Luxury is not fitting for a fool,
 much less [is it fitting]
 For a servant to rule over princes.
 11 ¶
 The discretion of a man makes him
 slow to anger, and
 His glory *is* to
 overlook a transgression.
 12 ¶
 The king's wrath
 is like the roaring of a lion, but
 His favor
 is like dew on the grass.
 13 ¶
 A foolish son *is*
 the ruin of his father, and
 The contentions of a wife *are*
 a continual dripping.
 14 ¶
 Houses and riches *are* an inheritance
 from fathers, but
 a prudent wife *is*
 from the LORD.
 15 ¶
 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and
 An idle person will suffer hunger.
 16 ¶
 He who
 keeps the commandment
 keeps his soul, *but*
 He who
 is careless of his ways
 will die.
 17 ¶
 He who has pity on the poor
 lends to the LORD, and
 He will pay back what he has given.
 18 ¶

Chasten your son while there is hope, and
 Do not set your heart on his destruction.
 19 ¶
 A man of great wrath will suffer
 punishment; For if you rescue *him*,
 you will have to do it again.
 20 ¶
 Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
 That you may be wise in your latter days.
 21 ¶
 There are many plans in a man's heart,
 nevertheless,
 The LORD's counsel — that will stand.
 22 ¶
 What is desired in a man is kindness, and
 A poor man is better than a liar.
 23 ¶
 The fear of the LORD *leads* to life, and
 He who has it will abide in satisfaction;
 He will not be visited with evil.
 24 ¶
 A lazy man
 buries his hand in the bowl, and
 will not so much as
 bring it to his mouth again.
 25 ¶
 Strike a scoffer, and
 the simple will become wary;
 Rebuke one who has understanding, and
 he will discern knowledge.
 26 ¶
 He who
 mistreats *his* father and
 chases away *his* mother
 Is a son who
 causes shame and
 brings reproach.
 27 ¶ [It is an on-going process:]
 Cease listening to instruction, my son, and
 you will stray from the words of knowledge.
 28 ¶
 A disreputable witness scorns justice, and
 The mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.
 29 ¶
 Judgments are prepared
 for scoffers,
 and beatings
 for the backs of fools.

June 2

Proverbs 20

20:1 ¶
Wine *is* a mocker,
Strong drink *is* a brawler, and
Whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
2 ¶
The wrath of a king *is* like
the roaring of a lion;
Whoever provokes him to anger
sins *against* his own life.
3 ¶
It is honorable for a man to stop striving,
since any fool can start a quarrel.
4 ¶
The lazy *man* will not plow
because of winter [*coming*];
He will beg during harvest
and *have* nothing.
5 ¶
Counsel in the heart of man *is like*
deep water, but
A man of understanding will
draw it out.
6 ¶
Most men will proclaim
each his own goodness,
But who can find a faithful man?
7 ¶
The righteous *man* walks in his integrity;
His children *are* blessed after him.
8 ¶
A king who sits on the throne of judgment
scatters all evil with his eyes.
9 ¶
Who can say,
“*I have made my heart clean,*
I am pure from my sin”?
10 ¶
Diverse weights *and* diverse measures,
they *are* both alike, [*cf. v23*]
An abomination to **the LORD**.
11 ¶
Even a child is known by his deeds,
whether what he does *is* pure and right.

12 ¶
The hearing ear and the seeing eye:
The LORD has made them both.
13 ¶
Do not love sleep,
lest you come to poverty;
Open your eyes, *and*
you will be satisfied with bread.
14 ¶
“*It is good for nothing*”, cries the buyer;
But when he has gone his way,
then he boasts.
15 ¶
There is
gold and
a multitude of rubies,
But the lips of knowledge *are*
a precious jewel.
16 ¶
Take the garment of one who is surety
for a stranger, and
Hold it as a pledge *when it is*
for a seductress.
17 ¶
Bread gained by deceit *is* sweet to a man,
but afterward
His mouth will be filled with gravel.
18 ¶
Plans are established
by counsel;
by wise counsel
Wage war.
19 ¶
He who goes about *as* a talebearer
reveals secrets; therefore
do not associate with
One who flatters with his lips.
20 ¶
Whoever curses his father or his mother:
His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.
21 ¶
An inheritance gained hastily
at the beginning
Will not be blessed
at the end.
22 ¶
Do not say, “*I will recompense evil*”;
Wait for **the LORD**, and He will save you.

23 ¶
Diverse weights *are* [*cf. v10*]
an abomination to **the LORD**, and
Dishonest scales *are* not good.
24 ¶
A man’s steps *are* of **the LORD**;
how then can a man understand
his own way?
25 ¶
It is a snare for a man
to devote rashly *something as* holy,
and afterward
to reconsider *his* vows.
26 ¶
A wise king
sifts out the wicked, and
brings the threshing wheel over them.
27 ¶
The spirit of a man *is*
the lamp of **the LORD**,
searching all the inner depths of
his heart.
28 ¶
Mercy and truth preserve the king, and
by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.
29 ¶
The glory of young men *is* their strength,
and
The splendor of old men *is* their gray head.
30 ¶
Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as *do*
Stripes the inner depths of the heart.

Proverbs 21

21:1 ¶
The king’s heart *is*
in the hand of **the LORD**;
like the rivers of water,
He turns it wherever He wishes.
2 ¶
Every way of a man *is*
right in his own eyes, but
The LORD weighs the hearts.
3 ¶
To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to **the LORD** than
sacrifice.
4 ¶
A haughty look,
A proud heart, *and*
The plowing of the wicked
are sin.
5 ¶
The plans of the diligent *lead*
surely to plenty, but
those of everyone *who is* hasty,
surely to poverty.
6 ¶
Getting treasures by a lying tongue
is the fleeting fantasy of those
who seek death.
7 ¶
The violence of the wicked
will destroy them, because
they refuse to do justice.
8 ¶
The way of a guilty man *is* perverse;
But *as for* the pure, his work *is* right.
9 ¶
Better to dwell [*25:24 same*]
in a corner of a housetop,
Than in a house shared
with a contentious woman.
10 ¶
The soul of the wicked desires evil;
His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.
11 ¶
When the scoffer is punished,
the simple is made wise, but
When the wise is instructed,
he receives knowledge.
12 ¶
[*↓ king? person?*]
The righteous *God* wisely considers
the house of the wicked, overthrowing
The wicked for *their* wickedness.
13 ¶
Whoever shuts his ears
to the cry of the poor
will also cry himself and
Not be heard.
14 ¶
A gift in secret pacifies anger, and
A bribe behind the back, strong wrath.
15 ¶

It is a joy for
 the just to do justice, but
 Destruction *will come* to
 the workers of iniquity.
 16 ¶
 A man who wanders from
 the way of understanding
 will rest in
 the assembly of the dead.
 17 ¶
 He who loves pleasure *will be* a poor man;
 He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.
 18 ¶
 The wicked *shall be* a ransom
 for the righteous, and
 The unfaithful
 for the upright.
 19 ¶
 Better to dwell
 in the wilderness,
 Than with
 a contentious and angry woman.
 20 ¶
 There is
 desirable treasure, and
 oil in the dwelling of the wise, but
 A foolish man squanders it.
 21 ¶
 He who follows righteousness and mercy
 Finds life, righteousness, and honor.
 22 ¶
 A wise man scales [the walls of]
 the city of the mighty,
 And brings down
 the trusted stronghold.
 23 ¶
 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue
 Keeps his soul from troubles.
 24 ¶
 A proud and haughty man
 — “Scoffer” is his name:
 He acts with arrogant pride.
 25 ¶
 The desire of the lazy man kills him,
 for his hands refuse to labor; 26
 he covets greedily all day long, but
 The righteous gives and does not spare.
 27 ¶

The sacrifice of the wicked *is*
 an abomination;
 How much more
 when he brings it with wicked intent!
 28 ¶
 A false witness
 shall perish, but
 The man who hears *him*
 will speak endlessly.
 29 ¶
 A wicked man hardens his face, but *as for*
 The upright: he establishes his way.
 30 ¶
 There is no
 wisdom or understanding or counsel
 against the LORD. 31
 The horse *is* prepared for the day of battle,
 but deliverance *is*
 of the LORD.

Proverbs 22

22:1 ¶
 A good name is to be chosen
 rather than
 great riches,
 loving favor
 rather than
 silver and gold.
 2 ¶
 The rich and the poor
 have this in common:
 The LORD is the Maker of them all.
 3 ¶
 A prudent man foresees evil
 and hides himself, but
 The simple pass on
 and are punished.
 4 ¶
 By humility and
 the fear of the LORD
 Are riches and honor and life.
 5 ¶
 Thorns and snares
 are in the way of the perverse;
 He who guards his soul
 will be far from
 them.
 6 ¶

Train up a child
 in the way he should go, and
 when he is old,
 he will not depart from it.
 7 ¶
 The rich rules over the poor, and
 The borrower *is* servant to the lender.
 8 ¶
 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow,
 and the rod of his anger will fail.
 9 ¶
 He who has a generous eye
 will be blessed,
 For he gives of his bread to the poor.
 10 ¶
 Cast out the scoffer,
 and contention will leave;
 yes, strife and reproach will cease.
 11 ¶
 He who loves purity of heart
 and has grace on his lips:
 The king *will be* his friend.
 12 ¶
 The eyes of the LORD
 preserve knowledge, but
 He overthrows the words of the faithless.
 13 ¶
 The lazy man says, [cf. v29, 26:13]
 “*There is a lion outside!*
 I shall be slain in the streets!”
 14 ¶
 The mouth of an immoral woman *is*
 a deep pit;
 He who is abhorred by the LORD will fall
 there.
 15 ¶
 Foolishness
 is bound up in the heart of a child;
 the rod of correction will drive
 it far from him.
 16 ¶
 He who oppresses the poor
 to increase his riches, and
 He who gives to the rich,
 will surely come to poverty.

June 3

Proverbs 22:17 ¶

Exhortations of the Wise to a Son First Sermon (22:17-24:22)

Incline your ear and
 Hear the words of the wise, and
 Apply your heart to my knowledge; 18
 For *it is* a pleasant thing
 if you keep them within you;
 Let them all be fixed upon your lips, 19
 So that your trust may be in the LORD;
 I have instructed you today, even you. 20
 Have I not written to you
 thirty [excellent] things
 [See the next thirty: (1) – (30)]
 of counsels and knowledge, 21
 That I may make you know
 the certainty of the words of truth,
 That you may answer [with] words of truth
 to those who send [questions] to you?
 22 ¶ (1)
 Do not rob the poor because he *is* poor,
 Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; 23
 For the LORD will
 plead their cause, and
 plunder the soul of those
 who plunder them.
 24 ¶ (2)
 Make no friendship
 with an angry man, and
 with a furious man
 Do not go, 25 lest you
 learn his ways and
 set a snare for your soul.
 26 ¶ (3)
 Do not be
 one of those
 who shakes hands in a pledge,
 one of those
 who is surety for debts; 27
 If you have nothing *with which* to pay,
 Why should he take away your bed
 from under you?

28 ¶ (4) [cf. 23:10]
Do not remove the ancient landmark
That your fathers have set.
29 ¶ (5)
Do you see a man *who* excels in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before unknown *men*.

Proverbs 23

23:1 ¶ (6)
When you sit down to eat with a ruler,
Consider carefully what *is* before you; 2 and
Put a knife to your throat
if you *are* a man given to appetite. 3
Do not desire his delicacies,
for they *are* deceptive food.
4 ¶ (7)
Do not overwork to be rich;
Because of your own understanding, cease!
Will you set your eyes on that which is not?
For *riches* certainly make themselves wings;
They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.
6 ¶ (8)
Do not eat the bread of a miser,
Nor desire his delicacies; 7
For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.
“Eat and drink!” he says to you,
but his heart is not with you. 8
The morsel you have eaten,
you will vomit up, and
[*you will*] waste your pleasant words.
9 ¶ (9)
Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for
he will despise the wisdom of your words.
10 ¶ (10) [cf. 22:28]
Do not remove the ancient landmark,
Nor enter the fields of the fatherless; 11
For their Redeemer *is* mighty;
He will plead their cause against you.
12 ¶ (11)
Apply
your heart to instruction, and
your ears to words of knowledge.

13 (12)
Do not withhold correction from a child,
For *if*
you beat him with a rod,
he will not die; 14
you shall beat him with a rod, and
Deliver his soul from the grave [hell].
[↑ Hebrew: sheol]

15 (13)
My son,
If your heart is wise,
My heart will rejoice
— indeed, I myself; 16 Yes,
My inmost being will rejoice
When your lips speak right things.
17 ¶ (14)
Do not let your heart envy sinners, but
Be zealous for the fear of the LORD
all the day; 18
[Hebrew: ↓ achariyth; cf. v32]
For surely there is a future [hereafter],
and your hope will not be cut off.
19 ¶ (15)
Hear, my son, and be wise; and
Guide your heart in the way: 20
Do not mix
with winebibbers, *or*
with gluttonous eaters of meat; 21
For
the drunkard and
the glutton
will come to poverty, and
drowsiness will clothe *him*⁴ with rags.
22 (16)
Listen to your father who begot you, and
Do not despise your mother
when she is old. 23
Buy
the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also*
wisdom and
instruction and
understanding. 24
The father of the righteous
will greatly rejoice, and

He who begets a wise *child*
will delight in him. 25
Let your father and your mother be glad,
and
Let her who bore you rejoice.
26 (17)
My son,
Give me your heart, and
Let your eyes observe my ways: 27
For
a harlot *is* a deep pit, and
a seductress *is* a narrow well; 28
she also
lies in wait as *for* a victim, and
increases the unfaithful
among men.
29 ¶ (18)
Who has woe?
Who has sorrow?
Who has contentions?
Who has complaints?
Who has wounds without cause?
Who has redness of eyes? 30
Those who linger long at the wine,
Those who go in search of mixed wine. 31
Do not look on the wine
when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup,
when it swirls around smoothly; 32
at the last [Hebrew: achariyth; cf. 24:14]
it bites like a serpent, and
stings like a viper. 33
Your eyes will see strange things, and
Your heart will utter perverse things. 34
Yes, you will be
like one who lies down
in the midst of the sea, *or*
like one who lies
at the top of the mast, *saying*: 35
“They have struck me, *but*
I was not hurt;
They have beaten me, *but*
I did not feel *it*.
When shall I awake, that
I may seek another *drink*?”

Proverbs 24

24:1 ¶ (19)
Do not be envious of evil men,
nor desire to be with them; 2
For their heart devises violence, and
their lips talk of troublemaking.
3 ¶ (20)
Through
wisdom a house is built, and
By understanding it is established; 4
By knowledge the rooms are filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.
5 (21)
A wise man *is* strong, yes,
A man of knowledge increases strength; 6
For by wise counsel
you will wage your own war, and
In a multitude of counselors
there is safety.
7 ¶ (22)
Wisdom *is* too lofty for a fool;
he does not open his mouth in the gate.
8 (23)
He who plots to do evil
will be called
a schemer; 9
the devising of foolishness
is sin, and
the scoffer
is an abomination to men.
10 ¶ (24)
If you faint in the day of adversity,
Your strength *is* small.
11 ¶ (25)
Deliver *those who are*
drawn toward death, and
Hold back *those*
stumbling to the slaughter. 12
If you say, “Surely we did not know this”,
Does not
He who weighs the hearts consider *it*?
He who keeps your soul,
Does He *not* know *it*? And
Will He *not* render to *each* man
according to his deeds?

⁴ NKJ: a man

13 ¶ (26)
 My son,
 Eat honey
 because *it is* good, and
 the honeycomb
 which is sweet
 to your taste; 14
 so shall
 the knowledge of wisdom be
 to your soul;
 If you have found **it**,
 [Hebrew: ↓ achariyth; cf. 25:9]
 there is a prospect [for you], and
 your hope will not be cut off.
 15 ¶ (27)
 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man,
 against the dwelling of the righteous;
 Do not plunder his resting place; 16
 For a righteous man may
 fall seven [7] times and rise again,
 but the wicked shall fall by calamity.
 17 ¶ (28)
 Do not rejoice
 when your enemy falls, and
 Do not let your heart be glad
 when he stumbles; 18
 Lest **the LORD** see *it*, and it displease Him,
 and **He** turn away His wrath from him.
 19 ¶ (29)
 Do not fret because of evildoers,
 Nor be envious of the wicked; 20
 For there
 will be no prospect for
 the evil man;
 the lamp of
 the wicked
 will be put out.
 21 ¶ (30)
 My son,
 Fear **the LORD** and the king;
 Do not associate with
 those given to change; 22
 For
 their calamity will rise suddenly,
 and who knows
 the ruin
 Those two [LORD, king] can bring?

Exhortations of the Wise to a Son Second Sermon (24:23-34)

23 ¶
 These things also belong to the wise:
 It is not good to show partiality
 in judgment: 24
 He who says to the wicked,
 “**You are righteous**”,
 him the people will curse;
 nations will abhor him; 25
 Those who rebuke the wicked
 will have
 delight, and
 a good blessing
 will come upon
 Them. 26
 He who gives a right answer
 kisses the lips.
 27 ¶
 Prepare your outside work,
 Make it fit for yourself in the field; and
 Afterward build your house.
 28 ¶
 Do not be a witness against your neighbor
 without cause,
 for would you deceive with your lips? 29
 Do not say,
 “**I will do to him**
 just as he has done to me;
 I will render to the man
 according to his work.”
 30 ¶
 I went
 by the field of the lazy man, and
 by the vineyard of the man
 devoid of understanding; 31
 and
 there it was,
 all overgrown with thorns;
 its surface was covered
 with nettles;
 its stone wall was
 broken down. 32
 When I saw *it*,
 I considered *it* well;
 I looked on *it* and
 received instruction: 33

A little sleep,
 A little slumber,
 A little folding of the hands to rest; 34
 So shall
 your poverty come like a prowler, and
 your need like an armed man.

June 4

Proverbs 25

Compiled Later by Hezekiah's Men

25:1 ¶
 These also are proverbs of Solomon,
 which the men of Hezekiah king of
 Judah copied:
 2 ¶
 It is the glory of God
 to conceal a matter, but
 the glory of kings is
 to search out a matter. 3
 As the heavens for height and
 the land [earth] for depth,
 So the heart of kings is
 unsearchable.
 4 ¶
 Take away the dross
 from silver, and it [the silver]
 will go to the silversmith for jewelry. 5
 Take away the wicked
 from before the king, and his throne
 will be established in righteousness.
 6 ¶
 Do not exalt yourself
 in the presence of the king, and
 Do not stand
 in the place of the great; 7
 For *it is*
 better that he say to you,
 “**Come up here,**”
 than that you should be put lower
 in the presence of the prince
 whom your eyes have seen.

8 ¶

[N]RSV, NIV, NLT, MSG associate 7b here:
 About what your eyes have seen,]
 Do not go hastily to court;
 [Hebrew: ↓ achariyth; cf. 23:18]
 For what will you do in the end,
 when your neighbor
 has put you to shame? 9
 Debate your case with your neighbor, and
 Do not disclose the secret to another; 10
 Lest he who hears *it* expose your shame,
 and your reputation be ruined.
 11 ¶
 A word fitly spoken is
 like apples of gold in settings of silver; 12
 like an earring of gold and
 an ornament of fine gold
 Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.
 13 ¶
 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest
 Is a faithful messenger to those
 who send him,
 for he refreshes the soul of his masters.
 14 ¶
 Whoever falsely boasts of giving
 Is like clouds and wind without rain.
 15 ¶
 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded,
 And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.
 16 ¶
 Have you found honey?
 Eat only as much as you need,
 Lest you be filled with it and vomit.
 17 ¶
 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house,
 Lest he become weary of you and hate you.
 18 ¶
 A man who bears false witness
 against his neighbor
 Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.
 19 ¶
 Confidence in an unfaithful man
 in time of trouble
 Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.
 20 ¶
 Like one who takes away a garment
 in cold weather, and
 like vinegar on soda,
 Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

21 ¶
[vv21-22 Quoted by Paul in Ro 12:21]
 If your enemy is hungry,
 give him bread to eat; and
 If he is thirsty,
 give him water to drink; 22
 For so you
 will heap coals of fire on his head, and
 The LORD will reward you.
 23 ¶
 The north wind
 brings forth
 rain, and
 A backbiting tongue
 [brings forth]
 an angry countenance.
 24 ¶
 It is better to dwell [21:9 same]
 in a corner of a housetop, than
 in a house shared
 with a contentious woman.
 25 ¶
 As cold water to a weary soul,
 so is good news from a far country.
 26 ¶
 A righteous man
 who falters before the wicked is like
 A murky spring and
 A polluted well.
 27 ¶
[As] It is not good to eat much honey;
 so to seek one's own glory is not glory.
 28 ¶
 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit
 is like a city broken down, without walls.

Proverbs 26

26:1 ¶
 As snow in summer and rain in harvest,
 so honor is not fitting for a fool.
 2 ¶
 Like a flitting sparrow,
 Like a flying swallow,
 So a curse without cause shall not alight.
 3 ¶
 A whip for the horse,
 A bridle for the donkey, and
 A rod for the fool's back.

4 ¶
 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
 Lest you also be like him. 5
 Answer a fool according to his folly,
 Lest he be wise in his own eyes.
 6 ¶
 He who sends a message
 by the hand of a fool
 Cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.
 7
 Like the legs of the lame that hang limp
 is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
 8
 Like one who binds a stone in a sling
 is he who gives honor to a fool.
 9
 Like a thorn
 that goes into the hand of a drunkard
 is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
 10 ¶
 The great God who formed everything
 gives
 the fool his hire and
 the transgressor his wages.
 11 ¶ *[Quoted in 2Pe 2:22b]*
 As a dog returns to his own vomit,
 So a fool repeats his folly.
 12 ¶
 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
 There is more hope for a fool than for him.
 13 ¶
 The lazy man says, [cf. 22:13, 29]
 "There is a lion in the road!
 A fierce lion is in the streets!"
 14 ¶
 As a door turns on its hinges,
 So does the lazy man on his bed.
 15 ¶
 The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl;
 It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.
 16 ¶
 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes
 than seven men who can answer sensibly.
 17 ¶
 He who passes by
 and meddles in a quarrel not his own
 is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

18 ¶
 Like a madman who throws
 firebrands, arrows, and death, 19
 is the man who deceives his neighbor,
 and says, "I was only joking!"
 20 ¶
 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out;
 and
 Where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.
 21
 As charcoal is to burning coals, and
 wood to fire,
 So is a contentious man
 to kindle strife.
 22
 The words of a talebearer
 are like tasty trifles, and
 They go down into the inmost body.
 23 ¶
 Fervent lips with a wicked heart are like
 earthenware covered with silver dross.
 24 ¶
 He who hates,
 disguises it with his lips, and
 lays up deceit within himself; 25
 When he speaks kindly,
 do not believe him,
 for there are
 seven abominations in his heart; 26
 Though his hatred is covered by deceit,
 His wickedness will be revealed
 before the assembly.
 27 ¶
 Whoever digs a pit
 will fall into it, and
 He who rolls a stone
 will have it roll back on him.
 28 ¶
 A lying tongue hates those
 who are crushed by it, and
 A flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 27

27:1 ¶
 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you
 Do not know what a day may bring forth.
[Cf. Isa 56:12, Ja 4:13]

2 ¶
 Let another man praise you, and
 not your own mouth;
 A stranger, and
 not your own lips.
 3 ¶
 A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but
 A fool's wrath is heavier than both of them.
 4
 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but
 who is able to stand before jealousy?
 5 ¶
 Open rebuke
 is better than
 love carefully concealed.
 6
 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but
 the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
 7 ¶
 A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but
 To a hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet.
 8 ¶
 Like a bird that wanders from its nest
 Is a man who wanders from his place.
 9 ¶
 Ointment and perfume delight the heart,
 And the sweetness of a man's friend
 gives delight by hearty counsel. 10
 Do not forsake
 your own friend or
 your father's friend,
 Nor go to your brother's house
 in the day of your calamity;
 Better is a neighbor nearby
 Than a brother far away.
 11 ¶
 My son,
 Be wise, and
 Make my heart glad,
 That I may answer him
 who reproaches me.
 12 ¶
 A prudent man
 foresees evil and
 hides himself;
 The simple pass on and
 are punished.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 ¶
 The Grave [Hell] [*Hebrew: Sheol*] and
 Destruction [*cf. 15:11*]
 are never full;
 So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

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

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

23 ¶
 Be diligent to know
 the state of your flocks, *and*
 Attend to your herds; 24
 for riches *are* not forever,
 nor does a crown *endure*
 to all generations. 25
When the hay is removed, and
 the tender grass shows itself, and
 the herbs of the mountains
 are gathered in, 26
 the lambs *will provide* your clothing, and
 the goats ... the price of a field; 27
you shall have enough goats' milk
 for your food,
 for the food of your household,
 and the nourishment
 of your maidservants.

Proverbs 28

28:1 ¶
 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but
 The righteous are bold as a lion.

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

3 ¶
 A poor man who oppresses the poor
Is like a driving rain **that** leaves no food.

4 ¶
 Those who forsake the law
 praise the wicked, but
 Such as keep the law
 contend with them.

5 ¶
 Evil men do not understand justice, but
 Those who seek **the LORD** understand all.

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

7 ¶
 Whoever keeps the law
is a discerning son, but
 A companion of gluttons
 shames his father.

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

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

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

11 ¶
 The rich man
is wise in his own eyes, but
 The poor who has understanding
 searches him out.

June 5

Proverbs 28:12

12 ¶
 When the righteous rejoice,
there is great glory; but
 When the wicked arise,
 men hide themselves.

13 ¶
 He who covers his sins
 will not prosper, but
 Whoever confesses and forsakes *them*
 will have mercy.

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

15 ¶
Like a roaring lion and
 a charging bear
Is a wicked ruler over poor people.

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

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

18 ¶
 Whoever walks blamelessly
 will be saved, but
He who is perverse *in his* ways
 will suddenly fall.

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

20 ¶
 A faithful man
 will abound with blessings, but
 He who hastens to be rich
 will not go unpunished.

21 ¶
 To show partiality *is* not good, because
 For a piece of bread a man will transgress.

22 ¶
 A man with an evil eye
 hastens after riches, and
 does not consider that
 poverty will come upon him.

23 ¶
 He who rebukes a man
 will find more favor afterward
 Than he who flatters with the tongue.

24 ¶
 Whoever robs his father or his mother,
 and says, "*It is no transgression,*"
 The same *is* companion to a destroyer.

25 ¶
 He who is of a proud heart
 stirs up strife, but
 He who trusts in **the LORD**
 will be prospered.

26 ¶
He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
but
Whoever walks wisely will be delivered.
27 ¶
He who gives to the poor
will not lack, but
He who hides his eyes
will have many curses.
28 ¶
When the wicked arise,
men hide themselves; but
When they perish,
the righteous increase.

Proverbs 29

29:1 ¶
He who
is often rebuked, *and*
hardens *his* neck,
Will suddenly be destroyed,
and that without remedy.
2 ¶
When the righteous are in authority,
the people rejoice; but
When a wicked *man* rules,
the people groan.
3 ¶
Whoever loves wisdom
makes his father rejoice, but
A companion of harlots wastes *his* wealth.
4 ¶
The king establishes the land by justice, but
He who receives bribes overthrows it.
5 ¶
A man who flatters his neighbor
spreads a net for his feet.
6 ¶
By transgression an evil man is snared,
But the righteous sings and rejoices.
7 ¶
The righteous
considers the cause of the poor, *but*
The wicked
does not understand *such* knowledge.
8 ¶
Scoffers set a city aflame, but
Wise *men* turn away wrath.

9 ¶
If a wise man contends with a foolish man,
whether *the fool* rages or laughs,
There is no peace.
10 ¶
The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, but
The upright seek his well-being.
11 ¶
A fool vents all his feelings, but
A wise *man* holds them back.
12 ¶
If a ruler pays attention to lies,
all his servants *become* wicked.
13 ¶
The poor *man* and
The oppressor
have this in common:
The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.
14 ¶
The king who judges the poor with truth,
his throne will be established forever.
15 ¶
The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but
a child left *to himself*
brings shame to his mother.
16 ¶
When the wicked are multiplied,
transgression increases; but
The righteous will see their fall.
17 ¶
Correct your son,
and he will give you rest;
yes, he will give delight to your soul.
18 ¶
Where *there is* no revelation,
the people cast off restraint; but
Happy *is* he who keeps the law.
19 ¶
A servant will not be corrected
by mere words;
for though he understands,
He will not respond.
20 ¶
Do you see a man hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool
than for him.
21 ¶
He who pampers his servant from childhood
will have him as a son in the end.

22 ¶
An angry man stirs up strife, and
A furious man abounds in transgression.
23 ¶
A man's pride will bring him low, but
The humble in spirit will retain honor.
24 ¶
Whoever is a partner with a thief
hates his own life;
He swears to tell the truth, but
reveals nothing.
25 ¶
The fear of man brings a snare, but
Whoever trusts in **the LORD** shall be safe.
26 ¶
Many seek the ruler's favor, but
Justice for man *comes* from **the LORD**.
27 ¶
An **unjust** man *is*
an abomination to the **righteous**, and
He who is upright in the way *is*
an abomination to the **wicked**.

Proverbs 30

An Unpretentious Man's Observations

30:1 ¶
Disclaimer (30:1-6)
The words of Agur [*"gathered"*]
the son of Jakeh [*"blameless"*],
His utterance;
This man declared
to Ithiel [*"God is with me"*] —
to Ithiel and Ucal [*"devoured"*]: 2
Surely
I *am* more stupid than *any* man, and
do not have the understanding of a man. 3
I neither learned wisdom
nor have knowledge of **the Holy One**. 4
Who has ascended into heaven,
or descended?
Who has gathered the wind in **His fists**?
Who has bound the waters in a garment?
Who has established
all the ends of the land [earth]?
What *is* **His name**, and
What *is* **His Son's name**, if you know? 5
Every word of God *is* pure;

He *is* a shield to those
who put their trust in Him. 6
Do not add to **His words**, lest
He rebuke you, and
you be found a liar.
7 ¶
A Prayer of Mediocrity (30:7-9)
Two *things* I request of You
(Deprive me not before I die): 8
Remove falsehood and lies far from me;
Give me neither poverty nor riches —
feed me with the food allotted to me; 9
lest I be full and deny *You*, and say,
"Who is the LORD?", or
lest I be poor and steal, and
profane **the name of my God**.

10 ¶
Observations About Life (30:10-33)
Do not malign a servant to his master, lest
he curse you, and
you be found guilty.

11
There is a generation *that*
curses its father, and
does not bless its mother.

12
There is a generation
that is pure in its own eyes,
Yet is not washed from its filthiness.
13
There is a generation
— oh, how lofty are their eyes!
and their eyelids are lifted up.

14
There is a generation
whose teeth *are like* swords, and
whose fangs *are like* knives,
to devour
the poor from off the land [earth],
and
the needy from *among* men.

15 ¶
 The leech has two daughters
 — Give *and* Give!

There are
 three *things that* are never satisfied,
 four never say, “Enough!”: 16
 the grave,
 the barren womb,
 the land [earth] *that is*
 not satisfied with water — and
 the fire never says, “Enough!”

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

18 ¶
 There are
 three *things that*
 are too wonderful for me, yes,
 four *that*
 I do not understand: 19
 the way of an eagle in the air,
 the way of a serpent on a rock,
 the way of a ship
 in the midst of the sea, and
 the way of a man with a virgin.

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

21
 For three *things* [↓ *the people*]
 the land [earth] is perturbed, yes,
 For four
 it cannot bear up: 22 For
 a servant when he reigns,
 a fool when he is filled with food, 23
 a hateful *woman* when she is married,
 and
 a maidservant
 who succeeds her mistress.

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

29 ¶
 There are
 three *things that*
 are majestic in pace, yes,
 four *that*
 are stately in walk: 30
 a lion, *which*
is mighty among beasts and
 does not turn away from any; 31
 a greyhound;
 a male goat also; and
 a king *whose* troops *are* with him.

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

Proverbs 31

Wisdom by a Woman About Women

31:1 ¶

Queen Mother’s Advice to a King

The words of King Lemuel [“for God”],
 the utterance **that** his mother taught him: 2

What, my son?
 And What, son of my womb?
 And What, son of my vows? 3
 Do not give your strength to women,
 Nor your ways to that
 which destroys kings. 4
It is not for kings, O Lemuel,
It is not for kings to drink wine,
 nor for princes intoxicating drink; 5
 Lest they
 drink and forget the law, and
 pervert the justice of all the afflicted. 6
 Give
 strong drink to him who is perishing, and
 wine to those who are bitter of heart; 7
 let him
 drink and
 forget his poverty, and
 remember his misery no more. 8
 Open your mouth
 for the speechless,
 in the cause of
 all *who are* appointed to die. 9
 Open your mouth:
 judge righteously, and
 plead the cause of the poor and needy.

10 ¶

Marks of Quintessential Wise Wife

[Acrostic in Hebrew: 22 verses]

Who can find a virtuous wife?
 For her worth *is* far above rubies. 11
 The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
 So he will have no lack of gain. 12
 She does him good and not evil
 all the days of her life. 13
 She seeks wool and flax,
 and willingly works with her hands. 14
 She is like the merchant ships, [in that]
 she brings her food from afar. 15

She also
 rises while it is yet night, and
 provides food for her household and
 a portion for her maidservants. 16
 She considers a field and buys it:
 from her profits
 she plants a vineyard. 17
 She girds herself with strength, and
 strengthens her arms. 18
 She perceives that her merchandise *is* good,
 and her lamp does not go out by night. 19
 She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
 and her hand holds the spindle. 20
 She extends her hand to the poor, yes,
 she reaches out her hands to the needy. 21
 She is not afraid of snow for her household,
 for all her household *is* clothed
 with scarlet. 22
 She makes tapestry for herself;
 her clothing *is* fine linen and purple. 23
 Her husband is known in the gates, when
 he sits among the elders of the land. 24
 She makes linen garments and sells *them*,
 and supplies sashes for the merchants. 25
 Strength and honor *are* her clothing;
 she shall rejoice in time to come. 26
 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and
 on her tongue *is* the law of kindness. 27
 She watches over
 the ways of her household, and
 does not eat
 the bread of idleness. 28
 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
 Her husband *also*, and he praises her: 29
 “Many daughters have done well,
 But you excel them all.” 30
 Charm *is* deceitful and
 Beauty *is* passing, but
 A woman *who* fears **the LORD** —
 she shall be praised. 31
 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and
 Let her own works praise her in the gates.

June 6

Song of Songs

Song of Songs 1

1:1 ¶ The song of songs,
which *is* Solomon's.

2 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
Let him kiss me
with the kisses of his mouth —
For your love *is* better than wine. 3
Because of the fragrance
of your good ointments,
Your name *is* ointment poured forth;
Therefore the virgins love you. 4
Draw me away!

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will run after you.

THE SHULAMITE
The king has brought me
into his chambers.

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will be glad and rejoice in you.
We will remember your love
more than wine.

THE SHULAMITE
Rightly do they love you. 5
I *am* dark, but lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
like the tents of [Kedar](#),
like the curtains of Solomon. 6
Do not look upon me,
because I *am* dark,
because the sun has tanned me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
they made me

the keeper of the vineyards,
But my own vineyard I have not kept.

7 ¶

(TO HER BELOVED)
Tell me, O you whom I love,
Where you feed *your flock*,
Where you make *it* rest at noon.
For why should I be as one
who veils herself
By the flocks of your companions? 8

THE BELOVED
If you do not know,
O fairest among women,
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,
And feed your little goats
Beside the shepherds' tents. 9
I have compared you, my love,
To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots. 10
Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
Your neck with chains of gold. 11

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will make you ornaments of gold
With studs of silver. 12 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
While the king *is* at his table,
My spikenard sends forth its fragrance. 13
A bundle of myrrh *is* my beloved to me,
That lies all night between my breasts. 14
My beloved *is* to me a cluster of henna
blooms In the vineyards of [En Gedi](#). 15

THE BELOVED
Behold, you *are* fair, my love!
Behold, you *are* fair!
You *have* dove's eyes. 16

THE SHULAMITE
Behold, you *are* handsome, my beloved!
Yes, pleasant! Also our bed *is* green. 17
The beams of our houses *are* cedar,
And our rafters of fir.

Song of Songs 2

2:1 ¶
I *am* the rose of Sharon,
And the lily of the valleys. 2

THE BELOVED
Like a lily among thorns,
So *is* my love among the daughters. 3 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
Like an apple tree
among the trees of the woods,
So *is* my beloved among the sons.
I sat down in his shade with great delight,
And his fruit *was* sweet to my taste. 4

THE SHULAMITE
TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his banner over me *was* love. 5
Sustain me with cakes of raisins,
Refresh me with apples,
For I *am* lovesick. 6
His left hand *is* under my head,
And his right hand embraces me. 7
I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
until it pleases. 8 ¶

THE SHULAMITE
The voice of my beloved!
Behold, he comes
Leaping upon the mountains,
Skipping upon the hills. 9
My beloved *is* like
a gazelle or a young stag.
Behold, he stands behind our wall;
He is looking through the windows,
Gazing through the lattice. 10
My beloved spoke, and said to me:
"Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away. 11
For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over *and* gone. 12
The flowers appear on the land [earth];
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtle dove
Is heard in our land. 13

The fig tree puts forth her green figs,
And the vines *with* the tender grapes
Give a *good* smell.
Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away! 14 ¶
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
In the secret *places* of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice *is* sweet,
And your face *is* lovely." 15

HER BROTHERS
Catch us the foxes,
The little foxes that spoil the vines,
For our vines *have* tender grapes. 16

THE SHULAMITE
My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his.
He feeds *his flock* among the lilies. 17

(TO HER BELOVED)
Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
Turn, my beloved, and be like
a gazelle or a young stag
Upon the mountains of [Bethur](#).

Song of Songs 3

3:1 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
By night on my bed
I sought the one I love;
I sought him, but
I did not find him. 2
"I will rise now," I said,
"And go about the city;
In the streets and in the squares
I will seek the one I love."
I sought him, but
I did not find him. 3
The watchmen who go about the city
found me;
I said, "Have you seen the one I love?" 4
Scarcely had I passed by them,
When I found the one I love.

I held him and would not let him go,
Until I had brought him
to the house of my mother, and
into the chamber of her
who conceived me. 5
I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the does of the field,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
until it pleases.

6 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
Who *is* this coming out of the wilderness
Like pillars of smoke,
Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,
With all the merchant's fragrant powders?
7 ¶
Behold, it *is* Solomon's couch,
With sixty [60] valiant men around it,
Of the valiant of Israel. 8
They all hold swords,
Being expert in war.
Every man *has* his sword on his thigh
Because of fear in the night. 9
Of the wood of [Lebanon](#)
Solomon the King
Made himself a chariot [palanquin]: 10
He made its pillars *of* silver,
Its support *of* gold,
Its seat *of* purple,
Its interior paved *with* love
By the daughters of Jerusalem. 11
Go forth, O daughters of Zion,
And see King Solomon with the crown
With which his mother crowned him
On the day of his wedding,
the day of the gladness of his heart.

Song of Songs 4

4:1 ¶
THE BELOVED
Behold, you *are* fair, my love!
Behold, you *are* fair!
You *have* dove's eyes behind your veil.
Your hair *is* like a flock of goats,
Going down from [Mount Gilead](#). 2
Your teeth *are* like a flock of shorn sheep
That have come up from the washing,
www.GenesisHistory.org/content/1yrSolomon.pdf

Every one of which bears twins, and
None *is* barren among them. 3
Your lips *are* like a strand of scarlet, and
Your mouth is lovely.
Your temples behind your veil
Are like a piece of pomegranate. 4
Your neck *is* like the tower of David,
Built for an armory,
On which hang a thousand bucklers,
All shields of mighty men. 5
Your two breasts *are* like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle,
Which feed among the lilies. 6
Until the day breaks
And the shadows flee away,
I will go my way
to the mountain of myrrh and
to the hill of frankincense. 7
You *are* all fair, my love,
And *there is* no spot in you.
8 ¶
Come with me from [Lebanon](#), *my spouse*,
With me from [Lebanon](#).
Look from the top of [Amana](#),
From the top of [Senir](#) and [Hermon](#),
From the lions' dens,
From the mountains of the leopards. 9
You have ravished my heart,
My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart
With one *look* of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace. 10
How fair is your love,
My sister, my spouse!
How much better than wine is your love,
And the scent of your perfumes
Than all spices! 11
Your lips, *O my spouse*,
Drip as the honeycomb;
Honey and milk *are* under your tongue;
And the fragrance of your garments
Is like the fragrance of [Lebanon](#). 12
A garden enclosed
Is my sister, my spouse,
A spring shut up,
A fountain sealed. 13

Your plants *are*
an orchard of pomegranates
With pleasant fruits,
Fragrant henna with spikenard, 14
Spikenard and saffron,
Calamus and cinnamon,
With all trees of frankincense,
Myrrh and aloes,
With all the chief spices —
15 ¶
A fountain of gardens,
A well of living waters,
And streams from [Lebanon](#). 16
["*living waters*": SoS 4:15; Jer 2:13,
17:13; Zec 14:8; John 4:10, 7:38]

THE SHULAMITE
Awake, O north *wind*,
And come, O south!
Blow upon my garden,
That its spices may flow out.
Let my beloved come to his garden
And eat its pleasant fruits.

Song of Songs 5

5:1 ¶
THE BELOVED
I have come to
my garden,
my sister,
my spouse;
I have gathered
my myrrh with
my spice;
I have eaten
my honeycomb with
my honey;
I have drunk
my wine with
my milk.
(TO HIS FRIENDS)
Eat, O friends!
Drink, yes, drink deeply,
O beloved ones!

2 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
I sleep, but my heart is awake;

It is the voice of my beloved!
He knocks, *saying*,
"Open for me, *my sister, my love*,
My dove, my perfect one;
For my head is covered with dew,
My locks with the drops of the night." 3
I have taken off my robe;
How can I put it on *again*?
I have washed my feet;
How can I defile them? 4
My beloved put his hand
By the latch *of the door*,
And my heart yearned for him. 5
I arose to open for my beloved,
And my hands dripped *with* myrrh,
My fingers with liquid myrrh,
On the handles of the lock. 6
I opened for my beloved, but
My beloved
had turned away *and* was gone.
My heart leaped up when he spoke.
I sought him, but I could not find him;
I called him, but he gave me no answer. 7
The watchmen who went about the city
found me.
They struck me, they wounded me;
The keepers of the walls
Took my veil away from me. 8
I charge you,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
If you find my beloved,
That you tell him I *am* lovesick!
9 ¶
THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
What *is* your beloved
More than *another* beloved,
O fairest among women?
What *is* your beloved
More than *another* beloved,
That you so charge us?
10
THE SHULAMITE
My beloved *is* white and ruddy,
Chief among ten thousand [*10,000*]. 11
His head *is like* the finest gold;
His locks *are* wavy, *and* black as a raven. 12

His eyes *are* like doves
by the rivers of waters,
washed with milk, *and* fitly set. 13
His cheeks *are* like a bed of spices,
Banks of scented herbs.
His lips *are* lilies,
Dripping liquid myrrh. 14
His hands *are* rods of gold
Set with beryl.
His body *is* carved ivory
Inlaid *with* sapphires. 15
His legs *are* pillars of marble
Set on bases of fine gold.
His countenance *is* like [Lebanon](#),
Excellent as the cedars. 16
His mouth *is* most sweet,
Yes, he *is* altogether lovely.
This *is* my beloved, and
This *is* my friend,
O daughters of Jerusalem!

Song of Songs 6

6:1 ¶
THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
Where has your beloved gone,
O fairest among women?
Where has your beloved turned aside,
That we may seek him with you?

2 THE SHULAMITE

My beloved has gone to his garden,
To the beds of spices,
To feed *his flock* in the gardens, and
To gather lilies. 3

I am my beloved's, and
my beloved is mine.

He feeds *his flock* among the lilies.

4 ¶
THE BELOVED

O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,
Lovely as Jerusalem,
Awesome as an army with banners! 5
Turn your eyes away from me,
For they have overcome me.
Your hair is like a flock of goats
Going down from [Gilead](#). 6

Your teeth are like a flock of sheep
That have come up from the washing;
Every one bears twins, and
None is barren among them. 7
Like a piece of pomegranate
Are your temples behind your veil. 8
There are sixty [60] queens
And eighty [80] concubines,
And virgins without number. 9
My dove, my perfect one, is
The only one,
The only one of her mother,
The favorite of the one who bore her.
The daughters saw her
And called her blessed,
The queens and the concubines,
And they praised her. 10
Who is she
who looks forth as the morning,
Fair as the moon,
Clear as the sun,
Awesome as an army with banners?

11 ¶
THE SHULAMITE
I went down to the garden of nuts
To see the verdure [*greenness*] of the valley,
To see whether the vine had budded
And the pomegranates had bloomed. 12
Before I was even aware,
My soul had made me
As the chariots of my noble people.
13
THE BELOVED AND HIS FRIENDS
Return, return, O Shulamite;
Return, return,
that we may look upon you!

THE SHULAMITE
What would you see in the Shulamite —
As it were, the dance of the two camps?

Song of Songs 7

7:1 ¶
THE BELOVED
How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
O prince's daughter!
The curves of your thighs are like jewels,

The work of the hands
of a skillful workman. 2
Your navel *is* a rounded goblet;
It lacks no blended beverage.
Your waist *is* a heap of wheat
Set about with lilies. 3
Your two breasts *are* like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle. 4
Your neck *is* like an ivory tower,
Your eyes *like* the pools in [Heshbon](#)
By the gate of [Bath Rabbim](#).
Your nose *is* like the tower of [Lebanon](#)
Which looks toward [Damascus](#). 5
Your head *crowns* you
like *Mount Carmel*,
And the hair of your head *is* like purple;
A king *is* held captive by *your tresses*. 6
How fair and how pleasant you are,
O love, with your delights! 7
This stature of yours is like a palm tree,
And your breasts *like* its clusters. 8
I said,

“I will go up to the palm tree,
I will take hold of its branches.”
Let now your breasts be
like clusters of the vine,
The fragrance of your breath
like apples, 9 and
The roof of your mouth
like the best wine.

THE SHULAMITE
The wine goes down smoothly
for my beloved,
Moving gently the lips of sleepers.
10 ¶

I am my beloved's, and
His desire is toward me. 11
Come, my beloved,
Let us go forth to the field;
Let us lodge in the villages. 12
Let us get up early to the vineyards;
Let us see if the vine has budded,
Whether the grape blossoms are open,
And the pomegranates are in bloom.
There I will give you my love. 13

The mandrakes give off a fragrance,
And at our gates *are* pleasant *fruits*,
All manner, new and old,
Which I have laid up for you, my beloved.

Song of Songs 8

8:1 ¶
Oh, that you were like my brother,
Who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I should find you outside,
I would kiss you;
I would not be despised. 2
I would lead you *and* bring you
Into the house of my mother,
She *who* used to instruct me.
I would cause you to drink of spiced wine,
Of the juice of my pomegranate.
3
(TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM)
His left hand *is* under my head, and
His right hand embraces me. 4
I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
Do not stir up nor awaken love
until it pleases.

5 ¶
A RELATIVE
Who *is* this
Coming up from the wilderness,
Leaning upon her beloved?
I awakened you under the apple tree.
There your mother
brought you forth;
There she *who* bore you
brought *you* forth.

6
THE SHULAMITE TO HER BELOVED
Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love *is as* strong as death,
Jealousy *as* cruel as the grave;
Its flames *are* flames of fire,
A most vehement flame. 7
Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised.

8 ¶
 THE SHULAMITE'S BROTHERS
 We have a little sister,
 and she has no breasts.
 What shall we do for our sister
 in the day when she is spoken for? 9
 If she is a wall,
 we will build upon her
 a battlement of silver; and
 If she is a door,
 we will enclose her
 with boards of cedar.
 10
 THE SHULAMITE
 I am a wall, and my breasts like towers;
 Then I became in his eyes
 as one who found peace. 11
 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon
 ["lord (possessor) of abundance"];
 He leased the vineyard to keepers;
 Everyone was to bring for its fruit
 a thousand [1,000] silver coins.
 12
 (TO SOLOMON)
 My own vineyard is before me.
 You, O Solomon, may have
 a thousand [1,000],
 And those who tend its fruit
 two hundred [200].
 13 ¶
 THE BELOVED
 You who dwell in the gardens,
 The companions listen for your voice —
 Let me hear it!
 14
 THE SHULAMITE
 Make haste, my beloved, and
 Be like
 a gazelle or a young stag
 On the mountains of spices.

June 7

1 Kings 11

Solomon's Wives Lead Him Astray

11:1 ¶ But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh — women of the:

Moabites,
Ammonites,
Edomites,
Sidonians, and
Hittites — 2

from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods."

Solomon clung to these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred [700] wives, princesses, and three hundred [300] concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. 5 For Solomon went after

Ashtoreth ["star"] the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom ["great king"; aka Molech] the abomination of the Ammonites. 6

Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. 7

Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh ["subduer"; aka Baal-peor and Baal-zebub] the abomination of Moab, on the

hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech ["king"; why mentioned twice under two names?] the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8

And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

The LORD Is Angry With Solomon

9 ¶ So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. 11 Therefore, the LORD

said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

12 Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

13 However, I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one [1] tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

The LORD Raises Up An Adversary
 14 ¶ Now the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon,

Hadad ["mighty"] the Edomite; he was a descendant of the king in Edom. 15 For it happened, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, after he had killed every male in Edom 16 (because for six [6] months Joab remained there with all Israel, until he had cut down every male in Edom), 17 that Hadad fled to go to Egypt, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him. Hadad was still a little child. 18 Then they arose from

Midian ["strife"] and came to Paran ["place of caverns"]; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, apportioned food for him, and gave him land. 19 And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him as wife the sister of his own wife, that is, the sister of Queen

Tahpenes ["wife of the king"]. 20 Then the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath ["theft"] his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh. 21 So when Hadad heard in Egypt that David rested with his fathers, and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country." 22

Then Pharaoh said to him,

“But what have you lacked with me, that suddenly you seek to go to your own country?”

So he answered,

“Nothing, but do let me go anyway.” 23

God Raises Up Another Adversary

And God raised up *another* adversary against him,

Rezon [*“prince”*] the son of

Eliadah [*“God knows”*],

who had fled from his lord,

Hadadezer [*“Hadad is help”*]

king of Zobah [*“station”*]. 24

So he gathered men to him and became captain over a band of *raiders*, when David killed those of Zobah. And they went to Damascus [*“silent is the sackcloth weaver”*] and dwelt there, and reigned in Damascus. 25 He was an adversary of Israel **all the days of Solomon** (besides the trouble that Hadad caused); and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria [*“exalted”*; aka *Aram*].

Solomon’s Servant, Jeroboam, Arises

26 ¶ Then Solomon’s servant,

Jeroboam

[*“the people will contend”*]

the son of Nebat [*“aspect”*],

an Ephraimite from

Zereda [*“fortress”*],

whose mother’s name was

Zeruah [*“full breasted”*],

a widow,

also rebelled against the king. 27 And this *is* what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo *and* repaired the damages to the City of David his father. 28 The man Jero-

boam was **a mighty man of valor**; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was **industrious**, made him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph. 29 Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet

Ahijah [*“YHWH is (my) brother”*]

the Shilonite

[*Shiloh: “place of rest”*]

met him on the way; and he [*Ahijah*] had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two *were* alone in the field. 30

Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that *was* on him, and tore it *into* twelve [*12*] pieces. 31 And he said to Jeroboam,

“Take for yourself ten [*10*] pieces, for thus says **the LORD, the God of Israel**:

‘Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten [*10*] tribes to you 32

(but he shall have **one [*1*] tribe** for the sake of **My servant David**, and for the sake of Jerusalem,

the city **that** I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), 33

because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped

Ashtoreth

the goddess of the Sidonians,

Chemosh

the god of the Moabites, and

Milcom

the god of the people of Ammon,

and have not walked in

My ways to do *what is* right in

My eyes and **keep**

My statutes and

My judgments,

as *did* his father David. 34

However I will not take

the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler

all the days of his life

for the sake of **My servant David**, whom I chose because he kept

My commandments and

My statutes. 35

But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you — **ten**

[10] tribes. 36 And to his son I will

give **one [*1*] tribe**, that **My servant David** may always have **a lamp** before

Me in Jerusalem, the city **that** I have

chosen for **Myself**, to put **My name**

there. 37 So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires,

and you shall **be king over Israel**. 38

Then it shall be,

if you

heed **all that I command you**,

walk in **My ways**, and

do *what is* right in

My sight, to keep

My statutes and

My commandments,

as **My servant David** did,

then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39

And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this,

but not forever.” 40

Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to

Egypt, to

Shishak [*“greedy of fine linen”*]

king of Egypt,

and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Ecclesiastes

[33x: “vanity”; 29x: “under the sun”]

Ecclesiastes 1

Everything Is Meaningless

1:1 ¶ The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2

“Vanity of vanities”,
says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity.” 3

What profit has a man from all his labor
In which he toils under the sun?

4 ¶
One generation passes away, and
Another generation comes; but
The land [earth] abides forever. 5
The sun also rises, and
The sun goes down, and
hastens to the place
where it arose. 6

The wind goes toward the south, and
turns around to the north;
The wind whirls about continually, and
comes again on its circuit. 7

All the rivers run into the sea, yet
The sea *is* not full;
To the place from which the rivers come,
There they return again. 8

All things *are* full of labor;
Man cannot express *it*.
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,
Nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 ¶
That which has been *is* what will be,
That which *is* done is what will be done,
And
There *is* nothing new under the sun. 10
Is there anything of which
it may be said, “See, this *is* new?”
It has already been
in ancient times before us. 11

There *is* no remembrance
of former things,
Nor will there be any remembrance
of things that are to come
By those who will come after.

The Futility of Wisdom

12 ¶ I, the Preacher, was king over Israel
in Jerusalem. 13 And I set my heart to
seek and search out by wisdom concern-
ing all that is done under heaven; this
burdensome task God has given to the
sons of man, by which they may be
exercised. 14 I have seen all the works
that are done under the sun; and indeed,
all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.
15 What *is* crooked cannot be made
straight, And what is lacking cannot
be numbered. 16 I communed with my
heart, saying,

“Look, I have attained greatness, and
have gained more wisdom than all
who were before me in Jerusalem.
My heart has understood great
wisdom and knowledge.” 17
And I set my heart to know wisdom
and to know madness and folly. I per-
ceived that this also *is* grasping for the
wind. 18 For in much wisdom *is* much
grief, And he who increases knowledge
increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 2

The Futility of Pleasure

2:1 ¶ I said in my heart,
“Come now, I will test you with
mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure”;
but surely, this also *was* vanity. 2
I said of laughter — “Madness!”; and
of mirth, “What does it accomplish?” 3
I searched in my heart *how* to gratify

my flesh with wine, while guiding my
heart with wisdom, and how to lay
hold on folly, till I might see what *was*
good for the sons of men to do under
heaven all the days of their lives. 4
I made my works great,
I built myself houses, and
planted myself vineyards. 5
I made myself gardens and orchards,
and
I planted all *kinds* of fruit trees in them. 6
I made myself water pools
from which to water
the growing trees of the grove. 7
I acquired male and female servants,
and had servants born in my house.
Yes,
I had greater possessions of herds and
flocks than all who were in Jeru-
salem before me. 8
I also gathered for myself silver and
gold and the special treasures of
kings and of the provinces.
I acquired male and female singers,
the delights of the sons of men,
and musical instruments of all
kinds. 9 So
I became great and excelled more than
all who were before me in Jerusa-
lem.

Also my wisdom remained with me. 10
Whatever my eyes desired
I did not keep from them.
I did not withhold my heart
from any pleasure,
For my heart rejoiced in all my labor;
And this was my reward from all my
labor. 11
Then I looked on all the works that
my hands had done And on the labor
in which I had toiled; And indeed **all**

was vanity and grasping for the wind.
There was no profit under the sun.

The Wise and the Foolish

12 ¶ Then I turned myself to consider
wisdom and madness and folly;
For what *can* the man do
who succeeds the king? —
Only what he has already done. 13
Then I saw that
wisdom excels folly
as light excels darkness. 14
The wise man’s eyes *are* in his head,
but the fool walks in darkness.
Yet I myself perceived that
The same event happens to them all. 15
So I said in my heart,
“As it happens to the fool,
It also happens to me, and
Why was I then more wise?”
Then I said in my heart,
“This also *is* vanity.” 16
For *there is* no more remembrance of
the wise than of the fool forever,
Since all that now *is* will be forgotten
in the days to come. And how does a
wise *man* die? As the fool!

June 8

Ecclesiastes 2:17

The Futility of Work

17 ¶ Therefore I hated life because the
work that was done under the sun *was*
distressing to me, for all *is* vanity and
grasping for the wind.

18 Then I hated all my labor in which I
had toiled under the sun, because I
must leave it to the man who will
come after me. 19 And who knows

whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he will rule over all my labor in
which I toiled and in which I have
shown myself wise **under the sun**.
This also is vanity.

20 Therefore I turned my heart and de-
spaired of all the labor in which I had
toiled **under the sun**. 21 For there is
a man whose labor *is* with wisdom,
knowledge, and skill; yet he must
leave his heritage to a man who has
not labored for it.
This also is vanity and a great evil.

22 For what has man for all his labor,
and for the striving of his heart with
which he has toiled **under the sun**? 23
For all his days *are* sorrowful,
and his work burdensome;
even in the night his heart takes no rest.
This also is vanity.

24 Nothing *is* better for a man *than*
that he should eat and drink, and *that*
his soul should enjoy good in his labor.
This also, I saw, was from **the hand of**
God. 25 For who can eat, or who can
have enjoyment, more than I? 26 For
God gives
wisdom and
knowledge and
joy
to a man who *is* good in **His sight**; but
to the sinner He gives the work of
gathering and collecting, that he may
give to *him who is* good before God.
This also is vanity and grasping for
the wind.

Ecclesiasties 3

3:1 ¶ To everything *there is* a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven: 2
A time to be born, and
A time to die;
A time to plant, and
A time to pluck *what is* planted; 3
A time to kill, and
A time to heal;
A time to break down, and
A time to build up; 4
A time to weep, and
A time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and
A time to dance; 5
A time to cast away stones, and
A time to gather stones;
A time to embrace, and
A time to refrain from embracing; 6
A time to gain, and
A time to lose;
A time to keep, and
A time to throw away; 7
A time to tear, and
A time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and
A time to speak; 8
A time to love, and
A time to hate;
A time of war, and
A time of peace.

9 What profit has the worker from that
in which he labors? 10 I have seen the
God-given task with which the sons of
men are to be occupied.

11 ¶ He has made everything beautiful
in its time. Also He has put eternity
in their hearts, except that no one can
find out the work that God does from

beginning to end. 12 I know that noth-
ing *is* better for them than to rejoice,
and to do good in their lives, 13 and
also that every man should eat and drink
and enjoy the good of **all his labor** —
it *is* the gift of God. 14

I know that whatever God does,
it shall be forever.
Nothing can be added to it, and
Nothing taken from it.
God does *it*,
that men should fear before Him. 15
That which is, has already been, and
What is to be has already been; and
God requires an account of what is past.

The Injustices of Life

16 ¶ Moreover I saw **under the sun**:
In the place of judgment,
wickedness *was* there; and
In the place of righteousness,
iniquity *was* there. 17
I said in my heart,
“God shall judge the righteous and the
wicked, *For there is a time there for*
every purpose and for every work.” 18
I said in my heart,
“Concerning the condition of the sons
of men, God tests them, that they may
see that they themselves are *like ani-*
mals.” 19

For what happens to the sons of men
also happens to animals; one thing
befalls them: as one dies, so dies the
other. Surely, they all have one breath;
man has no advantage over animals,
for **all is vanity**. 20 All go to one place:
all are from the dust, and
all return to dust. 21

Who knows
the spirit of the sons of men,
which goes upward, and
the spirit of the animal,
which goes down to the land [earth]? 22
So I perceived that nothing *is* better
than that a man should rejoice in his
own works, for that *is* his heritage.
For who can bring him to see
what will happen after him?

Ecclesiasties 4

4:1 ¶ Then I returned and considered all
the oppression that is done **under the sun**:
And look!
The tears of the oppressed,
But they have no comforter —
On the side of their oppressors
there is power,
But they have no comforter. 2
Therefore I praised the dead
who were already dead,
More than the living
who are still alive. 3
Yet, better than both *is he*
who has never existed,
Who has not seen the evil work
that is done **under the sun**.

4 ¶ Again, I saw that for all toil and
every skillful work a man is envied by
his neighbor. **This also is vanity and**
grasping for the wind. 5

The fool folds his hands
And consumes his own flesh. 6
Better a handful *with* quietness
Than both hands full, *together with*
Toil and **grasping for the wind**.

The Advantages of Companionship

7 ¶ Then I returned, and **I saw vanity under the sun**: 8

There is one alone,
without companion:
He has neither son nor brother.
Yet *there is* no end to all his labors,
Nor is his eye satisfied with riches.
But he never asks,
“For whom do I toil
and deprive myself of good?”
This also is vanity
and a grave misfortune.

9 Two *are* better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls, For *he has* no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm *alone*? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The Futility of Political Power

13 ¶ Better a poor and wise youth Than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more. 14 For he comes out of prison to be king, Although he was born poor in his kingdom. 15 I saw all the living who walk **under the sun**; They were with the second youth who stands in his place. 16 *There was* no end of all the people over whom he was made king; Yet those who come afterward will not rejoice in him. Surely **this also is vanity and grasping for the wind**.

Ecclesiasties 5

The Importance of Fearing God

5:1 ¶ Walk prudently when you go to **the house of God**; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. 2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily **before God**. For God *is* in heaven, and you [*are*] on land [earth]; Therefore let your words be few. 3 For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool’s voice *is known* by *his* many words.

4 ¶ When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For *He has* no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed — 5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. 6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger *of God* that it *was* an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? 7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words **there is also vanity**. But fear God.

The Futility of Wealth

8 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.

9 ¶ Moreover the profit of the land is for all; *even* the king is served from the field. 10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. **This also is vanity**. 11

When goods increase,
they increase who eat them;
So what profit have the owners
except to see *them* with their eyes? 12

The sleep of a laboring man *is* sweet,
whether he eats little or much; but
The abundance of the rich
will not permit him to sleep.

13 There is a severe evil **that** I have seen **under the sun**: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt. 14 But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, *there is* nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother’s womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand. 16 And this also *is* a severe evil — Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind? 17 All his days he also eats in darkness, And *he has* much sorrow and sickness and anger.

18 ¶ Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils **under the sun** all the days of his life **that** God gives him; for it *is* his heritage. 19 As for every man to whom God has given

riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor — this *is* **the gift of God**. 20 For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart.

Ecclesiasties 6

6:1 ¶ There is an evil **that** I have seen **under the sun**, and it *is* common among men: 2 A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. **This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction**.

3 If a man begets a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say *that* a stillborn child *is* better than he — 4 for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness. 5 Though it has not seen the sun or known *anything*, this has more rest than that man, 6 even if he lives a thousand [*1,000*] years twice — but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place? [*i.e., the grave.*]

7 ¶ **All the labor of man** *is* for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied. 8 For what more has the wise *man* than the fool?

What does the poor man have,
Who knows *how* to walk
before the living? ⁹
Better *is* the sight of the eyes
Than the wandering of desire.
**This also *is* vanity
and grasping for the wind.** ¹⁰

The Future – Determined & Unknown

Whatever one is,
he has been named already,
For it is known that he *is* man;
And he cannot contend with Him
who is mightier than he.

¹¹ ¶
Since there are many things
that **increase vanity**,
How *is* man the better? ¹²
For who knows what *is* good for man
in life, **all the days of his vain life**
that he passes like a shadow?
Who can tell a man
what will happen after him
under the sun?

June 9

Ecclesiasties 7 Wisdom for Life

^{7:1} ¶
A good name *is* better
than precious ointment, and
The day of death
than the day of one's birth;
²
Better to go to the house of mourning
Than to go to the house of feasting,
For that *is* the end of all men; and
The living will take *it* to heart.
³
Sorrow *is* better than laughter,
for by a sad countenance
the heart is made better.

⁴
The heart of the wise *is*
in the house of mourning, but
The heart of fools *is*
in the house of mirth.
⁵
It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise
than for a man to hear the song of fools.
⁶
for like the crackling of thorns under a
pot,
So *is* the laughter of the fool.

This also *is* vanity.

⁷ ¶
Surely oppression destroys
a wise *man's* reason,
And a bribe debases
the heart.
⁸
The end of a thing *is*
better than its beginning;
The patient in spirit *is*
better than the proud in spirit.

⁹
Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry,
For anger rests in the bosom of fools.
¹⁰
Do not say, "**Why were the former days
better than these?**"
For you do not inquire wisely
concerning this.

¹¹ ¶
Wisdom *is*
good with an inheritance, and
profitable to those who see **the sun**, ¹²
for
Wisdom *is*
a defense *as* money *is* a defense, but
the excellence of knowledge *is that*
Wisdom gives life to those who have it.
¹³
Consider the work of God;
For who can make straight
what He has made crooked?

¹⁴
In the day of prosperity be joyful, but
In the day of adversity consider:
Surely God has appointed
the one as well as the other,
So that man can find out nothing
that will happen after him.
[NKJ: ↑ come]

The Limits of Human Wisdom

¹⁵ I have seen everything
in my days of **vanity**:
There is a just *man*
who perishes in his righteousness,
and
There is a wicked *man*
who prolongs *life* in his wickedness.
¹⁶
Do not be overly righteous,
Nor be overly wise:
Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷
Do not be overly wicked,
Nor be foolish:
Why should you die before your time?
¹⁸
It is good that you
grasp this, and also
not remove your hand from the other;
for he who fears God will escape them all.

¹⁹
Wisdom strengthens the wise
more than ten rulers of the city. ²⁰
For *there is* not a just man on land [earth]
who does good and does not sin.
²¹
Also
Do not take to heart
everything people say,
Lest you hear
your servant cursing you. ²²
For many times, also,
your own heart has known
that even you have cursed others.

²³ ¶
All this I have proved by wisdom:
I said, "**I will be wise**";
But it *was* far from me. ²⁴
As for that which is
far off and exceedingly deep,
Who can find it out? ²⁵
I applied my heart to know,
To search and seek out
wisdom and the reason *of things*,
To know the wickedness of folly,
Even of foolishness *and* madness. ²⁶
And I find more bitter than death
The woman
whose heart *is* snares and nets,
whose hands *are* fetters.
He who pleases God
shall escape from her, but
The sinner
shall be trapped by her.
²⁷
"**Here is what I have found,**"
says the Preacher,
"**Adding one thing to the other**
to find out the reason, ²⁸
Which my soul still seeks but
I cannot find:
One man among a thousand [1,000]
I have found, but
A woman among all these
I have **not found.** ²⁹
Truly, this only I have found:
That God made man upright, but
They have sought out many schemes."

Ecclesiasties 8

^{8:1} ¶
Who *is* like a wise *man*? And
Who knows the interpretation of a thing?
A man's wisdom makes his face shine,
And the sternness of his face is changed.

Obedience to the King

2 I say,
“Keep the king’s commandment
for the sake of your oath to God. 3
Do not be hasty to go from his presence.
Do not take your stand for an evil thing,
for he does whatever pleases him.”

4
Where the word of a king is,
there is power; and
who may say to him,
“What are you doing?” 5
He who keeps his command will
experience nothing harmful; and
A wise man’s heart discerns
both time and judgment,
6 ¶
Because for every matter there
is a time and judgment,
though the misery of man
increases greatly. 7
For he does not know what will happen;
So who can tell him
when it [death: v8] will occur? 8
No one has power
over the spirit to retain the spirit, and
No one has power
in the day of death.
There is no release from that war, and
wickedness will not deliver those
who are given to it.

The Wicked and the Righteous

9 ¶ All this I have seen, and applied
my heart to every work that is done
under the sun:
There is a time in which one man
rules over another to his own hurt.
10

Then I saw the wicked buried,
who had come and gone
from the place of holiness,
and they were forgotten in the city
where they had so done.

This also is vanity.

11
Because
the sentence against an evil work
is not executed speedily,
Therefore
the heart of the sons of men
is fully set in them to do evil.

12
Though
a sinner does evil a hundred times,
and his days are prolonged, yet
I surely know that
it will be well with those
who fear God,
who fear before Him; 13 but
it will not be well with the wicked;
nor will he prolong his days,
which are as a shadow, because
he does not fear before God.

14 ¶ There is a vanity that occurs on
land [earth]:

that there are just men to whom it happens
according to the work of the wicked; again,
there are wicked men to whom it happens
according to the work of the righteous.

I said that this also is vanity.

15 So I commended enjoyment,
because a man has nothing better
under the sun than to eat, drink, and
be merry; for this will remain with him
in his labor all the days of his life
that God gives him under the sun.

16 When I applied my heart to know
wisdom and to see the business that is
done on land [earth], even though one
sees no sleep day or night, 17 then I
saw all the work of God, that a man
cannot find out the work that is done
under the sun. For:
though a man labors to discover it, yet
he will not find it; moreover,
though a wise man attempts to know it,
he will not be able to find it.

Ecclesiasties 9

Death Comes to All

9:1 ¶ For I considered all this in my
heart, so that I could declare it all:
that the righteous and
the wise and
their works
are in the hand of God.
People know neither love nor hatred
by anything they see before them.

2 All things come alike to all:
One event happens
To the righteous and the wicked;
To the good,
the clean, and
the unclean;
To him who sacrifices and
him who does not sacrifice.

As is the good, so is
the sinner;
he who takes an oath
As he who fears an oath. 3
This is an evil in all that is done under
the sun:
that one thing happens to all.
Truly the hearts of the sons of men
are full of evil;
madness is in their hearts while they live,
and after that they go to the dead.

4 ¶
But for him who is joined to all the living
there is hope, for
a living dog is better than a dead lion. 5
For the living know that they will die;
But the dead know nothing,
And they have no more reward,
For the memory of them is forgotten. 6
Also their love,
their hatred, and
their envy
have now perished;
Nevermore will they have a share
In anything done under the sun. 7
Go, eat your bread with joy, and
drink your wine with a merry heart;
For
God has already accepted your works. 8
Let your garments always be white, and
Let your head lack no oil. 9
Live joyfully with the wife
whom you love
all the days of your vain life
that He has given you
under the sun,
all your days of vanity;
For that is your portion
in life, and
in the labor
that you perform
under the sun. 10
Whatever your hand finds to do,
do it with your might;
For there is no
work or
device or
knowledge or
wisdom
In the grave [Hebrew sheol]
where you are going.

11 ¶

I returned and saw **under the sun** that:
 The race *is* not to the swift,
 Nor the battle to the strong,
 Nor bread to the wise,
 Nor riches to men of understanding,
 Nor favor to men of skill; But
 Time and chance happen to them all.¹²
 For man also does not know his time:
 Like fish taken in a cruel net,
 Like birds caught in a snare,
 So the sons of men *are* snared
 in an evil time,
 when it falls suddenly upon them.

Thoughts of Wisdom and Folly

¹³ ¶ This wisdom I have also seen
under the sun, and
 It *seemed* great to me: ¹⁴
 There was a little city
 with few men in it; and
 A great king
 came against it,
 besieged it, and
 built great snares around it. ¹⁵
 Now there was found in it
 a poor wise man, and
 he by his wisdom
 delivered the city.
 Yet no one remembered
 that same poor man. ¹⁶
 Then I said:
 “Wisdom *is* better than strength;
 nevertheless, the poor man’s
 Wisdom *is* despised, and
 His words are not heard. ¹⁷
 Words of the wise, *spoken* quietly,
should be heard Rather than
 The shout of a ruler of fools. ¹⁸
 Wisdom *is* better than
 weapons of war; but
 one sinner destroys
 Much good.”

www.GenesisHistory.org/content/1yrSolomon.pdf

Ecclesiasties 10

^{10:1} ¶
 Dead flies
 putrefy the perfumer’s ointment,
 and cause it to give off a foul odor;
 So *does* a little folly
 to one respected
 for wisdom *and* honor.
²
 A wise man’s heart *is*
 at his right hand, but
 A fool’s heart at his left.
³
 Even when a fool walks along the way,
 He lacks wisdom, and
 He shows everyone *that he is* a fool.
⁴ ¶
 If the spirit of the ruler rises against you,
 do not leave your post;
 For conciliation pacifies great offenses.
⁵
 There is an evil I have seen **under the sun**,
 As an error proceeding from the ruler: ⁶
 Folly is set in great dignity,
 While the rich sit in a lowly place.⁷
 I have seen servants on horses,
 While princes walk on the ground
 like servants.
⁸
 He who digs a pit will fall into it, and
 Whoever breaks through a wall
 will be bitten by a serpent.
⁹
 He who quarries stones
 may be hurt by them, *and*
 He who splits wood
 may be endangered by it.
¹⁰
 If the ax is dull,
 And one does not sharpen the edge,
 Then he must use more strength;
 But wisdom brings success.
¹¹

A serpent may bite
 when *it is* not charmed;
 The babbler is no different.
¹² ¶
 The words of a wise man’s mouth
are gracious, but
 The lips of a fool
 shall swallow him up; ¹³
 The words of his mouth
 begin with foolishness, and
 The end of his talk
is raving madness. ¹⁴
 A fool also multiplies words.
 No man knows what is to be;
 Who can tell him
what will happen [be] after him?
¹⁵
 The labor of fools wearies them,
 For they do not even know
 how to go to the city!
¹⁶ ¶
 Woe to you, O land, when
 your king *is* a child, and
 your princes feast in the morning!¹⁷
 Blessed *are* you, O land, when
 your king *is* the son of nobles, and
 your princes feast at the proper time:
 For strength and not for drunkenness!
¹⁸
 Because of laziness
 the building decays, and
 Through idleness of hands
 the house leaks.
¹⁹
 A feast is made for laughter, and
 Wine makes merry; but
 Money answers everything.
²⁰
 Do not curse the king,
 even in your thought;
 Do not curse the rich,
 even in your bedroom; for

A bird of the air may carry your voice,
 and
 A bird in flight may tell the matter.

Ecclesiasties 11

Generosity and Diligence

^{11:1} ¶
 Cast your bread upon the waters,
 For you will find it after many days.
²
 Give a serving to seven [⁷],
 and also to eight [⁸],
 For you do not know what evil
 will be on the land [earth].
³
 If the clouds are full of rain,
 They empty *themselves*
 upon the land [earth]; and
 If a tree falls to the south or the north,
 in the place where the tree falls,
 there it shall lie.
⁴
 He who observes the wind
 will not sow, and
 He who regards the clouds
 will not reap.
⁵
 As you do not know
 what *is* the way of the wind, *or*
 how the bones *grow* in the womb
 of her who is with child,
 So you do not know **the works of God**
 who makes everything.
⁶
 In the morning
 sow your seed, and
 In the evening
 do not withhold your hand;
 For you do not know
 which will prosper,
 either this or that, or
 whether both alike *will be* good.

June 10

Ecclesiasties 11:7

Advice for Old and Young

7 ¶ Truly the light is sweet, and
It is pleasant for the eyes
to behold the sun; 8 but
If a man lives many years *and*
rejoices in them all, yet
Let him remember the days of darkness,
For they will be many.

All that is coming *is* vanity.

9 Rejoice, O young man,
in your youth, and
Let your heart cheer you
in the days of your youth;
Walk in the ways of your heart, and
in the sight of your eyes; but
Know that for all these
God will bring you into judgment. 10

Therefore
Remove sorrow from your heart, and
Put away evil from your flesh, for
Childhood and youth *are* vanity.

Ecclesiasties 12

12:1 ¶

Remember now your Creator

in the days of your youth,
before the difficult days come, and
the years draw near

When you say,
“I have no pleasure in them”: 2

While the sun and the light,
the moon and the stars,
are not darkened, and
the clouds do not return
after the rain; 3

in the day
When
the keepers of the house
tremble, and
the strong men
bow down;

When
the grinders cease
because they are few, and
those that look through
the windows grow dim; 4

When
the doors are shut
in the streets, and
the sound of grinding is low;

When
one rises up
at the sound of a bird, and
all the daughters of music
are brought low; 5 also they
are afraid of height,
and of terrors in the way;

When
the almond tree blossoms,
the grasshopper is a burden, and
desire fails.

For man goes to his eternal home, and
the mourners go about the streets. 6

Remember [now] your Creator

before the silver cord is loosed, or
the golden bowl is broken, or
the pitcher shattered
at the fountain, or
the wheel broken
at the well. 7

Then the dust will return
to the land [earth] as it was, and

The spirit will return
to God who gave it.

Concluding Thoughts

8 ¶

“Vanity of vanities,”
says the Preacher,

“All *is* vanity.” 9
And, moreover,
because the Preacher was wise,
he still taught the people knowledge;
yes,

he pondered and
sought out *and*
set in order
many proverbs. 10

The Preacher sought to find
acceptable words; and
what was written *was* upright —
words of truth; 11
the words of the wise
are like goads, and
the words of scholars
are like well-driven nails,
given by one Shepherd. 12

And further, my son,
be admonished by these:
of making many books
there is no end, and
much study
is wearisome to the flesh.

13 ¶

Let us hear the conclusion of the
whole matter:
Fear God and
Keep **His commandments**,
For this is man’s all. 14
For God will bring
every work into judgment,
including every secret thing,
whether good or evil.

1 Kings 11:41-43 ||

[This column is parallel to the next:]

41 ¶

Now the rest of **the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon?**

42 And the period that

Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel **was forty [40] years.** 43 *[2989 to 3029 AB: 1 Ki 6:1, May 21]* Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

[Does the parallel imply that the "Book of the Acts of Solomon" was 7]

1 Chronicles 29:26-30

Solomon Dies

29

Now the rest of **the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the Book of Nathan the Prophet, in the Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the Visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?** 30

Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel **forty [40] years.** 31 *[←1015 to 975 BC]*

Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

[the compilation of these three: the "Book of Nathan the Prophet", the "Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite", and the "Visions of Iddo the Seer"?)

June 10 cont'd:

Forward to: [1Kings-Others](#)

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	Song of Songs		
6	1:1	8:14	
	Ecclesiasties		
7	1Ki 11:1	11:40	
	1:1	2:16	
8	2:17	6:12	
9	7:1	11:6	
10	11:7	12:14	
	1Ki 11:41	11:43	 1Ch 9:29-31

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[Special studies of particulare Proverbs:]

[Special study of:]

Proverbs 22

22:1 ¶
A *good* name is to be chosen
rather than
great riches,
loving favor
rather than
silver and gold. [cf. v4]

2 ¶
The rich and the poor
have this in common:
The LORD is the maker of them all.

3 ¶
A prudent *man* foresees evil
and hides himself, but
The simple pass on
and are punished.
[How become prudent? He 5:14 1Ti 4:7-8]

4 ¶
By humility and
the fear of the LORD
Are riches and honor and life.

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

6 ¶
Train up a child
in the way
he should go, and
when he is old,
he will not depart from it.

7 ¶
The rich rules over the poor, and
The borrower is servant to the lender.
[“I owe my soul to the company store”]

8 ¶
He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow,
and the rod of his anger will fail.
[the septre of his haughtiness?]

9 ¶
He who has a generous eye
will be blessed,
For he gives of his bread to the poor.
[an eye for opportunities to be generous?]

10 ¶ [↓ the reckless spirit]
Cast out the scoffer [man of pride],
and contention will leave;
yes, strife and reproach will cease.

11 ¶
He who loves purity of heart
and has grace on his lips:
The king will be his friend.

12 ¶
The eyes of the LORD
preserve knowledge, but
He overthrows the words of the faithless.
[He destroys the plans of the deceitful]

13 ¶
The lazy *man* says, [cf. v29, 26:13]
“There is a lion outside!
I shall be slain in the streets!”

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

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

16 ¶
He who oppresses the poor
to increase his riches, and
He who gives to the rich [James 2:6]
[to increase his influence?],
will surely come to poverty.

Exhortations of the Wise to a Son First Sermon (22:17-24:22)

17 ¶
Incline your ear and
Hear the words of the wise, and
Apply your heart to my knowledge; 18
For it is a pleasant thing
if you keep them within you;
Let them all be fixed upon your lips, 19
So that your trust may be in the LORD;
I have instructed you today, even you. 20
Have I not written to you excellent things
[See the next thirty] [↑ thirty?]
of counsels and knowledge, 21
That I may make you know
the certainty of the words of truth,
That you may answer [with] words of truth
to those who send [questions] to you?

22 ¶ (1)
Do not rob the poor because he is poor,
Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; 23
For the LORD will
plead their cause, and
plunder the soul of those
who plunder them.

24 ¶ (2)
Make no friendship
with an angry man, and
with a furious man
Do not go, lest you
learn his ways and
set a snare for your soul.

26 ¶ (3)
Do not be
one of those
who shakes hands in a pledge,
one of those [↓ Ge 43:9]
who is surety for debts; 27
If you have nothing with which to pay,
Why should he take away your bed
from under you?

28 ¶ (4)
Do not remove the ancient landmark
That your fathers have set.

29 ¶ (5) [cf. v13; Ex 35:30]
Do you see a man who excels in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before unknown men.

[Special study of:]

Proverbs 28

28:1 ¶

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but
[full of dreary apprehensions: H&E]
[Le 26:17,36 De 28:7,25]

The righteous are bold as a lion.
[confidence from a clean conscience]
[A bad conscience makes men timid;
the righteous are alone truly bold
(Pr 14:26; Ps 27:1).]

2 ¶

Because of the transgression of a land,
many are **its princes**; [people ↑]
[we currently have 545 of them; v5]
[contending for pwr / 1 then another]
[change/subversion of laws, taxes]

But by a man of [intercession]
understanding and [insight]
knowledge [facts]

Right will be prolonged.
[When the country is in chaos, everybody
has a plan to fix it—But it takes a
leader of real understanding to
straighten things out. –MSG]

3 ¶ [v8]

A **poor** man who oppresses the **poor**
Is like a driving rain **that** leaves no food.
[Mt 18:23ff. The comparatively poor are
often shockingly uncharitable and un-
feeling towards the real poor.]

4 ¶ [vv7,9; Ps 10:3 Mal 3:15 Ro 1:32]

Those who **forsake the law**
praise the wicked, [their own kind]
[or, in forsaking the law I praise them]
But such as keep the law
contend with them.
[as John the Baptist did Herod]

5 ¶ [Jer 4:22; 1Co 2:15; 1Jo 2:20,27]

Evil men do not understand justice, but
[↑ judgment]
Those who seek **the LORD** understand all.

6 ¶ [v18]

Better is the **poor**
who walks in his **integrity**
Than one **perverse in his [two] ways**,
though he be **rich**. [pretending vs doing]
[Ja 1:8—double-minded, unstable; Ps
119:113—I hate ↑ but I love your law]

7 ¶ [vv4,9; De 4:6]

Whoever **keeps the law** [from the heart:
the reward is in, not for, its keeping]
is a discerning [wise, intelligent] son,
But a companion of gluttons
shames his father. [v24 10:5 29:15]

8 ¶ [v3 13:22 Lev 25:36 Job 27:16-17 Ec 2:26]

One who increases his possessions
by usury and extortion [impl.: of **poor**]
[exorbitant interest and prices]
Gathers it for him who will pity the **poor**.
[by the providence of God]

9 ¶ [vv4,7; 1:24-28 Zec 7:11-13 2Ti 4:3-4]

One who turns away his ear
from **hearing the law**,
Even his prayer is an abomination.
[You won't hear me, I won't hear you.]

10 ¶ [(a) Mt 24:24 (b) Ps 7:15-16 (c) 28:20,25]

Whoever causes the upright to go astray
in an evil way [path toward a trap],
He himself will **fall into his own pit**;
[tables turned; con man gets conned]
But the blameless will inherit good.

11 ¶ [1Co 3:18-19 1Ti 6:17]

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

12 ¶ [vv2,5,15,16,28; 11:10]

When the righteous rejoice,
[religious freedom, honor, etc.]
there is great glory; but
When **the wicked** arise,
men hide themselves.

13 ¶ [Ps 32:3-5 Mt 23:25-28]

He who covers his sins [Job 31:33]
will not prosper [Ge 3:12-13,4:9], but
Whoever confesses and forsakes **them**
will have mercy. [1Jo 1:9]

14 ¶ [23:17 Ps 2:11]

Happy is the man [↓ Gill: of the LORD]
who is always reverent, but he
who hardens his heart [against Him]
will fall into calamity.

15 ¶ [vv2,5,12,16,28; 20:2; Jer 4:7 50:17 2Ti 4:17]

Like a roaring lion and [hungry, scary]
a charging bear [angry, scary]
Is a **wicked ruler** [Rev 13:2]
over **poor** people. [in danger]

16 ¶ [vv2,5,12, 15,28; 1 Ki 12:10-Rehoboam]

A **ruler** who lacks understanding
is a great oppressor, but
he who hates covetousness
will prolong his days.
[A weak prince will generally have wicked
ministers, for his weakness prevents him
from making a proper choice; and he is
apt to prefer them who flatter him, and
minister most to his pleasures.]

17 ¶ [Ge 9:6 Nu 35:14-34 cities of refuge]

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

18 ¶ [v6 10:9,25 11:3-6]

Whoever walks **blamelessly**
will be saved [safe], but
He who is **perverse in his [two] ways**
will suddenly fall.

19 ¶ [~12:11; 14:4]
He who tills his land
will have plenty of bread, but
He who follows frivolity [persons]
will have poverty enough!

20 ¶ [v22]
A faithful man [true to his work, makes
good his promises, fulfills his con-
tracts, abides by obligations, ...]
will abound with blessings, but
[from man and God, and to others]
He who hastens [wrongly] to be rich
will not go unpunished. [23:4]

21 ¶ [18:5 24:23 Ex 23:2,8 Eze 13:19 Ja 2:1-2]
To show partiality is not good, because
For a piece of bread a man will transgress.
[that he might be hired, for a morsel of
bread, to speak or hold his peace]]

22 ¶ [v20; 22:9-EE; Mt 25:20; 1Ti 6:9-10]
A man with an evil eye [envious, covets]
hastens [wrongly] after riches, and
does not consider that [13:11, 20:21]
poverty will come upon him.

23 ¶ [27:5-6 wounds of a friend/kisses of an enemy]
He who rebukes a man [← ↓ after me]
will find more favor afterward [Mt 18:15]
Than he who flatters with the tongue.

24 ¶ [v7 19:26 Jud 17:2 Mt 15:5-6]
Whoever robs his father or his mother,
and says, "It is no transgression,"
The same is companion to a destroyer.
[murderer]

25 ¶ [v26 10:12 13:10 15:18 22:10 29:22]
He who is of a proud heart
stirs up strife, but
He who trusts in the LORD
will be prospered. [Ps 84:11-12 Jer 17:7-8]

26 ¶ [v25 3:5-6 Mr 7:21-23]
He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
but [↓ by trusting in the LORD]
Whoever walks wisely will be delivered.
[from the snares of his own heart]

27 ¶ [Is 58:7]
He who gives to the poor
will not lack, but
He who hides his eyes
will have many curses.

28 ¶ [vv2,5,12, 15, 16; 29:2; Job 24:4]
When the wicked arise,
men hide themselves; but
When they perish,
the righteous increase.

The abominations to the LORD:

3:32 for:

The perverse *person is*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

His secret counsel *is* with the upright.

6:16

Seven Things The LORD Hates

These six *things* the LORD hates, yes,

Seven *are* an **abomination** to Him: 17

a proud look,

a lying tongue,

hands that shed innocent blood, 18

a heart that devises wicked plans,

feet that are swift in running to evil, 19

a false witness *who* speaks lies, and

one who sows discord among brethren.

8:6

Listen,

for I will speak of

excellent things, and

from the opening of my lips *will come*

right things; 7

for my mouth will speak

truth;

wickedness *is*

an **abomination** to my lips.

11:1 ¶

Dishonest scales *are*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

a just weight *is*

His delight.

11:20 ¶

Those who are of a **perverse heart** *are*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

The blameless in their ways *are*

His delight.

12:22 ¶

Lying lips *are*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

Those who deal truthfully *are*

His delight.

15:8 ¶

The sacrifice of the wicked *is*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

The prayer of the upright *is*

His delight.

15:9 ¶

The way of the wicked *is*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

He loves him who follows righteousness.

15:26 ¶

The thoughts of the wicked *are*

an **abomination** to the LORD, but

The words of the pure *are*

pleasant.

16:5 ¶

Everyone proud in heart *is*

an **abomination** to the LORD;

Though they join forces,

none will go unpunished.

16:12 ¶

It is an **abomination** for kings

to commit wickedness, for

A throne is established by righteousness.

17:15 ¶

He who justifies the wicked, and

He who condemns the just,

both of them alike *are*

An **abomination** to the LORD.

20:10 ¶

Diverse weights *and* diverse measures,

they *are* both alike, [cf. v23]

An **abomination** to the LORD.

20:23 ¶

Diverse weights *are* [cf. v10]

an **abomination** to the LORD, and

Dishonest scales *are* not good.

21:27 ¶

The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an **abomi-**

nation; How much more *when* he

brings it with wicked intent!

26:24 ¶

He who hates,

disguises *it* with his lips, and

lays up deceit within himself; 25

When he speaks kindly,

do not believe him,

for *there are*

seven **abominations** in his heart; 26

Though his hatred is covered by deceit,

His wickedness will be revealed

before the assembly.

28:9 ¶

One who turns away his ear

from hearing the law,

Even his prayer *is* an **abomination**.

29:27 ¶

An **unjust** man *is*

an **abomination** to the righteous, and

He who is upright in the way *is*

an abomination to the wicked.