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Chapter 1

(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, and judgment, and equity {fairness};
 (4) To give wisdom to the simple minded, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
 (5) A wise *man* will hear, and will increase in learning; and a man of understanding will attain to wise counsels:
 (6) To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their hidden meanings.
 (7) The fear {reverence}^a of the LORD {Jehovah} is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 (8) My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother:
 (9) Because they *will be* an ornament of grace to your head, and chains {of jewelry} about your neck.
 (10) My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.
 (11) If they say, Come with us, let us lay *in* wait for blood, let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause:
 (12) Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those who go down into the pit:

(13) We shall find all precious possessions, we will 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; refrain your foot from their path:
 (16) Because their feet run to evil, and go quickly to shed blood.
 (17) Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.
 (18) And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk secretly for their *own* lives.
 (19) So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; *who* takes away the life of its owners.
 (20) Wisdom cries outside; she speaks her voice in the streets:
 (21) She cries in the chief market place, in the openings of the gates: in the city she speaks her words, *saying*,
 (22) How long, you simple minded ones, will you love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?
 (23) Turn yourself at my reproof: indeed, I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make known my words to you.
 (24) Because I have called, and you refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;
 (25) But you have set at nothing all my counsel, and would *have* none of my reproof:

1:7a - fear – revere – have reverence [deep respect; honor] for – in awe of Him – truly know and believe that He is the Creator of all things

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(26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear comes;
 (27) When your fear comes as desolation, and your destruction comes as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish comes upon you.
 (28) Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me early, but they will not find me:
 (29) Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah};
 (30) They would *have* none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.
 (31) Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.
 (32) Because the turning away of the simple minded will kill them, and the prosperity of fools will destroy them.
 (33) But whoever listens to me will live safely, and will be quiet from fear of evil.

Chapter 2

(1) My son, if you will receive my words, and hide my commandments within you;
 (2) So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding;
 (3) Yes, if you cry after knowledge, *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 {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah}, and find the knowledge of God.

(6) Because the LORD {Jehovah} gives wisdom: out of His mouth *comes* knowledge and understanding.
 (7) He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous: *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly.
 (8) He keeps the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints.
 (9) Then you will understand righteousness, and justice, and equity {fairness}; *yes*, every good path.
 (10) When wisdom enters into 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 the evil *man*, from the man who speaks perverse things;
 (13) Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
 (14) Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the perverseness of the wicked;
 (15) Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they are* perverse in their paths:
 (16) To deliver you from the strange woman {prostitute; unbeliever},^a *even* from the stranger *who* flatters with her words;
 (17) Who forsakes the guide of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God.
 (18) Because her house inclines to death, and her paths to the dead.
 (19) None that go to her return again, neither do they take hold of the paths of life.

2:16a - strange woman - unbeliever; a woman who is not your wife - a woman who tries to seduce you; a prostitute – see Prov. 7:5-27

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(20) That you may walk in the way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.

(21) Because the upright will live in the land, and the perfect will remain in it.

(22) But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the sinners will be rooted out of it.

Chapter 3

(1) My son, do not forget my law; but let your heart keep my commandments:

(2) Because they will add to you length of days, and long life, and peace.

(3) Do not let mercy and truth forsake you: bind them about your neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart:

(4) So you will find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

(5) Trust in the LORD {Jehovah} with all your heart; and do not lean upon your own understanding.

(6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.

(7) Do not be wise in your own eyes: fear {revere} the LORD {Jehovah}, and depart from evil.

(8) It will be health to your belly, and marrow to your bones.

(9) Honor the LORD {Jehovah} with your substance {possessions}, and with the first fruits of all your increase:

(10) So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your wine presses will burst out with new wine.

(11) My son, do not despise the discipline of the LORD {Jehovah}; neither be weary of His correction:

(12) For those whom the LORD {Jehovah} loves He corrects;^a even as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

(13) Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, and the man *who* obtains understanding.

(14) Because its merchandise *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and its gain *better* than fine gold.

(15) She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things you can desire are not to be compared to her.

(16) Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* 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 lay hold upon her: and happy *is everyone* who keeps her.

(19) The LORD {Jehovah} by wisdom has founded the earth; by understanding He has established the heavens.

(20) By His knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

(21) My son, do not let them 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 in your way safely, and your foot will not stumble.

3:12a – Heb. 12:6

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(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 fear, nor of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes.

(26) Because the LORD {Jehovah} will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being taken.

(27) Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do *it*.

(28) Do not say to your neighbor, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when you have it with you now.

(29) Do not devise {plan} evil against your neighbor, since he lives securely by you.

(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) Because the perverse *is* abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: but His secret *is* with the righteous.

(33) The curse of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* in the house of the wicked: but He blesses the house of the just.

(34) Surely He scorns the scorers: but He gives grace to the humble.

(35) The wise will inherit glory: but shame will be the promotion of fools.

Chapter 4

(1) Listen, you children, *to* the instruction of a father, and attend {pay attention} to know understanding.

(2) Because I give you good instruction, do not forsake my law.

(3) Because I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.

(4) He taught me also, and said to me, Let your heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

(5) Obtain wisdom, get understanding: do not forget *it*; nor decline 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 {most important} thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all you obtain get understanding.

(8) Exalt her, and she will promote you: she will bring you to honor, when you embrace her.

(9) She will give to your head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory she will deliver to you.

(10) Listen, 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 go, your steps will not be restrained; and when you run, you will not stumble.

(13) Take fast hold of instruction; do not let *her* go: keep her; because she *is* your life.

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(14) Do not enter into the path of the wicked, and do not go in the way of evil *men*.

(15) Avoid it, do not pass by it, turn from it, and pass away.

(16) Because they do not sleep, unless they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause *some* to fall.

(17) Because they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

(18) But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more until the perfect day.

(19) The way of the wicked is as darkness: they do not know why they stumble.

(20) My son, pay 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) Because they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

(23) Keep your heart with all diligence; because out of it *are* the issues of life.

(24) Put away from yourself a perverse mouth, and put perverse lips far from you.

(25) Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you.

(26) Consider the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.

(27) Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left: remove your foot from evil.

Chapter 5

(1) My son, pay attention to my wisdom, *and* bow your ear to my understanding:

(2) That you may regard discretion, and *that* your lips may keep knowledge.

(3) Because the lips of a strange woman {prostitute; unbeliever}^a drop *as* a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:

(4) But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

(5) Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

(6) Lest you should ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* you cannot know *them*.

(7) Listen to me now therefore, you children, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

(8) Remove your way far from her, and do not come near to the door of her house:

(9) Lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel:

(10) Lest strangers be filled with your wealth; and your labors *be* in the house of a stranger;

(11) And you mourn at the last, when your flesh and your body are consumed,

(12) And say, How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

(13) And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

5:3a - strange woman - unbeliever; a woman who is not your wife - a woman who tries to seduce you; a prostitute – see Prov. 7:5-27

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(14) I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.
 (15) Drink waters out of your own cistern {water tank}, and running waters out of your own well.
 (16) Let your fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets.
 (17) Let them be only your own, and not strangers' with you.
 (18) Let your fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of your youth.
 (19) *Let her be as* the loving deer and pleasant doe; let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and be ravished always with her love.
 (20) And why will you, my son, be ravished with a strange woman {prostitute; unbeliever}, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?
 (21) Because the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD {Jehovah}, and He considers all he does.
 (22) His own sins will take the wicked himself, and he will be held with the cords of his sins.
 (23) He will die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.

Chapter 6

(1) My son, if you are surety {made a promise; cosigner} for your friend, *if* you have shook hands in a pledge with a stranger,

(2) You become snared with the words of your mouth, you are taken with the words of your mouth.
 (3) Do this now, my son, and deliver yourself, when you have come into the hand of your friend; go, humble yourself, and make sure your friend.
 (4) Do not give sleep to your eyes, nor rest to your eyelids.
 (5) Deliver yourself as a doe from the hand *of the hunter*, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler {bird catcher}.
 (6) Consider the ant, you who are lazy;^a consider her ways, and be wise:
 (7) Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
 (8) Provides her food in the summer, *and* gathers her food in the harvest.
 (9) How long will you sleep, lazy one? when will you arise out of your sleep?
 (10) *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:
 (11) So your poverty will come as one that travels, and your want as an armed man.
 (12) A naughty person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth.
 (13) He winks with his eyes, he speaks with his feet, he teaches with his fingers;
 (14) Perverseness *is* in his heart, he devises {plans} mischief continually; he sows discord.
 (15) Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; suddenly he will be broken without remedy.

6:6a - sluggard - lazy person - person who could work, but won't

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(16) These six *things* the LORD {Jehovah} hates: yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

(17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

(18) A heart that devises {plans} wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief,

(19) A false witness *who* speaks lies, and he who sows discord among brothers.

(20) My son, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake the law of your mother:

(21) Bind them continually upon your heart, *and* tie them around your neck.

(22) When you go, it will lead you; when you sleep, it will keep you; and *when* you awake, it will talk with you.

(23) Because the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

(24) To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman {unbeliever; prostitute}.

(25) Do not lust after her beauty in your heart; neither let her take you with her eyelids.

(26) Because by means of a prostitute *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

(27) Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

(28) Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

(29) So he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her will not be innocent.

(30) *Men* do not despise a thief, if he steals to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;^b

(31) But *if* he is found, he will restore sevenfold; he will give all the substance of his house.

(32) *But* whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding: he *who* does it destroys his own soul.

(33) A wound and dishonor he will receive; and his reproach will not be wiped away.

(34) Because jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

(35) He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though you give many gifts.

Chapter 7

(1) My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments within you.

(2) Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of your eye.

(3) Bind them upon your fingers, write them upon the tablet of your heart.

(4) Say to wisdom, You *are* my sister; and call understanding *your* kinswoman:

(5) That they may keep you from the strange woman {prostitute; unbeliever},^a from the stranger *who* flatters with her words.

6:30b – if a person steals to satisfy his hunger because he is hungry, do not despise him

7:5a - strange woman - unbeliever; a woman who is not your wife - a woman who tries to seduce you; a prostitute – see Prov. 7:5-27

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(6) Because at the window of my house I looked through my lattice,
 (7) And saw among the simple minded ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,
 (8) Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,
 (9) In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:
 (10) And, there a woman *with* the attire of a prostitute and subtle of heart met him.
 (11) (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet do not stay in her house:
 (12) Now *she is* outside, now in the streets, and lies in wait at every corner.)
 (13) So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with a hardened face said to him,
 (14) *I have* peace offerings with me; today I have paid my vows.
 (15) Therefore I came forth to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you.
 (16) I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.
 (17) I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
 (18) Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us console ourselves with loves.
 (19) Because 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 at the day appointed.

(21) With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
 (22) He goes after her straightway, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
 (23) Until a dart strikes through his liver; as a bird hurries to the snare, and does not know that it *is* for his life.
 (24) Listen to me now therefore, O you children, and pay attention to the words of my mouth.
 (25) Do not let your heart fall to her ways, do not go astray in her paths.
 (26) Because she has cast down many wounded: yes, many strong *men* have been killed by her.
 (27) Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Chapter 8

(1) Does not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?
 (2) She stands in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.
 (3) She cries at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.
 (4) To you, O men, I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of man.
 (5) O you simple minded, understand wisdom: and, you fools, be of an understanding heart.
 (6) Listen; because I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *will be* right things.

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(7) Because my mouth will speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

(8) All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing perverse or evil in them.

(9) They *are* all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.

(10) Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

(11) Because wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

(12) I, wisdom, live with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

(13) The fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} *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 princes decree justice.

(16) By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth.

(17) I love those who love me; and those who seek me early will find me.

(18) Riches and honor *are* with me; *yes*, durable riches and righteousness.

(19) My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold; and my revenue {reward} than choice silver.

(20) I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

(21) That I may cause those who love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

(22) The LORD {Jehovah} possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

(23) I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth ever was.

(24) When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

(25) Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth:

(26) While as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

(27) When He prepared the heavens, I *was* there: when He set a compass upon the face of the depth:

(28) When He established the clouds above: when He strengthened the fountains of the deep:

(29) When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment: when He appointed the foundations of the earth:

(30) Then I was by Him, *as* one brought up *with Him*: and I was daily *His* delight, rejoicing always before Him;

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(31) Rejoicing in the livable part of His earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.

(32) Now therefore listen to me, you children: because blessed *are those who* keep my ways.

(33) Hear instruction, and be wise, and do not refuse it.

(34) Blessed *is* the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

(35) Because whoever finds me finds life, and will obtain favor of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(36) But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul: all those who hate me love death.

Chapter 9

(1) Wisdom has built her house, she has carved out her seven pillars:

(2) She has killed her beasts; she has mingled her wine; she has also furnished her table.

(3) She has sent forth her maidens: she cries upon the highest places of the city,

(4) Whoever *is* simple minded, let him turn in here: *as for* him who wants understanding, she says to him,

(5) Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine *which* I have mixed.

(6) Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

(7) He who reproves a scorner receives to himself shame: and he who rebukes a wicked *man receives* himself a blot.

(8) Do not reprove a scorner, lest he hate you: rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

(9) Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be wiser still: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

(10) The fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

(11) Because by me your days will be multiplied, and the years of your life will be increased.

(12) If you are wise, you will be wise for yourself: but *if* you scorn, you alone will bear *it*.

(13) A foolish woman talks too much: *she is* simple minded, and knows nothing.

(14) Because she sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

(15) To call those who pass by who continue on their ways:

(16) Whoever *is* simple minded, let him turn in here: and *as for* him who wants understanding, she says to him,

(17) Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.

(18) But he does not know that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

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Chapter 10

(1) The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish son is the sorrow of his mother.

(2) Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivers from death.

(3) The LORD {Jehovah} will not allow the soul of the righteous to go hungry: but He casts away the substance of the wicked.

(4) He becomes poor who deals *with* a lazy hand: but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

(5) He who gathers in summer is a wise son: *but* he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

(6) Blessings *are* upon the head of the just: but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

(7) The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked will rot.

(8) The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a babbling fool will fall.

(9) He who walks uprightly walks surely: but he who perverts his ways will be known.

(10) He who winks with the eye causes sorrow: but a babbling fool will fall.

(11) The mouth of a righteous *man* is a well of life: but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

(12) Hatred stirs up strife: but love covers all sins.

(13) In the lips of him who has understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him who is void of understanding.

(14) Wise *men* lay 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 *tends* to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

(17) He *is in* the way of life who keeps instruction: but he who refuses reproof errs.

(18) He who hides hatred *with* lying lips, and he who speaks a slander, is a fool.

(19) In the multitude of words there is no lack of sin: but he who refrains his lips is wise.

(20) The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

(21) The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for lack of wisdom.

(22) The blessing of the LORD {Jehovah}, it makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

(23) *It is* as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding has wisdom.

(24) That which the wicked fear will come upon him: but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

(25) As the whirlwind passes, so is the wicked no *more*: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

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(26) As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.

(27) The fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} prolongs days: but the years of the wicked will be shortened.

(28) The hope of the righteous *will be* gladness: but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

(29) The way of the LORD {Jehovah} is strength to the upright: but destruction *shall be* to those who do works of sin.

(30) The righteous will never be removed: but the wicked will not live in the earth.

(31) The mouth of the just 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 *speaks* perverseness.

Chapter 11

(1) A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}:^a but a just weight *is* His delight.

(2) *When* pride comes, then shame comes: but with the humble *is* wisdom.

(3) The integrity of the upright will guide them: but the perverseness of sinners will destroy them.

(4) Riches do not profit in the day of wrath {anger; judgment}: but righteousness delivers from death.

(5) The righteousness of the perfect will direct his way: but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

(6) The righteousness of the upright will deliver them: but sinners will be taken in *their own* naughtiness.

(7) When a wicked man dies, *his* hope will perish: and the hope of unjust *men* perishes.

(8) The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked comes in his place.

(9) A hypocrite with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor: but through knowledge the just will be delivered.

(10) When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices: and when the wicked perish, *there is* shouting.

(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 void of wisdom despises his neighbor: but a man of understanding holds his peace.

(13) A gossip reveals secrets: but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals the matter.

(14) Where there is no counsel, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

(15) He who is a security for a stranger will suffer *for it*: and he who hates loans is sure.^b

(16) A gracious woman retains honor: and strong *men* retain riches.

11:1a – false balance – weighing things using wrong weights to cheat someone of their fair share see Prov. 20:10,23

11:15b - surety, suretyship - i.e. if you co-sign a note [or mortgage] for a stranger, you will suffer for it, but if you do not sign notes or mortgages for others you will be secure.

{20} Proverbs

(17) The merciful man does good to his own soul: but *he who is* cruel troubles his own flesh.

(18) The wicked works a deceitful work: but to him who sows righteousness *there will be* a sure reward.

(19) As righteousness *tends* to life: so he who pursues evil *pursues it* to his own death.

(20) Those who are of a perverse heart *are* abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: but *those who are* upright in *their* ways *are* His delight.

(21) *Though* hand *joins* in hand, the wicked will not be unpunished: but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.

(22) As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair {beautiful} woman who has no discretion.

(23) The desire of the righteous *is* only good: *but* the expectation of the wicked *is* wrath {anger; judgment}.

(24) There are those who share what they have, and yet increase; and *there are those* who withhold more than is right, but *it tends* to poverty.

(25) The generous soul will be made fat: and he who waters will also be watered himself.

(26) He who withholds corn, the people will curse: but blessings *will be* upon the head of him who sells *it*.

(27) He who diligently seeks good obtains favor: but he who seeks mischief, it will come to him.

(28) He who trusts in his riches will fall: but the righteous will flourish as a branch.

(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) Indeed, the righteous will be rewarded in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

Chapter 12

(1) Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge: but he who hates reproof *is* brutish {ungodly}.^a

(2) A good *man* obtains favor of the LORD {Jehovah}: but a man of wicked devices {plans} He will condemn.

(3) A man will not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous will not be moved.

(4) A virtuous woman *is* a crown to her husband: but she who makes ashamed *is* as rottenness in his bones.

(5) The thoughts of the righteous *are* right: *but* the counsels of the wicked *are* deceit.

(6) The words of the wicked *are* to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

12:1a - brutish - beastly, animal-like, crude – ungodly

{20} Proverbs

(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) *He who is* despised, and has a servant, *is* better than he who honors himself, and lacks bread.

(10) A righteous *man* regards the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked *are* cruel.

(11) He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread: but he who follows vain *persons is* void of understanding.

(12) The wicked desire the net of evil *men*: but the root of the righteous yields *fruit*.

(13) The wicked is snared by the sin of *his* lips: but the just will come out of trouble.

(14) A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth: and the reward 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 listens to counsel *is* wise.

(16) A fool's wrath {anger} is presently known: but a prudent *man* covers shame.

(17) *He who* speaks truth shows forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

(18) There is one whose words are like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise *is* health.

(19) The lip of truth will be established forever: but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.

(20) Deceit *is* in the heart of those who imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace *is* joy.

(21) No evil will happen to the just: but the wicked will be filled with mischief.

(22) Lying lips *are* abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: 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 bear rule: but the lazy will be under forced labor.

(25) Sorrow in the heart of man makes it stoop: but a good word makes it glad.

(26) The righteous *is* more excellent than his neighbor: but the way of the wicked seduces them.

(27) The lazy *man* does not roast that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.

(28) In the way of righteousness *is* life; and *in* its pathway *there is* no death.

Chapter 13

(1) A wise son *listens to* his father's instruction: but a scorner does not listen to rebuke.

(2) A man will eat good by the fruit of *his* mouth: but the soul of the sinners *will eat* violence.

(3) He who keeps his mouth keeps his life: *but* he who opens wide his lips will have destruction.

{20} Proverbs

(4) The soul of the lazy desires, and *has* nothing: but the soul of the diligent will be made fat.

(5) A righteous *man* hates lying: but a wicked *man* is despised, and comes to shame.

(6) Righteousness keeps *him who* is upright in the way: but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

(7) There is one who makes himself rich, yet *has* nothing: *there one who* makes himself poor, yet *has* great riches.

(8) The ransom of a man's life *are* his riches: but the poor does not listen to rebuke.

(9) The light of the righteous rejoices: but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

(10) By pride comes only contention: but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

(11) Wealth *obtained* by vanity 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) Whoever despises the word will be destroyed: but he who fears {reverences} the commandment will be rewarded.

(14) The law of the wise *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

(15) Good understanding gives favor: but the way of sinners *is* hard.

(16) Every prudent *man* deals with knowledge: but a fool lays open *his* folly.

(17) A wicked messenger falls into mischief: but a faithful ambassador *is* health.

(18) Poverty and shame *will come to* him who refuses instruction: but he who regards reproof will be honored.

(19) The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but *it is* abomination to fools to depart from evil.

(20) He who walks with wise *men* will be wise: but a companion of fools will be destroyed.

(21) Evil pursues sinners: but to the righteous good will be rewarded.

(22) A good *man* leaves an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.

(23) Much food *is in* the plowed ground of the poor: but by lack of judgment it *is* destroyed.

(24) He who spares his rod hates his son: but he who loves him disciplines him early.

(25) The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked will want.

Chapter 14

(1) Every wise woman builds her house: but the foolish plucks it down with her hands.

(2) He who walks in his uprightness fears {reverences} the LORD {Jehovah}: but *he who is* perverse in his ways despises Him.

{20} Proverbs

(3) In the mouth of the foolish *is* a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise will preserve them.

(4) Where no oxen *are*, the crib *is* clean: but much increase *is* by the strength of the ox.

(5) A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will speak lies.

(6) A scorner seeks wisdom, and does not *find it*: but knowledge *is* easy to him who understands.

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

(8) The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way: but the folly of fools *is* deceit.

(9) Fools mock at sin: but among the righteous *there is* favor.

(10) The heart knows its own bitterness; and a stranger does not share with its joy.

(11) The house of the wicked will be overthrown: but the tabernacle {tent} of the upright will flourish.

(12) There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end *are* the ways of death.

(13) Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that joy is sorrow.

(14) The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways: and a good man *will be satisfied* from himself.

(15) The simple minded believe every word: but the prudent *man* looks well to his going.

(16) A wise *man* fears, and departs from evil: but the fool rages, and is confident.

(17) *He who is* quick to become angry deals foolishly: and a man of wicked devices {plans} is hated.

(18) The simple minded inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

(19) The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

(20) The poor 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, is happy.

(22) Do they not err who devise evil? but mercy and truth *will be* to those who devise good.

(23) In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips *tends* 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 {Jehovah} *is* strong confidence: and His children will have a place of refuge.

(27) The fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

(28) In the multitude of people *is* the king's honor: but in the lack of people *is* the destruction of the prince.

(29) *He who is* slow to anger *is* of great understanding: but *he who is* hasty of spirit exalts folly.

{20} Proverbs

(30) A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.
 (31) He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker: but he who honors Him has mercy on the poor.
 (32) The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous has hope in his death.
 (33) Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding: but *that which is* in the midst 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 {anger; judgment} *is against* him who causes shame.

Chapter 15

(1) A soft answer turns away anger: but grievous words stir up anger.
 (2) The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly: but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness.
 (3) The eyes of the LORD {Jehovah} *are* in every place, seeing the evil and the good.
 (4) A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness in it *is* a break in the spirit.
 (5) A fool despises his father's instruction: but he who regards reproof is prudent.
 (6) In the house of the righteous *is* much treasure: but in the revenues {income} of the wicked is trouble.

(7) The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish *does not*.
 (8) The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: but the prayer of the upright *is* His delight.
 (9) The way of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: but He loves him who follows after righteousness.
 (10) Correction *is* grievous to him who forsakes the way: *and* he who hates reproof will die.
 (11) Hell and destruction *are* before the LORD {Jehovah}: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?
 (12) A scorner does not love one who reproves him: neither will he go to the wise.
 (13) A merry heart makes a cheerful face: 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* little with the fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} than great treasure and trouble with it.
 (17) Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love *is*, than a stalled ox and hatred with it.

{20} Proverbs

(18) A wrathful {angry} man stirs up strife: but *he who* is slow to anger appeases strife.

(19) The way of the lazy *man* is as a hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

(20) A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish man despises his mother.

(21) Folly is joy to *him who* is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walks uprightly.

(22) Without counsel plans are disappointed: 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 *is it!*

(24) The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

(25) The LORD {Jehovah} will destroy the house of the proud: but He will establish the border of the widow.

(26) The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: but *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant words.

(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 to answer: but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

(29) The LORD {Jehovah} *is* far from the wicked: but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

(30) The light of the eyes rejoices the heart: *and* a good report makes the bones fat.

(31) The ear that listens to the reproof of life abides among the wise.

(32) He who refuses instruction despises his own soul: but he who listens to reproof obtains understanding.

(33) The fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* the instruction of wisdom; and humility is before honor.

Chapter 16

(1) The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *is* from the LORD {Jehovah}.

(2) All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD {Jehovah} weighs the spirits.

(3) Commit your works to the LORD {Jehovah}, and your thoughts will be established.

(4) The LORD {Jehovah} has made all *things* for Himself: yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.

(5) Everyone *who* is proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}: *though* hand *join* in hand, he will not be unpunished.

{20} Proverbs

(6) By mercy and truth sin is purged: and by the fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} *men* depart from evil.

(7) When a man's ways please the LORD {Jehovah}, He causes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

(8) Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues {income} without right.

(9) A man's heart devises {plans} his way: but the LORD {Jehovah} directs his steps.

(10) A divine sentence *is* in the lips of the king: his mouth does not sin in judgment.

(11) A just weight and balance *are* the LORD's {Jehovah's}: all the weights of the bag *are* His work.

(12) *It is* an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: because the throne is established by righteousness.

(13) Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings; and they love him who speaks right.

(14) The wrath {anger; judgment} of a king *is as* messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

(15) In the light of the king's countenance {facial expression; smile} *is* life; and his favor *is as* a cloud of the latter rain.

(16) How much better *it is* to obtain wisdom than gold! and to obtain understanding rather to be chosen 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 an arrogant spirit before a fall.

(19) *It is better to be* of an humble spirit with the humble, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

(20) He who handles a matter wisely will find good: and happy *is* he who trusts in the LORD {Jehovah}.

(21) The wise in heart will be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increases learning.

(22) Understanding *is* a wellspring of life to him who has it: but the instruction of fools *is* folly.

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

(24) Pleasant words *are as* a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

(25) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end *are* the ways of death.

(26) He who labors labors for himself; because his mouth craves it of him.

(27) An ungodly man digs up evil: and in his lips *there is* as a burning fire.

(28) A perverse man sows strife: and a gossip separates best friends.

(29) A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him into the way *that is* not good.

(30) He shuts his eyes to devise {plan} perverse things: moving his lips he brings evil to pass.

(31) The gray head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it is found in the way of righteousness.

{20} Proverbs

(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 {die; dice} is cast into the lap; but its answer is of the LORD {Jehovah}.

Chapter 17

(1) Better is a dry morsel, and quietness with it, than a house full of sacrifices *with* strife.

(2) A wise servant will have rule over a son who causes shame, and will have part of the inheritance among the brothers.

(3) The refining pot {crucible}^a is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD {Jehovah} tries the hearts.

(4) A person who does wicked deeds gives heed to false lips; *and* a liar listens to a naughty tongue.

(5) Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker: *and* he who is glad at calamities will not be unpunished.

(6) Children's children {grandchildren} *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

(7) Excellent speech does not become a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

(8) A gift *is as* a precious stone in the eyes of him who has it: wherever it turns, it prospers.

(9) He who covers a sin seeks love; but he who repeats a matter separates *best* friends.

(10) A reproof enters more into a wise man than a hundred stripes into a fool.

(11) An evil *man* seeks only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

(12) Let a bear robbed of her cubs meet a man, 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 as* when one lets out water: therefore leave off contention, before it is meddled with.

(15) He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, even both of them *are* an abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}.

(16) Why *is there* a price in the hand of a fool to obtain 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 void of understanding shakes hands, *and* becomes surety in the presence of his friend.

(19) He loves sin who loves strife: *and* he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.

(20) He who has a perverse heart finds no good: and he who has a perverse tongue falls into mischief.

(21) He who fathers a fool *does it* to his sorrow: and the father of a fool has no joy.

(22) A merry heart does good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones.

(23) A wicked *man* takes a bribe out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

17:3a – refining pot – crucible

{20} Proverbs

(24) Wisdom *is* before him who has understanding; but the eyes of a fool *are* in the ends of the earth.

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

(26) Also to punish the just *is* not good, *nor* to strike princes for equity {fairness}.

(27) He who has knowledge spares his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

(28) Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is considered wise: *and* he who shuts his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

Chapter 18

(1) Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeks *and* shares with all wisdom.

(2) A fool has no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

(3) When the wicked comes, *then* comes also contempt, and with shame reproach.

(4) The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the wellspring of wisdom *as* a flowing brook.

(5) *It is* not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

(6) A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for strokes.

(7) A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

(8) The words of a gossip *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

(9) He also who is lazy in his work is brother to him who is a great waster.

(10) The Name of the LORD {Jehovah} *is* a strong tower: the righteous runs into it, and *is* safe.

(11) The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit.

(12) Before destruction the heart of man *is* arrogant, 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 his infirmity {weakness; illness}; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

(15) The heart of the prudent obtains 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) *He who is* first in his own cause *seems* just; but his neighbor comes and searches him.

(18) The lot {die; dice}^a causes contentions to cease, and parts between the mighty.

(19) A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city: and *their* contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.

(20) A man's belly will be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; *and* with the increase of his lips he will be filled.

18:18a – the lot causes contentions to cease – Biblically, nothing happens by pure chance – even the casting of lots {throwing of dice} is controlled by the Lord.

{20} Proverbs

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

(22) *Whoever* finds a wife finds a good *thing*, and obtains favor of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(23) The poor uses humble words; but the rich answer roughly.

(24) A man *who has* friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

Chapter 19

(1) Better *is* the poor who walks in his integrity, than *he who is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

(2) Also, *if* the soul *is* without knowledge, *it is* not good; and he who hurries with *his* feet sins.

(3) The foolishness of man perverts his way: and his heart frets against the LORD {Jehovah}.

(4) Wealth makes many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor.

(5) A false witness will not be unpunished, and *he who* speaks lies will not escape.

(6) Many will seek the favor of the prince: and every man *is* a friend to him who gives gifts.

(7) All the brothers of the poor hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursues *them with* words, *yet* they *leave him*.

(8) He who obtains wisdom loves his own soul: he who keeps understanding will find good.

(9) A false witness will not be unpunished, and *he who* speaks lies will perish.

(10) Luxury is not becoming for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

(11) The discretion of a man defers his anger; and *it is* his glory to overlook a sin.

(12) The king's wrath {anger; judgment} *is* as the roaring of a lion; but his favor *is* as dew upon the grass.

(13) A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dripping.

(14) House and riches *are* the inheritance of fathers: but a prudent wife *is* from the LORD {Jehovah}.

(15) Laziness casts into a deep sleep; and an idle soul will suffer hunger.

(16) He who keeps the commandment keeps his own soul; *but* he who despises His ways will die.

(17) He who has pity upon the poor lends to the LORD {Jehovah}; and that which he has given He will repay.

(18) Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not let your soul spare *discipline* because of his crying.

(19) A man of great anger will suffer punishment: because if you deliver *him*, yet you must do it again.

(20) Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter life.

(21) *There are* many devices {plans} in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD {Jehovah}, will stand.

{20} Proverbs

(22) The desire of a man *is* his kindness: and a poor man *is* better than a liar.
 (23) The fear {reverence} of the LORD *leads* to life: and *he who has it* will live satisfied; he will not be visited with evil.
 (24) A lazy *man* hides his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.
 (25) Strike a scorner, and the simple minded will beware: and reprove one who has understanding, *and* he will understand knowledge.
 (26) He who wastes *his* father, *and* chases away *his* mother, *is* a son who causes shame, and brings reproach.
 (27) Cease, my son, to hear the instruction *that causes* to err from the words of knowledge.
 (28) An ungodly witness scorns judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devours sin.
 (29) Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

Chapter 20

(1) Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whoever is deceived by it is not wise.
 (2) The fear of a king *is* as the roaring of a lion: *whoever* provokes him to anger sins *against* his own soul.
 (3) *It is* an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will stir up trouble.

(4) The lazy will not plow because of the cold; *therefore* he will beg in 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 his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
 (7) The just *man* walks in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him.
 (8) A king who sits in the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes.
 (9) Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?
 (10) Different weights, *and* different measures both of them alike *are* abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}.^a
 (11) Even a child is known by what he does, whether his work is pure, and whether *it is* right.
 (12) The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD {Jehovah} has made even both of them.
 (13) Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, *and* you will be satisfied with bread.
 (14) *It is* nothing, *it is* nothing, says the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasts.

20:10a – different weights – used to cheat someone

{20} Proverbs

(15) There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge *are* a precious jewel.

(16) Take his clothes that are surety *for* a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman {prostitute}.

(17) Bread of deceit *is* sweet to a man; but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

(18) *Every* purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

(19) He who goes about *as* a gossip reveals secrets: therefore do not associate with him who flatters with his lips.

(20) Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in obscure darkness.

(21) An inheritance *may be* obtained hastily at the beginning; but the end of it will not be blessed.

(22) Do not say, I will repay evil; *but* wait on the LORD {Jehovah}, and He will save you.

(23) Different weights *are* an abomination to the LORD {Jehovah}; and a false balance *is* not good.

(24) Man's ways *are* of the LORD {Jehovah}; how can a man then understand his own way?

(25) *It is* a snare to the man *who* devours *that which is* holy, and after vows to make inquiry.

(26) A wise king scatters the wicked, and brings the wheel over them.

(27) The spirit of man *is* the candle of the LORD {Jehovah}, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

(28) Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upheld by mercy.

(29) The glory of young men *is* their strength: and the beauty of old men *is* the gray head.

(30) The blueness of a wound cleanses away evil: so *do* stripes the inward parts of the belly.

Chapter 21

(1) The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD {Jehovah}, *as* the rivers of water: He turns it wherever He wills.

(2) Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD {Jehovah} considers the hearts.

(3) To do justice and judgment *is* more acceptable to the LORD {Jehovah} than sacrifice.

(4) A high look {arrogance}, and a proud heart, *and* the plowing of the wicked, *is* sin.

(5) The thoughts of the diligent *tend* only to abundance; but of every one who *is* hasty only to want.

(6) The obtaining of treasures by a lying tongue *is* a vanity tossed back and forth by those who seek death.

(7) The robbery of the wicked will destroy them; because they refuse to do what *is* right.

(8) The way of man *is* perverse and strange: but *as for* the pure, his work *is* right.

(9) *It is* better to live in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

{20} Proverbs

(10) The soul of the wicked desires evil: his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.
 (11) When the scorner is punished, the simple minded is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.
 (12) The righteous *man* wisely considers the house of the wicked: *but God* overthrows the wicked because of *their* wickedness.
 (13) Whoever closes his ears to the cry of the poor, he himself will also cry, and will not be heard.
 (14) A gift in secret pacifies anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath {anger; judgment}.
 (15) *It is* joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction *will be* to the workers of sin.
 (16) The man who wanders out of the way of understanding will remain in the congregation 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 *will be* a ransom for the righteous, and the sinner for the upright.
 (19) *It is* better to live in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.
 (20) *There is* treasure to be desired and oil in the house of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up.
 (21) He who follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.

(22) A wise *man* scales the city of the mighty, and castes down the strength of its confidence.
 (23) Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.
 (24) Proud *and* arrogant scorner *is* his name, who deals in proud anger.
 (25) The desire of the lazy kills him; because his hands refuse to labor.
 (26) He covets greedily all the day long: but the righteous gives and does not spare.
 (27) The sacrifice of the wicked *is* abomination: how much more, *when* he brings it with a wicked mind?
 (28) A false witness will perish: but the man who hears speaks constantly.
 (29) A wicked man hardens his face: but *as for* the upright, he directs his way.
 (30) *There is* no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD {Jehovah}.
 (31) The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety {victory; deliverance} *is* of the LORD {Jehovah}.

Chapter 22

(1) A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favor rather than silver and gold.
 (2) The rich and poor meet together: the LORD {Jehovah} *is* the maker of them all.
 (3) A prudent *man* foresees the evil, and hides himself: but the simple minded pass on, and are punished.

{20} Proverbs

(4) By humility *and* the fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} *are* riches, and honor, and life.

(5) Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the perverse: he who keeps 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 rule over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

(8) He who sows sin will reap vanity: and the rod of his anger will fail.

(9) He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed; because he gives of his bread to the poor.

(10) Cast out the scorner, and contention will go out; yes, strife and reproach will cease.

(11) He who loves pureness of heart, *for* the grace of his lips the king *shall be* his friend.

(12) The eyes of the LORD {Jehovah} preserve knowledge, and He overthrows the words of the sinner.

(13) The lazy *man* says, *There is* a lion outside, I will be killed in the streets.

(14) The mouth of strange women {prostitute; unbeliever}^a *is* a deep pit: he who is despised by the LORD {Jehovah} will fall into it.

(15) Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* 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 want.

(17) Bow down your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge.

(18) Because *it is* a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; they will all be fixed in your lips.

(19) That your trust may be in the LORD {Jehovah}, I have made known to you this day, even to you.

(20) Have I not written to you excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

(21) That I might cause you to know the certainty of the words of truth; that you might answer the words of truth to those who send to you?

(22) Do not rob the poor, because he *is* poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

(23) Because the LORD {Jehovah} will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those who spoiled them.

(24) Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man you shall not go:

(25) Lest you learn his ways, and get a snare to your soul.

(26) Do not be *one* of those who shake hands, *or* of those who are pledges for debts.

22:14a - strange woman - unbeliever; a woman who is not your wife - a woman who tries to seduce you; a prostitute – see Prov. 7:5-27

{20} Proverbs

(27) If you have nothing to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

(28) Do not remove the ancient landmark, which your fathers have set.^b

(29) Do you see a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men*.

Chapter 23

(1) When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what *is* before you:

(2) And put a knife to your throat, if you *are* a man given to appetite.

(3) Do not covet his dainties: because they *are* deceitful meat.

(4) Do not labor to be rich: cease from your own wisdom.

(5) Will you set your eyes upon that which is not? because *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle towards heaven.

(6) Do not eat the bread of *him who has* an evil eye, neither desire his dainty meats:

(7) Because as he thinks in his heart, so he *is*: Eat and drink, he says to you; but his heart *is* not with you.

(8) The morsel *which* you have eaten you shall vomit up, and lose your sweet words.

(9) Do not speak in the ears of a fool:^a because he will despise the wisdom of your words.

(10) Do not remove the old landmark; and do not enter into the fields of the fatherless:

(11) Because their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause with you.

(12) Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge.

(13) Do not withhold correction from the child: because *if* you beat him with the rod, he will not die.

(14) You will beat him with the rod, and will deliver his soul from hell.

(15) My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice, even mine.

(16) Yes, my reins {heart} will rejoice, when your lips speak right things.

(17) Do not let your heart envy sinners: but *be* in the fear {reverence} of the LORD {Jehovah} all the day long.

(18) Because surely there is an end; and your hope will not be cut off.

(19) Listen, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way.

(20) Do not be among drunkards; among riotous eaters of food {gluttons}:

(21) Because the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty: and drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

(22) Listen to your father who fathered you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

22:28b – landmark – a marker used to designate property lines – moving the landmark is stealing land from a neighbor

23:9a – see Mat. 7:6

{20} Proverbs

(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 fathers a wise *child* will have his joy .

(25) Your father and your mother will be glad, and she who bore you will rejoice.

(26) My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

(27) Because a prostitute *is* a deep ditch; and a strange woman {prostitute; unbeliever} *is* a narrow pit.

(28) She also lies in wait as *for* a prey, and increases the sinners among men.

(29) Who has woe? who has sorrow? who has contentions? who has babbling? who has wounds without cause? who has redness of eyes?

(30) Those who tarry long at the wine; those who go to seek mixed wine.

(31) Do not look upon the wine when it is red, when it gives its color in the cup, *when* it goes down smoothly.

(32) At the last it bites like a snake, and strikes like a viper.

(33) Your eyes will see strange women, and your heart will speak perverse things.

(34) Yes, you will be as he who lies down in the midst of the sea, or as he who lies upon the top of a mast.

(35) They have stricken me, *you will say*, *and* I was not sick; they have beaten me, *and* I did not feel *it*: when will I awake? I will seek it yet again.

Chapter 24

(1) Do not be envious of evil men, and have no desire to be with them.

(2) Because their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

(3) Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established:

(4) And by knowledge the chambers will be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

(5) A wise man *is* strong; yes, a man of knowledge increases strength.

(6) Because by wise counsel you will make your war: and in multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

(7) Wisdom *is* too high for a fool: he does not open his mouth in the gate.

(8) He who devises {plans} to do evil will be called a mischievous person.

(9) The thought of foolishness *is* sin: and the scorner *is* an abomination to men.

(10) *If* you faint in the day of adversity, your strength *is* small.

(11) If you forbear to deliver *those who are* drawn to death, and *those that are* ready to be killed;

(12) If you say, Surely, we did not know it; does He Who ponders the heart not consider *it*? and He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*? and will He *not* render to *every* man according to his works?

(13) My son, eat honey, because *it is* good; and the honeycomb, *which is* sweet to your taste:

{20} Proverbs

(14) So *will* the knowledge of wisdom *be* to your soul: when you have found *it*, then there will be a reward, and your hope will not be cut off.

(15) Do not lie in wait, O wicked *man*, against the house of the righteous; do not spoil his resting place:

(16) Because a just *man* falls seven times, and rises up again: but the wicked will fall into mischief.

(17) Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles:

(18) Lest the LORD {Jehovah} see *it*, and it displeases Him, and He turns away His wrath {anger; judgment} from him.

(19) Do not fret yourself because of evil *men*, neither be envious of the wicked;

(20) Because there will be no reward to the evil *man*; the candle of the wicked will be put out.

(21) My son, fear {revere} the LORD {Jehovah} and the king: *and* do not meddle with them who are given to change:

(22) Because their calamity will rise suddenly; and who knows the ruin of them both?

(23) These *things* also *belong* to the wise. *It* is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

(24) He who says to the wicked, you *are* righteous; him the people will curse, nations will despise him:

(25) But to those who rebuke *him* will be delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

(26) *Every man* will kiss *his* lips who gives a right answer.

(27) Prepare your work outside, and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.

(28) Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause; and do not deceive with your lips.

(29) Do not say, I will do so to him 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, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

(31) And, indeed, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered its face, and its stone wall was broken down.

(32) Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction.

(33) *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

(34) So your poverty will come *as* one who travels; and your want as an armed man.

{20} Proverbs

Chapter 25

(1) These *are* also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

(2) *It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings *is* to search out a matter.

(3) The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings *is* unsearchable.

(4) Take away the dross from the silver, and there will come forth a vessel for the finer.

(5) Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

(6) Do not put forth yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great *men*:

(7) Because *it is* better that it be said to you, Come up here; than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince whom your eyes have seen.

(8) Do not go quickly to strive, lest *you not know* what to do in its end, when your neighbor has put you to shame.

(9) Debate your cause with your neighbor *himself*; and do not disclose a secret to another:

(10) Lest he who hears *it* puts you to shame, and your infamy not turn away.

(11) A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

(12) As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise person who reprove an obedient ear.

(13) As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to those who send him: because he refreshes the soul of his masters.

(14) Whoever boasts himself of a false gift *is like* clouds and wind without rain.

(15) By long forbearing *is* a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.

(16) Have you found honey? eat so much as *is* sufficient for you, lest you be filled with it, and vomit it.

(17) Withdraw your foot from your neighbor's house; lest he be weary of you, and *so* hate you.

(18) A man who bears false witness against his neighbor *is* a maul {sledge hammer}, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

(19) Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble *is like* a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

(20) As he who takes away clothes in cold weather, *and as* vinegar upon potash, *so is* he who sings songs to a sorrowful heart.

(21) If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink:

(22) Because you will heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD {Jehovah} will reward you.

(23) The north wind drives away rain: *so does* an angry countenance {face} a backbiting {back talking} tongue.

{20} Proverbs

(24) *It is better to live in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.*

(25) *As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.*

(26) *A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.*

(27) *It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.*

(28) *He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

Chapter 26

(1) *As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not becoming for a fool.*

(2) *As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse without cause will not come.*

(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 conceit.*

(6) *He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet, and drinks damage.*

(7) *The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.*

(8) *As he who binds a stone in a sling, so is he that gives honor to a fool.*

(9) *As a thorn goes up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.*

(10) *The great God Who formed all things both rewards the fool, and rewards sinners.*

(11) *As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly.*

(12) *Do you see a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope for a fool than of him.*

(13) *The lazy man says, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.*

(14) *As the door turns upon its hinges, so does the lazy one upon his bed.*

(15) *The lazy hides his hand in his bosom; it grieves him to bring it again to his mouth.*

(16) *The lazy one is wiser in his own conceit than seven men who can render a reason.*

(17) *He who passes by, and meddles with strife that does not belong to him, is like one who takes a dog by the ears.*

(18) *As a mad man who casts firebrands, arrows, and death,*

(19) *So is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, Am I not joking?*

{20} Proverbs

(20) Where no wood is, *there* the fire goes out: so where *there is* no gossip, the strife ceases.

(21) As coals *are* to burning coals, and wood to fire; so *is* a contentious man to kindle strife.

(22) The words of a gossip *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

(23) Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a pot covered with silver dross.

(24) He who hates pretends with his lips, and lays up deceit within him;

(25) When he speaks fair, do not believe him: because *there are* seven abominations in his heart.

(26) *Whose* hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be shown before the *whole* congregation.

(27) Whoever digs a pit will fall into it: and he who rolls a stone, it will return upon him.

(28) A lying tongue hates *those who are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Chapter 27

(1) Do not boast of tomorrow; because you do not know what a day may bring forth.

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

(3) A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's anger *is* heavier than them both.

(4) Wrath {anger; judgment} *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

(5) Open rebuke *is* better than secret love.

(6) Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

(7) The full soul hates honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing *is* sweet.

(8) As a bird that wanders from her nest, so *is* a man who wanders from his place.

(9) Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *does* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

(10) Your own friend, and your father's friend, do not forsake; neither go into your brother's house in the day of your calamity: *because* better *is* a neighbor who *is* near than a brother far off.

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

(12) A prudent *man* foresees the evil, *and* hides himself; *but* the simple minded pass on, *and* are punished.

(13) Take his clothing that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman {prostitute; unbeliever}.

(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 dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman *are* alike.

{20} Proverbs

(16) Whoever hides her hides the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, *which* proclaims *itself*.

(17) Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance {smile; facial expression} 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 a face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man.

(20) Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

(21) As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so *is* a man to his praise.

(22) Though you should beat a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* his foolishness will not depart from him.

(23) Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, *and* look well to your herds.

(24) Because riches *are* not forever: and does the crown *endure* to every generation?

(25) The hay appears, and the tender grass shows itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

(26) The lambs *are* for your clothing, and the goats *are* the price of the field.

(27) And *you will have* goats' milk enough for your food, for the food of your household, and *for* the maintenance for your maidens.

Chapter 28

(1) The wicked flee when no man pursues: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

(2) Because of the sin of a land many *are* its princes: but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge its state will be prolonged.

(3) A poor man who oppresses the poor *is like* a sweeping rain which leaves no food.

(4) Those who forsake the law praise the wicked: but those who keep the law contend with them.

(5) Evil men do not understand judgment: but those who seek the LORD {Jehovah} understand all *things*.

(6) Better *is* the poor who walks in his uprightness, than *he who is* perverse *in his* ways, though he *is* rich.

(7) Whoever keeps the law *is* a wise son: but he who is a companion of riotous *men* shames his father.

(8) He who by usury {interest} and unjust gain increases his substance {possessions}, he will gather it for him who will pity the poor.

(9) He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *will be* an abomination.

(10) Whoever causes the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he will fall himself into his own pit: but the upright will have good *things* in possession.

{20} Proverbs

(11) The rich man *is* wise in his own conceit; but the poor who has understanding searches him out.

(12) When righteous *men* rejoice, *there* is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

(13) He who covers his sins will not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

(14) Happy *is* the man who always fears: but he who hardens his heart will fall into mischief.

(15) As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; *so is* a wicked ruler over the poor people.

(16) The prince who wants understanding *is* also a great oppressor: *but* he who hates covetousness {greed} will prolong *his* days.

(17) A man who does violence to the blood of *any* person will flee to the pit; let no man hold him.

(18) Whoever walks uprightly will be saved: but *he who is* perverse *in his* ways will fall at once.

(19) He who plows his land will have plenty of bread: but he who follows after vain *persons* will have poverty enough.

(20) A faithful man will abound with blessings: but he who hurries to be rich will not be innocent.

(21) To have respect of persons *is* not good: because for a piece of bread *that* man will sin.

(22) He who hurries to be rich *has* an evil eye, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

(23) He who rebukes a man afterward will find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue.

(24) Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, *It is* no sin; the same *is* the companion of a destroyer.^a

(25) He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife: but he who puts his trust in the LORD {Jehovah} will be made fat.

(26) He who trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoever walks wisely, he will be delivered.

(27) He who gives to the poor will not lack: but he who hides his eyes will have many a curse.

(28) When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

Chapter 29

(1) He, who hardens *his* neck when he is often reproved, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

(2) When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.

(3) Whoever loves wisdom causes his father to rejoice: but he who keeps company with prostitutes spends *his* substance.

(4) The king by judgment establishes the land: but he who receives gifts overthrows it.

(5) A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

28:24a – Mat. 15:5; Mk. 7:11

{20} Proverbs

(6) In the sin of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous sings and rejoices.

(7) The righteous considers the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked does not regard to know *it*.

(8) Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath {anger; judgment}.

(9) *If* a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether he rages or laughs, *there is* no rest.

(10) The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

(11) A fool speaks all his mind: but a wise *man* keeps it in until later.

(12) If a ruler listens to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

(13) The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD {Jehovah} enlightens both their eyes.

(14) The king who faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

(15) The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* brings his mother to shame.

(16) When the wicked are multiplied, sin 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 vision, the people perish: but he who keeps the law, *is* happy.

(19) A servant will not be corrected by words: because though he understands he will not answer.

(20) Do you see a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope for a fool than for him.

(21) He who delicately brings up his servant from a child will have him become *his* son at the length.

(22) An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in sin.

(23) A man's pride will bring him low: but honor will uphold the humble in spirit.

(24) Whoever is partner with a thief hates his own soul: he hears cursing, and does not proclaim *it*.

(25) The fear of man brings a snare: but whoever puts his trust in the LORD {Jehovah} will be safe.

(26) Many seek the ruler's favor; but *every* man's judgment *comes* from the LORD {Jehovah}.

(27) An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just: and *he who is* upright in the way *is* abomination to the wicked.

Chapter 30

(1) The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, *even* the prophecy: the man spoke to Ithiel, even to Ithiel and Ucal,

(2) Surely I *am* more brutish {ungodly}^a than *any* man, and do not have the understanding of a man.

(3) I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

30:2a - brutish - beastly, animal-like, crude – ungodly

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(4) Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in clothes? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His Name, and what is His Son's Name, if you can tell?

(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 reprove you, and you are found to be a liar.

(7) Two *things* I have required of you; do not deny *them* to me before I die:

(8) Remove vanity and lies far from me: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

(9) Lest I be full, and deny you, and say, Who *is* the LORD {Jehovah}? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the Name of my God *in vain*.

(10) Do not accuse a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you are found to be guilty.

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

(12) *There is* a generation *that is* pure in their own eyes, and *yet* is not washed from their filthiness.

(13) *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

(14) *There is* a generation, whose teeth *are as* swords, and their jaw teeth *as* knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

(15) The horseleech has two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yes*, four *things* do not say, *It is* enough:

(16) The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire *that* does not say, *It is* enough.

(17) The eye *that* mocks at *his* father, and despises to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.

(18) There are three *things which* are too wonderful for me, *yes*, four which I do not know:

(19) The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a snake upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

(20) Such *is* the way of an adulterous woman; she eats, and wipes her mouth, and says, I have done no wickedness.

(21) For three *things* the earth is disquieted, and for four *which* it cannot bear:

(22) For a servant when he reigns; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

(23) For a hateful *woman* when she is married; and a handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

(24) There are four *things which are* little upon the earth, but they *are* exceedingly wise:

(25) The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer;

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(26) The rock badgers *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;
 (27) The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands;
 (28) The spider takes hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.
 (29) There are three *things* which go well, yes, four are beautiful in going:
 (30) A lion *which* is strongest among beasts, and does not turn away for any;
 (31) A greyhound; a male goat also; and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up.
 (32) If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, *lay* your hand upon your mouth.
 (33) Surely the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood: so the forcing of wrath {anger; judgment} brings forth strife.

Chapter 31

(1) The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.
 (2) What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the 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 strong drink:
 (5) Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
 (6) Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish, and wine to those who are full of sorrow.
 (7) Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.
 (8) Open your mouth for the dumb {those who cannot speak} in the cause of all who are appointed to destruction.
 (9) Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
 (10) Who can find a virtuous woman? because her price *is* far above rubies.
 (11) The heart of her husband safely trusts in her, so that he will have no need of spoil.
 (12) She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
 (13) She seeks wool, and flax, and works willingly with her hands.
 (14) She is like the merchants' ships; she brings her food from afar.

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(15) She rises also while it is yet night, and gives food to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

(16) She considers a field, and buys it: with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

(17) She ties her belt^a with strength, and strengthens her arms.^b

(18) She perceives that her merchandise is good: her candle does not go out by night.^c

(19) She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.^d

(20) She stretches out her hand to the poor; yes, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.

(21) She is not afraid of the snow for her household: because all of her household *are* clothed with scarlet.

(22) She makes herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.

(23) Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

(24) She makes fine linen, and sells *it*; and delivers belts to the merchant.

(25) Strength and honor *are* her clothing; and she will rejoice in time to come.

(26) She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

(27) She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

(28) Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praises her.

(29) Many daughters have done virtuously, but you excel them all.

(30) Favor *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *who* fears {reverences} the LORD {Jehovah}, she will be praised.

(31) Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

31:17a – girds her loins – fastens her belt with strength – she gets ready to do work without hesitation

31:17b – strengthens her arms – she does not hesitate to do hard work

31:18c – her candle does not go out by night – she works into the night to provide for her family

31:19d – spindle and distaff – tools used for spinning thread to be used for weaving cloth