

The Proverbs

¹ Proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ² to know wisdom and instruction; to discern the words of understanding; ³ to receive the instruction of wisdom, righteousness and judgment, and equity; ⁴ to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. ⁵ He that is wise will hear, and will increase learning; and the intelligent will gain wise counsels: ⁶ to understand a proverb and an allegory, the words of the wise and their enigmas. ⁷ The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge: fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸ Hear, my son, the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the teaching of thy mother; ⁹ for they shall be a garland of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent not. ¹¹ If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; ¹² let us swallow them up alive as Sheol, and whole, as those that go down into the pit; ¹³ we shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: ¹⁴ cast in thy lot among us; we will all have one purse: ¹⁵ — my son, walk not in the way with them, keep back thy foot from their path; ¹⁶ for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷ For in vain the net is spread in the sight of anything which hath wings. ¹⁸ And these lay wait for their own blood; they lurk secretly for their own lives.

¹⁹ So are the paths of every one that is greedy of gain: it taketh away the life of its possessors. ²⁰ Wisdom crieth without; she raiseth her voice in the broadways; ²¹ she calleth in the chief [place] of concourse, in the entry of the gates; in the city she uttereth her words: ²² How long, simple ones, will ye love simpleness, and scorers take pleasure in their scorning, and the foolish hate knowledge? ²³ Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour forth my spirit unto you, I will make known to you my words. ²⁴ Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no one regarded; ²⁵ and ye have rejected all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: ²⁶ I also will laugh in your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷ when your fear cometh as sudden destruction, and your calamity cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you: ²⁸ — then will they call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me early, and shall not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of Jehovah; ³⁰ they would none of my counsel, they despised all my reproof: ³¹ therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their way, and be filled with their own devices. ³² For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of the foolish shall cause them to perish. ³³ But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be at rest from fear of evil.

2

¹ My son, if thou receivest my words, and layest

up my commandments with thee, ² so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom [and] thou apply thy heart to understanding; ³ yea, if thou criest after discernment [and] liftest up thy voice to understanding; ⁴ if thou seekest her as silver and searchest for her as for hidden treasures: ⁵ then shalt thou understand the fear of Jehovah, and find the knowledge of °God. ⁶ For Jehovah giveth wisdom; out of his mouth [come] knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the upright; [he] is a shield to them that walk in integrity; ⁸ guarding the paths of just judgment and keeping the way of his °godly ones. ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness and judgment and equity: every good path. ¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thy heart and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul, ¹¹ discretion shall keep thee, understanding shall preserve thee: ¹² To deliver thee from the way of evil, from the man that speaketh froward things; ¹³ [from those] who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴ who rejoice to do evil, [and] delight in the frowardness of evil; ¹⁵ whose paths are crooked, and who are perverted in their course: ¹⁶ To deliver thee from the strange woman, from the stranger who flattereth with her words; ¹⁷ who forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her °God; ¹⁸ — for her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead; ¹⁹ none that go unto her return again, neither do they attain to the paths of life: ²⁰ — that thou

° 2:5 Elohim ° 2:8 Elohim ° 2:17 Elohim

mayest walk in the way of the good, and keep the paths of the righteous. ²¹ For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it; ²² but the wicked shall be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful shall be plucked up out of it.

3

¹ My son, forget not my teaching, and let thy heart observe my commandments; ² for length of days, and years of life, and peace shall they add to thee. ³ Let not loving-kindness and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck, write them upon the tablet of thy heart: ⁴ and thou shalt find favour and good understanding in the sight of ^oGod and man. ⁵ Confide in Jehovah with all thy heart, and lean not unto thine own intelligence; ⁶ in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will make plain thy paths. ⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear Jehovah, and depart from evil: ⁸ it shall be health for thy navel, and moisture for thy bones. ⁹ Honour Jehovah with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase; ¹⁰ so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy vats shall overflow with new wine. ¹¹ My son, despise not the instruction of Jehovah, neither be weary of his chastisement; ¹² for whom Jehovah loveth he chasteneth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. ¹³ Blessed is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. ¹⁴ For the gain thereof is better than the gain of silver, and her revenue than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou

^o 3:4 Elohim

canst desire are not equal unto her. ¹⁶ Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand riches and honour. ¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is he that retaineth her. ¹⁹ Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens. ²⁰ By his knowledge the deeps were broken up, and the skies drop down the dew. ²¹ My son, let them not depart from thine eyes; keep sound wisdom and discretion: ²² so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace unto thy neck. ²³ Then shalt thou walk in thy way securely, and thy foot shall not stumble; ²⁴ when thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid, but thou shalt lie down and thy sleep shall be sweet. ²⁵ Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the destruction of the wicked, when it cometh; ²⁶ for Jehovah shall be thy confidence, and he will keep thy foot from being taken. ²⁷ Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thy hand to do it. ²⁸ Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to-morrow I will give, when thou hast it by thee. ²⁹ Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee. ³⁰ Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm. ³¹ Envy not the man of violence, and choose none of his ways. ³² For the perverse is an abomination to Jehovah; but his secret is with the upright. ³³ The curse of Jehovah is in the house of the wicked; but he blesseth the habitation of the righteous. ³⁴ He indeed scorneth the scorers; but

he giveth grace unto the lowly. ³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory; but shame shall be the promotion of the foolish.

4

¹ Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know intelligence; ² for I give you good doctrine: forsake ye not my law. ³ For I was a son unto my father, tender and an only one in the sight of my mother. ⁴ And he taught me, and said unto me, Let thy heart retain my words; keep my commandments and live. ⁵ Get wisdom, get intelligence: forget [it] not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall keep thee; love her, and she shall preserve thee. ⁷ The beginning of wisdom [is], Get wisdom; and with all thy getting get intelligence. ⁸ Exalt her, and she shall promote thee; she shall bring thee to honour when thou dost embrace her. ⁹ She shall give to thy head a garland of grace; a crown of glory will she bestow upon thee. ¹⁰ Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of thy life shall be multiplied. ¹¹ I will teach thee in the way of wisdom, I will lead thee in paths of uprightness. ¹² When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. ¹³ Take fast hold of instruction, let [her] not go: keep her, for she is thy life. ¹⁴ Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil [men]: ¹⁵ avoid it, pass not by it; turn from it, and pass away. ¹⁶ For they sleep not except they have done mischief, and their sleep is taken away unless they have caused [some] to fall. ¹⁷ For

they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is as the shining light, going on and brightening until the day be fully come. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. ²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thy heart. ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep thy heart more than anything that is guarded; for out of it are the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from thee perverseness of mouth, and corrupt lips put far from thee. ²⁵ Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. ²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be well-ordered. ²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil.

5

¹ My son, attend unto my wisdom, incline thine ear to my understanding; ² that thou mayest keep reflection, and that thy lips may preserve knowledge. ³ For the lips of the strange woman drop honey, 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 Sheol. ⁶ Lest she should ponder the path of life, her ways wander, she knoweth not [whither]. ⁷ And now, children, hearken unto me, and depart not from the words of my mouth. ⁸ Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: ⁹ lest thou give thine

honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel;
¹⁰ lest strangers be filled with thy wealth, and the fruits of thy toil [come] into the house of a stranger; ¹¹ and thou mourn in thine end, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed; ¹² and thou say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof! ¹³ and I have not hearkened unto the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to those that instructed me; ¹⁴ I was well nigh in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly. ¹⁵ Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. ¹⁶ Thy fountains shall be poured forth, as water-brooks in the broadways. ¹⁷ Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. ¹⁸ Let thy fountain be blessed; and have joy of the wife of thy youth. ¹⁹ As a lovely hind and a graceful roe, let her breasts satisfy thee at all times: be thou ravished continually with her love. ²⁰ And why shouldest thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? ²¹ For the ways of man are before the eyes of Jehovah, and he pondereth all his paths. ²² His own iniquities shall take the wicked, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sin. ²³ He shall die for want of discipline; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

6

¹ My son, if thou hast become surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand for a stranger, ² thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy

mouth. ³ Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, since thou hast come into the hand of thy friend: go, humble thyself, and be urgent with thy friend. ⁴ Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids: ⁵ deliver thyself as a gazelle from the hand [of the hunter], and as a bird from the hand of the fowler. ⁶ Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise: ⁷ which having no chief, overseer, or ruler, ⁸ provideth her bread in the summer, [and] gathereth her food in the harvest. ⁹ How long, sluggard, wilt thou lie down? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest! ¹¹ So shall thy poverty come as a roving plunderer, and thy penury as an armed man. ¹² A man of Belial, a wicked person, is he that goeth about with a perverse mouth; ¹³ he winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; ¹⁴ deceits are in his heart; he deviseth mischief at all times, he soweth discords. ¹⁵ Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly: in a moment shall he be broken, and without remedy. ¹⁶ These six [things] doth Jehovah hate, yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; ¹⁸ a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations; feet that are swift in running to mischief; ¹⁹ a false witness that uttereth lies, and he that soweth discords among brethren. ²⁰ My son, observe thy father's commandment, and forsake not the teaching of thy mother; ²¹ bind them continually upon thy heart, tie them about thy neck: ²² when thou

walkest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and [when] thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. ²³ For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching a light, and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: ²⁴ to keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. ²⁵ Lust not after her beauty in thy heart, neither let her take thee with her eyelids; ²⁶ for by means of a whorish woman [a man is brought] to a loaf of bread, and another's wife doth hunt for the precious soul. ²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his garments not be burned? ²⁸ Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? ²⁹ So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife: whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. ³⁰ They do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry: ³¹ and if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. ³² Whoso committeth adultery with a woman is void of understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. ³³ A wound and contempt shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. ³⁴ For jealousy is the rage of a man, and he will not spare in the day of vengeance; ³⁵ he will not regard any ransom, neither will he rest content though thou multipliest [thy] gifts.

7

¹ My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. ² Keep my commandments, and live; and my teaching, as the apple of thine eye. ³ Bind them upon thy fingers, write

them upon the tablet of thy heart. ⁴ Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister, and call intelligence [thy] kinswoman: ⁵ that they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger who flattereth with her words. ⁶ For at the window of my house, I looked forth through my lattice, ⁷ and I beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the sons, 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 of the day, in the blackness of night and the darkness. ¹⁰ And behold, there met him a woman in the attire of a harlot, and subtle of heart. ¹¹ She is clamorous and unmanageable; her feet abide not in her house: ¹² now without, now in the broadways, — and she lieth in wait at every corner. ¹³ And she caught him and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, ¹⁴ I have peace-offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows: ¹⁵ therefore came I forth to meet thee, to seek earnestly thy face, and I have found thee. ¹⁶ I have decked my bed with tapestry coverlets of variegated linen from Egypt; ¹⁷ I have perfumed my couch with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸ Come, let us revel in love until the morning, let us delight ourselves with loves. ¹⁹ For the husband is not at home, he is gone a long journey; ²⁰ he hath taken the money-bag with him, he will come home on the day of the full moon. ²¹ With her much enticement she beguiled him; with the smoothness of her lips she constrained him. ²² He went after her straightway, as an ox

goeth to the slaughter, and as stocks [serve] for the correction of the fool; ²³ till an arrow strike through his liver: as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for its life. ²⁴ And now, ye sons, hearken unto me, and attend to the words of my mouth. ²⁵ Let not thy heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths: ²⁶ for she hath cast down many wounded, and all slain by her were strong. ²⁷ Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

8

¹ Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding give forth her voice? ² On the top of high places by the way, at the cross-paths she taketh her stand. ³ Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors, she crieth aloud. ⁴ Unto you, men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of man: ⁵ O ye simple, understand prudence; and ye foolish, understand sense. ⁶ Hear, for I will speak excellent things, and the opening of my lips shall be right things. ⁷ For my palate shall meditate truth, and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing tortuous or perverse in them. ⁹ They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that 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 that may be desired are not equal to it. ¹² I wisdom dwell [with] prudence, and find the knowledge [which cometh] of reflection. ¹³ The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil; pride, and

arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth do I hate. ¹⁴ Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am intelligence; I have strength. ¹⁵ By me kings reign, and rulers make just decrees; ¹⁶ by me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. ¹⁷ I love those that love me; and they that seek me early shall find me. ¹⁸ Riches and honour are with me; durable wealth and righteousness. ¹⁹ My fruit is better than fine gold, yea, than pure gold; and my revenue than choice silver. ²⁰ I walk in the path of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: ²¹ that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasuries. ²² Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³ I was set up from eternity, from the beginning, before the earth 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 was I brought forth; ²⁶ while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the beginning of the dust of the world. ²⁷ When he prepared the heavens I was there; when he ordained the circle upon the face of the deep; ²⁸ when he established the skies above, when the fountains of the deep became strong; ²⁹ when he imposed on 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 [his] nursling, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; ³¹ rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth, and my delights

[were] with the sons of men. ³² And now, sons, hearken unto me, and blessed are they that keep my ways: ³³ hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not. ³⁴ Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵ For whoso findeth me findeth life, and obtaineth favour of Jehovah; ³⁶ but he that sinneth against me doeth violence to his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

9

¹ Wisdom hath built her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars; ² she hath slaughtered her cattle, she hath mingled her wine, she hath also prepared her table; ³ she hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the summits of the high places of the city, ⁴ Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither. To him that is void of understanding, she saith, ⁵ Come, eat ye of my bread, and drink of the wine that I have mingled. ⁶ Forsake follies and live, and go in the way of intelligence. ⁷ He that instructeth a scorner getteth to himself shame; and he that reproveth a wicked [man] [getteth] to himself a blot. ⁸ Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee; reprove a wise [man], and he will love thee. ⁹ Impart to a wise [man], and he will become yet wiser; teach a righteous [man], and he will increase learning. ¹⁰ The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy is intelligence. ¹¹ For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and years of life shall be added to thee. ¹² If thou art wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself; and if thou scornest, thou alone shalt

bear it. ¹³ The foolish woman is clamorous; she is stupid, and knoweth nothing. ¹⁴ And she sitteth at the entry of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, ¹⁵ to call passers-by who go right on their ways: ¹⁶ Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither. And to him that is void of understanding she saith, ¹⁷ Stolen waters are sweet, and the bread of secrecy is pleasant. ¹⁸ But he knoweth not that the dead are there; [that] her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

10

¹ The Proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the grief of his mother. ² Treasures of wickedness profit nothing; but righteousness delivereth from death. ³ Jehovah suffereth not the soul of the righteous [man] to famish; but he repelleth the craving of the wicked. ⁴ He cometh to want that dealeth with a slack hand; but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. ⁵ He that gathereth in summer is a wise son; he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. ⁶ Blessings are upon the head of a righteous [man]; but the mouth of the wicked covereth violence. ⁷ The memory of the righteous [man] shall be blessed; but the name of the wicked shall rot. ⁸ The wise in heart receiveth commandments; but a prating fool shall fall. ⁹ He that walketh in integrity walketh securely; but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. ¹⁰ He that winketh with the eye causeth grief, and a prating fool shall fall. ¹¹ The mouth of a righteous [man] is a fountain of life; but the mouth of the

wicked covereth violence. ¹² Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all transgressions. ¹³ In the lips of an intelligent [man] wisdom is found; but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding. ¹⁴ The wise lay up knowledge; but the mouth of the fool is near destruction. ¹⁵ The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the destruction of the poor is their poverty. ¹⁶ The labour of a righteous [man] [tendeth] to life; the revenue of a wicked [man], to sin. ¹⁷ Keeping instruction is the path to life; but he that forsaketh reproof goeth astray. ¹⁸ He that covereth hatred hath lying lips, and he that sendeth forth a slander is a fool. ¹⁹ In the multitude of words there wanteth not transgression; but he that restraineth his lips doeth wisely. ²⁰ The tongue of the righteous [man] is [as] choice silver; the heart of the wicked is little worth. ²¹ The lips of a righteous [man] feed many; but fools die for want of understanding. ²² The blessing of Jehovah, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow to it. ²³ It is as sport to a foolish [man] to do wickedness; but a man of understanding hath wisdom. ²⁴ The fear of a wicked [man], it shall come upon him; but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. ²⁵ As a whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no [more]; but the righteous is an everlasting foundation. ²⁶ As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him. ²⁷ The fear of Jehovah prolongeth days; but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. ²⁸ The hope of the righteous is joy; but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. ²⁹ The way of Jehovah is strength to the perfect [man],

but destruction to the workers of iniquity. ³⁰ The righteous [man] shall never be moved; but the wicked shall not inhabit the land. ³¹ The mouth of a righteous [man] putteth forth wisdom; but the froward tongue shall be cut out. ³² The lips of a righteous [man] know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked is frowardness.

11

¹ A false balance is an abomination to Jehovah; but a just weight is his delight. ² [When] pride cometh, then cometh shame; but with the lowly is wisdom. ³ The integrity of the upright guideth them; but the crookedness of the unfaithful destroyeth them. ⁴ Wealth profiteth not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death. ⁵ The righteousness of the perfect maketh plain his way; but the wicked falleth by his own wickedness. ⁶ The righteousness of the upright delivereth them; but the treacherous are taken in their own craving. ⁷ When a wicked man dieth, [his] expectation shall perish; and the hope of evil [men] perisheth. ⁸ The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead. ⁹ With his mouth a hypocrite destroyeth his neighbour; but through knowledge are the righteous delivered. ¹⁰ When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth; 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 that despiseth his neighbour is void of heart; but a man of understanding holdeth his peace. ¹³ He that goeth about talebearing

revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit
concealeth the matter. ¹⁴ Where no advice is, the
people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors
there is safety. ¹⁵ It goeth ill with him that is
surety for another; but he that hateth suretyship
is secure. ¹⁶ A gracious woman retaineth honour;
and the violent retain riches. ¹⁷ The merciful
man doeth good to his own soul; but the cruel
troubleth his own flesh. ¹⁸ The wicked worketh a
deceitful work; but he that soweth righteousness
hath a sure reward. ¹⁹ As righteousness [tendeth]
to life, so he that pursueth evil [doeth it] to his own
death. ²⁰ The perverse in heart are abomination
to Jehovah; but they that are perfect in [their]
way are his delight. ²¹ Hand for hand! an evil
[man] shall not be held innocent; but the seed of
the righteous shall be delivered. ²² A fair woman
who is without discretion, is [as] a gold ring in
a swine's snout. ²³ The desire of the righteous is
only good; the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
²⁴ There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and
there is that withholdeth more than is right, but [it
tendeth] only to want. ²⁵ The liberal soul shall be
made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered
also himself. ²⁶ He that withholdeth corn, the
people curse him; but blessing shall be upon the
head of him that selleth it. ²⁷ He that is earnest
after good seeketh favour; but he that searcheth
for mischief, it shall come upon him. ²⁸ He that
trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous
shall flourish as a leaf. ²⁹ He that troubleth his
own house shall inherit wind; and the fool shall
be servant to the wise of heart. ³⁰ The fruit of the

righteous is a tree of life; and the wise winneth souls. ³¹ Behold, the righteous shall be requited on the earth: how much more the wicked and the sinner.

12

¹ Whoso loveth discipline loveth knowledge, but he that hateth reproof is brutish. ² A good [man] obtaineth favour of Jehovah; but a man of mischievous devices will he condemn. ³ A man shall not be established by wickedness; but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. ⁴ A woman of worth is a crown to her husband; but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. ⁵ The thoughts of the righteous are right; the counsels of the wicked are deceit. ⁶ The words of the wicked are a lying-in-wait for blood; but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. ⁷ Overthrow the wicked, and they are no [more]; but the house of the righteous shall stand. ⁸ A man is commended according to his wisdom; but he that is of a perverted heart shall be despised. ⁹ Better is he that is lightly esteemed, and hath a servant, than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread. ¹⁰ A righteous man is concerned for the life of his beast; but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. ¹¹ He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread; but he that followeth the worthless is void of understanding. ¹² The wicked desireth the net of evil [men]; but the root of the righteous yieldeth [fruit]. ¹³ In the transgression of the lips is an evil snare; but a righteous [man] shall go forth out of trouble. ¹⁴ A man is satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth; and the

recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him. ¹⁵ The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that is wise hearkeneth unto counsel. ¹⁶ The vexation of the fool is presently known; but a prudent [man] covereth shame. ¹⁷ He that uttereth truth sheweth forth righteousness; but a false witness deceit. ¹⁸ There is that babbleth like the piercings of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health. ¹⁹ The lip of truth shall be established for ever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment. ²⁰ Deceit is in the heart of them that devise evil; but to the counsellors of peace is joy. ²¹ There shall no evil happen to a righteous [man]; but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. ²² Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah; but they that deal truly are his delight. ²³ A prudent man concealeth knowledge; but the heart of the foolish proclaimeth folly. ²⁴ The hand of the diligent shall bear rule; but the slothful [hand] shall be under tribute. ²⁵ Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad. ²⁶ The righteous guideth his neighbour; but the way of the wicked misleadeth them. ²⁷ The slothful roasteth not what he took in hunting; but man's precious substance is to the diligent. ²⁸ In the path of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

13

¹ A wise son [heareth] his father's instruction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke. ² A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth; but the soul of the treacherous, violence. ³ He that guardeth

his mouth keepeth his soul; destruction shall be to him that openeth wide his lips. ⁴ A sluggard's soul desireth and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. ⁵ A righteous [man] hateth lying; but the wicked maketh himself odious and cometh to shame. ⁶ Righteousness preserveth him that is perfect in the way; but wickedness overthroweth the sinner. ⁷ There is that feigneth himself rich, and hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, and hath great wealth. ⁸ The ransom of a man's life is his riches; but the indigent heareth not rebuke. ⁹ The light of the righteous rejoiceth; but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. ¹⁰ By pride there only cometh contention; but with the well-advised is wisdom. ¹¹ Wealth [gotten] by vanity diminisheth; but he that gathereth by manual-labour shall increase [it]. ¹² Hope deferred maketh the heart sick; but the desire [that] cometh to pass is a tree of life. ¹³ Whoso despiseth the word shall be held by it; but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. ¹⁴ The teaching of the wise [man] is a fountain of life, to turn away from the snares of death. ¹⁵ Good understanding procureth favour; but the way of the treacherous is hard. ¹⁶ Every prudent [man] acteth with knowledge; but the foolish layeth open [his] folly. ¹⁷ A wicked messenger falleth into evil; but a faithful ambassador is health. ¹⁸ Poverty and shame shall be [to] him that refuseth instruction; but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. ¹⁹ The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul; but it is abomination to the foolish to depart from evil. ²⁰ He that

walketh with wise [men] becometh wise; but a companion of the foolish will be depraved. ²¹ Evil pursueth sinners; but to the righteous good shall be repaid. ²² A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; but the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous [man]. ²³ Much food is in the tillage of the poor; but there is that is lost for want of judgment. ²⁴ He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. ²⁵ The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul; but the belly of the wicked shall want.

14

¹ The wisdom of women buildeth their house; but folly plucketh it down with her hands. ² He that walketh in his uprightness feareth Jehovah; but he that is perverted in his ways despiseth him. ³ In the fool's mouth is a rod of pride; but the lips of the wise shall 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 uttereth lies. ⁶ A scorner seeketh wisdom, and there is none [for him]; but knowledge is easy unto the intelligent. ⁷ Go from the presence of a foolish man, in whom thou perceivest not the lips of knowledge. ⁸ The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way; but the folly of the foolish is deceit. ⁹ Fools make a mock at trespass; but for the upright there is favour. ¹⁰ The heart knoweth its own bitterness, and a stranger doth not intermeddle with its joy. ¹¹ The house of the wicked shall be overthrown;

but the tent of the upright shall flourish. ¹² There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the ways of death. ¹³ Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful, and the end of mirth is sadness. ¹⁴ The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways, and the good man from what is in himself. ¹⁵ The simple believeth every word; but the prudent [man] heedeth his going. ¹⁶ A wise [man] feareth and departeth from evil; but the foolish is overbearing and confident. ¹⁷ He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly, and a man of mischievous devices is hated. ¹⁸ The simple 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 [man]. ²⁰ He that is poor is hated even of his own neighbour; but the rich hath many friends. ²¹ He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth; but he that is gracious to the afflicted, happy is he. ²² Do they not err that devise evil? but loving-kindness and truth are for those that devise good. ²³ In all labour there is profit; but the talk of the lips [tendeth] only to want. ²⁴ The crown of the wise is their riches; the folly of the foolish is folly. ²⁵ A true witness delivereth souls; but deceit uttereth lies. ²⁶ In the fear of Jehovah is strong confidence, and his children shall have a place of refuge. ²⁷ The fear of Jehovah is a fountain of life, to turn away from the snares of death. ²⁸ In the multitude of people is the king's glory; but in the lack of people is the ruin of a prince. ²⁹ He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. ³⁰ A sound heart is the life

of the flesh; but envy the rottenness of the bones. ³¹ He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker; but he that honoureth Him is gracious to the needy. ³² The wicked is driven away by his evil-doing; but the righteous trusteth, [even] in his death. ³³ Wisdom resteth in the heart of the intelligent [man]; but that which is in the foolish maketh itself known. ³⁴ Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to peoples. ³⁵ The king's favour is toward a wise servant; but his wrath is [against] him that causeth shame.

15

¹ A soft answer turneth away fury; but a grievous word stirreth up anger. ² The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright; but the mouth of the foolish poureth out folly. ³ The eyes of Jehovah are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. ⁴ Gentleness of tongue is a tree of life; but crookedness therein is a breaking of the spirit. ⁵ A fool despiseth his father's instruction; but he that regardeth reproof becometh prudent. ⁶ In the house of a righteous [man] is much treasure; but in the revenue of a wicked [man] is disturbance. ⁷ The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but not so the heart of the foolish. ⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Jehovah; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. ⁹ The way of a wicked [man] is an abomination to Jehovah; but him that pursueth righteousness he loveth. ¹⁰ Grievous correction is for him that forsaketh the path; he that hateth reproof shall die. ¹¹ Sheol and destruction are before Jehovah; how much

more than the hearts of the children of men! ¹² A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him; he will not go unto the wise. ¹³ A joyful heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. ¹⁴ The heart of an intelligent [man] seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of the foolish feedeth on folly. ¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted are evil; but a cheerful heart is a continual feast. ¹⁶ Better is little with the fear of Jehovah than great store and disquietude therewith. ¹⁷ Better is a meal of herbs where love is, than a fatted ox and hatred therewith. ¹⁸ A furious man stirreth up contention; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. ¹⁹ The way of the sluggard is as a hedge of thorns; but the path of the upright is made plain. ²⁰ A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish man despiseth his mother. ²¹ Folly is joy to him that is void of sense; but a man of understanding regulateth his walk. ²² Without counsel purposes are disappointed; but in the multitude of counsellors they are established. ²³ A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth; and a word in its season, how good is it! ²⁴ The path of life is upwards for the wise, that he may depart from Sheol beneath. ²⁵ Jehovah plucketh up the house of the proud; but he establisheth the boundary of the widow. ²⁶ The thoughts of the evil [man] are an abomination to Jehovah; but pure words are pleasant. ²⁷ He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. ²⁸ The heart of a righteous [man] studieth to answer; but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. ²⁹ Jehovah is far from the wicked; but

he heareth the prayer of the righteous. ³⁰ That which enlighteneth the eyes rejoiceth the heart; good tidings make the bones fat. ³¹ The ear that heareth the reproof of life shall abide among the wise. ³² He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul; but he that heareth reproof getteth sense. ³³ The fear of Jehovah is the discipline of wisdom, and before honour [goeth] humility.

16

¹ The purposes of the heart are of man, but the answer of the tongue is from Jehovah. ² All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but Jehovah weigheth the spirits. ³ Commit thy works unto Jehovah, and thy thoughts shall be established. ⁴ Jehovah hath wrought everything on his own account, yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. ⁵ Every proud heart is an abomination to Jehovah: hand for hand, he shall not be held innocent. ⁶ By loving-kindness and truth iniquity is atoned for; and by the fear of Jehovah [men] depart from evil. ⁷ When a man's ways please Jehovah, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. ⁸ Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right. ⁹ The heart of man deviseth his way, but Jehovah directeth his steps. ¹⁰ An oracle is on the lips of the king: his mouth will not err in judgment. ¹¹ The just balance and scales are Jehovah's; all the weights of the bag are his work. ¹² It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness; for the throne is established by righteousness. ¹³ Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him that speaketh aright.

¹⁴ The fury of a king is [as] messengers of death; but a wise man will pacify it. ¹⁵ In the light of the king's countenance is life, and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain. ¹⁶ How much better is it to get wisdom than fine gold, and the getting of intelligence to be preferred to silver! ¹⁷ The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that taketh heed to his way keepeth his soul. ¹⁸ Pride [goeth] before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ Better is it to be of a humble spirit with the meek, than to divide the spoil with the proud. ²⁰ He that giveth heed to the word shall find good; and whoso confideth in Jehovah, happy is he. ²¹ The wise in heart is called intelligent, and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. ²² Wisdom is a fountain of life for him that hath it; but the instruction of fools is folly. ²³ The heart of the wise maketh his mouth intelligent, and upon his lips increaseth learning. ²⁴ Pleasant words are [as] a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health for the bones. ²⁵ There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the ways of death. ²⁶ The appetite of the labourer laboureth for him, for his mouth urgeth him on. ²⁷ A man of Belial diggeth up evil, and on his lips there is as a scorching fire. ²⁸ A false man soweth contention; and a talebearer separateth very friends. ²⁹ A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into a way that is not good. ³⁰ He that shutteth his eyes, [it is] to devise froward things; biting his lips, he bringeth evil to pass. ³¹ The hoary head is a crown of glory, [if] it is found in the way of

righteousness. ³² He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. ³³ The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole decision is of Jehovah.

17

¹ Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of feasting [with] strife. ² A wise servant shall rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part in the inheritance among the brethren. ³ The fining-pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but Jehovah trieth the hearts. ⁴ The evil-doer giveth heed to iniquitous lips; the liar giveth ear to a mischievous tongue. ⁵ Whoso mocketh a poor [man] reproacheth his Maker; he that is glad at calamity shall not be held innocent. ⁶ Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers. ⁷ Excellent speech becometh not a vile [man]; how much less do lying lips a noble! ⁸ A gift is a precious stone in the eyes of the possessor: whithersoever it turneth it prospereth. ⁹ He that covereth transgression seeketh love; but he that bringeth a matter up again separateth very friends. ¹⁰ A reproof entereth more deeply into him that hath understanding than a hundred stripes into a fool. ¹¹ An evil [man] seeketh only rebellion; but a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. ¹² Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man rather than a fool in his folly. ¹³ Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. ¹⁴ The beginning of contention is [as] when one letteth out water;

therefore leave off strife before it become vehement. ¹⁵ He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, even they both are abomination to Jehovah. ¹⁶ To what purpose is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing [he] hath no sense? ¹⁷ The friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. ¹⁸ A senseless man striketh hands, becoming surety for his neighbour. ¹⁹ He loveth transgression that loveth a quarrel; he that maketh high his gate seeketh destruction. ²⁰ He that hath a perverse heart findeth no good; and he that shifteth about with his tongue falleth into evil. ²¹ He that begetteth a fool [doeth it] to his sorrow, and the father of a vile [man] hath no joy. ²² A joyful heart promoteth healing; but a broken spirit drieth up the bones. ²³ A wicked [man] taketh a gift out of the bosom, to pervert the paths of judgment. ²⁴ Wisdom is before him that hath 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 that bore him. ²⁶ To punish a righteous [man] is not good, nor to strike nobles because of [their] uprightness. ²⁷ He that hath knowledge spareth his words; and a man of understanding is of a cool spirit. ²⁸ Even a fool when he holdeth his peace is reckoned wise, [and] he that shutteth his lips, intelligent.

18

¹ He that separateth himself seeketh [his] pleasure, he is vehement against all sound wisdom.

² A fool hath no delight in understanding, but only

that his heart may reveal itself. ³ When the wicked cometh, there cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. ⁴ The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, [and] the fountain of wisdom is a gushing brook. ⁵ It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to wrong the righteous in judgment. ⁶ A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for stripes. ⁷ A fool's mouth is destruction to him, and his lips are a snare to his soul. ⁸ The words of a talebearer are as dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. ⁹ He also who is indolent in his work is brother of the destroyer. ¹⁰ The name of Jehovah is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. ¹¹ The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as a high wall in his own imagination. ¹² Before destruction the heart of man is haughty; and before honour [goeth] humility. ¹³ He that giveth answer before he heareth, it is folly and shame unto him. ¹⁴ The spirit of a man sustaineth his infirmity; but a broken spirit who can bear? ¹⁵ The heart of an intelligent [man] getteth knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. ¹⁶ A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. ¹⁷ He that is first in his own cause [seemeth] just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him. ¹⁸ The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty. ¹⁹ A brother offended is [harder to be won] than a strong city; and contentions are as the bars of a palace. ²⁰ A man's belly is satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; with the increase of his lips is he satisfied. ²¹ Death and life are in the power of

the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. ²² Whoso hath found a wife hath found a good thing, and hath obtained favour from Jehovah. ²³ He that is poor speaketh with supplications, but the rich answereth roughly. ²⁴ A man of [many] friends will come to ruin but there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother.

19

¹ Better is a poor [man] that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool. ² Also that a person be without knowledge is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet maketh false steps. ³ The folly of man distorteth his way, and his heart is irritated against Jehovah. ⁴ Wealth addeth many friends; but the poor is separated from his friend. ⁵ A false witness shall not be held innocent, and he that uttereth lies shall not escape. ⁶ Many court the favour of a noble; and every one is friend to a man that giveth. ⁷ All the brethren of a poor [man] hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him: he pursueth [them] with words, — they are not [to be found]. ⁸ He that getteth sense loveth his own soul; he that keepeth understanding shall find good. ⁹ A false witness shall not be held innocent, and he that uttereth lies shall perish. ¹⁰ Good living beseemeth not a fool; how much less for a servant to have rule over princes. ¹¹ The discretion of a man maketh him slow to anger, and it is his glory to pass over a transgression. ¹² The king's displeasure is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour 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 dropping. ¹⁴ House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers; but a prudent wife is from Jehovah. ¹⁵ Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep, and the idle soul shall suffer hunger. ¹⁶ He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his soul; he that is careless of his ways shall die. ¹⁷ He that is gracious to the poor lendeth unto Jehovah; and what he hath bestowed will he repay unto him. ¹⁸ Chasten thy son, seeing there is hope; but set not thy soul upon killing him. ¹⁹ A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment; for if thou deliver [him], yet thou must do it again. ²⁰ Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. ²¹ Many are the thoughts in a man's heart, but the counsel of Jehovah, that doth stand. ²² The charm of a man is his kindness; and a poor [man] is better than a liar. ²³ The fear of Jehovah [tendeth] to life, and he [that hath it] shall rest satisfied without being visited with evil. ²⁴ A sluggard burieth his hand in the dish, and will not even bring it to his mouth again. ²⁵ Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware; reprove the intelligent, and he will understand knowledge. ²⁶ He that ruineth [his] father and chaseth away [his] mother is a son that causeth shame and bringeth reproach. ²⁷ Cease, my son, to hear the instruction which causeth to stray from the words of knowledge. ²⁸ A witness of Belial scorneth judgment, and the mouth of the wicked swalloweth down iniquity. ²⁹ Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back

of the foolish.

20

¹ Wine is a scorner, strong drink is raging; and whoso erreth thereby is not wise. ² The terror of a king is as the roaring of a lion: he that provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul. ³ It is an honour for a man to cease from strife; but every fool rusheth into it. ⁴ The sluggard will not plough by reason of the winter; he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing. ⁵ Counsel in the heart of man is deep water, and a man of understanding draweth it out. ⁶ Most men will proclaim every one his own kindness; but a faithful man who shall find? ⁷ The righteous walketh in his integrity: blessed are his children after him! ⁸ A king sitting on the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes. ⁹ Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? ¹⁰ Divers weights, divers measures, even both of them are abomination to Jehovah. ¹¹ Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. ¹² The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, Jehovah hath made even both of them. ¹³ Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, [and] thou shalt be satisfied with bread. ¹⁴ Bad! bad! saith the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth. ¹⁵ There is gold, and a multitude of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a precious Jewel. ¹⁶ Take his garment that is become surety [for] another, and hold him in pledge for strangers. ¹⁷ Bread of falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterwards

his mouth shall be filled with gravel. ¹⁸ Plans are established by counsel; and with good advice make war. ¹⁹ He that goeth about talebearing revealeth secrets; therefore meddle not with him that openeth his lips. ²⁰ Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in the blackest darkness. ²¹ An inheritance obtained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed in the end. ²² Say not, I will recompense evil: wait on Jehovah, and he shall save thee. ²³ Divers weights are an abomination unto Jehovah; and a false balance is not good. ²⁴ The steps of a man are from Jehovah; and how can a man understand his own way? ²⁵ It is a snare to a man rashly to say, It is hallowed, and after vows to make inquiry. ²⁶ A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them. ²⁷ Man's spirit is the lamp of Jehovah, searching all the inner parts of the belly. ²⁸ Mercy and truth preserve the king; and he upholdeth his throne by mercy. ²⁹ The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head. ³⁰ Wounding stripes purge away evil, and strokes [purge] the inner parts of the belly.

21

¹ The king's heart in the hand of Jehovah is [as] brooks of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. ² Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but Jehovah weigheth the hearts. ³ To exercise justice and judgment is more acceptable to Jehovah than sacrifice. ⁴ Lofty eyes, and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin. ⁵ The thoughts of

the diligent [tend] only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty, only to want. ⁶ The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting breath of them that seek death. ⁷ The devastation of the wicked sweepeth them away, because they refuse to do what is right. ⁸ Very crooked is the way of a guilty man; but as for the pure, his work is upright. ⁹ It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a contentious woman, and a house in common. ¹⁰ The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes. ¹¹ When the scorner is punished, the simple becometh wise; and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge. ¹² One that is righteous wisely considereth the house of the wicked: he overthroweth the wicked to [their] ruin. ¹³ Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also himself shall cry, and shall not be heard. ¹⁴ A gift in secret pacifieth anger; and a present in the bosom, vehement fury. ¹⁵ It is joy to a righteous [man] to do what is right; but it is ruin for the workers of iniquity. ¹⁶ The man that wandereth out of the way of wisdom shall abide in the congregation of the dead. ¹⁷ He that loveth mirth shall be a poor man; he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich. ¹⁸ The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, and a treacherous [man] in the stead of the upright. ¹⁹ It is better to dwell in a desert land, than with a contentious and irritable woman. ²⁰ There is costly store and oil in the dwelling of a wise [man]; but a foolish man swalloweth it up. ²¹ He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth

life, righteousness, and honour. ²² A wise [man] scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof. ²³ Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. ²⁴ Proud, arrogant, scorner is his name who dealeth in proud wrath. ²⁵ The desire of the sluggard killeth him; for his hands refuse to work: ²⁶ He coveteth greedily all the day long; but the righteous giveth and spareth not. ²⁷ The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination; how much more when they bring it with a wicked purpose! ²⁸ A lying witness shall perish; and a man that heareth shall speak constantly. ²⁹ A wicked man hardeneth his face; but as for the upright, he establisheth his way. ³⁰ There is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel against Jehovah. ³¹ The horse is prepared for the day of battle; but safety is of Jehovah.

22

¹ A [good] name is rather to be chosen than great riches; loving favour rather than silver and gold. ² The rich and poor meet together; Jehovah is the maker of them all. ³ A prudent [man] seeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished. ⁴ The reward of humility [and] the fear of Jehovah is riches, and honour, and life. ⁵ Thorns [and] snares are in the way of the perverse: he that keepeth his soul holdeth himself far from them. ⁶ Train up the child according to the tenor of his way, and when he is old he will not depart from it. ⁷ The rich ruleth over the poor; and the borrower is servant to the lender.

⁸ He that soweth unrighteousness shall reap iniquity, and the rod of his wrath shall have an end. ⁹ He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed, for he giveth of his bread to the poor. ¹⁰ Cast out the scorner, and contention will depart, and strife and ignominy shall cease. ¹¹ He that loveth pureness of heart, upon whose lips is grace, the king is his friend. ¹² The eyes of Jehovah preserve knowledge; but he overthroweth the words of the unfaithful. ¹³ The sluggard saith, There is a lion without, I shall be killed in the streets! ¹⁴ The mouth of strange women is a deep ditch: he with whom Jehovah is displeased shall fall therein. ¹⁵ Folly is bound in the heart of a child; the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. ¹⁶ He that oppresseth the poor, it is to enrich him; he that giveth to the rich, [bringeth] only to want. ¹⁷ Incline thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thy heart unto my knowledge. ¹⁸ For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee: they shall be together fitted on thy lips. ¹⁹ That thy confidence may be in Jehovah, I have made [them] known to thee this day, even to thee. ²⁰ Have not I written to thee excellent things, in counsels and knowledge, ²¹ that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest carry back words of truth to them that send thee? ²² Rob not the poor, because he is poor, neither oppress the afflicted in the gate; ²³ for Jehovah will plead their cause, and despoil the soul of those that despoil them. ²⁴ Make no friendship with an angry man, and go not with

a furious man; ²⁵ lest thou learn his paths, and get a snare to thy soul. ²⁶ Be not of them that strike hands, of them that are sureties for debts: ²⁷ if thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee? ²⁸ Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set. ²⁹ Hast thou seen a man diligent in his work? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before the mean.

23

¹ When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider well who is before thee; ² and put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. ³ Be not desirous of his dainties; for they are deceitful food. ⁴ Weary not thyself to become rich; cease from thine own intelligence: ⁵ wilt thou set thine eyes upon it, it is gone; for indeed it maketh itself wings and it flieth away as an eagle towards the heavens. ⁶ Eat thou not the food of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainties. ⁷ For as he thinketh in his soul, so is he. Eat and drink! will he say unto thee; but his heart is not with thee. ⁸ Thy morsel which thou hast eaten must thou vomit up, and thou wilt have wasted thy sweet words. ⁹ Speak not in the ears of a foolish [man], for he will despise the wisdom of thy words. ¹⁰ Remove not the ancient landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless: ¹¹ for their redeemer is mighty; he will plead their cause against thee. ¹² Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. ¹³ Withhold not correction

from the child; for [if] thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die: ¹⁴ thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. ¹⁵ My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine; ¹⁶ and my reins shall exult, when thy lips speak right things. ¹⁷ Let not thy heart envy sinners, but [be thou] in the fear of Jehovah all the day; ¹⁸ for surely there is a result, and thine expectation shall not be cut off. ¹⁹ Thou, my son, hear and be wise, and direct thy heart in the way. ²⁰ Be not among winebibbers, among riotous eaters of flesh. ²¹ For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness clotheth with rags. ²² Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. ²³ Buy the truth, and sell it not; wisdom, and instruction, and intelligence. ²⁴ The father of a righteous [man] shall greatly rejoice, and he that begetteth a wise [son] shall have joy of him: ²⁵ let thy father and thy mother have joy, and let her that bore thee rejoice. ²⁶ My son, give me thy heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. ²⁷ For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. ²⁸ She also lieth in wait as a robber, and increaseth the treacherous among men. ²⁹ Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who contentions? Who complaining? Who wounds without cause? Who redness of eyes? ³⁰ — They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to try mixed wine. ³¹ Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it sparkleth in the cup, and goeth down smoothly: ³² at the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. ³³ Thine eyes shall

behold strange women, and thy heart shall speak froward things; ³⁴and thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, and as he that lieth down upon the top of a mast: ³⁵ — “They have smitten me, [and] I am not sore; they have beaten me, [and] I knew it not. When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

24

¹ Be not thou envious of evil men, neither desire to be with them; ² for their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief. ³ Through wisdom is a house built, and by understanding it is established; ⁴ and by knowledge are the chambers filled with all precious and pleasant substance. ⁵ A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge increaseth strength. ⁶ For with good advice shalt thou make thy war; and in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. ⁷ Wisdom is too high for a fool: he will not open his mouth in the gate. ⁸ He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a master of intrigues. ⁹ The purpose of folly is sin, and the scorner is an abomination to men. ¹⁰ [If] thou lovest courage in the day of trouble, thy strength is small. ¹¹ Deliver them that are taken forth unto death, and withdraw not from them that stagger to slaughter. ¹² If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not, will not he that weigheth the hearts consider it? And he that preserveth thy soul, he knoweth it; and he rendereth to man according to his work. ¹³ Eat honey, my son, for it is good; and a honeycomb is sweet to thy taste: ¹⁴ so consider wisdom for thy soul; if thou hast found it, there

shall be a result, and thine expectation shall not be cut off. ¹⁵ Lay not wait, O wicked [man], against the dwelling of the righteous; lay not waste his resting-place. ¹⁶ For the righteous falleth seven times, and riseth up again; but the wicked stumble into disaster. ¹⁷ Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thy heart be glad when he stumbleth; ¹⁸ lest Jehovah see it, and it be evil in his sight, and he turn away his anger from him. ¹⁹ Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, [and] be not envious of the wicked: ²⁰ for there shall be no future to the evil [man]; the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. ²¹ My son, fear Jehovah and the king: meddle not with them that are given to change. ²² For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both? ²³ These things also come from the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment. ²⁴ He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous, peoples shall curse him, nations shall abhor him; ²⁵ but to them that rebuke [him] shall be delight, and a good blessing cometh upon them. ²⁶ He kisseth the lips who giveth a right answer. ²⁷ Prepare thy work without, and put thy field in order, and afterwards build thy house. ²⁸ Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and wouldest thou deceive with thy lips? ²⁹ Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me, I will render to the man according to his work. ³⁰ I went by the field of a sluggard, and by the vineyard of a man void of understanding; ³¹ and lo, it was all grown over with thistles, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and its stone wall was broken down.

³² Then I looked, I took it to heart; I saw, I received instruction: ³³ — A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest! ³⁴ So shall thy poverty come [as] a roving plunderer, and thy penury as an armed man.

25

¹ These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah transcribed. ² It is the glory of °God to conceal a thing; but the glory of kings is to search out a thing. ³ The heavens for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable. ⁴ Take away the dross from the silver, and there cometh forth a vessel for the refiner: ⁵ take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. ⁶ Put not thyself forward in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of the great; ⁷ for better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither, than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes see. ⁸ Go not forth hastily to strive, lest [thou know not] what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame. ⁹ Debate thy cause with thy neighbour, but reveal not the secret of another; ¹⁰ lest he that heareth [it] disgrace thee, and thine evil report turn not away. ¹¹ [As] apples of gold in pictures of silver, is a word spoken in season. ¹² An ear-ring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, is a wise reprover upon an attentive ear. ¹³ As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, [so] is a faithful messenger to them

^o 25:2 Elohim

that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters. ¹⁴ Clouds and wind without rain, [so] is a man that boasteth himself of a false gift. ¹⁵ By long forbearing is a ruler persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone. ¹⁶ Hast thou found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be surfeited therewith, and vomit it. ¹⁷ Let thy foot be seldom in thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee and hate thee. ¹⁸ A maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow, is a man that beareth false witness against his neighbour. ¹⁹ A broken tooth, and a tottering foot, is confidence in an unfaithful [man] in the day of trouble. ²⁰ [As] he that taketh off a garment in cold weather, [and as] vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to a sad heart. ²¹ If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: ²² for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and Jehovah shall reward thee. ²³ The north wind bringeth forth rain, and the angry countenance a backbiting tongue. ²⁴ It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a contentious woman, and a house in common. ²⁵ [As] cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. ²⁶ A troubled fountain, and a defiled well, is a righteous [man] that giveth way before the wicked. ²⁷ It is not good to eat much honey; and to search into weighty matters is [itself] a weight. ²⁸ He that hath no rule over his own spirit is [as] a city broken down, without walls.

26

¹ As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so

honour beseemeth not a fool. ² As the sparrow for flitting about, as the swallow for flying, so a curse undeserved shall not come. ³ A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the back of fools. ⁴ Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. ⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. ⁶ He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off [his own] feet, [and] drinketh damage. ⁷ The legs of the lame hang loose; so is a proverb in the mouth of fools. ⁸ As a bag of gems in a stoneheap, so is he that giveth honour to a fool. ⁹ [As] a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools. ¹⁰ A master roughly worketh every one: he both hireth the fool and hireth passers-by. ¹¹ As a dog turneth back to its vomit, [so] a fool repeateth his folly. ¹² Hast thou seen a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope of a fool than of him. ¹³ The sluggard saith, There is a fierce lion in the way; a lion is in the midst of the streets! ¹⁴ [As] the door turneth upon its hinges, so the sluggard upon his bed. ¹⁵ The sluggard burieth his hand in the dish: it wearieth him to bring it again to his mouth. ¹⁶ A sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven [men] that answer discreetly. ¹⁷ He that passing by vexeth himself with strife belonging not to him, is [like] one that taketh a dog by the ears. ¹⁸ As a madman who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, ¹⁹ so is a man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am I not in sport? ²⁰ Where no wood is, the fire goeth out; and where there is no talebearer, the

contention ceaseth. ²¹ [As] coals for hot coals, and wood for fire, so is a contentious man to inflame strife. ²² The words of a talebearer are as dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. ²³ Ardent lips, and a wicked heart, are [as] an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross. ²⁴ He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, but he layeth up deceit within him: ²⁵ when his voice is gracious, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶ Though [his] hatred is covered by dissimulation, his wickedness shall be made manifest in the congregation. ²⁷ Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein; and he that rolleth a stone, it shall return upon him. ²⁸ A lying tongue hateth those that are injured by it, and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

27

¹ Boast not thyself of to-morrow, for thou knowest not what a day will bring forth. ² Let another praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. ³ A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's vexation is heavier than them both. ⁴ Fury is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before jealousy? ⁵ Open rebuke is better than hidden love. ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are profuse. ⁷ The full soul trampleth on a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. ⁸ As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place. ⁹ Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; and the sweetness of one's friend is [the

fruit] of hearty counsel. ¹⁰Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; and go not into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off. ¹¹Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, that I may have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me. ¹²A prudent [man] seeth the evil, [and] hideth himself; the simple pass on, [and] are punished. ¹³Take his garment that is become surety [for] another, and hold him in pledge for a strange woman. ¹⁴He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be reckoned a curse to him. ¹⁵A continual dropping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike: ¹⁶whosoever will restrain her restraineth the wind, and his right hand encountereth oil. ¹⁷Iron is sharpened by iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. ¹⁸Whoso keepeth the fig-tree shall eat the fruit thereof; and he that guardeth his master shall be honoured. ¹⁹As [in] water face [answereth] to face, so the heart of man to man. ²⁰Sheol and destruction are insatiable; so the eyes of man are never satisfied. ²¹The fining-pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; so let a man be to the mouth that praiseth him. ²²If thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his folly depart from him. ²³Be well acquainted with the appearance of thy flocks; look well to thy herds: ²⁴for wealth is not for ever; and doth the crown [endure] from generation to generation? ²⁵The hay is removed, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered in. ²⁶The lambs are

for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of a field; ²⁷ and there is goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and sustenance for thy maidens.

28

¹ The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion. ² By the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof; but by a man of understanding [and] of knowledge, [its] stability is prolonged. ³ A poor man who oppresseth the helpless is a sweeping rain which leaveth no food. ⁴ They that forsake the law praise the wicked; but such as keep the law contend with them. ⁵ Evil men understand not judgment; but they that seek Jehovah understand everything. ⁶ Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse, double in ways, though he be rich. ⁷ Whoso observeth the law is a son that hath understanding; but he that is a companion of profligates bringeth shame to his father. ⁸ He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance gathereth it for him that is gracious to the poor. ⁹ He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. ¹⁰ Whoso causeth the upright to go astray in an evil way, shall himself fall into his own pit; but the perfect shall inherit good. ¹¹ A rich man is wise in his own eyes; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out. ¹² When the righteous triumph, there is great glory; but when the wicked rise, men conceal themselves. ¹³ He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper;

but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [them] shall obtain mercy. ¹⁴ Happy is the man that feareth always; but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into evil. ¹⁵ A roaring lion, and a ranging bear, is a wicked ruler over a poor people. ¹⁶ The prince void of intelligence is also a great oppressor: he that hateth covetousness shall prolong [his] days. ¹⁷ A man laden with the blood of [any] person, fleeth to the pit: let no man stay him. ¹⁸ Whoso walketh in integrity shall be saved; but he that is perverted in [his] double ways, shall fall in one [of them]. ¹⁹ He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread; but he that followeth the worthless shall have poverty enough. ²⁰ A faithful man aboundeth with blessings; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. ²¹ To have respect of persons is not good; but for a piece of bread will a man transgress. ²² He that hath an evil eye hasteth after wealth, and knoweth not that poverty shall come upon him. ²³ He that rebuketh a man shall afterwards find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue. ²⁴ Whoso robbeth his father and his mother, and saith, It is no transgression, the same is the companion of a destroyer. ²⁵ He that is puffed up in soul exciteth contention; but he that relieth upon Jehovah shall be made fat. ²⁶ He that confideth in his own heart is a fool; but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. ²⁷ He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack; but he that withdraweth his eyes shall have many a curse. ²⁸ When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.

29

¹ He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and without remedy. ² When the righteous increase, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn. ³ Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father; but he that is a companion of harlots destroyeth [his] substance. ⁴ A king by just judgment establisheth the land; but he that taketh gifts overthroweth it. ⁵ A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his steps. ⁶ In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare; but the righteous shall sing and rejoice. ⁷ The righteous taketh knowledge of the cause of the poor; the wicked understandeth not knowledge. ⁸ Scornful men set the city in a flame; but the wise turn away anger. ⁹ If a wise man contendeth with a fool, whether he rage or laugh, [he] hath no rest. ¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate the perfect, but the upright care for his soul. ¹¹ A fool uttereth all his mind; but a wise [man] keepeth it back. ¹² If a ruler hearken to lying words, all his servants are wicked. ¹³ The indigent and the oppressor meet together; Jehovah lighteneth the eyes of them both. ¹⁴ A king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever. ¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left [to himself] bringeth his mother to shame. ¹⁶ When the wicked increase, transgression increaseth; but the righteous shall see their fall. ¹⁷ Chasten thy son, and he shall give thee rest, and shall give delight unto thy soul. ¹⁸ Where there is

no vision the people cast off restraint; but happy is he that keepeth the law. ¹⁹ A servant is not corrected by words: he understandeth indeed, but he will not answer. ²⁰ Hast thou seen a man hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him. ²¹ He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child, shall in the end have him as a son. ²² An angry man exciteth contention; and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. ²³ A man's pride bringeth him low; but the humble in spirit shall obtain honour. ²⁴ Whoso shareth with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth the adjuration, and declareth not. ²⁵ The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his confidence in Jehovah is protected. ²⁶ Many seek the ruler's face; but a man's right judgment is from Jehovah. ²⁷ An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous; and he that is of upright way is an abomination to the wicked [man].

30

¹ The words of Agur the son of Jakeh; the prophecy uttered by the man unto Ithiel, [even] unto Ithiel and Ucal: ² Truly I am more stupid than any one; and I have not a man's intelligence. ³ I have neither learned wisdom, nor have I the knowledge of the Holy. ⁴ Who hath ascended up into the heavens, and descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a mantle? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou knowest? ⁵ Every

word of *God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ⁶ Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. ⁷ Two things do I ask of thee; deny me [them] not before I die: ⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the bread of my daily need: ⁹ lest I be full and deny [thee], and say, Who is Jehovah? or lest I be poor and steal, and outrage the name of my °God. ¹⁰ Speak not too much about a servant to his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be held guilty. ¹¹ There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother; ¹² there is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, yet are not washed from their filthiness; ¹³ there is a generation, — how lofty are their eyes, how their eyelids are lifted up! ¹⁴ — a generation whose teeth are swords, and their jaw-teeth knives, to devour the afflicted from off the earth, and the needy from [among] men. ¹⁵ The leech hath two daughters: Give, give. There are three [things] never satisfied; four which say not, It is enough: ¹⁶ — Sheol, and the barren womb; the earth which is not filled with water, and the fire which saith not, It is enough. ¹⁷ The eye that mocketh at a father, and despiseth to obey a mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it. ¹⁸ There are three [things] too wonderful for me, and four that I know not: ¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the heavens, the way of a serpent upon a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and

* 30:5 Eloah ° 30:9 Elohim

the way of a man with a maid. ²⁰ Such is the way of an adulterous woman: she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness. ²¹ Under three [things] the earth is disquieted, and under four it cannot bear up: ²² Under a servant when he reigneth, and a churl when he is filled with meat; ²³ under an odious [woman] when she is married, and a handmaid when she is heir to her mistress. ²⁴ There are four [things] little upon the earth, and they are exceeding wise: ²⁵ The ants, a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; ²⁶ the rock-badgers are but a feeble folk, yet they make their house in the cliff; ²⁷ the locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands; ²⁸ thou takest hold of the lizard with the hands, yet is she in kings' palaces. ²⁹ There are three [things] which have a stately step, and four are comely in going: ³⁰ The lion, mighty among beasts, which turneth not away for any; ³¹ a [horse] girt in the loins; or the he-goat; and a king, against whom none can rise up. ³² If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, [lay] the hand upon thy mouth. ³³ For the pressing of milk bringeth forth butter; and the pressing of the nose bringeth forth blood; and the pressing of anger bringeth forth strife.

31

¹ The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him: ² What, my son? and what, O son of my womb? and what, O son of my vows? ³ Give not thy strength unto women,

nor thy ways to them that destroy kings. ⁴ It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for rulers [to say], Where is the strong drink? ⁵ — lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the children of affliction. ⁶ Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto the bitter of soul: ⁷ let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. ⁸ Open thy mouth for the dumb, for the cause of all those that are left desolate. ⁹ Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and minister justice to the afflicted and needy. ¹⁰ Who can find a woman of worth? for her price is far above rubies. ¹¹ The heart of her husband confideth in her, and he shall have no lack of spoil. ¹² She doeth him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. ¹³ She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. ¹⁴ She is like the merchants' ships: she bringeth her food from afar; ¹⁵ And she riseth while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and the day's work to her maidens. ¹⁶ She considereth a field, and acquireth it; of the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girdeth her loins with strength, and maketh strong her arms. ¹⁸ She perceiveth that her earning is good; her lamp goeth not out by night. ¹⁹ She putteth her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰ She stretcheth out her hand to the afflicted, and she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. ²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet. ²² She maketh herself coverlets; her clothing is byssus and purple. ²³ Her

husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She maketh body linen and selleth it, and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. ²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laugheth [at] the coming day. ²⁶ She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and upon her tongue is the law of kindness. ²⁷ She surveyeth the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband [also], and he praiseth her: ²⁹ Many daughters have done worthily, but thou excellest them all. ³⁰ Gracefulness is deceitful and beauty is vain; a woman [that] feareth Jehovah, she shall be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

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