

The Proverbs

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; ⁴ To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. ⁵ A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain to wise counsels: ⁶ To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸ My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: ⁹ For they *shalt be* an ornament of grace to thy head, and chains about thy neck. ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. ¹¹ If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: ¹² Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; 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; let us all have one purse: ¹⁵ My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: ¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, and make haste 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 privily for their *own* lives. ¹⁹ So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *who* taketh away the life of its owners. ²⁰ Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: ²¹ She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*, ²² How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? ²³ Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit to 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 man regarded; ²⁵ But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and rejected my reproof: ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷ When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. ²⁸ Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: ²⁹ For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: ³⁰ They rejected my counsel: they despised all my reproof. ³¹ Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. ³² For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. ³³ But whoever hearkeneth to me shall dwell in safety, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

2

¹ My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; ² So that thou incline thy ear to wisdom, *and* apply thy heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; ⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; ⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly. ⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *and* every good path. ¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thy heart, and knowledge is pleasant to thy soul; ¹¹ Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: ¹² To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man* , from the man that speaketh froward things; ¹³ Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴ Who rejoyce to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked; ¹⁵ Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths: ¹⁶ To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* 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 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. ²⁰ That thou mayest walk in the way of good *men*, 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 earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

3

¹ My son, forget not my law; but let thy heart keep my commandments; ² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thy heart: ⁴ So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thy heart; and lean not to thy own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths. ⁷ Be not wise in thy own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. ⁸ It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. ⁹ Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thy increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. ¹¹ My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: ¹² For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth. ¹³ Happy is the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. ¹⁴ For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain of it than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is

more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst 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 them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her. ¹⁹ The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. ²⁰ By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. ²¹ My son, let not them depart from thy eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: ²² So shall they be life to thy soul, and grace to thy neck. ²³ Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, 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 desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. ²⁶ For the LORD will be thy confidence, and 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 to thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and to-morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee. ²⁹ Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee. ³⁰ Strive not with a man without cause, if he hath done thee no harm. ³¹ Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. ³² For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous. ³³ The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the

habitation of the just. ³⁴ Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace to the lowly. ³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

4

¹ Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. ² For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. ³ For 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 thy heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. ⁸ Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. ⁹ She shall give to thy head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. ¹⁰ Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. ¹¹ I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. 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 cause *some* to fall. ¹⁷ For 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 shineth more and more to the perfect day. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. ²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thy ear to my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thy eyes; keep them in the midst of thy heart. ²² For they *are* life to those that find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. ²⁵ Let thy eyes look right on, and let thy eyelids look straight before thee. ²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. ²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

5

¹ My son, attend to my wisdom, *and* bow thy ear to my understanding: ² That thou mayest regard discretion, and *that* thy lips may keep knowledge. ³ For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* a honey-comb, 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 thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are movable, *that* thou canst not know *them* . ⁷ Hear me now therefore, O ye

children, 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 thy honor to others, and thy years to the cruel: ¹⁰ Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors *be* in the house of a stranger; ¹¹ And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, ¹² And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; ¹³ And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to them that instructed me! ¹⁴ I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly. ¹⁵ Drink waters out of thy own cistern, and running waters out of thy own well. ¹⁶ Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets. ¹⁷ Let them be only thy own, and not for strangers with thee. ¹⁸ Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. ¹⁹ *Let her be as* the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. ²⁰ And why wilt 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 the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings. ²² His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be held with the cords of his sins. ²³ He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

6

¹ My son, if thou art surety for thy friend, *if* thou hast stricken thy hand with 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, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. ⁴ Give not sleep to thy eyes, nor slumber to thy eyelids. ⁵ Deliver thyself as a roe 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 guide, overseer, or ruler, ⁸ Provideth her provisions in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest. ⁹ How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? ¹⁰ *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ¹¹ So shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth, and thy want as an armed man. ¹² A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. ¹³ He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; ¹⁴ Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. ¹⁵ Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy. ¹⁶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yes, seven *are* an abomination to him: ¹⁷ A proud look, 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 speaketh lies, and him that soweth discord among brethren. ²⁰ My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: ²¹ Bind them continually upon thy heart, *and* tie them about thy neck. ²² When thou goest, 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 law *is* 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 lewd woman *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 that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; whoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. ³⁰ *Men* do not despise a thief, if he stealeth to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; ³¹ But *if* he is found, he shall restore seven-fold; he shall give all the substance of his house. ³² *But* whoever committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul. ³³ A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. ³⁴ For 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 thou givest

many gifts.

7

¹ My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. ² Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thy eye. ³ Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thy heart. ⁴ Say to wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman: ⁵ That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words. ⁶ For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, ⁷ And beheld among the simple 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 behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of a harlot, and subtil of heart. ¹¹ (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: ¹² Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) ¹³ So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said to him, ¹⁴ *I have* peace-offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows. ¹⁵ Therefore I came forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. 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 solace ourselves with

loves. ¹⁹ For the good-man *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey: ²⁰ He hath 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 impelled him. ²² He goeth after her quickly, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; ²³ Till a dart striketh through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life. ²⁴ Now therefore hearken to me, O ye children, 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: yes, many strong *men* have been slain by her. ²⁷ Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

8

¹ Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? ² She standeth on the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. ³ She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors. ⁴ To you, O men, I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of man. ⁵ O ye simple, understand wisdom: and ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. ⁶ Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things. ⁷ For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips. ⁸ All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward 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 to be compared to it. ¹² I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of ingenious inventions. ¹³ The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do 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 them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. ¹⁸ Riches and honor *are* with me; durable riches and righteousness. ¹⁹ My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold; and my revenue 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 that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. ²² The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever 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 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; ³¹ Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men. ³² Now therefore hearken to me, O ye children: for 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 whoever findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor from the LORD. ³⁶ But he that sinneth against me wrongeth 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 killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. ³ She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, ⁴ Whoever *is* simple, let him turn in hither: *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, ⁵ Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine *which* I have mingled. ⁶ Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding. ⁷ He that reproveth a scorner, getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a

wicked *man getteth* himself a blot. ⁸ Reprove not a scorner, lest he shall hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. ⁹ Give *instruction* to a wise *man* , and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man* , and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding. ¹¹ For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. ¹² If thou art wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but *if* thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear *it* . ¹³ A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing. ¹⁴ For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, ¹⁵ To call passengers who go right on their ways: ¹⁶ Whoever *is* simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, ¹⁷ Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant. ¹⁸ But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

10

¹ The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother. ² Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death. ³ The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked. ⁴ He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. ⁵ He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he

that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame. ⁶ Blessings *are* upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. ⁷ The memory of the just *is* blessed: but the name of the wicked shall perish. ⁸ The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall. ⁹ He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. ¹⁰ He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall. ¹¹ The mouth of a righteous *man is* a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. ¹² Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins. ¹³ In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod *is* for the back of him that 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 *tendeth* to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin. ¹⁷ He *is in* the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth. ¹⁸ He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool. ¹⁹ In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that restraineth his lips *is* wise. ²⁰ The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth. ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom. ²² The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. ²³ *It is* as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom. ²⁴ The fear

of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. ²⁵ As the 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 the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. ²⁸ The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. ²⁹ The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity. ³⁰ The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth. ³¹ The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out. ³² The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked *speaketh* frowardness.

11

¹ A false balance is abomination to the LORD: 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 shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. ⁴ Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death. ⁵ The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. ⁶ The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in *their own* naughtiness. ⁷ When a wicked man dieth, *his* expectation shall perish:

and the hope of unjust *men* perisheth. ⁸ The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead. ⁹ A hypocrite with *his* mouth destroyeth his neighbor: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered. ¹⁰ When the righteous prosper, 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 is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace. ¹³ A tale-bearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. ¹⁴ Where no counsel *is* , the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety. ¹⁵ He that is surety for a stranger shall smart *for it* : and he that hateth suretiship is sure. ¹⁶ A gracious woman retaineth honor: and strong *men* retain riches. ¹⁷ The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but *he that is* cruel troubleth his own flesh. ¹⁸ The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward. ¹⁹ As righteousness *tendeth* to life: so he that pursueth evil *pursueth it* to his own death. ²⁰ They that are of a froward heart *are* abomination to the LORD: but *such as are* upright in *their way are* his delight. ²¹ *Though* hand *join* in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered. ²² As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, *so is* a fair woman who is without discretion. ²³ The desire of the righteous *is* only good: *but* the expectation of

the wicked *is* wrath. ²⁴ There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty. ²⁵ The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. ²⁶ He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing *shall be* upon the head of him that selleth *it* . ²⁷ He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come to him. ²⁸ He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. ²⁹ He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool *shall be* servant to the wise of heart. ³⁰ The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise. ³¹ Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed upon the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

12

¹ Whoever loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof *is* brutish. ² A good *man* obtaineth favor from the LORD: but a man of wicked devices he will condemn. ³ A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. ⁴ A virtuous woman *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: *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 shall deliver them. ⁷ The wicked are overthrown, and *are* not: but the house of the righteous shall stand. ⁸ A man shall be commended according

to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised. ⁹ *He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoreth himself, and is destitute of bread.* ¹⁰ A righteous *man* regardeth 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 vain *persons* is void of understanding. ¹² The wicked desireth the net of evil *men* : but the root of the righteous yieldeth *fruit* . ¹³ The wicked is snared by the transgression of *his* lips: but the just shall come out of trouble. ¹⁴ A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth: and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered to him. ¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth to counsel *is* wise. ¹⁶ A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent *man* covereth shame. ¹⁷ *He that* speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness, deceit. ¹⁸ There is that speaketh 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 imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace *is* joy. ²¹ There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. ²² Lying lips *are* abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly *are* his delight. ²³ A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness. ²⁴ The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the

slothful shall be under tribute. ²⁵ Heaviness in the heart of man depresseth it: but a good word maketh it glad. ²⁶ The righteous *is* more excellent than his neighbor: but the way of the wicked seduceth them. ²⁷ The slothful *man* roasteth not 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* the path *of it 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 transgressors *shall eat* violence. ³ He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but* he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. ⁴ The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. ⁵ A righteous *man* hateth lying: but a wicked *man* is loathsome, and cometh to shame. ⁶ Righteousness keepeth *him that is* upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner. ⁷ There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches. ⁸ The ransom of a man's life *is* his riches: but the poor *heareth* not rebuke. ⁹ The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be extinguished. ¹⁰ Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well-advised *is* wisdom. ¹¹ Wealth *gotten* by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase. ¹² Hope deferred maketh

the heart sick: but *when* the desire cometh, *it is* a tree of life. ¹³ Whoever despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. ¹⁴ The law of the wise *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. ¹⁵ Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of transgressors *is* hard. ¹⁶ Every prudent *man* dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open *his* folly. ¹⁷ A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador *is* health. ¹⁸ Poverty and shame *shall be to* him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honored. ¹⁹ The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but *it is* abomination to fools to depart from evil. ²⁰ He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. ²¹ Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repaid. ²² A good *man* leaveth 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 tillage of the poor: but there is *that is* destroyed 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 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.
² He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but *he that is* perverse in his ways

despiseth him. ³ In the mouth of the foolish 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 will utter lies. ⁶ A scorner seeketh wisdom, and *findeth it* not: but knowledge is easy to him that understandeth. ⁷ Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not *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 make a mock at sin: but among the righteous *there is* favor. 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 tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. ¹² There is a way which seemeth right to a man, but the end of it *are* the ways of death. ¹³ Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness. ¹⁴ The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself. ¹⁵ The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going. ¹⁶ A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident. ¹⁷ *He that is* soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked 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. ²⁰ The poor is hated even by his own neighbor: but the rich *hath* many friends.

²¹ He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. ²² Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth *shall be* to them that devise good. ²³ In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips *tendeth* only to penury. ²⁴ The crown of the wise is their riches: *but* the foolishness of fools is folly. ²⁵ A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful *witness* speaketh lies. ²⁶ In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. ²⁷ The fear of the LORD 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 want of people is the destruction of the prince. ²⁹ *He that is slow to wrath 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 honoreth him hath mercy on the poor. ³² The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death. ³³ Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but *that which is in the midst of fools is made known.* ³⁴ Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. ³⁵ The king's favor is towards a wise servant: but his wrath is *against* him that causeth shame.

15

¹ A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. ² The tongue of

the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. ³ The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good. ⁴ A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness in it *is* a breach in the spirit. ⁵ A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. ⁶ In the house of the righteous *is* much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked *is* trouble. ⁷ The lips of the wise diffuse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish *doeth* not so. ⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight. ⁹ The way of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD; but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness. ¹⁰ Correction *is* grievous to him that forsaketh the way: *and* he that hateth reproof shall die. ¹¹ Hell and destruction *are* before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men? ¹² A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go to the wise. ¹³ A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. ¹⁴ The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. ¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted *are* evil: but he that is of a merry heart *hath* a continual feast. ¹⁶ Better *is* little with the fear of the LORD, 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. ¹⁸ A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife. ¹⁹ The way of the slothful *man is* as a hedge

of thorns: but the way of the righteous *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* destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly. ²² Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established. ²³ A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *it is* ! ²⁴ The way of life *is* above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath. ²⁵ The LORD 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: but *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant words. ²⁷ He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. ²⁸ The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. ²⁹ The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. ³⁰ The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart; *and* a good report maketh the bones fat. ³¹ The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. ³² He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. ³³ The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom: and before honor is humility.

16

¹ The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *are* from the LORD. ² All

the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. ³ Commit thy works to the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. ⁴ The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yes, even the wicked for the day of evil. ⁵ Every one *that is* proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. ⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil. ⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. ⁸ Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right. ⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. ¹⁰ A divine sentence *is* in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment. ¹¹ A just weight and balance *are* the LORD'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 right. ¹⁴ The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it. ¹⁵ In the light of a king's countenance *is* life; and his favor *is as* a cloud of the latter rain. ¹⁶ How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold? and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver? ¹⁷ The highway of the upright *is* to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. ¹⁸ Pride *goeth* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better *it is to be* of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. 20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoever trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. 21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. 22 Understanding *is* a well-spring of life to him that hath it: but the instruction of fools *is* folly. 23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. 24 Pleasant words *are as* a honey-comb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. 25 There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end of it *is* the ways of death. 26 He that laboreth laboreth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him. 27 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips *there is* as a burning fire. 28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends. 29 A violent man enticeth his neighbor, and leadeth him into the way *that is* not good. 30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving 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 disposing of it *is* from the LORD.

17

1 Better *is* a dry morsel, and quietness with it, than a house full of sacrifices *with* strife. 2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son

that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren. ³ The fining-pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts. ⁴ A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips: *and* a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue. ⁵ He that mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker; *and* he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished. ⁶ Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *is* their fathers. ⁷ Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince. ⁸ A gift *is as* a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth. ⁹ He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends. ¹⁰ A reproof entereth more into a wise man than a hundred stripes into a fool. ¹¹ An evil *man* seeketh only rebellion: therefore 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 Whoever rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. ¹⁴ The beginning of strife *is as* when one letteth out water: therefore withdraw from contention, before it be meddled with. ¹⁵ He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both *are* abomination to the LORD. ¹⁶ Why *is there* a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing *he hath* no heart *to it* ? ¹⁷ A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. ¹⁸ A man void of understanding striketh hands, *and* becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

¹⁹ He loveth transgression that loveth strife: *and* he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction. ²⁰ He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief. ²¹ He that begetteth a fool *doeth it* to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy. ²² A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones. ²³ A wicked *man* taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways 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 Also to punish the just *is* not good, *nor* to strike princes for equity. ²⁷ He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. ²⁸ Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

18

¹ Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh *and* intermeddleth with all wisdom. ² A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may reveal itself. ³ When the wicked cometh, *then* cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. ⁴ The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the well-spring 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 calleth for strokes. ⁷ A

fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul. ⁸ The words of a tale-bearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. ⁹ He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster. ¹⁰ The name of the LORD 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 conceit. ¹² Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor *is* humility. ¹³ He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it* , *it is* folly and shame to him. ¹⁴ The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear? ¹⁵ The heart of the prudent 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 neighbor 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 *their* contentions *are* like the bars of a castle. ²⁰ A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; *and* with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. ²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit of it. ²² *Whoever* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing* , and obtaineth favor from the LORD. ²³ The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly. ²⁴ A man *that hath* friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

19

¹ Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than *he that is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool. ² Also, *that* the soul *be* without knowledge, *it* is not good; and he that hasteth with *his* feet sinneth. ³ The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD. ⁴ Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor. ⁵ A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape. ⁶ Many will entreat the favor of the prince: and every man *is* a friend to him that giveth gifts. ⁷ All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth *them* with words, *yet they are* wanting to him . ⁸ He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good. ⁹ A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish. ¹⁰ Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes. ¹¹ The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression. ¹² The king's wrath *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 dropping. ¹⁴ House and riches *are* the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife *is* from the LORD. ¹⁵ Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger. ¹⁶ He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; *but* he that despiseth his ways

shall die. ¹⁷ He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth to the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. ¹⁸ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. 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 *There are* many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand. ²² The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar. ²³ The fear of the LORD *tendeth* to life: and *he that hath it* shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil. ²⁴ A slothful *man* hideth his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again. ²⁵ Smite a scorner and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, *and* he will understand knowledge. ²⁶ He that wasteth *his* father, *and* chaseth away *his* mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach. ²⁷ Cease, my son, to hear the instruction *that causeth* to err from the words of knowledge. ²⁸ An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity. ²⁹ Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

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* provoketh him to anger sinneth *against* his own

soul. ³ *It is* an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. ⁴ The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he 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 every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? ⁷ The just *man* walketh in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him. ⁸ A king that sitteth 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, *and* divers measures, both of them *are* alike abomination to the LORD. ¹¹ Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *is* pure, and whether *it is* right. ¹² The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them. ¹³ Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thy eyes, *and* thou shalt be satisfied with bread. ¹⁴ *It is* naught, *it is* naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone, 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 surety *for* a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman. ¹⁷ Bread of deceit *is* sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. ¹⁸ *Every* purpose *is* established by counsel: and with good advice make war. ¹⁹ He that goeth about *as* a tale-bearer revealeth secrets; therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips. ²⁰ Whoever

curseth his father or his mother; his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. ²¹ An inheritance *may be* gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end of it shall not be blessed. ²² Say not thou, I will recompense evil; *but* wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee. ²³ Divers weights *are* an abomination to the LORD; and a false balance is not good. ²⁴ Man's goings *are* of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way? ²⁵ *It is* a snare to the man *who* devoureth *that which* is holy, and after vows to make inquiry. ²⁶ A wise king scatterreth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them. ²⁷ The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, 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 cleanseth away evil: so *do* stripes the inward parts of the belly.

21

¹ The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, *as* the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. ² Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts. ³ To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. ⁴ A high look, and a proud heart, *and* the plowing 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 vanity tossed to and fro by

them that seek death. ⁷ The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment. ⁸ The way of man is froward and strange: but *as for* the pure, his work is right. ⁹ *It is* better to dwell in a corner of the house-top, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. ¹⁰ The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbor findeth no favor in his eyes. ¹¹ When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge. ¹² The righteous *man* wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but *God* overthroweth the wicked for *their* wickedness. ¹³ Whoever stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard. ¹⁴ A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom, strong wrath. ¹⁵ *It is* joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity. ¹⁶ The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead. ¹⁷ He that loveth pleasure *shall be* a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich. ¹⁸ The wicked *shall be* a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright. ¹⁹ *It is* better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. ²⁰ *There is* a treasure to be desired, and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up. ²¹ He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honor. ²² A wise *man* scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of its confidence.

²³ Whoever keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. ²⁴ Proud *and* haughty scorner *is* his name, who dealeth in proud wrath. ²⁵ The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor. 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* he bringeth it with a wicked mind? ²⁸ A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly. ²⁹ A wicked man hardeneth his face: but *as for* the upright, he directeth his way. ³⁰ *There* *is* no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD. ³¹ The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety *is* from the LORD.

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 *is* the maker of them all. ³ A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. ⁴ By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honor, and life. ⁵ Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall 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 ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender. ⁸ He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

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 shall end; yes, strife and reproach shall cease. ¹¹ He that loveth pureness of heart, *for* the grace of his lips the king *shall be* his friend. ¹² The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor. ¹³ The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets. ¹⁴ The mouth of strange women *is* a deep pit: he that is abhorred by the LORD shall fall therein. ¹⁵ Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. ¹⁶ He that oppresseth the poor to increase his *riches* , *and* he that giveth to the rich, *shall* surely *come* to want. ¹⁷ Bow down thy ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thy heart to my knowledge. ¹⁸ *For it is* a pleasant thing if thou keepest them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. ¹⁹ That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made 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 answer the words of truth to them that send to thee? ²² Rob not the poor, because he *is* poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: ²³ For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them. ²⁴ Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: ²⁵ Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul. ²⁶ Be not thou *one* of them

that strike hands, *or* 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 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men* .

23

¹ When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what *is* before thee: ² And put a knife to thy throat, if thou *art* a man given to appetite. ³ Be not desirous of his dainties: for they *are* deceitful food. ⁴ Labor not to be rich: cease from thy own wisdom. ⁵ Wilt thou set thy eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make to themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle towards heaven. ⁶ Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainties: ⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee. ⁸ The morsel *which* thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words. ⁹ Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words. ¹⁰ Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless: ¹¹ For their redeemer *is* mighty; he will plead their cause with thee. ¹² Apply thy heart to instruction, and thy 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 hell. ¹⁵ My son, if thy heart be

wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. ¹⁶ Yes, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things. ¹⁷ Let not thy heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long. ¹⁸ For surely there is an end; and thy expectation shall not be cut off. ¹⁹ Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thy heart in the way. ²⁰ Be not among wine-bibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: ²¹ For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags. ²² Harken to thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. ²³ Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. ²⁴ The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him. ²⁵ Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bore thee shall rejoice. ²⁶ My son, give me thy heart, and let thy eyes observe my ways. ²⁷ For a lewd woman *is* a deep ditch; and a strange woman *is* a narrow pit. ²⁸ She also lieth in wait as *for* a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men. ²⁹ Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? ³⁰ They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. ³¹ Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. ³² At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. ³³ Thy eyes shall behold strange women, and thy heart shall utter perverse things.

³⁴ And thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. ³⁵ They have stricken me, *wilt thou say*, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

24

¹ Be not thou envious against 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 shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. ⁵ A wise man is strong; and a man of knowledge increaseth strength. ⁶ For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors *there is safety*. ⁷ Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate. ⁸ He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person. ⁹ The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men. ¹⁰ *If* thou faintest in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. ¹¹ If thou forbearst to deliver *them that are drawn to death*, and *those that are ready to be slain*; ¹² If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider *it*? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth *not* he know *it*? and will *not* he render to every man according to his works? ¹³ My son, eat thou honey, because *it is good*; and the honeycomb, *which is sweet to thy taste*: ¹⁴ So shall the

knowledge of wisdom *be* to thy soul: when thou hast found *it* , then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off. ¹⁵ Lay not wait, O wicked *man* , against the dwelling of the righteous; destroy not his resting-place: ¹⁶ For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. ¹⁷ Rejoice not when thy enemy falleth, and let not thy heart be glad when he stumbleth: ¹⁸ Lest the LORD see *it* , and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him. ¹⁹ Fret not thyself because of evil *men* , neither be thou envious at the wicked; ²⁰ For there shall be no reward to the evil *man* ; the candle of the wicked shall be extinguished. ²¹ My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and* 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 *belong* to the wise. *It is* not good to have respect of persons in judgment. ²⁴ He that saith to the wicked, Thou *art* righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him: ²⁵ But to them that rebuke *him* shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them. ²⁶ *Every man* shall kiss *his* lips that giveth a right answer. ²⁷ Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thy house. ²⁸ Be not a witness against thy neighbor without cause; and deceive *not* 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 the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

³¹ And lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face of it, 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 shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelth; and thy want as an armed man.

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 shall come forth a vessel for the finer. ⁵ Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. ⁶ Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great *men*: ⁷ For better *it is* that it be said to thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thy eyes have seen. ⁸ Go not forth hastily to strive, lest *thou know not* what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbor hath put thee to shame. ⁹ Debate thy cause with thy neighbor *himself*; and reveal not a secret to another: ¹⁰ Lest he that heareth *it* put thee to shame, and thy infamy turn not away. ¹¹ A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver. ¹² As an ear-ring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold,

so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear. ¹³ As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters. ¹⁴ Whoever boasteth himself of a false gift *is like* clouds and wind without rain. ¹⁵ By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone. ¹⁶ Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled with it, and vomit it. ¹⁷ Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and *so* hate thee. ¹⁸ A man that beareth false witness against his neighbor *is* a maul, 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 that taketh away a garment in cold weather, *and as* vinegar upon nitre; *so is* he that singeth songs to a heavy heart. ²¹ If thy enemy shall hunger, give him bread to eat; and if he shall thirst, give him water to drink: ²² For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD will reward thee. ²³ The north wind driveth away rain: *so doth* an angry countenance a backbiting tongue. ²⁴ *It is* better to dwell in a corner of the house-top, 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 turbid 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 that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without

walls.

26

¹ As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest; so honor is not seemly for a fool. ² As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come. ³ A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back. ⁴ Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like him. ⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit. ⁶ He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, *and* drinketh damage. ⁷ The legs of the lame are not equal: so *is* a parable in the mouth of fools. ⁸ As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so *is* he that giveth honor to a fool. ⁹ As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so *is* a parable in the mouth of fools. ¹⁰ The great *God* that formed all *things* both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors. ¹¹ As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly. ¹² Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him. ¹³ The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion in the way; a lion *is* in the streets. ¹⁴ As the door turneth upon its hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed. ¹⁵ The slothful hideth *his* hand in *his* bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. ¹⁶ The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason. ¹⁷ He that passeth by, *and* meddleth with strife *belonging* not to him, *is like* one that taketh a dog by the ears. ¹⁸ As a mad

man who casteth fire-brands, arrows, and death, ¹⁹ So is the man *that* deceiveth his neighbor, and saith, Am not I in sport? ²⁰ Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: so where *there is* no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth. ²¹ As coals *are* to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. ²² The words of a tale-bearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. ²³ Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a potsherd covered with silver dross. ²⁴ He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; ²⁵ When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶ *Whose* hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shown before the *whole* congregation. ²⁷ Whoever diggeth a pit shall fall into it: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. ²⁸ A lying tongue hateth *those that are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

27

¹ Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. ² Let another man praise thee, and not thy own mouth; a stranger, and not thy own lips. ³ A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than both. ⁴ Wrath 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 lotheth a honey-comb; 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: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. ¹⁰ Thy own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: *for* better is a neighbor *that is* near, than a brother far off. ¹¹ My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me. ¹² A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, *and* hideth himself; *but* the simple pass on, *and* are punished. ¹³ Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman. ¹⁴ He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him. ¹⁵ A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. ¹⁶ Whoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand *which* bewrayeth *itself* . ¹⁷ Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. ¹⁸ He that keepeth the fig-tree shall eat the fruit of it: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honored. ¹⁹ As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to 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 thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* his foolishness will not depart from him. ²³ Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, *and* look well to thy

herds. ²⁴ For riches *are* not for ever: and doth the crown *endure* to every generation? ²⁵ The plant appeareth, and the tender grass showeth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered. ²⁶ The lambs *are* for thy clothing, and the goats *are* the price of the field. ²⁷ And *thou shalt have* goats milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and *for* maintenance for thy maidens.

28

¹ The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. ² For the transgression of a land many *are* its princes: but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state *thereof* shall be prolonged. ³ A poor man that oppressteth the poor *is like* 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 the LORD understand all *things* . ⁶ Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his* ways, though he *is* rich. ⁷ He who keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father. ⁸ He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor. ⁹ He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination. ¹⁰ Whoever causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good *things* in possession. ¹¹ The rich man *is*

wise in his own conceit; but the poor man that hath understanding searcheth him out. ¹² When righteous *men* rejoice, *there is* great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden. ¹³ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but he who confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy. ¹⁴ Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. ¹⁵ As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people. ¹⁶ The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: *but* he that hateth covetousness shall prolong *his* days. ¹⁷ A man that doeth violence to the blood of *any* person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him. ¹⁸ He who walketh uprightly shall be saved: but *he that is* perverse in *his* ways shall fall at once. ¹⁹ He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough. ²⁰ A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. ²¹ To have respect of persons is not good: for, for a piece of bread *that* man will transgress. ²² He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him. ²³ He that rebuketh a man afterward shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue. ²⁴ He that robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, *It is* no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer. ²⁵ He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. ²⁶ He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoever walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

²⁷ He that giveth to the poor shall not want: but he that hideth 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 reprov'd hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. ² When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn. ³ He that loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth *his* substance.

⁴ The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it. ⁵ A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet. ⁶ In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

⁷ The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it* . ⁸ Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

⁹ *If* a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rageth or laugheth, *there is* no rest.

¹⁰ The blood-thirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul. ¹¹ A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

¹² If a ruler hearkeneth to lies, all his servants *are* wicked. ¹³ The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD enlighteneth both their eyes. ¹⁴ The 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 are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall. ¹⁷ Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yes, he shall give delight to thy soul. ¹⁸ Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he. ¹⁹ A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understandeth, he will not answer. ²⁰ Seest thou a man *that is* 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 have him at length become *his* son. ²² An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. ²³ A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit. ²⁴ Whoever is partner with a thief, hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and discloseth *it* not. ²⁵ The fear of man bringeth a snare: but he who putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. ²⁶ Many seek the ruler's favor; but *every* man's judgment *cometh* from the LORD. ²⁷ An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just: and *he that is* upright in the way *is* abomination to the wicked.

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 than *any* man, and have not the understanding of a man. ³ I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy. ⁴ Who hath ascended into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the

wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? ⁵ Every word of God is pure: he is a shield to them that put their trust in him. ⁶ Add thou not to his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. ⁷ Two *things* have I required of thee; deny *them* not to me before I die: ⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹ Lest I be full, and deny *thee* , and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain* . ¹⁰ Accuse not a servant to his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found 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, and *yet* are 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 horse-leech hath two daughters, *crying* , Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yes* , four *things* say not, *It is enough*: ¹⁶ The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire *that* saith not, *It is enough*. ¹⁷ The eye *that* mocketh at *its* father, and despiseth to obey *its* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it. ¹⁸ There are three *things which* are

too wonderful for me, yes, four which I know not: ¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent 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 eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, 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 reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with food. ²³ For an odious *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* very wise: ²⁵ The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer; ²⁶ The conies *are but* a feeble people, yet they make their houses in the rocks; ²⁷ The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; ²⁸ The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king's palaces. ²⁹ There are three *things* which go well, yes, four are comely in going: ³⁰ A lion, *which is* strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any; ³¹ A greyhound; a he-goat also; and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up. ³² If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, *lay* thy hand upon thy mouth. ³³ Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

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 Give not thy strength to women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth 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 that is ready to perish, and wine to those that are of heavy hearts. ⁷ Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. ⁸ Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. ⁹ Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. ¹¹ The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. ¹² She will do 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 merchant's ships; she bringeth her food from afar. ¹⁵ She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth food to her household, and a portion to her maidens. ¹⁶ She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. ¹⁸ She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. ¹⁹ She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. ²⁰ She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yes, 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 coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple. ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it* ; and delivereth girdles to the merchant. ²⁵ Strength and honor *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. ²⁶ She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and on her tongue *is* the law of kindness. ²⁷ She looketh well to 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 virtuously, but thou excellest them all. ³⁰ Favor *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

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The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New
Testaments, in the Common Version, with
Amendments of the language by Noah Webster, LL.D.

Public Domain

Language: English

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