

Proverbs.

Excerpted from The Latin Testament Project Bible,
Translated by John G. Cunyus.

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Proverbs 1.

Parables of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel, dedicated to knowing wisdom and discipline; to understanding prudent words; to supporting the learning of doctrine; to justice, judgment, and equity; that the young might turn to cleverness, youths to knowledge and intellect. Hearing, the wise will be wiser, and the understanding will possess leadership. He will pay attention to parable and interpretation, to wise words and their enigmas.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of understanding. Fools despise wisdom and even teaching. Hear the discipline of your father, my son, and do not renounce your mother's law, that grace may be added to your head, and strength to your neck.

My son, if sinners lead you on, do not give in. If they say, 'Come with us! Let us lie in wait for blood. Let us hide traps against the harmless, without cause! Let us swallow them down like the inferno, living and whole, like those going down into a pit! We will find every precious substance!

We will fill our houses with spoils! Throw your lot in with us. Let there be one money bag for all of us.’

My son, do not go with them! Keep your feet from walking their paths, for their feet run to harm, and hurry to the pouring out of blood. Yet a net is cast pointlessly before the eyes of the birds. Yet these lie in wait against their own blood, and plan frauds against their own souls. So are the ways of every greedy heart, taking away the souls of those possessing them.

Wisdom proclaims outside; in broad streets she gives her voice. At the head of a multitude, she cries out; at the entrance gates to the city she offers her words, saying,

‘How long, children,
will you delight in infancy?
How long will fools lust
for those things that are toxic to them,
and the imprudent despise understanding?
Pay attention to my rebuke!
Look! I offer my spirit to you all,
and I show you my teachings.
Because I called and you refused,
I stretched out my hand
and no one considered;
you despised my whole counsel,
and neglected my warnings;
I likewise will laugh at your destruction,
and will mock you when what you fear

comes upon you.
When calamities explode suddenly,
and destruction breaks in like a tempest,
when trial and anguish come to you,
then they will invoke me,
and I will not hear.
They will rise up early,
yet will not find me.
Because they have a distaste for discipline,
and did not accept reverence of God,
nor assent to my counsel,
and throw aside all my rebukes,
let them eat, therefore,
the fruit of their ways themselves,
and let them be satisfied
by their own counsel.
The children's turning away will kill them,
and the prosperity of fools will destroy them.
But who hears me
will rest far away from terror,
and will enjoy abundance,
fear of harm removed.'

Proverbs 2.

My son, if you receive my words and hide my commandment inside you, that your ear may hear wisdom, incline your heart to knowing prudence! If you invoke wisdom and incline your heart to prudence, if you seek her like money and dig for her like treasure, then you will understand the fear of

the Lord, and will find knowledge of God – because the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth knowledge and prudence. He will guard the well-being of the upright, and protect those walking honestly, saving paths of righteousness and guarding the holy ones' ways.

Then you will know righteousness and judgment, equity and every good path. If wisdom penetrates your heart and knowledge pleases your soul, counsel will guard you, prudence will save you, that you may be rescued from the harmful way, from a man who speaks perversity – those who give up a righteous course and walk by dark paths, who are happy when they are doing harm, and exult in dismal affairs, whose ways are perverse, and their steps unsavory – that you be rescued from the foreign woman, and the stranger who softens her words, and gives up the direction of her youth, and her God's pact is forgotten, for her house is sliding to death, and her paths to the lawless. All who go in to her neither return nor learn life's ways – that you walk in a good way, and guard the stony tracks of the righteous, for those who live rightly will inhabit the land, and the straightforward will remain upon it. The lawless, truly, will be destroyed from the land, and those who practice iniquity will be swept away from it.

Proverbs 3.

My son, do not forget my laws, and let your heart keep my precepts, for they will set before you length of days, years of life, and peace. May mercy and truth not desert you! Place them around your neck, and carve them on the tablets of your heart, and you will find grace and good discipline, before God and men!

Have faith in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own prudence. Consider him in all your ways, and he will direct your steps. That you not be wise in your own eyes, fear God and turn back from harm! Sanity, as you see, will be your center, and refreshment to your bones.

Honor the Lord with your substance and from the first of all your produce, and your barns will be full completely, and the wine-presses will overflow with wine. My son, do not throw aside the Lord's discipline, nor turn away from him when you are corrected. for the Lord corrects whom He loves, and pleases Himself like a father in a son.

A man is blessed who finds wisdom and who flows toward prudence. Her acquisition is better than a business in silver, and gold is her first fruit. She is more precious than all works. All things which are desired aren't worth comparing to her. Length of days is in her right, riches and glory in her left. Her ways are beautiful ways, and all her paths peaceful.

She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her, and who comprehends her is blessed. The Lord founded earth by wisdom. He established skies by prudence. By His wisdom, the abyss burst forth, and clouds condense from rain drops.

My son, may these teachings not wash out of your eyes! Keep the law and also counsel, and it will be life to your soul and grace to your appearance! Then you will walk faithfully in your way, and your foot will not be struck. If you sleep, you will not be afraid. You will be at peace, and your rest will be pleasant. Do not fear sudden terror or lawless powers rushing against you, for the Lord will be at your side, and will guard your step that you not be taken.

Do not stop someone who is able to do good. If you are able, you bless as well! Do not say to your friend, 'Go, and come back later! Tomorrow I will give you something,' – when it is possible to give right now. Do not plan harm for your friend when he has faith in you. Do not contend against a man without cause, when he has done you no harm. Do not copy an lawless man or imitate his ways, because every mocker is the Lord's abomination, and His careful conversation is with the honest.

Lack in an lawless house is from the Lord, but the dwelling of the righteous will be blessed. He will deceive mockers, but will give grace to the gentle.

The wise will possess glory, but glorifying fools is shameful.

Proverbs 4.

Hear your father's discipline, my son, and pay attention, that you may learn prudence. I will give you a good gift. Do not abandon my law, for I also was a son of my father, a tender and only child before my mother, and he taught me, and also said to me, 'Let your heart receive my words! Keep my precepts, that you may live! Possess wisdom, possess prudence, and neither forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not dismiss her, that she may keep you. Delight in her, and she will save you.

The beginning of wisdom: possess wisdom, and in all your possessing, buy prudence. Take hold of her, and she will exalt you. You will be glorified by her when you embrace her. She will give your head the increase of grace, and the celebrated crown will protect you.

Hear, my son, and receive my words, that years of life may be multiplied to you! I have shown you the way of wisdom. I have guided you by paths of equity, which, when you walk in them, will not limit your path, and, when you run, you will not have an obstacle. Have discipline! Do not dismiss her. Keep her, because she is your life.

Do not be delighted in the paths of the lawless, or let a harmful way please you. Flee from it! Do not cross it! Turn away and desert it, for some do not sleep unless they are doing harm, and sleep is robbed from them unless they are causing others to fall. They eat bread of lawlessness, and drink wine of iniquity, but the path of the fair, like light shining, proceeds and grows until the perfect day. The way of the lawless is dark. They do not know where they are running.

My son, obey my words, and incline your ear to my eloquence, that they not recede from your eyes. Keep them in the middle of your heart, for they are life to those finding them, and the health of all flesh. Keeping all, save your heart, because life proceeds from it. Turn yourself away from a perverse mouth, and may scornful lips be far from you. Let your eyes see right, and let your eyelids watch ahead of your steps. Direct the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established. Do not turn away to the right or to the left. Turn your step, rather, away from harm.

Proverbs 5.

My son, pay attention to my wisdom, and incline your ear to my prudence, that you may guard your thoughts, and your lips may keep discipline – for whore's lips are a dripping honeycomb, and her

neck's scent fresh, yet her end is bitter, like absinthe, and sharp, like a two-edged sword. Her feet descend to death, and her steps penetrate to the house of the dead. She does not walk by the path of life. Her steps are wandering and hidden.

Now therefore, son, hear me, and do not turn back from the words of my mouth! Make your way far from her, and do not even go near the doors of her house, lest you give your honor to strangers, and your years to the cruel – lest strangers be enriched by your talents, and your labors be in a foreign house. And you will moan in the end, when you have consumed even your own flesh and body, and you say, 'Why did I detest discipline, and my heart not assent to correction? I did not hear the voice of those teaching me, nor incline my ear to teachers. I was in nearly all the mischief, in the middle of the gathering and synagogue.'

Drink water from your cistern, and the flow of your well! Let your springs be turned outside, and divide your waters in the streets. Let them be to you alone, nor let strangers share yours. May your vein be blessed, and be happy with the wife of your youth. A precious deer and a gracious fawn, her breasts inebriate you all the time. Delight in her love continually! Why be seduced by a stranger, my son, and be cherished in another's embrace?

The Lord pays attention to men's ways, and considers all their steps. His own iniquities capture the lawless, and the ropes of his sin bind him. He will die because he did not have discipline, and will be deceived by his own multitude of idiocies.

Proverbs 6.

My son, if you give a pledge for your friend, you've buried your hand in a stranger's. You are ensnared by the words of your mouth, and captured by your own promises. Do, therefore, what I say, my son, and free yourself, because you have fallen into your neighbor's hand! Run away quickly! Rouse your friend! Do not give sleep to your eyes, nor let your eyelids rest! Free yourself like a deer from the hand, and like a bird from the bird-seller's trap!

Go to the ant, O lazy one, consider its ways, and learn wisdom! Because, having neither leader, nor precept, nor prince, it prepares food for itself in summer, and gathers in harvest time that it may eat. How long, lazy one, will you sleep? When will you rouse yourself from your dream? You will be idle a little, you will be drowsy a little, you will fold your hands a little, that you may sleep; and need will come to you like a thief, lack and poverty like an armed man.

An apostate man, a useless male, goes along by perverse mouth. He smiles with the eyes, he wears

out with the foot, he talks with the finger. He plots harm with a crooked heart, and at each opportunity he starts quarrels. By these his destruction will come immediately, and soon he will be ground to pieces, nor will he have other remedy.

There are six things which the Lord hates, and His soul detests a seventh: proud eyes, a lying tongue, hands pouring out innocent blood, a heart plotting dismal schemes, feet running swiftly to harm, a false witness giving out lies, and one who sows quarrels between brothers.

Conserve, my son, your father's precepts, and do not dismiss your mother's law! Bind them in your heart continually, and tie them around your neck! When you walk, they may go with you; when you sleep, they may keep you; and, waking up, talk with them, because the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light, and discipline's rebuke the way of life, that they may keep you from a harmful woman, and from a flattering, foreign tongue. Do not let your heart lust for her beauty, nor be captured by her charms, for a whore's price is hardly a loaf of bread, yet the woman captures a man's costly soul.

Can a man hide hot coal against his chest, and his clothes not burn, or walk over glowing coals and not burn the soles of his feet? So one who goes in to his neighbor's wife will not be clean when he touches her. Guilt is not as great when someone has

stolen. He stole that, hungry, he might fill his soul. When seized, likewise, he will pay back seven times, and hand over all the substance of his house. Yet who is an adulterer will destroy his soul for poverty of heart. He gathers to himself a bad reputation and shame, and his disrepute will not be erased. because the husband's jealousy and fury will not spare in the day of vengeance, nor will he be calmed by any payment, nor accept for redemption many bribes.

Proverbs 7.

My son, guard my teachings, and hide my precepts with you. Keep my commandment and you will live, and my law like the pupil of your eye! Bind her to your fingers. Write her on the tablets of your heart. Say to wisdom, 'You are my sister,' and call prudence your friend, that she guard you from a strange woman, and from a foreigner who makes her words sweet.

For from the window of my house, I looked through the lattice, and I see little ones. I consider a wild youth, who crosses the street near the corner, and walks near the walkway to her house. Evening is coming on with darkness. Day is shadowed over in night and gloom. And, look, a woman hurries to him, dressed like a whore, prepared for capturing souls, mindless and chattering. Impatient with quietness, nor eager to keep her feet in her house,

now outside, now in the streets, now near hidden corners, and seizing, she kisses the youth, and with an impudent face, she allures him. 'I owed sacrifices for health. Today I repaid my promise. For this reason, I have come to meet you, wanting to see you and get to know you. I covered my couch with fine fabric. I laid out painted tapestries from Egypt. I sprayed my bed with myrrh and aloe and cinnamon. Come! Let us get drunk in my breasts until day begins to dawn, and let us enjoy passion's embracing, for my husband is not in his house. He went on a long trip. He took a bag of money with him. He will return to his house at full moon.'

She has caught him by many words, and taken him by her lips' sweetness. He follows her at once, like a bull led to sacrifice, and like a lamb, horny and ignorant that the fool is led to chains, until an arrow pierces his liver. He is like a bird that hurries to the net, and does not know that it is led in danger of its life. Now therefore, son, hear me, and pay attention to my mouth's words! Do not let your mind be dragged away by her methods, nor be deceived by her habits, for she has struck down many wounded, and how many of the strongest have been killed by her! Her house is the way to the dead, penetrating to the inner reaches of death.

Proverbs 8.

Does wisdom not cry out, and prudence give her voice? Standing in the highest places and prominences above the road, in the middle of paths, beside the gates of a city, in the doors themselves, she speaks, saying,

‘O men, I cry out to you,
and my voice speaks to men’s children!

Understand cleverness, little ones,
and pay attention, you foolish!

Hear, because I will speak of great issues,
and my lips will open to set forth what is right!

My throat will meditate on truth,
and my lips will detest the lawless.

All my words are fair.

No meanness is in them

because there is nothing dishonest.

They are straightforward to understanding,
and fair to those finding knowledge.

Accept my discipline and not money!

Choose learning more than gold,
for wisdom is better

than all most precious objects,

and all that is desirable

cannot compare with her.

‘I, wisdom, dwell in counsel,
and am present in the thoughts of the learned.

The fear of the Lord hates
harm, arrogance, and pride.

I detest a vicious path and a lying tongue.

Counsel is mine, and equity mine;
prudence mine, and strength is mine.

Kings reign by me,
and law-makers discern rightly.
Princes command by me,
and the powerful discern fairness.

‘I delight in those delighting in me,
and those who watch for me early will find me.

Riches and glory are with me,
works worthy of pride, and fairness.
My fruit is better than gold and precious stone,
and my offspring are chosen over silver.

I walk in ways of fairness,
in the middle of paths of judgment,
that I may enrich those delighting in me,
and may fill their treasuries.

‘The Lord possessed me at the start of all his ways,
in the beginning, before He made anything.

I was set up from eternity,
and from antiquity, before earth was made.

Even before abysses existed,
I was already conceived,
before fountains of water erupted.

Before massive mountains were piled together,
and before the hills, I was born.

As yet, earth had not been made,
nor rivers, nor the axis of earth’s circles.
I was there when He prepared the heavens,
when He enclosed the abyss by fixed law

and by course;
when He established sky above,
and freed the fountains of water;
when He prescribed to the sea its limits,
and placed a law on waters –
‘They shall not pass their limits’ –
when He weighed out earth's foundations;
I was with Him, ordering all,
and I was glad in each day,
playing before Him all the time,
playing in the circle of earth –
and my delight was to be with men’s children.’

‘Now therefore, children, hear me!
Who keep my ways are blessed!
Hear discipline, and be wise,
and do not turn away from it!
A man is blessed who hears me,
who seeks my gates daily,
and watches the doorposts of my house.
Who finds me will find life,
and will drink down health from the Lord,
but who sins against me wounds his soul.
All who hate me delight in death.’

Proverbs 9.

Wisdom built herself a house, cut down seven columns, burned her sacrifices, mixed her wine, and

spread out her table. She sent her maidens, that they might call out to the citadels and to the walls of the city. 'If someone is young, let him come to me!'

She said to fools,

 'Come, eat my bread,
 and drink wine which I mixed for you.

 Give up infancy and live,
 and walk in ways of prudence!

Who teaches a scoffer causes injury to himself,
 and who corrects the lawless
 generates dishonor for himself.

Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you.

 Correct the wise and he will love you.

Give to the wise and wisdom will be added to him.

Teach the fair, and he will accept it quickly.

 'Fear of the Lord is wisdom's beginning,
 and knowledge of the holy ones is prudence,
 for your days will be multiplied by me,
 and years of life will be added to you.

 If you are wise, you will be for yourself.

 If you are a mocker, you only carry harm.'

A loud and foolish woman, full of allurements and knowing nothing at all, sat by the doors of her house, on a seat in the high place of the city, that she may call those crossing the road and going on their journey. 'Let whoever is young turn aside to me.'

And she has spoken to a wild youth, Stolen waters
are sweeter, and hidden bread tastier.’

And he did not know that giants may be there, and
her table companions are in the inferno’s deepest
reaches.

Proverbs 10.

Parables of Solomon.

A wise son gives joy to a father;
a foolish son, truly, is a grief to his mother.

The treasures of the lawless do not help;
fairness, truly, will free from death.

The Lord does not afflict
a fair-minded soul with hunger;
yet he subverts the schemes of the lawless.

Poverty is the work of a lazy hand,
but a strong hand prepares riches.

Who gathers in harvest is a wise son,
but who snores away summer is a son of trouble.

Blessing flows over the head of the fair man;
but the mouth of the lawless works iniquity.

The memory of the fair man is sung with praises,
but the name of the lawless will rot.

The wise in heart will accept precepts;
a fool is cut down by his lips.

Who walks simply, walks confidently;
but one who perverts his way will be made known.

Who nods with the eye will give pain;
because of his lips, a fool will be beaten.

The mouth of the fair man is a vein of life,
and the mouth of the lawless will work iniquity.
 Hatred awakens brawls,
 yet love covers all faults.
Wisdom will be found in the lips of the wise,
and a rod in his back who lacks judgment.
 The wise shelter knowledge,
but the mouth of a fool is a neighbor's confusion.
The rich man's substance is his strong city;
 the fear of the poor is their lack.
The work of the fair man leads to life;
 the fruit of the lawless to sin.
Keeping discipline is the way of life,
 but who dismisses rebukes errs.
 Lying lips hide hatred;
who offers up contention is empty-headed.
 In many words sin is not lacking,
but who is measured in his lips is most prudent.
The tongue of the fair is choice silver;
the heart of the lawless is good for nothing.
 The lips of the fair teach many,
 but those who are unlearned in heart
 will die in poverty.
 The Lord's blessing makes rich,
 nor will affliction accompany it.
A fool works crime as if for a laugh,
 but wisdom is prudence to man.
What the lawless fears will come upon him;
 the fair-minded will be given their desire.
Like a passing storm, the lawless will not be,
but the fair-minded is like an enduring foundation.

Like vinegar to teeth and smoke to eyes,
thus a lazy man to those who sent him.

Fear of the Lord will add days,
yet the years of the lawless will be shortened.
The fair-minded's expectation is happiness,
but the hope of the lawless will perish.

The way of the Lord
is the strength of the straightforward,
and the fear of those who work harm.
The fair will not be moved in eternity,
but the lawless will not live in the land.
The fair-minded's mouth will give birth to wisdom;
the tongue of the dishonest will perish.

The lips of the fair-minded
consider what is pleasing,
but the mouth of the lawless what is perverse.

Proverbs 11.

A deceitful scale is an abomination with the Lord,
and an equal measure is His will.

Where pride is, there also will be contention,
but where humility, there also is wisdom.

The fair-minded's simplicity will guide them,
and the perverse ones' dishonesty
will devastate them.

Riches don't matter on the day of vengeance,
but fairness will free from death.

The simple one's fairness will guide his way,
and the lawless will be ruined in his lawlessness.

The honest one's fairness will free him.

The treacherous will be caught in their own plots.
At the death of a lawless man
there will be no further hope;
The hope and expectation of the anxious will perish.
The fair is freed from anguish,
and the lawless will be handed over in his place.
A liar deceives his friend by his mouth,
but the fair-minded will be set free by knowledge.
A city will exult in the good of the fair,
there will be praise at the destruction of the lawless.
A city will be exalted by the fair ones' blessing,
and subverted by the mouth of the lawless.
Who disdains his friend lacks heart,
but a prudent man will keep silent.
Who walks deceitfully reveals secrets,
but who is faithful in soul
keeps secret what is entrusted.
Where there is no guide, the people come to grief,
but safety is where there are many counsels.
Who makes pledge for a stranger
will be afflicted by harm,
but who takes precautions against traps will be safe.
A graceful woman will find glory,
and the robust will have riches.
A merciful man blesses his own soul,
but who is cruel debases even neighbors.
The lawless does an unsteady work,
but a faithful reward will come to one
sowing fairness.
Mercy prepares life,
and the seeking of harms death.

A deceitful heart is hateful to the Lord,
and his will is with one who walks in simplicity.

The harmful will not be innocent,
even hand in hand,
but the just one's seed will be saved.

A gold ring in a hog's nose –
a beautiful and empty-headed woman.

Fair men's desire is all good;
the expectation of the lawless is fury.
Some divide their own and become richer;
others carry off what is not their own,
yet are always in need.

A soul which blesses will prosper,
and who drinks will himself also get drunk.
Who hides grain will be cursed among the people,
but blessing will be on the head of one selling.

He rises well at daybreak who seeks good,
but who searches out harms will be weighed down
by them.

Who trusts in his riches will fall to ruin,
but a fair-minded man will spring up
like a green leaf.

Who troubles his own house will possess the winds,
and one who is a fool will serve the wise.

The fair man's fruit is a tree of life,
and who takes up souls is wise.

If the fair man receives on earth,
how much more the lawless and the sinner!

Proverbs 12.

Who loves discipline loves knowledge,
but who hates rebukes is a fool.

Who is good will drink down grace from the Lord,
but who trusts in his own thoughts
works lawlessness.

Man will not be strengthened by lawlessness,
and the root of fair men will not be moved.

A diligent wife is her husband's crown,
yet who carries on important business
in confusion is a rot in his bones.

The thoughts of the fair work judgment,
and the counsels of the lawless are fraudulent.

The words of the lawless lay traps for blood;
the mouth of the fair will free them.

Turn again to the lawless and they will not be,
but the fair ones' house will endure.

A man will be known by his teaching,
but one who is vain and stupid
will be held in contempt.

Better is a poor man sufficient to himself,
than one who is glorious and lacking bread.

The fair man has known the lives of his animals,
but the innermost parts of the lawless are cruel.

Who works his land will be satisfied by bread,
but who continually seeks rest is most foolish.

A lawless desire is the worst defense,
but the fair ones' root will prove sturdy.

Because of his lips' sins
ruin comes near the harmful,
but the fair will escape from anguish.

From the fruit of his lips
each one will be filled with good,
and, according to the works of his hands,
it will be repaid to him.

A fool's way is right in his eyes,
but who is wise listens to counsel.
The mindless quickly shows his anger,
but who conceals an injury is clever.
Who tells what he knows is a fair informer,
but who lies is a deceptive witness.

There is one who promises
and who is stabbed in conscience
as if by a sword,
but the tongue of the wise is health.
A truthful lip will be established forever,
but a witness who is hasty
makes ready a lying tongue.
Deceit is in a heart considering harm,
but joy follows those who seek out
counsels of peace.

Whatever happens to him
will not make the righteous man sad,
but the lawless will be filled by harm.
Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,
but those who live faithfully will please Him.

A cunning man hides knowledge,
and an uninformed heart will provoke foolishness.

A strong hand will dominate,
but one which is lazy will live to pay taxes.
Sadness in a man's heart will humble him,
yet he will be made happy by a good word.

Who overlooks a loss on a friend's behalf is fair,
but the lawless ones' course will deceive them.

A deceiver will not find a profit,
and a man's substance will be of precious gold.

Life is in a path of fairness,
but a dishonest course leads to death.

Proverbs 13.

A wise son learns his father's doctrine,
but who is a scoffer does not listen
when it is being proven.

Man will be satisfied from a good mouth's fruit,
but a lying soul is treacherous.

Who keeps his mouth keeps his soul;
but who talks without consideration will feel harm.

A lazy man wants and does not want,
but a working soul will grow prosperous.

The fair man will detest a liar's word;
the lawless confuses and will be confused.

Fairness keeps the innocent's way;
lawlessness, truly, undermines through sin.

One is like the rich when he has nothing,
and another is like the poor
when he is amidst much wealth.

The redemption of a man's soul is his riches,
but who is poor does not receive a rebuke.

The light of the fair brings joy,
but the lamp of the lawless will be extinguished.

There are always quarrels between the proud,
but those who do all by counsel

are guided by wisdom.
Hurried wealth will waste away,
but what is gathered bit by bit, by hand,
will be multiplied.
Hope which is delayed will afflict the soul;
an approaching desire is a tree of life.
Who drags down another's business
binds himself in the future,
but who fears a precept will dwell in peace.
The wise one's law is a fountain of life,
that he may turn back from death's ruin.
Good teaching will give grace;
a deep hole blocks the way of the scornful.
The astute does all with counsel,
but who is mindless uncovers foolishness.
An lawless messenger will fall into harm;
a faithful representative is health.
Poverty and ill-repute come
to one who abandons discipline,
but who quiets accusations will be praised.
A desire, if fulfilled, delights the soul;
fools detest those who flee harm.
Who walks with the wise will be wise;
a friend of fools will become like them.
Harm will pursue sinners,
and good will be repaid to the fair.
The good will leave behind inheritances,
children, and grandchildren,
but sinners' wealth is kept for the fair.
Much food is in a father's unplowed fields,
but others gather it without judgment.

Who withholds his punishment hates his son,
but who loves him teaches insistently.
The fair man eats and fills his soul,
but the belly of the lawless cannot be satisfied.

Proverbs 14.

A wise woman has built her house,
and a fool will destroy the building with her hands.
Walking rightly on the journey and fearing God
is despised by one who travels a shameful way.

Pride's staff is in a fool's mouth;
the lips of the wise guard them.

The feed troughs are empty
where there are no oxen;
but where there are many crops,
there the oxen's strength is manifest.

A faithful witness will not lie;
a deceitful witness gives out a lie.

A mocker seeks wisdom and will not find;
the prudent's doctrine is easy.

Go against a foolish man
and he will not know about prudent lips.
The clever one's wisdom is to know his way,
and fools' imprudence is erring.

He will mock the sin of a fool;
grace will remain with the fair.

A heart which knows his soul's bitterness
a stranger will not confuse in his joy.
The lawless ones' house will be destroyed;
the fair ones' dwellings will spring up.

There is a way which seems right to a man,
but its ends lead to death.

Laughter will be mixed with pain,
and grief takes over the end of joy.

A fool will be filled by his ways,
and a good man will be over him.

The innocent believe every word;
the clever considers his steps.

The wise fears and turns away harm;
a fool leaps over and trusts.

The impatient will work foolishness,
and an insincere man is hated.

The young will possess foolishness,
and the clever will wait for knowledge.

The harmful will lie down before the good,
and the lawless before the fair ones' doors.

The poor will be hated even by his neighbor;
wealth, truly, has many friends.

Who despises his neighbor sins,
but who is compassionate to the poor
will be blessed.

They do wrong who do harm;
mercy and truth prepare good.

There will be abundance in much work,
but where words are many, there is often poverty.

The wise ones' crown is their wealth;
the fools' stupidity is imprudence.

A faithful witness frees souls,
and a double-dealer gives out lies.

The strong one's confidence
is in the fear of the Lord,

and there will be hope for his children.

The fear of the Lord is life's fountain,
that he may turn back from the death's ruin.
A ruler's dignity is in a multitude of people,
and a ruler's shame in a scarcity of people.
Who is patient is guided by much prudence;
who is impatient exalts his own foolishness.

The flesh's life is a healthy heart;
envy is a rot in the bones.

Who abuses the needy
rebukes the One who made him,
but God honors one who
is compassionate to the poor.

The lawless will be driven out in his harm,
but the fair man hopes even to his death.

Wisdom abides in a prudent heart,
and will teach the unlearned.

Fairness lifts up a nation;
sin makes peoples miserable.

An intelligent minister is accepted by a king;
a useless one will experience his wrath.

Proverbs 15.

A soft answer calms anger;
a harsh word stirs up fury.

The wise ones' tongue displays knowledge;
the mindless ones' mouth bubbles up foolishness.

The Lord's eyes observe
the good and the harmful, everywhere.

A peacemaking tongue is life's tree;

one which is ill-considered wears out the breath.
A fool laughs at his father's discipline,
but who considers rebukes
will be made more clever.
The fair man's house is very strong,
yet it is disturbed by lawless gains.
The wise ones' lips will spread knowledge;
the fools's heart will be different.
The lawless ones' offerings
are disgusting to the Lord;
the fair ones' promises are appeasing.
The lawless one's path is disgusting to the Lord;
who pursues fairness will be favored by Him.
Teaching is offensive to one deserting the way;
who hates rebukes will die.
The inferno and destruction
are open before the Lord;
how much more the hearts of men's children!
The destructive does not love one who corrects him,
nor does he walk toward the wise.
A rejoicing heart gladdens the face;
the spirit is brought down by a grieving soul.
A wise heart seeks instruction,
and the mouth of fools will feed on ignorance.
All days are harmful to the poor,
but a secure mind is like a continuing feast.
A little with fear of the Lord
is better than great and unsatisfying treasures.
It is better to call on cabbages with love,
than on a fatted calf with hatred.
An angry man provokes brawls;

who is patient reduces quarrels.
The lazy man's way is like a thorny hedge;
the fair man's way is without obstacle.
A wise son makes his father happy,
and a foolish man despises his mother.
Foolishness is joy to a fool,
but a prudent man directs steps.
Ideas dissipate where there is no counsel;
where counselors are many, they are validated.
Man is made happy in his opinions,
and a timely word is best.
Life's way is over the learned,
that he may avoid the inferno's depth.
The Lord will demolish the proud ones' house,
and make the widow's boundaries secure.
To the Lord, harmful thoughts are disgusting,
and pure speech most beautiful.
He disturbs his own home who follows after greed,
but who hates bribes will live.
A fair mind considers obedience;
a lawless mouth overflows with harm.
The Lord is far from the lawless,
but will hear fair ones' prayers.
The light of the eyes makes the soul happy;
a good reputation nourishes the bones.
An ear which listens to life-giving rebukes
will live in the midst of understanding.
Who rejects discipline despises his soul;
who accepts corrections has possessed his heart.
The fear of the Lord is the wise ones' discipline,
and humility precedes glory.

Proverbs 16.

It falls to man to prepare his soul
and to God to govern the tongue.

All man's ways stand open to God's eyes,
and the Lord is the judge of spirits.

Open your work to the Lord,
and your thoughts will be guided.

The Lord made all for Himself,
even the lawless for a harmful day.

Every arrogant person is a disgust to the Lord;
even if he walks hand in hand,
he will not be innocent.

Iniquity is redeemed by mercy and truth,
and one is turned away from harm
in the fear of the Lord.

When man's ways please the Lord,
He likewise will convert even his enemies to peace.

A little with fairness is better
than many benefits with iniquity.

Man's heart will arrange his way,
but to direct his steps is from the Lord.

Divination is in a king's lips;
his mouth will not err in judgment.

Weight and scale are the Lord's judgments,
and all the weights in the bag are his work.

Those who work lawlessly are disgusting to a king,
because fairness establishes a throne.

Right lips are a king's will;
he will delight in one who speaks honestly.

A king's anger is death's messenger,
and a wise man will placate him.
A king's appearance in good humor is life,
and his clemency like the latter rain.
Possess wisdom, because it is better than gold,
and acquire prudence because it is
more precious than silver.
The way of fair men turns away harms,
and his soul's keeper will guard his way.
Pride precedes regret,
and a spirit is exalted before ruin.
It is best to be humble with the gentle,
than to divide plunder with the prideful.
The learned in word will discover good,
and who hopes in the Lord is blessed.
Who is wise in heart will be called prudent,
and who is charming in speech
will secure better things.
Learning is life's fountain to one possessing it;
the teaching of fools is mindless.
A wise heart will teach its mouth,
and will add grace to its lips.
Careful words are a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.
There is a way which seems right to man,
and its end leads to death.
The soul of one laboring labors for itself,
because its mouth drives it.
A lawless man digs up harm,
and a fire burns in his lips.
A perverse man stirs up quarrels,

and a blabber separates princes.
A treacherous man leads his friend on,
and takes him down a road that isn't good.
Who reasons with awestruck eyes is dangerous;
one biting his lips completes the harm.
Old age is a crown of dignity,
and it will be found in ways of fairness.
The patient is better than a strong man,
and who controls his soul better than
one who conquers cities.
Lots are tossed into a lap,
but they are combined by the Lord.

Proverbs 17.

A dry morsel with joy is better than
a house full of victims with abuse.
A wise slave will rule a foolish son,
and will divide the inheritance with brothers.
Just as silver is proved by fire
and gold by a furnace,
so the Lord proves the heart.
The harmful person obeys a treacherous tongue,
and a liar is submissive to lying lips.
Who despises a poor man
reproaches the One who made him,
and who is happy in another's ruin
will not be unpunished.
Children's children are old age's crown,
and the glory of children is their parents.
Careful words are not becoming to a fool,

nor lying lips to a prince.
The expectation of one waiting
is a most beautiful jewel;
wherever he turns himself,
he understands prudently.
Who hides wrongs seeks friendships;
who repeats another's conversation
separates companions.
One correction counts more to the prudent
than a hundred blows to a fool.
A wicked man always seeks harm,
but a cruel angel will be sent against him.
It is better to run into a bear robbed of her cubs,
than a mindless man trusting himself
in his foolishness.
Who returns harm for good –
harm will not turn away from his house.
Who lets out water is the source of quarrels,
and judgment deserts him
before he endures conflict.
Both one who justifies the lawless
and one who condemns the fair
are equally disgusting to the Lord.
How does having riches benefit a fool
when wisdom cannot be bought?
Who is a friend loves at every moment,
and a brother is proved in difficult times.
A foolish man claps his hands
when he gives a pledge for his friend.
Who obsesses over discord delights in quarrels,
and who lifts up a door latch looks for ruin.

Who is perverse in heart will not find good,
and who twists the tongue will fall into harm.

A fool is born in his shame,
yet not even a father will be happy
with a mindless child.

A joyful mind makes the season bloom;
a mournful spirit dries out the bones.
A lawless man takes a bribe from his vest,
that he may pervert the ways of judgment.

Prudence shines in the face of the wise;
fools' eyes are in the ends of the earth.

A foolish son is a father's anger,
and the pain of the mother who birthed him.

It isn't good to bring harm to a fair-minded man,
or to beat a leader who judges rightly.

Who is careful in his words is learned and prudent,
and an educated man's spirit is precious.

Even a fool will be considered wise
if he keeps quiet,
and intelligent if he closes his lips.

Proverbs 18.

Who wants to turn back from a friend
seeks occasions;
every moment he will be worthy of reproach.

A fool does not accept a prudent word,
unless you tell him what thoughts
are already turning in his heart.

The lawless, when he comes
into sin's depth, condemns,

but shame and reproach follow him.
Words from a man's mouth are deep waters,
and wisdom's spring is an overflowing torrent.
To receive a lawless person isn't good,
that you turn from truthful judgment.
A fool's lips mix him up in brawls,
and his mouth provokes quarrels.
A fool's mouth is his regret,
and his lips are the ruin of his soul.
The words of a two-faced man
seem straightforward,
and they lead to the inside of the womb.
Who is soft and negligent in his actions
is brother to one whose works are wasteful.
The Lord's name is a strong tower;
the fair man runs to it and will be exalted.
A rich man's substance is his bulwark,
and is like a strong wall surrounding him.
Before it is crushed, man's heart is lifted up,
and before it is glorified, it is humbled.
Who answers before he listens
shows himself to be a fool,
and worthy of confusion.
A man's spirit sustains his weakness;
a spirit quick to anger, truly, who can sustain?
A prudent heart will possess knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks teaching.
A man's gift broadens his way,
and makes space for him before princes.
The fair-minded man is his own accuser,
before his friend comes and investigates him.

Lots frustrate contradictions,
and settle conflicts even among the powerful.
A brother who is helped by a brother
is like a strong city,
and judgment is like the bars of a city gate.
By the fruit of man's mouth his belly will be filled,
and the fruit of his lips will satisfy him.
Death and life are in the tongue's power;
who delight in it will eat its fruit.
Who finds a wife finds good,
and will drink down happiness from the Lord.
The poor will speak with flatteries,
and the rich will answer roughly.
A man who is agreeable in company
will be more a friend than a brother.

Proverbs 19.

A poor man who walks in his simplicity
is better than twisting, foolish lips.
Where there is no knowledge of life,
there is no good,
and who is in a hurry to leave offends.
A man's own foolishness undermines his steps,
yet he will burn against God in his soul.
Riches add many friends;
but for a poor man, even those he had abandon him.
A false witness will not be unpunished,
and one who speaks lies will not escape.
Many worship the person of the powerful,
and friends are to one giving gifts.

A poor man's brothers hated him as well,
and friends stayed far away from him.

Who follows only after words will have nothing,
but who has possessed his mind delights his soul,
and a keeper of prudence will find good.

A false witness will not be unpunished
and one who speaks lies will perish.

Luxuries are not fit for a fool,
nor slaves to rule masters.

Man's learning is known through patience,
and his glory is in marching past iniquities.

Like a lion's roar, so also is the anger of a king,
and like dew on grass, so his happiness.

A foolish son is his father's pain,
and a quarrelsome woman
is a roof continuously leaking.

Home and riches are given by fathers,
but a prudent wife by the Lord himself.

Laziness sends out sleep,
and a careless soul will hunger.

Who keeps a commandment keeps his soul,
but who neglects his ways will be destroyed.

Who has mercy on the poor lends to the Lord,
and God will pay back his concern to him.

Teach your son! Do not despair!

But do not set your soul to killing him!

Who is impatient will sustain loss,
and when it is taken away, he will add another.

Listen to counsel and accept discipline,
that you may be wise in your purposes.

Many plots are in man's heart,

but the will of the Lord will endure.
A needy man is merciful,
and a poor man is better than a liar.
Fear of the Lord leads to life,
and it will dwell in plenty,
away from a dismal visitation.
A lazy man hides his hand under his arm,
and does not lift it even to his mouth.
When the destructive is punished,
a fool will be wiser;
yet if a wise man is corrected,
he will learn discipline.
Who afflicts his father
and chases away his mother
is shameful and unhappy.
Do not cease, son, listening to teaching,
nor ignore knowing words.
A deceitful witness laughs at judgment,
and a lawless mouth devours iniquity.
Judgments are prepared for scoffers
and pounding hammers for the bodies of fools.

Proverbs 20.

Wine is a luxurious thing
and drunkenness tumultuous;
whoever delights in these will not be wise.
Like the lion's roar, so the terror of a king;
who provokes him sins in his soul.
Honor belongs to a man
who separates himself from quarrels,

but all fools are mixed up in conflicts.

A lazy man didn't want to plow because of the cold;
therefore, he will beg in summer
and nothing will be given to him.

Like deep water, so is counsel in a man's heart,
but a wise man will draw it out.

Many men are called merciful,
but who can find a faithful man?

A fair-minded man who walks in his simplicity
will leave blessed children after him.

A king who sits on a throne of fairness,
disperses every harm by his consideration.

Who can say, 'My heart is clean;
I am pure from sin'?

Weight and weight, measure and measure,
both are detestable with God.

A child is known by his pursuits,
if his works are clean and honest.

A hearing ear and a seeing eye –
the Lord made them both.

Do not delight in sleep,
so that need won't oppress you!

Open your eyes and be filled with bread!

'It's bad, it's bad,' says each buyer,
and when he walks away, then he will praise.

There is gold and a multitude of gems,
but learned lips are a precious vessel.

Take his garment from him who stands
as a guarantor to a foreigner,
and gives out a pledge for strangers.

The bread of lying is sweet to a man,

but afterwards his mouth will be filled with gravel.

The ideas of counselors are strengthened,
and wars are managed by governments.

Do not mix with one who tells secrets,
practices deceit, and puffs himself up.

Who curses his father and mother,
his lamp will be extinguished
in the midst of shadows.

An inheritance to one
who is hurried at the beginning,
will lack blessing at the end.

Do not say 'I will pay back harm.'

Wait for the Lord, and he will free you.

With God, weight and weight is an abomination,
and an unjust measure is not good.

A man's steps are directed by the Lord,
but what man can understand his own way?

It is ruin to man to devour holy ones,
and after a promise to have discussions.

A wise king scatters the lawless,
and closes the vault over them.

The Lord's lamp is man's opening,
that investigates all the womb's secrets.

Compassion and truth keep a king,
and mercy strengthens his throne.

The exuberance of the young is their strength,
and the dignity of the old, gray hair.

Bruising around a wound
will clean away harms and punishments
in the body's secret places.

Proverbs 21.

Like the divisions of water,
thus a king's heart in the Lord's hand;
God will incline it wherever He desires.

Every man's way seems right to him,
but the Lord weighs the heart.

To work mercy and judgment
is more pleasing to the Lord than sacrifices.

Lifting up of the eyes and broadening of the heart –
the lamp of the lawless is sin.

The strong ones' thoughts are always in abundance,
but every lazy man is always in need.

Who gathers treasures by a lying tongue is vain,
and will be thrust against death's snares.

The lawless ones' plunder will take them away,
because they did not do what is right.

A man's twisted way is strange,
but who is pure, his work is straightforward.

It is better to sit in a corner of the roof,
than in a common house
with an argumentative woman.

The soul of the lawless desires harm;
he will not have mercy on his neighbor.

A youth will become wiser
through the punishment of the destructive,
and if he pursues the wise,
he will obtain understanding.

The fair devises outside the house of the lawless,
how he may carry away the lawless in harm.

Who closes his ear to the poor man's cry,

will himself also cry out and not be heard.

A hidden bribe will extinguish wrath,
and a gift in the vest pocket calm great indignation.

To work judgment is joy to the fair,
and fear to workers of iniquity.

A man who wanders from the way of teaching
will live in a fearsome company.

Who loves banquets will be in need;
who loves wine and rich foods will not be enriched.

The lawless is given over for the fair man,
and the treacherous for the honest.

It is better to live in a desert land
than with a quarrelsome and angry woman.

Desirable treasure and oil
are in the fair man's dwelling,
and an imprudent man will waste it.

Who follows fairness and mercy
will find life, fairness and glory.

The wise ascends against a strong city,
and destroyed the strength of its confidence.

Who guards his mouth and his tongue,
guards his soul from anguish.

An unlearned man who in wrath works pride
is called proud and arrogant.

Desires kill a lazy man,
for his hands refused to do any work at all.

All day he lusts and desires,
but one who is fair will give and will not cease.

Lawless men's offerings are detestable,
because they are offered from wickedness.

A lying witness will perish;

an obedient man speaks success.
A lawless man rashly hardens his outlook,
but who is honest corrects his way.
There is no wisdom, there is no prudence,
there is no counsel against the Lord.
A horse is prepared for the day of war,
but the Lord will give security.

Proverbs 22.

A good name is better than many riches;
good grace is above silver and gold.
Rich and poor have met each other,
and the Lord made them both.
The experienced man has seen harm
and hidden himself;
the inexperienced kept going and suffered loss.
The end result of restraint is the fear of the Lord,
riches, glory and life.
Weapons and swords are in the lawless man's path;
one guarding his soul backs far away from them.
A proverb is something
a youth keeps close to his way;
even when he is old, he will not back away from it.
The rich command the poor,
and who takes a loan is slave to the lender.
Who plants iniquity reaps harm,
and his anger's rod will be consumed.
Who is inclined to mercy will be blessed,
for he gave of his bread to the poor.
Throw a scoffer out

and quarrels will leave with him.
Pretexts and conflicts will cease.
Who delights in cleanness of heart
will have the king as friend
because of his lips' grace.

The Lord's eyes keep knowledge
and undermine treacherous words.
A lazy man says, 'A lion is outside
in the middle of the streets!

I will be killed!'

A stranger's mouth is a gaping hole;
the one the Lord is angry with will fall in it.

Foolishness is bound up in a child's heart,
and discipline's rod will drive it out.

Who abuses the poor
that he might increase his riches,
will himself hand over his wealth and be in need.

Incline your ear and hear words of wisdom, and
direct the heart to my teaching, because it will be
beautiful to you when you serve it from the gut, and
it will overflow in your lips, that your faith may be
in the Lord – from which also I have shown it to
you today.

Look, I have described it to you thoroughly, in
thoughts and in knowledge, that I may show you
firmness and truthful eloquence, to respond from
them to one who sends you.

Do not work violence against the poor because he is poor, or grind up the needy at the gate, because the Lord will judge his cause, and will strike down those who struck his soul.

Do not be a friend to a wrathful man, nor walk with a furious man, lest perhaps you learn his paths, and you add scandal to your soul. Do not be with those whose hands bewitch, and who offer themselves as guarantors for debts, for if you do not have money to make restitution, why give him cause to take away your bed's cover?

Do not remove the ancient boundaries, which your fathers established. Have you considered a man swift in his work? He will stand before kings, and will not be before the ignoble.

Proverbs 23.

When you sit and eat with a prince, pay attention diligently what are placed before your face; and put a knife to your throat if you still have your soul in control. Do not lust for his bread, in which is the bread of lies. Don't labor that you be enriched, but put on your mode of prudence. Do not raise your eyes toward riches over which you have no power, because they will make wings for themselves, like an eagle's, and fly away to the sky.

Do not eat with a greedy man, and do not desire his food, because, like a diviner and soothsayer, he guesses at what he does not know. 'Eat and drink,' he will say to you, yet his mind is not with you.

You will vomit the meals which you ate, and you will waste your pretty speeches. Do not speak in the ears of foolish men, because they will despise the teaching of your eloquence. Do not touch the boundaries of little ones, or go into an orphan's field, for Strength is his neighbor, and will Himself judge their cause against you.

Let your heart go in toward learning, and your ears to knowing words. Do not take away discipline from a boy, for if you beat him with a stick, he will not die. You will beat him with a stick, and save his soul from the inferno.

My son, if your mind is wise, my heart will rejoice with you, and my insides will exult when your lips have spoken the right. Do not let your heart imitate sinners, but abide in the fear of the Lord all day, because you will have hope to the end, and your expectation will not be taken away.

Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your soul in the way. Do not stay in drunkards' banquets, nor in their feasts who bring food to disputations, because those who idle over drinks and those giving feasts

will be consumed, and drowsiness will be dressed in rags.

Listen to your father who birthed you, and don't condemn when your mother has grown old. Buy truth and do not sell wisdom, learning, and intelligence!

A fair man's father exults joyfully; who raised a wise son will be happy in him. Let your father rejoice and your mother, and she who birthed you will exult.

Make your heart available to me, my son, and let your eyes keep my ways, for a whore is a deep hole, and a stranger a narrow pit. She lies in ambush on the way, like a robber, and she kills those careless fools she sees.

To whom woe, to whose father woe, to whom quarrels, to whom pits, to whom wounds without cause, to whom bloodshot eyes? Are they not to those who linger over wine, and practice draining cups? Do not look at wine when it turns gold and its color shimmers in the cup. It goes smoothly, but in the end it will bite like a cobra, and like a petty prince will spread its venom. Your eyes will see strange sights, and your heart will say perverse things, and you will feel like one sleeping in the middle of the sea, like a sleepy helmsman who lost the wheel, and you say, 'They beat me up, but it

didn't hurt. They dragged me, but I didn't feel it.
When will I wake up again? I want more wine.'

Proverbs 24.

Don't be envious of wicked men, or desire to be with them, because their mind meditates on plunder, and their lips speak frauds. A house will be built by wisdom, and be strengthened by prudence. By education, a store room is filled with all precious and beautiful substance. A wise man is strong too, and a learned man robust and powerful, because war is begun by careful planning, and safety will be where there are many counselors.

Wisdom is too high for a fool;
he will not open his mouth in the gate.
Who considers doing harm will be called a fool,
and a belittler is disgusting to men.
If you despair in exhaustion on an anxious day,
your strength will be diminished.
Rescue those who are led to death,
and do not cease to free
those who are being dragged to destruction.

If you say, 'My strengths aren't sufficient,' He who has inspected the heart – He understands. The preserver of your life lacks nothing and will pay a man back according to his actions.

Eat honey, my son, because it is good, and a honeycomb is most sweet to your throat. So also is wisdom's teaching to your soul, which, when you find, you will have to the ends, and your hope will not perish.

Do not plot and seek lawlessness in the fair man's house, nor disturb his peace, for a fair-minded man will fall seven times and will get back up, but the lawless will fall into harm.

Don't rejoice when your enemy falls, and don't let your heart exult in his ruin, unless, perhaps, the Lord see, and be displeased with you, and take wrath away from him.

Do not contend with the worst, nor imitate the lawless, because the harmful don't have hope for the coming days, and the lawless ones' light will be put out.

Fear the Lord, my son, and the king, and do not mingle with their detractors, because their destruction will rise up suddenly,

These likewise are for the wise:
to prejudge a person is not good.
Peoples will curse one
who says to the lawless, 'You are fair,'
and tribes will detest him.
Who rebuke him will be praised,

and blessing will come upon them.
The lips of one who will answer
the right words will be kissed.
Prepare your work outdoors,
and diligently cultivate your field,
that afterwards you may build your house.
Do not be a witness without cause
against your neighbor,
nor lead someone on with your lips.
Do not say, 'Whatever he did to me,
so I will do to him;
I will repay each one
according to his work.'

I passed through a lazy man's field, and through a
stupid man's vineyard, and, look, they were all
overgrown with stinging nettles. Thorns had
overgrown the ground and the retaining wall had
been destroyed. Because I set it in my heart when I
saw, I learned discipline by example.

I say,

 'You will sleep a little,
 you will slumber a short time,
 your hand will sow just a little,
 so you can rest,
and need will come upon you like a sprinter,
and begging like an armed man.'

Proverbs 25.

These likewise are parables of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, copied out.

God's glory is to hide a matter,
and a king's glory to investigate its cause.
Heaven above and earth below
and a king's heart are unsearchable.
Take away silver's rust
and it will be the purest vessel.
Take away lawlessness from a king's face,
and his throne will be made firm by fairness.
Don't appear boasting before a king,
and don't stand in place of the great,
for it is better that he say to you,
'Come up here,'
than that you be humiliated before a prince.

What your eyes have seen, do not blurt out quickly
during a quarrel, lest afterwards you not be able to
make amends when you have slandered your friend.
Handle your concern with your friend, and do not
reveal a secret to a stranger, lest, perhaps, he insult
you when he hears it, and not cease to resent you.

Like golden apples in a silver bed
is one who speaks a timely word.
A golden earring and a brilliant pearl –
one who tests a wise and obedient ear.

Like cold snow in the day of harvest, thus is a faithful representative to one who sent him, for he puts his soul at ease. Like clouds and wind without rain following, is a boasting man not fulfilling a promise.

A prince will be appeased by patience, and a soft tongue will break up harshness.

You found honey? Eat what is sufficient to you, lest perhaps you eat too much of it and vomit.

Take your feet away from your neighbor's house, lest when he has had enough, he hate you.

A spear and sword and sharp arrow – a man who gives false testimony against his neighbor.

A rotten tooth and a lame foot – one who hopes in the faithless on a day of anguish.

Like one who loses a coat on a cold day, like vinegar in soda, is one who sings to a dismal heart.

If your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will gather glowing coals over his head, and the Lord will repay you.

A stormy wind dissipates showers, and a sad appearance a disparaging tongue.

Better to sit on a corner of a roof than in a common house with a quarrelsome woman.

Cold water to a thirsty soul – good news from a distant land.

Water dirtied by feet and a corrupted vein – the fair man falling before the lawless.

Just as it is not good for someone who eats too much honey, so someone who scrutinizes greatness is worn down by fame.

Like an open city away from the protection of walls, thus is a man who cannot silence his passion while talking.

Proverbs 26.

Like snow in summer and rain at harvest,
so fame is not fitting to a fool.

Like a bird flying to other places
and a sparrow going wherever it pleases,
so an empty curse, brought forth,
will come upon someone.

A whip for the horse, and a muzzle for an ass,
and a rod for the back of the imprudent.

Do not respond to a fool
according to his foolishness,

lest you be made like him.
Respond to a fool,
according to his foolishness,
lest he seem to be wise to himself.

Like lameness of foot and swallowing iniquity is
one who sends instructions by a foolish messenger.
As a lame man has beautiful legs to no purpose,
thus a parable in the mouth of fools is not fitting.
As one who throws a rock into a pile of mercury, so
is one who gives honor to a fool.
As if a thorn grew in a drunk's hand,
so is a parable in a fool's mouth.
Causes determine judgment,
and who puts a fool to silence reduces anger.
Like a dog who goes back to his vomit,
thus is the imprudent who returns to his foolishness.
Have you seen a man who considers himself wise?
A fool will have more hope than him.
A lazy man says, 'A lioness is in the street!
A lion is on the roads!'
As a gate turns on its hinges,
thus a lazy man turns in his bed.
A lazy man hides his hand under his arm,
and labors to see if he can bring it back
to his mouth.
A lazy man seems wiser to himself
than seven men explaining reasons.
Like one who yanks on a dog's ear,
so is one who goes and, impatient,
gets mixed up in another's brawl.

As one who throws lances, arrows, and death is guilty, so is a man who deceitfully harms his friend, and when he is reproached, says, 'I was joking.'

When wood is taken away
fire will be extinguished,
and when a complainer
is removed conflicts are calmed.
Like coal to live coals and wood to fire,
thus an angry man stirs up brawls.
The words of a complainer seem simple,
and they go down to the innermost parts of the gut.
Like an earthenware dish
covered with tarnished silver,
thus are conceited lips joined to a dismal heart.

An enemy is known by his lips, when he prepares deceit in his heart. When his voice speaks softly, do not believe him, because seven evils are in his heart.

The malice of one
who falsely hides hatred
will be made clear in council.
Who digs a hole will fall in it,
and who rolls away a rock has it come back to him.
A lying tongue does not love truth,
and a slick mouth brings about ruin.

Proverbs 27.

Do not boast about tomorrow,
ignorant of what the coming day will bring.

Let another praise you and not your mouth,
a stranger, and not your lips.

A rock is heavy and sand weighty,
but a fool's wrath is heavier than both.

Wrath does not have mercy,
nor fury boiling forth,
and who can bear the force of one provoked?

Open correction is better than hidden love.

The blows of the loving are better than
the lying kisses of the hating.

A soul that is full will turn down a honeycomb,
yet a hungry soul will consider
even the bitter sweet.

Like a bird leaving its nest,
so is a man who leaves behind his home.

A heart is delighted by perfume and various odors,
and a spirit is sweetened by the counsels
of good friends.

Do not dismiss your friend or a friend of your
father's, and do not go to your brother's house on
the day of your affliction; a neighbor nearby is
better than a brother far away.

Apply yourself to wisdom, my son, and make my
heart happy, that you be able to respond in word to
one berating you.

The experienced man,
seeing harm, hid himself,
but the inexperienced,
going forward, suffered loss.
Take his garment who gives
a guarantee for a foreigner,
and let him give over a bond for strangers.
Who blesses his neighbor in a loud voice,
rising up at night,
will be like one cursing.

A broken roof on a cold day and a quarrelsome
woman are comparable. Who keeps her is like one
who tries to hold the wind, and he will call the oil of
his right hand.

Iron is sharpened by iron,
and a man sharpens the face of his friend.
Who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,
and who guards his master faithfully
will be praised.
As faces looking in water are reflected,
so human hearts are revealed to the prudent.
The inferno and destruction are never filled;
likewise also man's eyes are never satisfied.
As silver is refined in fire and gold in a furnace,
thus man is proved by the mouth
of one who praises.
If you grind a fool in a pestle,
like barley struck from above,
you will not grind his foolishness out of him.

Diligently know the appearance of your cattle, and think about your flocks, for you will not have strength forever. But a crown will be given in each generation.

Meadows are open and green grass is evident, and the hay of the mountains is gathered. A lamb is for your coat, and young goats of the fields are rewards. May your goats' milk be enough for you: for your food, for the necessities of your house, and for the support of your slave girls.

Proverbs 28.

The lawless flees though no one pursues,
but the fair man, like a lion,
will be confident, without terror.
Because of earth's sin, there are many princes,
and because of wisdom
and those who teach their knowledge,
a leader's life will be longer.
A poor man abusing the poor
is like a violent storm in which famine is prepared.
Those who abandon the law will praise the lawless;
who keep it are set ablaze against him.
Bad men do not consider fairness,
but those who seek the Lord
pay attention to everything.
A poor man walking in simplicity
is better than a rich man perverting his paths.

Who keeps the law is a wise son;
who feeds carousers humiliates his father.
Who piles up riches by usury and interest,
gathers them for one who will be generous
to the poor.

Who turns his ear away lest he hear the law –
his prayer will be detestable.

Who deceives fair men in a harmful course
will topple to his destruction,
and the simple will possess his goods.

A rich man seems wise to himself,
but a prudent poor man will figure him out.

In fair men's joy is much praise;
in lawless men's reign is man's ruin.

Who hides his wickedness will not be led;
who has confessed and abandoned it
will be followed by mercy.

A man who is always wary is blessed;
truly, whose mind is hardened falls into harm.

A lawless prince over a poor people
is like a roaring lion and a hungry bear.

A leader lacking prudence
will oppress many by abusive accusation,
but who hates greed, his days will be made long.

Who falsely accuses man's blood in the soul,
even if he flees to a pit, no one will wait for him.

Who walks simply will be saved;
who walks by twisted paths
will be cut down suddenly.

Who works his field will be satisfied with bread;
who pursues leisure will be filled with need.

Many will praise a faithful man,
but who hurries to get rich will not be innocent.
Who favors a face in judgment does not do well;
he deserts truth even for a morsel of bread.
A man who hurries to get rich and envies others,
does not know that need may overcome him.
Who corrects a man
will find grace with him afterward,
more than one who,
by a flattering tongue, deceives.
Who takes something away
from his father and mother,
then says, 'This is not a sin,'
is the partner of a murderer.
Who is conceited and swollen up stirs up conflict;
who hopes in the Lord will be fed.
Who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
but who walks wisely – he will be saved.
Who gives to the poor will not beg;
who despises a beggar will suffer poverty.
A fair-minded king builds the land;
a greedy man will destroy it.
When the lawless rise, men hide themselves;
when they perish, the righteous will be multiplied.

Proverbs 29.

Destruction will come suddenly to a man
who, with a stiff neck,
condemns one who corrects him;
health does not follow him.

Ordinary people will rejoice
at the prosperity of the fair;
but when the lawless take up kingship,
the populace will moan.

A man who loves wisdom makes his father happy,
but who feeds prostitutes will lose his substance.

A man who speaks to his friend
with smooth and lying words,
stretches out a net at his feet.

A trap will catch a sinful, treacherous man,
and the fair man will praise,
and even rejoice.

The fair man knows the cause of the poor;
the lawless ignores knowledge.

Pestilent men weaken a city;
the wise turn away from them.

Whether he is angry or whether he laughs,
a wise man will not find peace
when he contends against a fool.

Bloody men hate the straightforward;
the fair seek his soul.

A fool offers up all his spirit;
a wise man holds back and reserves it for later.

A prince who gladly hears lying words,
will have only lawless ministers.

The poor and the creditor
were on the way to each other,
and the Lord illuminated them both.

A king who judges the poor truthfully,
his throne will be established in eternity.

A rod and even correction will teach wisdom,

but a boy who is left to his own will,
will humiliate his mother.
In the multiplication of the lawless,
crimes will be multiplied,
yet the fair-minded will see their ruin.
Teach your son and he will make you cool,
and will give delights to your soul.
When prophecy vanishes
the people will be scattered;
who keeps the law is blessed.
A slave cannot be taught by words,
because he understands what you say
and refuses to respond.
Have you seen a man quick to speak?
Foolishness is more to be hoped for from
him than correction.
Who tenderly nourishes his slave in childhood,
afterwards will feel his disobedience.
An angry man provokes brawls,
and who is easily indignant
will be inclined to sin.
Humility follows arrogance,
yet glory will sustain the humble in spirit.
Who shares with a thief hates his own soul;
he hears an oath but does not answer.
Who fears man will quickly fall;
who hopes in the Lord will be lifted up.
Many seek the face of a prince,
yet the judgment of each comes forth from the Lord.
Fair men detest the lawless,
and the lawless detest

those who are in an honest way.

Proverbs 30.

The words of the Gatherer, son of the Vomiter. The vision which a man spoke, a man with whom the Lord is, and who is comforted, because the Lord is with him.

He says,

‘I am the stupidest of men,
and human wisdom is not with me!
I did not learn wisdom
or understand knowledge of the holy ones.
Who ascended in the sky and who descended?
Who secured the wind in his hands?
Who bound the waters like a garment?
Who stirred up all the ends of the earth?
What is his name, and what is his son’s name,
if you know?
Every word of God is a flaming shield
to those hoping in Him.
Do not add anything to his words,
lest you be contradicted and found a liar.
Two things I prayed you.
Do not deny me before I die.
Make vanity and lying words far from me.
Do not give me poverty or riches.
Grant only as much food as necessary,
lest perhaps, full, I be tempted to deny
and I say, ‘Who is the Lord?’

and, compelled by need, I steal,
and perjure my God's name.
Do not accuse a slave to his master,
lest, perhaps, he curse you and you fall.
This is a generation that curses its father
and does not bless its mother,
a generation that seems clean to itself,
and nevertheless is not washed from its filth,
a generation whose eyes and eyelids
are lifted up to the highest heights,
a generation which has swords for teeth,
and with its molars grinds
that it may devour
the powerless from the earth,
and the poor from among men!

Bloodsuckers are two daughters saying,
'Give me, give me,'
three who are insatiable,
and a fourth who never says, 'Enough':
the inferno and the mouth of the vulva
and earth, which is not satisfied with water;
fire, truly, which never says, 'Enough.'
Let the crows of the rapids
dig out an eye which insults its father
and which despises its mother's womb!
Let the young eagles eat it!

Three things are difficult to me, and I am
completely ignorant of a fourth:
the way of an eagle in the sky;

the way of a cobra over a rock;
the way of a ship in the middle of the sea;
and the way of a man with a young woman.

Such is the way of an adulterous woman, who eats
and, wiping her mouth, says, 'I have done nothing
wrong.'

Earth is moved by three things, and a fourth it
cannot sustain:

by a slave when he reigns;
by a fool when he is full of food;
by a hateful woman when she is taken in marriage;
and by a slave woman
when she inherits from her mistress.

Four things are small on earth, yet are wiser than
the wise:

ants, a weak people,
who gather food for themselves in harvest;
the rabbit, a powerless commoner
which makes its bed in a rock;
the locust, who has no king,
yet all march in ranks;
the lizard, who struggles in one's hands
and lives in a king's palace.

There are three things which walk proudly, and a
fourth which advances happily:

the lion, mightiest of beasts,
who will fear no encounter;

a rooster, preparing his loins for action;
a ram;
and a king – who may resist him?

There is one who was seen to be a fool, after he rose
to a high position – for if he knew, he should have
covered his mouth with his hand.

Who strongly squeezes the tit to bring milk
squeezes out the butter,
and who violently wipes the nose draws blood,
and who provokes passions produces conflicts.

Lemuel's Words

Proverbs 31.

The words of King Lemuel, the vision which his
mother taught him

What, my beloved?

What, beloved of my womb?

What, beloved of my promises?

Do not give your substance to women,
or your energies to destroying kings.

Refuse to kings, O Lemuel,
refuse to give wine to kings,
because, where drunkenness reigns,
there is no secret.

lest, perhaps, he drink and forget judgments
and pervert the cause of the poor's children.

Give strong drink to the grieving,
and wine to those who are bitter in soul.

Let them drink and forget their need,
and they will not remember their pain any more.
Open your mouth for the voiceless,
and for the causes of all the children who pass by.
Open your mouth, determine what is fair,
and judge the powerless and the poor.

Aleph. Who will find a strong wife?
Far away and from the farthest limits is her price!
Beth. Her husband's heart trusts in her,
and he will not lack goods.
Gimel. She will return good to him,
and not harm, all his life's days.
Deleth. She sought wool and linen,
and worked by the counsel of her hands.
Heh. She became like a merchant's ship;
she brings her bread from far away.
Vav. She rose while it was yet night
and gave meat to her servants,
and food to her slave women.
Zai. She considered a field, and bought it;
she planted a vineyard from her hands' fruit.
Heth. She girded her loins with power,
and strengthened her arm.
Teth. She tasted that her business was good;
her lamp will not go out at night.
Ioth. She put out her hand to the powerful,
and her fingers took hold of the spindle.
Caph. She opened her hand to the powerless,
and extended her palms to the poor.
Lameth. She will not fear

for her house the cold of snow,
for all her servants are dressed doubly.
Mem. She made herself a cloth covering;
her garment is fine linen and purple cloth.
Nun. Her husband is respected
when he sits in the gate with the land's elders.
Samech. She made fine linen and sold it,
and traded a sash to the Canaanite.
Ain. Strength and beauty are her covering,
and she will laugh on the last day.
Phe. Her mouth opened to wisdom,
and mercy's law was on her tongue.
Sade. She considers the paths
of those in her household,
and will not eat the bread of idleness.
Coph. Her children rose up
and proclaimed her most blessed,
and her husband praised her also.
Res. 'Many daughters have gathered riches;
you have surpassed them all!'
Sin. Charm is deceptive and beauty is vain;
a woman fearing the Lord, she will be praised!
Thau. Give her from her hands' fruit,
and let her works praise her in the gate!