

*THE BOOK OF*  
***PROVERBS***  
*KING JAMES VERSION*

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	Ezra	Hosea
Exodus	Nehemiah	Joel
Leviticus	Esther	Amos
Numbers	Job	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	Psalms	Jonah
Joshua	<i>Proverbs</i>	Micah
Judges	Ecclesiastes	Nahum
Ruth	Song of	Habakkuk
1 Samuel	Solomon	Zephaniah
2 Samuel	Isaiah	Haggai
1 Kings	Jeremiah	Zechariah
2 Kings	Lamentations	Malachi
1 Chronicles	Ezekiel	
2 Chronicles	Daniel	

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	Ephesians	Hebrews
Mark	Philippians	James
Luke	Colossians	1 Peter
John	1 Thessalonians	2 Peter
Acts	2 Thessalonians	1 John
Romans	1 Timothy	2 John
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	3 John
2 Corinthians	Titus	Jude
Galatians	Philemon	Revelation

# CHAPTER 1

<sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

<sup>3</sup> To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

<sup>4</sup> To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

<sup>5</sup> A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

<sup>6</sup> To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup> My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

<sup>9</sup> For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

<sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

<sup>11</sup> If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

<sup>12</sup> Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

<sup>13</sup> We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

<sup>14</sup> Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

<sup>15</sup> My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

<sup>16</sup> For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

<sup>17</sup> Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

<sup>18</sup> And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

<sup>19</sup> So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

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 unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of 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:

<sup>29</sup> For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

<sup>30</sup> They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

<sup>32</sup> For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

<sup>33</sup> But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

## CHAPTER 2

<sup>1</sup> My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

<sup>2</sup> So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

<sup>3</sup> Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

<sup>4</sup> If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

<sup>5</sup> Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

<sup>7</sup> He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

<sup>8</sup> He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

<sup>9</sup> Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

<sup>10</sup> When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

<sup>11</sup> Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

<sup>12</sup> To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;

<sup>13</sup> Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

<sup>14</sup> Who rejoyce to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

<sup>15</sup> Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

<sup>16</sup> To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;

<sup>17</sup> Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

<sup>18</sup> For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.



<sup>19</sup> None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

<sup>20</sup> That thou mayest walk in the way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.

<sup>21</sup> For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

<sup>22</sup> But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

## CHAPTER 3

<sup>1</sup> My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

<sup>2</sup> For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

<sup>3</sup> Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

<sup>4</sup> So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

<sup>10</sup> So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

<sup>12</sup> For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

<sup>13</sup> Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.

<sup>14</sup> For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

<sup>15</sup> She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

<sup>16</sup> Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour.

<sup>17</sup> Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.

<sup>18</sup> She *is* a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her:  
and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by  
understanding hath he established the heavens.

<sup>20</sup> By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and  
the clouds drop down the dew.

<sup>21</sup> My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep  
sound wisdom and discretion:

<sup>22</sup> So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy  
neck.

<sup>23</sup> Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy  
foot shall not stumble.

<sup>24</sup> When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid:  
yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be  
sweet.

<sup>25</sup> Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the  
desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

<sup>26</sup> For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall  
keep thy foot from being taken.

<sup>27</sup> Withhold not good from them to whom it is due,  
when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*.

<sup>28</sup> Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again,  
and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

<sup>29</sup> Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he  
dwelleth securely by thee.

<sup>30</sup> Strive not with a man without cause, if he have  
done thee no harm.

<sup>31</sup> Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of  
his ways.

<sup>32</sup> For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but  
his secret *is* with the righteous.

<sup>33</sup> The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the  
wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

<sup>34</sup> Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth  
grace unto the lowly.

<sup>35</sup> The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the  
promotion of fools.

## CHAPTER 4

<sup>1</sup> Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

<sup>2</sup> For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

<sup>3</sup> For I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.

<sup>4</sup> He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

<sup>6</sup> Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

<sup>7</sup> Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

<sup>8</sup> Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

<sup>9</sup> She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

<sup>11</sup> I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

<sup>12</sup> When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

<sup>13</sup> Take fast hold of instruction; let *her* not go: keep her; for she *is* thy life.

<sup>14</sup> Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*.

<sup>15</sup> Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

<sup>16</sup> For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause *some* to fall.

<sup>17</sup> For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

<sup>18</sup> But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

<sup>19</sup> The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

<sup>20</sup> My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

<sup>21</sup> Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

<sup>22</sup> For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

<sup>23</sup> Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

<sup>24</sup> Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

<sup>25</sup> Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

<sup>26</sup> Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

<sup>27</sup> Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.



## CHAPTER 5

<sup>1</sup> My son, attend unto my wisdom, *and* bow thine ear to my understanding:

<sup>2</sup> That thou mayest regard discretion, and *that* thy lips may keep knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil:

<sup>4</sup> But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

<sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

<sup>6</sup> Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* thou canst not know *them*.

<sup>7</sup> Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

<sup>8</sup> Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

<sup>9</sup> Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

<sup>10</sup> Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours *be* in the house of a stranger;

<sup>11</sup> And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

<sup>12</sup> And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

<sup>13</sup> And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

<sup>14</sup> I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

<sup>15</sup> Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

<sup>16</sup> Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets.

<sup>17</sup> Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

<sup>18</sup> Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

<sup>19</sup> *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.

<sup>20</sup> And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

<sup>21</sup> For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

<sup>22</sup> His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

<sup>23</sup> He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

## CHAPTER 6

<sup>1</sup> My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, *if* thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

<sup>2</sup> Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

<sup>5</sup> Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand *of the hunter*, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

<sup>6</sup> Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

<sup>7</sup> Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

<sup>8</sup> Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

<sup>9</sup> How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

<sup>10</sup> *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

<sup>11</sup> So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

<sup>12</sup> A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

<sup>13</sup> He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

<sup>14</sup> Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

<sup>16</sup> These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

<sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

<sup>18</sup> An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

<sup>19</sup> A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

<sup>20</sup> My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

<sup>21</sup> Bind them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie them about thy neck.

<sup>22</sup> When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

<sup>23</sup> For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

<sup>24</sup> To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

<sup>25</sup> Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

<sup>26</sup> For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

<sup>27</sup> Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

<sup>28</sup> Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

<sup>29</sup> So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

<sup>30</sup> *Men* do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

<sup>31</sup> But *if* he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

<sup>32</sup> *But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

<sup>33</sup> A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

<sup>34</sup> For jealousy *is* the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

<sup>35</sup> He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

## CHAPTER 7

<sup>1</sup> My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

<sup>2</sup> Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

<sup>3</sup> Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

<sup>4</sup> Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman:

<sup>5</sup> That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words.

<sup>6</sup> For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

<sup>7</sup> And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

<sup>8</sup> Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,



<sup>9</sup> In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

<sup>10</sup> And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

<sup>11</sup> (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

<sup>12</sup> Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

<sup>13</sup> So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,

<sup>14</sup> *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

<sup>16</sup> I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.

<sup>17</sup> I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

<sup>18</sup> Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

<sup>19</sup> For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:

<sup>20</sup> He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed.

<sup>21</sup> With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

<sup>22</sup> He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

<sup>23</sup> Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.

<sup>24</sup> Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

<sup>25</sup> Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

<sup>26</sup> For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.

<sup>27</sup> Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

## CHAPTER 8

<sup>1</sup> Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

<sup>2</sup> She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

<sup>3</sup> She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

<sup>4</sup> Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of man.

<sup>5</sup> O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

<sup>6</sup> Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things.

<sup>7</sup> For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

<sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

<sup>9</sup> They *are* all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

<sup>10</sup> Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

<sup>11</sup> For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

<sup>12</sup> I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

<sup>13</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

<sup>14</sup> Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength.

<sup>15</sup> By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

<sup>16</sup> By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth.

<sup>17</sup> I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

<sup>18</sup> Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> My fruit *is* better than gold, yea, than fine gold;  
and my revenue than choice silver.

<sup>20</sup> I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of  
the paths of judgment:

<sup>21</sup> That I may cause those that love me to inherit  
substance; and I will fill their treasures.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his  
way, before his works of old.

<sup>23</sup> I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning,  
or ever the earth was.

<sup>24</sup> When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth;  
when *there were* no fountains abounding with  
water.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains were settled, before the hills  
was I brought forth:

<sup>26</sup> While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the  
fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

<sup>27</sup> When he prepared the heavens, I *was* there: when  
he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

<sup>28</sup> When he established the clouds above: when he  
strengthened the fountains of the deep:

<sup>29</sup> When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

<sup>30</sup> Then I was by him, *as* one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;

<sup>31</sup> Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.

<sup>32</sup> Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed *are they that* keep my ways.

<sup>33</sup> Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

<sup>34</sup> Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

<sup>35</sup> For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

<sup>36</sup> But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

## CHAPTER 9

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

<sup>2</sup> She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

<sup>3</sup> She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

<sup>4</sup> Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

<sup>5</sup> Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine *which* I have mingled.

<sup>6</sup> Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

<sup>7</sup> He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man* getteth himself a blot.

<sup>8</sup> Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

<sup>9</sup> Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

<sup>11</sup> For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

<sup>12</sup> If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but *if* thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear *it*.

<sup>13</sup> A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing.

<sup>14</sup> For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

<sup>15</sup> To call passengers who go right on their ways:

<sup>16</sup> Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

<sup>17</sup> Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.

<sup>18</sup> But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.



# CHAPTER 10

<sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother.

<sup>2</sup> Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup> He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

<sup>5</sup> He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame.

<sup>6</sup> Blessings *are* upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

<sup>7</sup> The memory of the just *is* blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

<sup>8</sup> The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

<sup>9</sup> He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

<sup>10</sup> He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

<sup>11</sup> The mouth of a righteous *man* is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

<sup>12</sup> Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Wise *men* lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish *is* near destruction.

<sup>15</sup> The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city: the destruction of the poor *is* their poverty.

<sup>16</sup> The labour of the righteous *tendeth* to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

<sup>17</sup> He *is in* the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

<sup>18</sup> He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.

<sup>19</sup> In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.

<sup>20</sup> The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth.

<sup>21</sup> The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

<sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

<sup>23</sup> *It is* as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

<sup>24</sup> The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

<sup>25</sup> As the whirlwind passeth, so *is* the wicked no *more*: but the righteous *is* an everlasting foundation.

<sup>26</sup> As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

<sup>28</sup> The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

<sup>29</sup> The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity.

<sup>30</sup> The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

<sup>31</sup> The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

<sup>32</sup> The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked *speaketh* frowardness.

# CHAPTER 11

<sup>1</sup> A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight.

<sup>2</sup> *When* pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly *is* wisdom.

<sup>3</sup> The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

<sup>4</sup> Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

<sup>5</sup> The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

<sup>6</sup> The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in *their own* naughtiness.

<sup>7</sup> When a wicked man dieth, *his* expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust *men* perisheth.

<sup>8</sup> The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.

<sup>9</sup> An hypocrite with *his* mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

<sup>10</sup> When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, *there is* shouting.

<sup>11</sup> By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

<sup>12</sup> He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

<sup>13</sup> A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

<sup>14</sup> Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

<sup>15</sup> He that is surety for a stranger shall smart *for it*: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.

<sup>16</sup> A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong *men* retain riches.

<sup>17</sup> The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but *he that is* cruel troubleth his own flesh.

<sup>18</sup> The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward.

<sup>19</sup> As righteousness *tendeth* to life: so he that pursueth evil *pursueth it* to his own death.

<sup>20</sup> They that are of a froward heart *are* abomination to the LORD: but *such as are* upright in *their way are* his delight.

<sup>21</sup> *Though* hand *join* in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

<sup>22</sup> As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, *so is* a fair woman which is without discretion.

<sup>23</sup> The desire of the righteous *is* only good: *but* the expectation of the wicked *is* wrath.

<sup>24</sup> There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty.

<sup>25</sup> The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

<sup>26</sup> He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing *shall be* upon the head of him that selleth *it*.

<sup>27</sup> He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour:  
but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

<sup>28</sup> He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the  
righteous shall flourish as a branch.

<sup>29</sup> He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the  
wind: and the fool *shall be* servant to the wise of  
heart.

<sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he  
that winneth souls *is* wise.

<sup>31</sup> Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the  
earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.



## CHAPTER 12

<sup>1</sup> Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof *is* brutish.

<sup>2</sup> A good *man* obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

<sup>3</sup> A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

<sup>4</sup> A virtuous woman *is* a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed *is* as rottenness in his bones.

<sup>5</sup> The thoughts of the righteous *are* right: *but* the counsels of the wicked *are* deceit.

<sup>6</sup> The words of the wicked *are* to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

<sup>7</sup> The wicked are overthrown, and *are* not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.

<sup>8</sup> A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.

<sup>9</sup> *He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.*

<sup>10</sup> A righteous *man* regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked *are* cruel.

<sup>11</sup> He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain *persons* is void of understanding.

<sup>12</sup> The wicked desireth the net of evil *men*: but the root of the righteous yieldeth *fruit*.

<sup>13</sup> The wicked is snared by the transgression of *his* lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

<sup>14</sup> A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of *his* mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

<sup>15</sup> The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

<sup>16</sup> A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent *man* covereth shame.

<sup>17</sup> *He that* speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

<sup>18</sup> There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise *is* health.

<sup>19</sup> The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.

<sup>20</sup> Deceit *is* in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace *is* joy.

<sup>21</sup> There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

<sup>22</sup> Lying lips *are* abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly *are* his delight.

<sup>23</sup> A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

<sup>24</sup> The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

<sup>25</sup> Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

<sup>26</sup> The righteous *is* more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

<sup>27</sup> The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

<sup>28</sup> In the way of righteousness is life; and *in* the pathway *thereof* there is no death.

## CHAPTER 13

<sup>1</sup> A wise son *heareth* his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

<sup>2</sup> A man shall eat good by the fruit of *his* mouth: but the soul of the transgressors *shall eat* violence.

<sup>3</sup> He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but* he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

<sup>4</sup> The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

<sup>5</sup> A righteous *man* hateth lying: but a wicked *man* is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

<sup>6</sup> Righteousness keepeth *him that is* upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

<sup>7</sup> There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches.

<sup>8</sup> The ransom of a man's life *are* his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

<sup>9</sup> The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

<sup>10</sup> Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

<sup>11</sup> Wealth *gotten* by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

<sup>12</sup> Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but *when* the desire cometh, *it is* a tree of life.

<sup>13</sup> Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

<sup>14</sup> The law of the wise *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

<sup>15</sup> Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

<sup>16</sup> Every prudent *man* dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open *his* folly.

<sup>17</sup> A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador *is* health.

<sup>18</sup> Poverty and shame *shall be to* him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

<sup>19</sup> The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but *it is* abomination to fools to depart from evil.

<sup>20</sup> He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

<sup>21</sup> Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.

<sup>22</sup> A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.

<sup>23</sup> Much food *is in* the tillage of the poor: but there is *that is* destroyed for want of judgment.

<sup>24</sup> He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

<sup>25</sup> The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

## CHAPTER 14

<sup>1</sup> Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

<sup>2</sup> He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but *he that is* perverse in his ways despiseth him.

<sup>3</sup> In the mouth of the foolish *is* a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

<sup>4</sup> Where no oxen *are*, the crib *is* clean: but much increase *is* by the strength of the ox.

<sup>5</sup> A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

<sup>6</sup> A scorner seeketh wisdom, and *findeth it* not: but knowledge *is* easy unto him that understandeth.

<sup>7</sup> Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not *in him* the lips of knowledge.

<sup>8</sup> The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way: but the folly of fools *is* deceit.



<sup>9</sup> Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous *there is* favour.

<sup>10</sup> The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

<sup>11</sup> The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

<sup>12</sup> There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

<sup>13</sup> Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth *is* heaviness.

<sup>14</sup> The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself.

<sup>15</sup> The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going.

<sup>16</sup> A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

<sup>17</sup> *He that is* soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

<sup>18</sup> The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

<sup>19</sup> The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

<sup>20</sup> The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich *hath* many friends.

<sup>21</sup> He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

<sup>22</sup> Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth *shall be* to them that devise good.

<sup>23</sup> In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips *tendeth* only to penury.

<sup>24</sup> The crown of the wise *is* their riches: *but* the foolishness of fools *is* folly.

<sup>25</sup> A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful *witness* speaketh lies.

<sup>26</sup> In the fear of the LORD *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

<sup>28</sup> In the multitude of people *is* the king's honour: but in the want of people *is* the destruction of the prince.

<sup>29</sup> *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

<sup>30</sup> A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

<sup>31</sup> He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

<sup>32</sup> The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

<sup>33</sup> Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but *that which is* in the midst of fools is made known.

<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

<sup>35</sup> The king's favour *is* toward a wise servant: but his wrath is *against* him that causeth shame.

# CHAPTER 15

<sup>1</sup> A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

<sup>2</sup> The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

<sup>3</sup> The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

<sup>4</sup> A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.

<sup>5</sup> A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

<sup>6</sup> In the house of the righteous *is* much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

<sup>7</sup> The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish *doeth* not so.

<sup>8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight.

<sup>9</sup> The way of the wicked *is* an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> Correction *is* grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: *and* he that hateth reproof shall die.

<sup>11</sup> Hell and destruction *are* before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

<sup>12</sup> A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

<sup>13</sup> A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

<sup>14</sup> The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

<sup>15</sup> All the days of the afflicted *are* evil: but he that is of a merry heart *hath* a continual feast.

<sup>16</sup> Better *is* little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

<sup>17</sup> Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

<sup>18</sup> A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.

<sup>19</sup> The way of the slothful *man is* as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous *is* made plain.

<sup>20</sup> A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

<sup>21</sup> Folly *is* joy to *him that is* destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

<sup>22</sup> Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

<sup>23</sup> A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*

<sup>24</sup> The way of life *is* above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

<sup>26</sup> The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the LORD: but *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant words.

<sup>27</sup> He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

<sup>28</sup> The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

<sup>29</sup> The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

<sup>30</sup> The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: *and* a good report maketh the bones fat.

<sup>31</sup> The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

<sup>32</sup> He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

<sup>33</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom; and before honour *is* humility.

# CHAPTER 16

<sup>1</sup> The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *is* from the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

<sup>3</sup> Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

<sup>5</sup> Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

<sup>6</sup> By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.

<sup>7</sup> When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

<sup>8</sup> Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.



<sup>9</sup> A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

<sup>10</sup> A divine sentence *is* in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

<sup>11</sup> A just weight and balance *are* the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag *are* his work.

<sup>12</sup> *It is* an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

<sup>14</sup> The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

<sup>15</sup> In the light of the king's countenance *is* life; and his favour *is* as a cloud of the latter rain.

<sup>16</sup> How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

<sup>17</sup> The highway of the upright *is* to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

<sup>18</sup> Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

<sup>19</sup> Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly,  
than to divide the spoil with the proud.

<sup>20</sup> He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good:  
and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he.

<sup>21</sup> The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the  
sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

<sup>22</sup> Understanding *is* a wellspring of life unto him that  
hath it: but the instruction of fools *is* folly.

<sup>23</sup> The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and  
addeth learning to his lips.

<sup>24</sup> Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the  
soul, and health to the bones.

<sup>25</sup> There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but  
the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

<sup>26</sup> He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his  
mouth craveth it of him.

<sup>27</sup> An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips  
*there is* as a burning fire.

<sup>28</sup> A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer  
separateth chief friends.

<sup>29</sup> A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way *that is* not good.

<sup>30</sup> He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

<sup>31</sup> The hoary head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it be found in the way of righteousness.

<sup>32</sup> *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

<sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

# CHAPTER 17

<sup>1</sup> Better *is* a dry morsel, and quietness therewith,  
than an house full of sacrifices *with* strife.

<sup>2</sup> A wise servant shall have rule over a son that  
causeth shame, and shall have part of the  
inheritance among the brethren.

<sup>3</sup> The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold:  
but the LORD trieth the hearts.

<sup>4</sup> A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; *and* a liar  
giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

<sup>5</sup> Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker:  
*and* he that is glad at calamities shall not be  
unpunished.

<sup>6</sup> Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and  
the glory of children *are* their fathers.

<sup>7</sup> Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do  
lying lips a prince.

<sup>8</sup> A gift *is as* a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

<sup>9</sup> He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

<sup>10</sup> A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

<sup>11</sup> An evil *man* seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

<sup>12</sup> Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

<sup>13</sup> Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

<sup>14</sup> The beginning of strife *is as* when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

<sup>15</sup> He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both *are* abomination to the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> Wherefore *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 bare him.

26 Also to punish the just *is* not good, *nor* to strike princes for equity.

<sup>27</sup> He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

<sup>28</sup> Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

# CHAPTER 18

<sup>1</sup> Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh *and* intermeddleth with all wisdom.

<sup>2</sup> A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

<sup>3</sup> When the wicked cometh, *then* cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

<sup>4</sup> The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the wellspring of wisdom *as* a flowing brook.

<sup>5</sup> *It is* not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

<sup>6</sup> A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

<sup>7</sup> A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

<sup>8</sup> The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.



<sup>9</sup> He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

<sup>10</sup> The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

<sup>11</sup> The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

<sup>12</sup> Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour *is* humility.

<sup>13</sup> He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it*, it *is* folly and shame unto him.

<sup>14</sup> The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

<sup>15</sup> The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

<sup>16</sup> A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

<sup>17</sup> *He that is* first in his own cause *seemeth* just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

<sup>18</sup> The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

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

<sup>20</sup> A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; *and* with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

<sup>21</sup> Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

<sup>22</sup> *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

<sup>24</sup> A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

## CHAPTER 19

<sup>1</sup> Better *is* the poor that walketh in his integrity, than *he that is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

<sup>2</sup> Also, *that* the soul *be* without knowledge, *it is* not good; and he that hasteth with *his* feet sinneth.

<sup>3</sup> The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

<sup>5</sup> A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape.

<sup>6</sup> Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man *is* a friend to him that giveth gifts.

<sup>7</sup> 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*.

<sup>8</sup> He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

<sup>9</sup> A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that speaketh lies shall perish.*

<sup>10</sup> Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

<sup>11</sup> The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*

<sup>12</sup> The king's wrath *is* as the roaring of a lion; but his favour *is* as dew upon the grass.

<sup>13</sup> A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.

<sup>14</sup> House and riches *are* the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife *is* from the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

<sup>16</sup> He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; *but* he that despiseth his ways shall die.

<sup>17</sup> He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

<sup>18</sup> Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

<sup>19</sup> A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver *him*, yet thou must do it again.

<sup>20</sup> Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

<sup>21</sup> *There are* many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

<sup>22</sup> The desire of a man *is* his kindness: and a poor man *is* better than a liar.

<sup>23</sup> The fear of the LORD *tendeth* to life: and *he that hath it* shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

<sup>24</sup> A slothful *man* hideth his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

<sup>25</sup> Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, *and* he will understand knowledge.

<sup>26</sup> He that wasteth *his* father, *and* chaseth away *his* mother, *is* a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

<sup>27</sup> Cease, my son, to hear the instruction *that causeth* to err from the words of knowledge.

<sup>28</sup> An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

<sup>29</sup> Judgments are prepared for scorers, and stripes for the back of fools.

## CHAPTER 20

<sup>1</sup> Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

<sup>2</sup> The fear of a king *is* as the roaring of a lion: *whoso* provoketh him to anger sinneth *against* his own soul.

<sup>3</sup> *It is* an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

<sup>4</sup> The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

<sup>6</sup> Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

<sup>7</sup> The just *man* walketh in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him.

<sup>8</sup> A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

<sup>10</sup> Divers weights, *and* divers measures, both of them *are* alike abomination to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

<sup>12</sup> The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

<sup>13</sup> Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, *and* thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

<sup>14</sup> *It is* naught, *it is* naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.

<sup>15</sup> There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge *are* a precious jewel.

<sup>16</sup> Take his garment that is surety *for* a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

<sup>17</sup> Bread of deceit *is* sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

<sup>18</sup> *Every* purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.



19 He that goeth about *as* a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

20 Whoso 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 thereof 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 unto 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 enquiry.

26 A wise king scattereth 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 upholden by mercy.

<sup>29</sup> The glory of young men *is* their strength: and the beauty of old men *is* the gray head.

<sup>30</sup> The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so *do* stripes the inward parts of the belly.

# CHAPTER 21

<sup>1</sup> The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *as* the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

<sup>2</sup> Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

<sup>3</sup> To do justice and judgment *is* more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

<sup>4</sup> An high look, and a proud heart, *and* the plowing of the wicked, *is* sin.

<sup>5</sup> The thoughts of the diligent *tend* only to plenteousness; but of every one *that is* hasty only to want.

<sup>6</sup> The getting of treasures by a lying tongue *is* a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

<sup>7</sup> The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

<sup>8</sup> The way of man *is* froward and strange: but *as for* the pure, his work *is* right.

<sup>9</sup> *It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*

<sup>10</sup> The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes.

<sup>11</sup> When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

<sup>12</sup> The righteous *man* wisely considereth the house of the wicked: *but God* overthroweth the wicked for *their* wickedness.

<sup>13</sup> Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

<sup>14</sup> A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

<sup>15</sup> *It is* joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity.

<sup>16</sup> The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

<sup>17</sup> He that loveth pleasure *shall be* a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

<sup>18</sup> The wicked *shall be* a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

<sup>19</sup> *It is* better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

<sup>20</sup> *There is* treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

<sup>21</sup> He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

<sup>22</sup> A wise *man* scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

<sup>23</sup> Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

<sup>24</sup> Proud *and* haughty scorner *is* his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

<sup>25</sup> The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

<sup>26</sup> He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

<sup>27</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked *is* abomination: how much more, *when* he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

<sup>28</sup> A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

<sup>29</sup> A wicked man hardeneth his face: but *as for* the upright, he directeth his way.

<sup>30</sup> *There is* no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

<sup>31</sup> The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety *is* of the LORD.

## CHAPTER 22

<sup>1</sup> A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and poor meet together: the LORD *is* the maker of them all.

<sup>3</sup> A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

<sup>4</sup> By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.

<sup>5</sup> Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

<sup>7</sup> The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

<sup>8</sup> He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

<sup>9</sup> He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

<sup>10</sup> Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

<sup>11</sup> He that loveth pureness of heart, *for* the grace of his lips the king *shall be* his friend.

<sup>12</sup> The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

<sup>13</sup> The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

<sup>14</sup> The mouth of strange women *is* a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

<sup>15</sup> Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

<sup>16</sup> He that oppresseth the poor to increase his *riches*, *and* he that giveth to the rich, *shall* surely *come* to want.

<sup>17</sup> Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

<sup>18</sup> For *it is* a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.



<sup>19</sup> That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.

<sup>20</sup> Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

<sup>21</sup> 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 unto thee?

<sup>22</sup> Rob not the poor, because he *is* poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

<sup>23</sup> For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

<sup>24</sup> Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

<sup>25</sup> Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

<sup>26</sup> Be not thou *one* of them that strike hands, *or* of them that are sureties for debts.

<sup>27</sup> If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

<sup>28</sup> Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

<sup>29</sup> Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men*.

## CHAPTER 23

<sup>1</sup> When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what *is* before thee:

<sup>2</sup> And put a knife to thy throat, if thou *be* a man given to appetite.

<sup>3</sup> Be not desirous of his dainties: for they *are* deceitful meat.

<sup>4</sup> Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

<sup>5</sup> Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

<sup>6</sup> Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

<sup>7</sup> For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

<sup>8</sup> The morsel *which* thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

<sup>9</sup> Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

<sup>10</sup> Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

<sup>11</sup> For their redeemer *is* mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

<sup>12</sup> Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

<sup>13</sup> Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

<sup>14</sup> Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

<sup>15</sup> My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

<sup>16</sup> Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

<sup>17</sup> Let not thine heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

<sup>18</sup> For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

<sup>19</sup> Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

<sup>20</sup> Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

<sup>21</sup> For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.

<sup>22</sup> Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

<sup>23</sup> Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

<sup>24</sup> The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him.

<sup>25</sup> Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

<sup>26</sup> My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

<sup>27</sup> For a whore *is* a deep ditch; and a strange woman *is* a narrow pit.

<sup>28</sup> She also lieth in wait as *for* a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

<sup>29</sup> Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

<sup>30</sup> They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

<sup>31</sup> Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright.

<sup>32</sup> At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

<sup>33</sup> Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

<sup>34</sup> Yea, 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.

<sup>35</sup> They have stricken me, *shalt 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.

## CHAPTER 24

<sup>1</sup> Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

<sup>2</sup> For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

<sup>3</sup> Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

<sup>4</sup> And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

<sup>5</sup> A wise man *is* strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

<sup>6</sup> For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

<sup>7</sup> Wisdom *is* too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

<sup>8</sup> He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

<sup>9</sup> The thought of foolishness *is* sin: and the scorner *is* an abomination to men.

<sup>10</sup> *If* thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength *is* small.

<sup>11</sup> If thou forbear to deliver *them that are* drawn unto death, and *those that are* ready to be slain;

<sup>12</sup> 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 shall *not* he render to *every* man according to his works?

<sup>13</sup> My son, eat thou honey, because *it is* good; and the honeycomb, *which is* sweet to thy taste:

<sup>14</sup> So *shall* the knowledge of wisdom *be* unto thy soul: when thou hast found *it*, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

<sup>15</sup> Lay not wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

<sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

<sup>17</sup> Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:



<sup>18</sup> Lest the LORD see *it*, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

<sup>19</sup> Fret not thyself because of evil *men*, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

<sup>20</sup> For there shall be no reward to the evil *man*; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

<sup>21</sup> My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and* meddle not with them that are given to change:

<sup>22</sup> For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

<sup>23</sup> These *things* also *belong* to the wise. *It is* not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

<sup>24</sup> He that saith unto the wicked, Thou *art* righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

<sup>25</sup> But to them that rebuke *him* shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

<sup>26</sup> *Every man* shall kiss *his* lips that giveth a right answer.

<sup>27</sup> Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

<sup>28</sup> Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive *not* with thy lips.

<sup>29</sup> Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

<sup>30</sup> I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

<sup>31</sup> And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

<sup>32</sup> Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction.

<sup>33</sup> *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

<sup>34</sup> So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

## CHAPTER 25

<sup>1</sup> These *are* also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

<sup>2</sup> *It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings *is* to search out a matter.

<sup>3</sup> The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings *is* unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

<sup>5</sup> Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great *men*:

<sup>7</sup> For better *it is* that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

<sup>8</sup> Go not forth hastily to strive, lest *thou know not* what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

<sup>9</sup> Debate thy cause with thy neighbour *himself*; and discover not a secret to another:

<sup>10</sup> Lest he that heareth *it* put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

<sup>11</sup> A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

<sup>12</sup> As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise reprovcr upon an obedient ear.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift *is like* clouds and wind without rain.

<sup>15</sup> By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

<sup>16</sup> Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.

<sup>17</sup> Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

<sup>18</sup> A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour *is* a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

<sup>19</sup> Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble *is like* a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

<sup>20</sup> As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, *and as* vinegar upon nitre, so *is* he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

<sup>21</sup> If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

<sup>22</sup> For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

<sup>23</sup> The north wind driveth away rain: so *doth* an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

<sup>24</sup> *It is* better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

<sup>25</sup> As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so *is* good news from a far country.

<sup>26</sup> A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

<sup>27</sup> *It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.*

<sup>28</sup> He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

## CHAPTER 26

<sup>1</sup> As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

<sup>2</sup> As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

<sup>3</sup> A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

<sup>4</sup> Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

<sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

<sup>6</sup> He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, *and* drinketh damage.

<sup>7</sup> The legs of the lame are not equal: so *is* a parable in the mouth of fools.

<sup>8</sup> As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so *is* he that giveth honour to a fool.

<sup>9</sup> As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard,  
so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

<sup>10</sup> The great *God* that formed all *things* both  
rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

<sup>11</sup> As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth  
to his folly.

<sup>12</sup> Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is*  
more hope of a fool than of him.

<sup>13</sup> The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion in the way;  
a lion *is* in the streets.

<sup>14</sup> As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the  
slothful upon his bed.

<sup>15</sup> The slothful hideth his hand in *his* bosom; it  
grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

<sup>16</sup> The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven  
men that can render a reason.

<sup>17</sup> He that passeth by, *and* meddleth with strife  
*belonging* not to him, *is like* one that taketh a dog  
by the ears.

<sup>18</sup> As a mad *man* who casteth firebrands, arrows, and  
death,



<sup>19</sup> So *is* the man *that* deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

<sup>20</sup> Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: so where *there is* no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

<sup>21</sup> As coals *are* to burning coals, and wood to fire; so *is* a contentious man to kindle strife.

<sup>22</sup> The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

<sup>23</sup> Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a potsherd covered with silver dross.

<sup>24</sup> He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;

<sup>25</sup> When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart.

<sup>26</sup> *Whose* hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the *whole* congregation.

<sup>27</sup> Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

<sup>28</sup> A lying tongue hateth *those that are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

## CHAPTER 27

<sup>1</sup> Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

<sup>2</sup> Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

<sup>3</sup> A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both.

<sup>4</sup> Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

<sup>5</sup> Open rebuke *is* better than secret love.

<sup>6</sup> Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

<sup>7</sup> The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

<sup>8</sup> As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so *is* a man that wandereth from his place.

<sup>9</sup> Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

<sup>10</sup> Thine 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 neighbour that is near than a brother far off.*

<sup>11</sup> My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.

<sup>12</sup> A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, *and* hideth himself; *but* the simple pass on, *and* are punished.

<sup>13</sup> Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

<sup>14</sup> He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

<sup>15</sup> A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

<sup>16</sup> Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, *which* bewrayeth *itself*.

<sup>17</sup> Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

<sup>18</sup> Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

<sup>19</sup> As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man.

<sup>20</sup> Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

<sup>21</sup> As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so *is* a man to his praise.

<sup>22</sup> Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* will not his foolishness depart from him.

<sup>23</sup> Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, *and* look well to thy herds.

<sup>24</sup> For riches *are* not for ever: and doth the crown *endure* to every generation?

<sup>25</sup> The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

<sup>26</sup> The lambs *are* for thy clothing, and the goats *are* the price of the field.

<sup>27</sup> And *thou shalt have* goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and *for* the maintenance for thy maidens.

## CHAPTER 28

<sup>1</sup> The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

<sup>2</sup> For the transgression of a land many *are* the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state *thereof* shall be prolonged.

<sup>3</sup> A poor man that oppresseth the poor *is like* a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

<sup>4</sup> They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

<sup>5</sup> Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all *things*.

<sup>6</sup> Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his* ways, though he *be* rich.

<sup>7</sup> Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father.

<sup>8</sup> He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

<sup>9</sup> He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

<sup>10</sup> Whoso 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.

<sup>11</sup> The rich man *is* wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

<sup>12</sup> When righteous *men* do rejoice, *there is* great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

<sup>13</sup> He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

<sup>14</sup> Happy *is* the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

<sup>15</sup> As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; *so is* a wicked ruler over the poor people.

<sup>16</sup> The prince that wanteth understanding *is* also a great oppressor: *but* he that hateth covetousness shall prolong *his* days.

<sup>17</sup> A man that doeth violence to the blood of *any* person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

<sup>18</sup> Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but *he that is* perverse *in his ways* shall fall at once.

<sup>19</sup> He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.

<sup>20</sup> A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

<sup>21</sup> To have respect of persons *is* not good: for for a piece of bread *that* man will transgress.

<sup>22</sup> He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

<sup>23</sup> He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

<sup>24</sup> Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, *It is* no transgression; the same *is* the companion of a destroyer.

<sup>25</sup> He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

<sup>26</sup> He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

<sup>27</sup> He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

<sup>28</sup> When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.



## CHAPTER 29

<sup>1</sup> He, that being often reproved hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

<sup>2</sup> When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

<sup>3</sup> Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth *his* substance.

<sup>4</sup> The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

<sup>5</sup> A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

<sup>6</sup> In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

<sup>7</sup> The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it*.

<sup>8</sup> Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

<sup>9</sup> *If* a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, *there is* no rest.

<sup>10</sup> The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

<sup>11</sup> A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

<sup>12</sup> If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

<sup>13</sup> The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

<sup>14</sup> The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

<sup>15</sup> The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

<sup>16</sup> When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

<sup>17</sup> Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

<sup>18</sup> Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

<sup>19</sup> A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

<sup>20</sup> Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

<sup>21</sup> He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become *his* son at the length.

<sup>22</sup> An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

<sup>23</sup> A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

<sup>24</sup> Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth *it* not.

<sup>25</sup> The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

<sup>26</sup> Many seek the ruler's favour; but *every* man's judgment *cometh* from the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just: and *he that is* upright in the way *is* abomination to the wicked.

## CHAPTER 30

<sup>1</sup> The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, *even* the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

<sup>2</sup> Surely I *am* more brutish than *any* man, and have not the understanding of a man.

<sup>3</sup> I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

<sup>4</sup> Who hath ascended up 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?

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

<sup>6</sup> Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

<sup>7</sup> Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:

<sup>8</sup> Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

<sup>9</sup> 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*.

<sup>10</sup> Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

<sup>11</sup> *There is* a generation *that* curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

<sup>12</sup> *There is* a generation *that* are pure in their own eyes, and *yet* is not washed from their filthiness.

<sup>13</sup> *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

<sup>14</sup> *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.

<sup>15</sup> The horseleach hath two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yea*, four *things* say not, *It is* enough:

<sup>16</sup> The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire *that* saith not, *It is* enough.

<sup>17</sup> The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

<sup>18</sup> There be three *things which* are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> Such *is* the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

<sup>21</sup> For three *things* the earth is disquieted, and for four *which* it cannot bear:

<sup>22</sup> For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

<sup>23</sup> For an odious *woman* when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

<sup>24</sup> There be four *things which are* little upon the earth, but they *are* exceeding wise:

<sup>25</sup> The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

<sup>26</sup> The conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

<sup>27</sup> The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

<sup>28</sup> The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

<sup>29</sup> There be three *things* which go well, yea, four are comely in going:

<sup>30</sup> A lion *which is* strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;

<sup>31</sup> A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up.

<sup>32</sup> If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, *lay* thine hand upon thy mouth.

<sup>33</sup> 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.

# CHAPTER 31

<sup>1</sup> The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

<sup>2</sup> What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

<sup>3</sup> Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.

<sup>4</sup> *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:*

<sup>5</sup> Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

<sup>6</sup> Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

<sup>7</sup> Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

<sup>8</sup> Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.



<sup>9</sup> Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

<sup>10</sup> Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

<sup>12</sup> She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

<sup>13</sup> She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

<sup>14</sup> She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

<sup>15</sup> She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

<sup>16</sup> She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

<sup>17</sup> She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

<sup>18</sup> She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.

<sup>19</sup> She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

<sup>20</sup> She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

<sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.

<sup>22</sup> She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.

<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

<sup>24</sup> She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

<sup>25</sup> Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

<sup>26</sup> She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

<sup>27</sup> She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

<sup>28</sup> Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.

<sup>29</sup> Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

<sup>30</sup> Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

<sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.