

# THE PROVERBS

## CHAPTER 1

**1** The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

**2** To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

**3** To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

**4** To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

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

**6** To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

**7** ¶ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**8** My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

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

**10** ¶ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

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

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

**13** We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

**14** Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

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

**16** For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

**17** Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

**18** And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

**19** So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *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 scorners 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:

**29** For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

**30** They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

**31** Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

**32** For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

**33** But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

## CHAPTER 2

**1** My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

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

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

**4** If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

**5** Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

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

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

**8** He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

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

**10 ¶** When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

**11** Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

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

**13** Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

**14** Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

**15** Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

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

**17** Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

**18** For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.

**19** None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

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

**21** For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

**22** But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

### CHAPTER 3

**1** My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

**2** For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

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

**4** So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

**5 ¶** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

**7 ¶** Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

**8** It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

**9** Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

**10** So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

**11 ¶** My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

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

**13 ¶** Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.

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

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

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

**17** Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.

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

**19** The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

**20** By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

**21 ¶** My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

**22** So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

**23** Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

**24** When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: *yea*, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

**25** Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

**26** For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

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

**28** Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and

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come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

**29** Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

**30** ¶ Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

**31** ¶ Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

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

**33** ¶ The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

**34** Surely he scorneth the scornors: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

**35** The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

### CHAPTER 4

**1** Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

**2** For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

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

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

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

**6** Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

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

**8** Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

**9** She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

**10** Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

**11** I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

**12** When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

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

**14** ¶ Enter not into the path of the wicked,

and go not in the way of evil *men*.

**15** Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

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

**17** For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

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

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

**20** ¶ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

**21** Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

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

**23** ¶ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

**24** Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

**25** Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

**26** Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

**27** Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

### CHAPTER 5

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

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

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

**4** But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

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

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

**7** Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

**8** Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

**9** Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

**10** Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth;

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and thy labours *be* in the house of a stranger;

**11** And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

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

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

**14** I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

**15** ¶ Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

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

**17** Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

**18** Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

**19** *Let her be as* the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

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

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

**22** ¶ His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

**23** He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

### CHAPTER 6

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

**2** Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

**3** Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

**4** Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

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

**6** ¶ Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

**7** Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

**8** Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

**9** How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

**10** *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

**11** So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

**12** ¶ A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

**13** He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

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

**15** Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

**16** ¶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

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

**18** An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

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

**20** ¶ My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

**21** Bind them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie them about thy neck.

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

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

**24** To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

**25** Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

**26** 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.

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

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

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

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

**31** But *if* he be found, he shall restore

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sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

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

**33** A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

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

**35** He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

### CHAPTER 7

**1** My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

**2** Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

**3** Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

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

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

**6** ¶ For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

**7** And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

**8** Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

**9** In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

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

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

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

**13** So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,

**14** *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

**15** Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

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

**17** I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,

aloes, and cinnamon.

**18** Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

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

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

**21** With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

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

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

**24** ¶ Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

**25** Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

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

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

### CHAPTER 8

**1** Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

**2** She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

**3** She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

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

**5** O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**12** I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

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

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

**15** By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

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

**17** I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

**18** Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness.

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

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

**21** That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

**22** The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

**23** I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

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

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

**26** While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

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

**28** When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

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

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

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

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

**33** Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

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

**35** For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

**36** But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

### CHAPTER 9

**1** Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

**2** She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

**3** She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

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

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

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

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

**8** Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

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

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

**11** For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

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

**13** A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing.

**14** For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

**15** To call passengers who go right on their ways:

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

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

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

### CHAPTER 10

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

**2** Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

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

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

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

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

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

**8** The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

**9** He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

**10** He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

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

**12** Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

**13** In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod *is* for the back of him that is void of understanding.

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

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

**16** The labour of the righteous *tendeth* to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

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

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

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

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

**21** The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

**22** The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

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

**24** The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

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

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

**27** The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

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

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

**30** The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

**31** The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

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

### CHAPTER 11

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

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

**3** The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

**4** Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

**5** The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

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

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

**8** The righteous is delivered out of trouble,

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and the wicked cometh in his stead.

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

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

**11** By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

**12** He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

**13** A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

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

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

**16** A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong *men* retain riches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**25** The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

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

**27** He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

**28** He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

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

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

**31** Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

### CHAPTER 12

**1** Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof *is* brutish.

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

**3** A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

**21** There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

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

**23** A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

**24** The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

**25** Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

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

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

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

### CHAPTER 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**9** The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

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

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

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

**13** Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

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

**15** Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

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

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

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

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

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

**21** Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.

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

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

**24** He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

**25** The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

### CHAPTER 14

**1** Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

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

**3** In the mouth of the foolish *is* a rod of

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pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

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

5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

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

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

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

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

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

11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 The crown of the wise *is* their riches: *but*

the foolishness of fools *is* folly.

25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful *witness* speaketh lies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

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

### CHAPTER 15

1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 The way of the wicked *is* an abomination

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unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

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

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

**12** A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

**13** A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

**14** The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

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

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

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

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

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

**20** A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

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

**22** Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

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

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

**25** The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

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

**27** He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

**28** The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

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

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

**31** The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

**32** He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

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

### CHAPTER 16

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

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

**3** Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

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

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

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

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

**8** Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

**9** A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**18** Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

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

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

**21** The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

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

**23** The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

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

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

**26** He that laboreth laboreth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

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

**28** A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

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

**30** He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

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

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

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

### CHAPTER 17

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

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

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

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

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

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

**7** Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

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

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

**10** A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

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

**12** Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

**13** Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

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

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

**16** 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

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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.

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

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

### CHAPTER 18

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

**2** A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

**3** When the wicked cometh, *then* cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

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

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

**6** A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

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

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

**9** He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

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

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

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

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

**14** The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

**15** The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

**16** A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

**17** *He that is* first in his own cause *seemeth*

just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

**18** The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

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

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

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

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

**23** The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

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

### CHAPTER 19

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

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

**3** The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

**4** Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

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

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

**7** All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth *them with* words, *yet they are* wanting *to him*.

**8** He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

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

**10** Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

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

**12** The king's wrath *is* as the roaring of a

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lion; but his favour *is* as dew upon the grass.

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

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

**15** Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

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

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

**18** Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

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

**20** Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**28** An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

**29** Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

### CHAPTER 20

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

**2** The fear of a king *is* as the roaring of a

lion: *whoso* provoketh him to anger sinneth *against* his own soul.

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

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

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

**6** Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

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

**8** A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

**9** Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

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

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

**12** The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**19** He that goeth about *as* a 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.

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**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.

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

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

### CHAPTER 21

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

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

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

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

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

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

**7** The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

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

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

**10** The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes.

**11** When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

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

**13** Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be

heard.

**14** A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

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

**16** The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

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

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

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

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

**21** He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

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

**23** Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

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

**25** The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

**26** He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

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

**28** A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

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

**30** *There is* no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

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

### CHAPTER 22

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

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

**3** A prudent *man* foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

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**4** By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.

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

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

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

**8** He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

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

**10** Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

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

**12** The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

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

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

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

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

**17** Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

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

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

**20** Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

**21** That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

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

**23** For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

**24** Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

**25** Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

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

**27** If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

**28** Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

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

### CHAPTER 23

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

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

**3** Be not desirous of his dainties: for they *are* deceitful meat.

**4** Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

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

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

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

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

**9** Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

**10** Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

**11** For their redeemer *is* mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

**12** Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

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

**14** Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

**15** My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

**16** Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

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

**18** For surely there is an end; and thine



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expectation shall not be cut off.

**19** Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

**20** Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

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

**22** Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

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

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

**25** Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

**26** My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

**27** For a whore *is* a deep ditch; and a strange woman *is* a narrow pit.

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

**29** Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

**30** They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

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

**32** At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

**33** Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

**34** 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.

**35** 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

**1** Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

**2** For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

**3** Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

**4** And by knowledge shall the chambers be

filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

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

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

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

**8** He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

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

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

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

**12** If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider *it?* and he that keepeth thy soul, doth *not* he know *it?* and shall *not* he render to *every* man according to his works?

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

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

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

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

**17** Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

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

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

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

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

**22** For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

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

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

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

**26** *Every man* shall kiss *his* lips that giveth a right answer.

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

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

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

**30** I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

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

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

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

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

### CHAPTER 25

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

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

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

**4** Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

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

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

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

**8** Go not forth hastily to strive, lest *thou know not* what to do in the end thereof, when

thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

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

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

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

**12** *As* an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

**13** *As* the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**22** For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

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

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

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

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

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

**28** He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is*

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*like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

### CHAPTER 26

**1** As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

**2** As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

**3** A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

**4** Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

**5** Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

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

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

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

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

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

**11** As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

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

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

**14** *As* the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed.

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

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

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

**18** As a mad *man* who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,

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

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

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

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

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

**24** He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;

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

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

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

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

### CHAPTER 27

**1** Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

**2** Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

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

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

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

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

**7** The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

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

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

**10** 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.

**11** My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.

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

**13** Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

**14** He that blesseth his friend with a loud

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voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

**15** A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

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

**17** Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

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

**19** As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man.

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

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

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

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

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

**25** The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

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

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

### CHAPTER 28

**1** The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

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

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

**4** They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

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

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

**7** Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but

he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father.

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

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

**10** 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**23** He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

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

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

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

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

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

### CHAPTER 29

**1** He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

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

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

**4** The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

**5** A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

**6** In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

**7** The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it*.

**8** Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

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

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

**11** A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

**12** If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

**13** The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

**14** The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

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

**16** When the wicked are multiplied,

transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

**17** Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

**18** Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

**19** A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

**20** Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

**21** He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become *his* son at the length.

**22** An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

**23** A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

**24** Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth *it* not.

**25** The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

**26** Many seek the ruler's favour; but *every* man's judgment *cometh* from the LORD.

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

### CHAPTER 30

**1** The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, *even* the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

**2** Surely I *am* more brutish than *any* man, and have not the understanding of a man.

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

**4** Who hath ascended 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?

**5** Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

**6** Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

**7** Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:

**8** Remove far from me vanity and lies: give

## PROVERBS

me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

**9** Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.

**10** Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

**11** *There is* a generation *that* curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

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

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

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

**15** The horseleach hath two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yea*, four *things* say not, *It is enough*:

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

**17** The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

**18** There be three *things which* are too wonderful for me, *yea*, four which I know not:

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

**20** Such *is* the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

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

**22** For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

**23** For an odious *woman* when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

**24** There be four *things which are* little upon the earth, but they *are* exceeding wise:

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

**26** The conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

**27** The locusts have no king, yet go they

forth all of them by bands;

**28** The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

**29** There be three *things* which go well, *yea*, four are comely in going:

**30** A lion *which is* strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;

**31** A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up.

**32** If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, *lay* thine hand upon thy mouth.

**33** Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

### CHAPTER 31

**1** The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

**2** What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

**3** Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.

**4** *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

**5** Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

**6** Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

**7** Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

**8** Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

**9** Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

**10** ¶ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

**11** The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

**12** She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

**13** She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

**14** She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

**15** She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

**16** She considereth a field, and buyeth it:

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with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

**17** She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

**18** She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.

**19** She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

**20** She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

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

**22** She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.

**23** Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

**24** She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

**25** Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

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

**27** She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

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

**29** Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

**30** Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

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