

Proverbs Collection III: Thirty Sayings of the Wise (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 22:17–24:22

Saying 1

- 22:17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise,
And apply your mind to my knowledge;
18 For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you,
That they may be ready on your lips.
19 So that your trust may be in the LORD,
I have taught you today, even you.
20 Have I not written to you excellent things
Of counsels and knowledge,
21 To make you know the certainty of the words of truth
That you may correctly answer him who sent you?

Saying 2

- 22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor,
Or crush the afflicted at the gate;
23 For the LORD will plead their case
And take the life of those who rob them.

Saying 3

- 24 Do not associate with a man *given* to anger;
Or go with a hot-tempered man,
25 Or you will learn his ways
And find a snare for yourself.

Saying 4

- 26 Do not be among those who give pledges,
Among those who become guarantors for debts.
27 If you have nothing with which to pay,
Why should he take your bed from under you?

Saying 5

- 28 Do not move the ancient boundary
Which your fathers have set.

Saying 6

- 29 Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before obscure men.

Saying 7

- 23:1 When you sit down to dine with a ruler,
Consider carefully what is before you,
2 And put a knife to your throat
If you are a man of *great* appetite.
3 Do not desire his delicacies,
For it is deceptive food.

Saying 8

- 4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth,
Cease from your consideration *of it*.
- 5 When you set your eyes on it, it is gone.
For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings
Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.

Saying 9

- 6 Do not eat the bread of a selfish man,
Or desire his delicacies;
- 7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is.
He says to you, "Eat and drink!"
But his heart is not with you.
- 8 You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten,
And waste your compliments.

Saying 10

- 9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,
For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Saying 11

- 10 Do not move the ancient boundary
Or go into the fields of the fatherless,
- 11 For their Redeemer is strong;
He will plead their case against you.

Saying 12

- 12 Apply your heart to discipline
And your ears to words of knowledge.

Saying 13

- 13 Do not hold back discipline from the child,
Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.
- 14 You shall strike him with the rod
And rescue his soul from Sheol.

Saying 14

- 15 My son, if your heart is wise,
My own heart also will be glad;
- 16 And my inmost being will rejoice
When your lips speak what is right.

Saying 15

- 17 Do not let your heart envy sinners,
But *live* in the fear of the LORD always.
- 18 Surely there is a future,
And your hope will not be cut off.

Saying 16

- 19 Listen, my son, and be wise,
And direct your heart in the way.
- 20 Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine,
Or with gluttonous eaters of meat;
- 21 For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty,
And drowsiness will clothe *one* with rags.

Saying 17

- 22 Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.
- 23 Buy truth, and do not sell *it*,
Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.
- 24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,
And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.
- 25 Let your father and your mother be glad,
And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

Saying 18

- 26 Give me your heart, my son,
And let your eyes delight in my ways.
- 27 For a harlot is a deep pit
And an adulterous woman is a narrow well.
- 28 Surely she lurks as a robber,
And increases the faithless among men.

Saying 19

- 29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow?
Who has contentions? Who has complaining?
Who has wounds without cause?
Who has redness of eyes?
- 30 Those who linger long over wine,
Those who go to taste mixed wine.
- 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red,
When it sparkles in the cup,
When it goes down smoothly;
- 32 At the last it bites like a serpent
And stings like a viper.
- 33 Your eyes will see strange things
And your mind will utter perverse things.
- 34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea,
Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.
- 35 “They struck me, *but* I did not become ill;
They beat me, *but* I did not know *it*.
When shall I awake?
I will seek another drink.”

Saying 20

- 24:1 Do not be envious of evil men,

- Nor desire to be with them;
2 For their minds devise violence,
And their lips talk of trouble.

Saying 21

- 3 By wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established;
4 And by knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.

Saying 22

- 5 A wise man is strong,
And a man of knowledge increases power.
6 For by wise guidance you will wage war,
And in abundance of counselors there is victory.

Saying 23

- 7 Wisdom is *too* exalted for a fool,
He does not open his mouth in the gate.

Saying 24

- 8 One who plans to do evil,
Men will call a schemer.
9 The devising of folly is sin,
And the scoffer is an abomination to men.

Saying 25

- 10 If you are slack in the day of distress,
Your strength is limited.
11 Deliver those who are being taken away to death,
And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold *them* back.
12 If you say, "See, we did not know this,"
Does He not consider *it* who weighs the hearts?
And does He not know *it* who keeps your soul?
And will He not render to man according to his work? [[Matt 16:27](#); [Rom 2:6](#)]

Saying 26

- 13 My son, eat honey, for it is good,
Yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste;
14 Know *that* wisdom is thus for your soul;
If you find *it*, then there will be a future,
And your hope will not be cut off.

Saying 27

- 15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous;
Do not destroy his resting place;
16 For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again,
But the wicked stumble in *time of* calamity.

Saying 28

- 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;
18 Or the LORD will see *it* and be displeased,
And turn His anger away from him.

Saying 29

- 19 Do not fret because of evildoers
Or be envious of the wicked;
20 For there will be no future for the evil man;
The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

Saying 30

- 21 My son, fear the LORD and the king;
Do not associate with those who are given to change,
22 For their calamity will rise suddenly,
And who knows the ruin *that comes* from both of them?

Proverbs Collection IV: Further Sayings of the Wise (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 24:23–34

- 23 These also are sayings of the wise.

To show partiality in judgment is not good.
24 He who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,”
Peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him;
25 But to those who rebuke the *wicked* will be delight,
And a good blessing will come upon them.
26 He kisses the lips
Who gives a right answer.
27 Prepare your work outside
And make it ready for yourself in the field;
Afterwards, then, build your house.
28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause,
And do not deceive with your lips.
29 Do not say, “Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me;
I will render to the man according to his work.”
30 I passed by the field of the sluggard
And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense,
31 And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles;
Its surface was covered with nettles,
And its stone wall was broken down.
32 When I saw, I reflected upon it;
I looked, *and* received instruction.
33 “A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest,”
34 Then your poverty will come *as* a robber
And your want like an armed man.