

Proverbs Collection I: A Father's Instruction – Part 2 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 4–6

A Heritage of Wisdom

- 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 honor, 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.

Avoid the Path of the Wicked

- 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.

Never Turn from the Right Path

- 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.

Do Not Lust after the Adulterous Woman

- 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 two-edged 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 honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:
 10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors *be* in the house of a stranger;
 11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,
 12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;
 13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!
 14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

Be Captivated with Your Own Wife

- 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.

Do Not Guarantee Another's Debts

- 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.

Do Not Give in to Laziness

- 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.

Warning Against Deviousness

- 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.

Conduct God Hates

- 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.

Guard Your Heart Against the Adulterous Woman

- 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 neighbor'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 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 dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.
34 For jealousy *is* the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.
35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

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