

Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 3 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 15–17

Upholding Righteousness with a Gentle Tongue

- 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.

The Importance of Instruction

- 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 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.

Consequences of Righteousness and Wickedness

- 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.

The Importance of Being Teachable

- 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 honor *is* humility.

The Sovereignty of the LORD

- 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.

The King

- 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.

Good and Bad Speech

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

The Splendid Crown of Old Age through Righteousness

- 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.
 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.

A Collection of Proverbs on Fools

- 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 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.