

Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 4 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 18–20

The Speech of Fools versus the Speech of the Wise

- 18:1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh *and* intermeddeth 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 honor *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 neighbor 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.

Wealth and Wisdom in the Court and in the Home

- 22 *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favor of the LORD.
 23 The poor useth entreaties; 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.
 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 neighbor.
 5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape.
 6 Many will entreat 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 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.

The Pedagogue and Punishment of Fools

- 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 scorers, and stripes for the back of fools.
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 honor 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.

Speech and Commerce

- 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.

Honoring Parents

- 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.

Trust God to Avenge Wrong

- 22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; *but* wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.
23 Divers weights *are* an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance *is* not good.
24 Man's goings *are* of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?
25 *It is* a snare to the man *who* devoureth *that which is* holy, and after vows to make enquiry.

A Wise King

- 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.

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