

## Proverbs Collection V: More of Solomon's Proverbs (c. 969t – 932t BC)

## Proverbs 25–29

25:1 These *are* also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

**Court Hierarchy and the Conflict of the Righteous and the Wicked**

2 *It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor 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 shouldst 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 neighbor hath put thee to shame.

9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbor *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 reprovor 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 neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and *so* hate thee.

18 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbor *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. [[Rom 12:20](#)]

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

**The Fool**

26:1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, *so* honor 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 honor 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.

**The Sluggard**

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.

**Four Kinds of Trouble-makers**

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 neighbor, 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.

### Of Friends and Friendships

- 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 neighbor *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 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 honored.  
 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 shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* will not his foolishness depart from him.

### A Wise Manager

- 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.

### Law and Righteous Government

- 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.

**Relationship with God for Ruling and Gaining Wealth**

- 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.
- 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.

**Joy and Stability through Righteousness**

- 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*.

**Peace through Righteousness**

- 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.

**The Importance of Discipline**

- 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.

**Wrong Attitudes**

- 22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.
- 23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor 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 favor; 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.

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