

Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 2 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 12–14

Speech and Deeds—Part 1

- 12:1 He who loves discipline loves knowledge,
but he who hates rebuke *is* stupid.
- 2 The good obtains favor from Yahweh,
but anyone who schemes, he condemns.
- 3 A person will not be established by wickedness,
but the root of the righteous will not be moved.
- 4 A woman of strength *is* the crown of her master,
but like rot in his bones is she who brings shame.
- 5 The thoughts of the righteous are just;
the advice of the wicked is treacherous.
- 6 The words of the wicked *are* an ambush of blood,
but the mouth of the upright delivers them.
- 7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more,
but the house of the righteous shall stand.
- 8 For his mouth of good sense, a man will be recommended,
but he who is of perverse mind will be despised.
- 9 It is better to be lowly and a servant to someone
than self-glorifying and lacking food.
- 10 The righteous knows the life of his animal,
but the compassion of the wicked is cruel.
- 11 He who works his land will have plenty of food,
but he who follows worthless things lacks sense.
- 12 The wicked covets the proceeds of evil,
but the root of the righteous bears fruit.
- 13 By the transgression of lips, evil is ensnared,
but the righteous escapes from trouble.
- 14 From the fruit of the mouth of a man, he is filled with good,
and the reward of a man's labor will return to him.

Speech and Deeds—Part 2

- 15 The way of a fool is upright in his *own* eyes,
but he who listens to advice *is* wise.
- 16 As for a fool, on that very day he makes his anger known,
but he who ignores an insult *is* prudent.
- 17 He who will speak truth will reveal righteousness,
but the witness of falsehood, deceit.
- 18 There is one who speaks rashly, like the thrust of a sword,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- 19 A lip of truth endures forever,
but a tongue of deception lasts only a moment.
- 20 Deceit *is* in the heart of those who plan evil,
but to those who plan peace, *there is* joy.
- 21 No evil will happen to the righteous,
but the wicked are filled *with* trouble.
- 22 An abomination of Yahweh are lips of deceit,
but they who act faithfully *are* his delight.
- 23 A clever person conceals knowledge,
but the heart of a fool announces folly.
- 24 The hand of the diligent ones will rule,
but the lazy will belong to forced labor.
- 25 Anxiety in the heart of a man will weigh him down,
but a good word will cheer him.
- 26 A righteous person will seek out his neighbor,
but the way of the wicked will lead them astray.
- 27 The lazy will not roast his game,

- but diligence is the precious wealth of a man.
28 On the road of righteousness is life,
and *on* the way of the path, *may there be* no death.

Speech and Ethics

- 13:1 A wise child *hears* the discipline of a father,
but a scoffer does not listen to a rebuke.
2 From the fruit of the mouth of a man, he shall eat what is good,
but the desire of the treacherous, wrongdoing.
3 He who keeps his mouth guards his life;
he who opens his lips, ruin *belongs* to him.
4 The soul of the lazy craves, but there is nothing,
but the person of diligence is richly supplied.
5 The righteous hates a word of falsehood;
the wicked will bring shame and disgrace.
6 Righteousness will guard the upright of way,
but wickedness will overthrow sin.

Wealth and Ethics

- 7 There is one who acts rich but has nothing;
another who pretends to be poor but *has* wealth.
8 The ransom of the life of a man *is* his wealth,
but the poor does not receive a threat.
9 The light of the righteous will rejoice,
but the lamp of the wicked will die out.
10 Only by insolence is strife set up,
and wisdom *is* with those who take advice.
11 Wealth *gained* from haste will dwindle,
but he who gathers little by little will increase it.

Fulfillment through Wisdom versus Frustration through Folly

- 12 Hope that is deferred makes the heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled *is* a tree of life.
13 He who despises a word will bring destruction on himself,
but he who respects a commandment will be rewarded.
14 The teaching of the wise *is* a fountain of life,
in order to avoid the snares of death.
15 Good sense grants favor,
but the way of the faithless is coarse.
16 Anyone who is clever will act with intelligence,
but the fool will display folly.
17 A messenger of wickedness will fall into trouble,
but an envoy of the faithful *brings* healing.
18 Poverty and disgrace *belong to* him who ignores instruction,
but he who guards reproof will be honored.
19 A desire fulfilled will be sweet to the soul,
but an abomination of fools is turning from evil.

The Blessed Future of a Wise Son versus the Calamity that Awaits the Wicked

- 20 Walk with the wise and be wise,
but as for the companion of fools, he will suffer harm.
21 Misfortune will pursue sinners,
but the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.
22 He who is good will leave an inheritance to his grandchildren,
and stored up for the righteous *is* the wealth of a sinner.
23 *There is* much food *in* the field of the poor,
but it is swept away by injustice.
24 He who withholds his rod hates his child,

- but he who loves him gives him discipline.
25 The righteous eats to satisfy his life,
but the belly of the wicked will lack.

Walking in Wisdom

- 14:1 The wisest of women builds her house,
but the foolish tears it down with her hands.
2 He who walks in uprightness fears Yahweh,
but he who is devious *in* his ways displeases him.
3 In the mouth of a fool is the rod of pride,
but the lips of the wise preserve them.
4 When there are no oxen the manger is empty,
but an abundance of crops *comes* by the strength of an ox.
5 A faithful witness does not lie,
but he who breathes out falsehood is a witness of deceit.
6 A scoffer seeks wisdom, but there is none,
but knowledge comes easily to him who understands.
7 Leave the presence of a foolish man,
for you will not *come to* know words of knowledge.

Not Walking by Sight

- 8 The wisdom of the clever is understanding his ways,
but the folly of fools is deceit.
9 Fools mock *the* guilt offering,
but among the upright, it is favorable.
10 The heart knows the bitterness of its soul,
but in its joy, it will not share itself with a stranger.
11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed,
but the tent of the upright will flourish.
12 There is a way *that seems* upright to a man,
but its end *is* the way of death.
13 Even in laughter, a heart may be sad,
and the end of joy *may be* grief.
14 From his ways, the perverse of heart will be satisfied,
and from his own, *so shall* a good man.

Contrasting Social Characterizations and Consequences

- 15 The simple will believe every word,
but the clever will consider his step.
16 The wise is cautious and turns from evil,
but the fool throws off restraint and is confident.
17 He who is short of temper will act foolishly,
and the man who schemes will be hated.
18 The simple are adorned *with* folly,
but the clever are crowned with knowledge.
19 The evil bow down before the good,
and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
20 The poor is disliked even by his neighbor,
but the lovers of the rich are many.
21 He who despises his neighbor is a sinner,
but he who has mercy on the poor blesses him.
22 Have they not erred, those who plan evil?
But loyalty and faithfulness *belong to* those who plan good.
23 In all toil, there is profit,
but the talk of lips *leads* only to poverty.
24 The crown of the wise *is* their wealth;
the folly of fools is folly.
25 He who saves lives *is* a witness of truth,

- but he who utters lies *is* a betrayer.
- 26 In the fear of Yahweh, there is confidence of strength,
and for his children, there will be refuge.
- 27 The fear of Yahweh *is* a fountain of life,
in order to turn from the snares of death.
- 28 In the multitude of people is the glory of the king,
but without a population, a prince *is* ruined.
- 29 *He who is* slow to anger *has* great understanding,
but the hasty of spirit exalts folly.
- 30 A heart of tranquility *is* life *to the* flesh,
but causes bones of passion to rot.
- 31 He who oppresses the poor insults him who made him,
but he who has mercy on the poor honors him.
- 32 By his evildoing, the wicked will be overthrown,
and the righteous will find refuge in his death.
- 33 In the heart of him who has understanding, wisdom rests,
but *even* in the midst of fools it becomes known.
- 34 Righteousness will exalt a nation,
but sin *is* a reproach to a people.
- 35 The favor of a king *is* for the servant who deals wisely,
but his wrath will be *on* him who acts shamefully.

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