

## 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 will turn away wrath,  
but a word of trouble will stir anger.
- 2 The tongue of the wise will dispense knowledge,  
but the mouth of fools will pour out folly.
- 3 In every place, the eyes of Yahweh  
keep watch over the evil and the good.
- 4 Gentleness of tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it *causes* a break in spirit.

**The Importance of Instruction**

- 5 A fool will despise the instruction of his father,  
but he who guards reproof is prudent.
- 6 *In* the house of the righteous *there is* much treasure,  
but the income of the wicked brings trouble.
- 7 The lips of the wise will spread knowledge,  
but the heart of fools, not so.
- 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination of Yahweh,  
but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight.
- 9 An abomination of Yahweh is the way of the wicked,  
but he who pursues righteousness he will love.
- 10 Severe discipline *belongs* to him who forsakes the way;  
he who hates a rebuke will die.
- 11 Sheol and Abaddon *are* before Yahweh,  
how much more the hearts of the children of men!
- 12 A scoffer does not like his rebuke;  
to the wise he will not go.
- 13 A heart of gladness will make good countenance,  
but in sorrow of heart a spirit is broken.
- 14 The heart of him who understands will seek knowledge,  
but the faces of fools, they will feed on folly.
- 15 All the days of the poor *are* hard,  
but goodness of heart *is* a continuous feast.
- 16 Better *is* little with the fear of Yahweh  
than great treasure and trouble with it.
- 17 Better *is* a dinner of vegetables when love *is* there  
than a fattened ox and hatred with it.
- 18 A man who is hot-tempered will stir up strife,  
but he who is slow *to* anger, he will calm contention.
- 19 The way of the lazy is like a hedge of thorns,  
but the path of the upright *is* a highway.

**Consequences of Righteousness and Wickedness**

- 20 A child of wisdom will make a father glad,  
but a foolish person, he despises his mother.
- 21 Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense,  
and a person of understanding will walk upright.
- 22 Plans go wrong when there is no counsel,  
but with many advisors it will succeed.
- 23 Joy *belongs* to a man with answers in his mouth,  
and a word in its time, how good *it is*!
- 24 The path of life *leads* upward for him who has insight,  
in order to turn away from Sheol below.
- 25 The house of the proud, Yahweh will tear *it* down,  
but he will maintain the property line of the widow.
- 26 Plans of evil *are* an abomination of Yahweh,

but gracious words are pure.

- 27 He who makes trouble for his house *is* he who is greedy for unjust gain,  
but he who hates bribes will live.
- 28 A heart of righteousness will ponder the answer,  
but a mouth of wickedness will pour out deceit.
- 29 Yahweh is far from the wicked,  
but the prayers of the righteous he will hear.
- 30 From the light of the eyes, the heart will rejoice,  
and good news will enliven the bones.

### **The Importance of Being Teachable**

- 31 The ear of him who listens *to* admonitions of life,  
in the midst of the wise it will lodge.
- 32 He who ignores instruction despises himself,  
but he who hears admonition gains heart.
- 33 Fear of Yahweh *is* the instruction of the wise,  
and before honor *comes* humility.

### **The Sovereignty of the LORD**

- 16:1 To mortals *belong* the plans of the heart,  
but from Yahweh *comes* the answer of the tongue.
- 2 All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes,  
but Yahweh weighs the spirit.
- 3 Commit your work to Yahweh,  
and your plans will be established.
- 4 All Yahweh has made *is* for his purpose,  
and even the wicked for the day of trouble.
- 5 An abomination of Yahweh *are* all who are arrogant of heart;  
rest assured, he will not go unpunished.
- 6 By loyalty and faithfulness, iniquity will be covered over,  
and by fear of Yahweh one turns from evil.
- 7 When the ways of a man are pleasing *to* Yahweh,  
even his enemies he will cause to make peace with him.
- 8 Better is little with righteousness  
than great income with no justice.
- 9 The mind of a person will plan his ways,  
and Yahweh will direct his steps.

### **The King**

- 10 A decision is upon the lips of a king;  
in judgment his mouth will not sin.
- 11 A balance and scales of justice *belong* to Yahweh;  
all the weights of the bag *are* his work.
- 12 An abomination to kings *is* doing evil,  
for by righteousness the throne will be established.
- 13 The delight of kings *are* the lips of righteousness,  
and he who speaks what is upright he will love.
- 14 The wrath of a king *is* a messenger of death,  
but one who is wise will appease it.
- 15 In the light of the face of the king *there is* life,  
and his favor *is* like a cloud of spring rain.

### **Good and Bad Speech**

- 16 Getting wisdom: how much better than gold!  
And getting understanding: it is chosen over silver.
- 17 The highway of the upright, it turns from evil,  
he who guards himself keeps his way.
- 18 Before destruction *comes* pride,

- and before a fall, a haughty spirit.
- 19 Better a lowly spirit with the poor  
than dividing the spoil with the proud.
- 20 He who is attentive to a matter will find goodness,  
and he who trusts in Yahweh, his own happiness.
- 21 The wise of heart is called perceptive,  
but he who is pleasant of lips will increase persuasiveness.
- 22 A fountain of life is wisdom for its owner,  
but the instruction of fools is folly.
- 23 The heart of the wise will make his mouth judicious,  
and upon his lips, it will add persuasiveness.
- 24 Pleasant sayings *are* a honeycomb,  
sweetness to the soul and healing to the bones.
- 25 There is a way *that seems* upright to a man,  
but its end *is* the way of death.
- 26 The life of a worker works for him,  
for his hunger urges him.
- 27 A man of wickedness concocts evil,  
and his lips *are* like a scorching fire.
- 28 A person of perversity will spread dissent,  
and he who whispers separates a close friend.
- 29 A person of violence will entice his neighbor  
and cause him to walk on a way *that is* not good.
- 30 He who winks his eyes *does so in order* to plan perverse things;  
he who purses his lips will bring evil to pass.

#### The Splendid Crown of Old Age through Righteousness

- 31 A crown of glory is gray hair;  
by a righteous life it is gained.
- 32 He who is slow to anger *is* better than him who is mighty,  
and he who controls his spirit than him who captures a city.
- 33 The lot will be cast into the lap,  
but all of its decisions are from Yahweh.
- 17:1 Better a dry morsel and quiet with it  
than a house filled *with* feasts of strife.
- 2 A slave who deals wisely will rule over a child who acts shamefully,  
and in the midst of brothers he will share his inheritance.
- 3 A crucible *is* for the silver, and a furnace *is* for the gold,  
but Yahweh will test hearts.
- 4 He who does evil listens to lips of wickedness,  
*and* the liar gives heed to the tongue of mischief.
- 5 He who mocks the poor insults him who made him;  
he who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 6 The crown of the elderly *are* grandchildren,  
and the glory of children *is* their fathers.

#### A Collection of Proverbs on Fools

- 7 Fine speech *is* not becoming a fool,  
still less *is* false speech for a ruler.
- 8 The bribe *is* a stone of magic in the eyes of its owner;  
everywhere he will turn, he will prosper.
- 9 He who forgives an affront fosters love,  
but he who waits on a matter will alienate a friend.
- 10 A rebuke strikes him who understands  
deeper than one hundred blows to a fool.
- 11 An evil person will seek only rebellion,  
and a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
- 12 *May* a man meet a she-bear robbed of offspring

- and not a fool in his folly.
- 13 *For* he who returns evil for good,  
evil will not depart from his house.
- 14 *Like* the release of water *is* the beginning of strife;  
before it breaks out, stop the quarrel.
- 15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous,  
the two of them *are* both abominations of Yahweh.
- 16 Why *is* this? A price in the hand of a fool,  
*in order* to buy wisdom where there is no sense.
- 17 The friend loves at all times,  
but a brother is born for adversity.
- 18 A person who lacks sense pledges;  
he becomes security before his neighbor.
- 19 He who loves transgression loves strife;  
he who builds his high thresholds seeks destruction.
- 20 He who is crooked of heart will not find goodness,  
and he who is perverse, by his tongue he will fall into calamity.
- 21 He who begets a fool, *there is* trouble for him;  
the father of a fool will not rejoice.
- 22 A cheerful heart is good medicine,  
but a downcast spirit will dry out bones.
- 23 The wicked will accept a bribe from the lap,  
*in order* to pervert the ways of justice.
- 24 He who understands sets *his* face *toward* wisdom,  
but the eyes of a fool, to the end of the earth.
- 25 A grief to his father *is* the child of a fool,  
and bitterness to her who bore him.
- 26 Also, imposing a fine on the righteous is not good,  
*nor* to flog nobles for uprightness.
- 27 He who spares his sayings knows knowledge,  
and a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
- 28 Even a fool who keeps silent shall be considered wise;  
he who closes his lips *is* intelligent.

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