

Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 5 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 21:1–22:16

Doing Righteousness and Justice

- 21:1 Streams of water *are* the heart of a king in the hand of Yahweh;
wherever he will desire, he will turn.
- 2 Every way of a man is upright in his *own* eyes,
but Yahweh weighs hearts.
- 3 Doing righteousness and justice is *more* acceptable
to Yahweh than sacrifice.
- 4 Haughtiness of *the* eyes and pride of heart,
the lamp of the wicked *are* sin.
- 5 The plans of the diligent only *lead* to abundance,
but all who are hasty, only to want.
- 6 He who makes treasure by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor *and* seeker of death.
- 7 The violence of the wicked will sweep them away,
for they refuse to do justice.
- 8 Crooked is the way of a man and a foreigner,
but the pure *is* upright *in* his conduct.
- 9 Better to dwell on the corner of a roof
than *to* share a house with a woman of contention.
- 10 The soul of the wicked desires evil;
his neighbor will not find mercy in his eyes.
- 11 With the punishment of a scoffer, the simple will become wise,
and with the instruction of the wise, he will obtain knowledge.
- 12 The righteous observes the house of the wicked;
he throws the wicked to ruin.
- 13 He who closes his ear from the cry of the poor,
he also will cry out and not be heard.
- 14 A gift in secret will avert anger,
and a concealed bribe, strong wrath.
- 15 *It is* a joy to the righteous to do justice,
but dismay to those who do evil.
- 16 Whoever wanders from the way of understanding,
in the assembly of the dead he will rest.
- 17 A man of want *is* he who loves pleasure;
he who loves wine and oil will not become rich.
- 18 A ransom for the righteous is the wicked,
and *the* faithless instead of the upright.
- 19 Better to live in a land of wilderness
than *with* a wife of quarrels and provocation.
- 20 Precious treasure and oil *are* in the house of the wise,
but the foolish person will devour them.
- 21 He who pursues righteousness and kindness
will find life, righteousness, and honor.
- 22 To a city of warriors, the wise ascends,
and he will bring down the stronghold—its object of trust.
- 23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue,
he guards his life from danger.
- 24 The proud, haughty one: “scoffer” *is* his name;
he acts with arrogance of pride.
- 25 The craving of a lazy person will kill him,
for his hands refuse to work.
- 26 All day he craves a craving,
but the righteous will give and not hold back.
- 27 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination;
how much more when he brings it in divisiveness!
- 28 A false witness will perish,

- but a man who listens will testify with success.
29 A wicked man is strong in his countenance,
but the upright will appoint his paths.
30 There is no wisdom, nor understanding,
nor counsel to oppose Yahweh.
31 A horse is prepared for the day of battle,
but to Yahweh *belongs* the victory.

Wealth and Moral Instruction

- 22:1 A reputation *is* to be chosen rather than great riches;
favor is better than silver and gold.
2 Rich and poor have *much* in common;
Yahweh is the maker of all of them.
3 The clever sees danger and hides,
but the simple go on and suffer.
4 The reward of humility *is* the fear of Yahweh—
wealth and honor and life.
5 Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the perverse;
he who guards himself will keep away from them.
6 Train the child concerning his way;
even when he is old, he will not stray from it.
7 The rich will rule over the poor,
and the borrower is a slave of the lender.
8 He who sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of his anger will fail.
9 He *who* is generous will be blessed,
for he gives to the poor from his *own* bread. [[2 Cor 9:7](#)]
10 Drive out a scoffer and strife will go out;
quarrel and abuse will cease.
11 He who loves purity of heart
and has gracious speech, his friend *is the* king.
12 The eyes of Yahweh keep watch over knowledge,
but he will overthrow the words of the faithless.
13 A lazy person says “A lion in the street!
In the middle of the highway, I shall be killed!”
14 A deep pit is the mouth of an adulteress,
he with whom Yahweh is angry will fall there.
15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a boy;
the rod of discipline will drive it from him.
16 He who oppresses the poor *in order* to enrich himself,
or gives to the rich, will come to poverty.

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