

Proverbs Collection III: Thirty Sayings of the Wise (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 22:17–24:22

Saying 1

- 22:17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise;
you shall apply your heart to my teaching.
- 18 For *it is* pleasant if you guard them within you;
together they will be ready upon your lips.
- 19 *In order* for your trust to be in Yahweh,
I have made *them* known to you today—even you.
- 20 Have I not written for you thirty *sayings*
with admonitions and knowledge?
- 21 *In order* to show you what is right—sayings of truth—
in order to return a true saying to him who sent you.

Saying 2

- 22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor,
and do not crush the afflicted at the gate;
- 23 For Yahweh will plead their case
and despoil those who despoil them of life.

Saying 3

- 24 Do not befriend an owner of anger,
and with a man of wrath you shall not associate;
- 25 lest you learn his way
and become entangled in a snare to yourself.

Saying 4

- 26 Do not be with those who give a pledge
by becoming surety.
- 27 If there is nothing for you to pay,
why will he take your bed from under you?

Saying 5

- 28 Do not remove an ancient boundary marker
which your ancestors made.

Saying 6

- 29 A man who is skillful in his work, you shall see:
before kings, he will serve;
he will not serve before the commoners.

Saying 7

- 23:1 When you sit to eat with a ruler,
you shall surely observe what *is* before you,
2 and you shall put a knife to your throat
if you have a big appetite.
- 3 Do not desire his delicacies,
for it is food of deception.

Saying 8

- 4 Do not tire *in order* to become rich;
out of your understanding, *may you* desist.
- 5 Your eyes will alight on it, but there is nothing *to* it,
for suddenly it will make for itself wings
like an eagle and it will be exhausted *in* the heavens.

Saying 9

- 6 Do not eat the bread of the stingy,
and do not desire his delicacies.
- 7 For, like hair in his throat, so it is.
“Eat and drink!” he will say to you,
but his heart will not be with you.
- 8 Your morsel you have eaten, you will vomit it up,
and you will waste your pleasant words.

Saying 10

- 9 In the ears of a fool do not speak,
for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Saying 11

- 10 Do not remove an ancient boundary marker,
and on the fields of orphans do not encroach;
- 11 For their redeemer is strong,
he himself will plead their cause against you.

Saying 12

- 12 Apply your heart to instruction,
and your ear to sayings of knowledge.

Saying 13

- 13 Do not withhold discipline from a child,
if you will beat him with the rod, he will not die.
- 14 As for you, with the rod you shall beat him,
and his life you will save from Sheol.

Saying 14

- 15 My child, if your heart is wise,
my heart will be glad—even me!
- 16 And my insides will rejoice
when your lips speak what is upright.

Saying 15

- 17 May your heart not envy the sinners,
but *live* in fear of Yahweh all day.
- 18 Surely there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.

Saying 16

- 19 You, my child, hear and be wise,
and direct your heart on the road.
- 20 Do not be among drinkers of wine,
among gluttonous eaters of their meat.
- 21 For the drunkard and gluttonous, they will become poor,
and *with* rags, drowsiness will clothe them.

Saying 17

- 22 Listen to your father—he who gave you life,
and do not despise your mother when she is old.
- 23 Buy truth and do not sell *it*,
wisdom and instruction and understanding.
- 24 The father of the righteous will surely rejoice;
he who bears a wise person will be happy with him.
- 25 May your father and your mother be glad,
and may she who bore you rejoice.

Saying 18

- 26 My child, may you give your heart to me,
and may your eyes delight in my ways.
- 27 For a deep pit is a prostitute,
and a narrow well is an adulteress.
- 28 She *is* also like a robber lying in wait,
and the faithless among mankind she increases.

Saying 19

- 29 To whom *is* woe? To whom *is* sorrow? To whom *are* quarrels? To whom *is* complaint?
To whom *are* wounds without cause? To whom *is* redness of *the* eyes?
- 30 To those who linger over wine,
to those who come to try mixed wine.
- 31 Do not look at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles on the cup,
going down smoothly.
- 32 In the end, it will bite like a serpent,
and it will sting like an adder.
- 33 Your eyes will see strange things,
and your heart will speak perverse things.
- 34 And you will be like him who lies down in the heart of the sea,
and like him who lies down on top of a mast.
- 35 “They struck me; I was not hurt. They beat me; I did not know *it*.
When I will awake, I will continue; I will seek it again.”

Saying 20

- 24:1 Do not envy men of evil,
and do not desire to be with them.
- 2 For their minds will devise violence,
and their lips will speak mischief.

Saying 21

- 3 By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established.
- 4 And by knowledge, rooms are filled
with all riches, precious and pleasant.

Saying 22

- 5 The warrior of wisdom *is* in strength,
and a man of knowledge is strong *in* power.
- 6 For with wise guidance you shall make war for yourself,
and victory *is* in an abundance of counsel.

Saying 23

- 7 Wisdom *is* *too* high for fools;
at the gate he will not open his mouth.

Saying 24

- 8 He who plans to do evil for himself,
they will call *him* “master of mischief.”
- 9 Devising folly *is* a sin,
and an abomination to humankind *is* a scoffer.

Saying 25

- 10 *If* you faint on the day of adversity,
little *is* your strength.
- 11 Rescue those who are led away to the death
and those who stagger to the slaughter. If you hold back,

12 if you say, “Look, we do not know this,”
does not he who weighs hearts perceive *it*?
And he who keeps your soul,
he knows and will repay humankind according to his deeds. [[Matt 16:27](#); [Rom 2:6](#)]

Saying 26

13 My child, eat honey, for *it is* good,
and the dripping of the honeycomb *is* sweet to your taste.
14 Thus know wisdom for *the sake of* your soul,
if you find *it*, then there is a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.

Saying 27

15 Do not lie in wait *like* an outlaw against the home of the righteous;
do not do violence *to* his dwelling place.
16 For seven *times* the righteous will fall, but he will rise,
but the wicked will be overthrown by calamity.

Saying 28

17 While your enemies are falling, do not rejoice;
when he trips himself, may your heart not be glad
18 lest Yahweh see and *it* be evil in his eyes,
and turn his anger away from him.

Saying 29

19 Do not fret because of the evildoers;
do not envy the wicked.
20 For there will not be a future for the evil;
the lamp of the wicked will die out.

Saying 30

21 Fear Yahweh, my son, and the king;
with those who change, do not associate.
22 For suddenly their disaster will come,
and the ruin of both of them, who knows?

Proverbs Collection IV: Further Sayings of the Wise (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 24:23–34

23 These *sayings* are also for the wise:

Partiality in judgment is not good.
24 Whoever says to the guilty, “You are righteous,” the people will curse him;
the nations will abhor him.
25 But they who rebuke will have delight,
and upon them blessings of goodness will come.
26 He will kiss *the* lips,
he who gives an honest answer.
27 Prepare your work in the street and get it ready for yourself in the field;
afterward, then you shall build your house.
28 Do not be a witness without cause against your neighbor
nor deceive with your lips.
29 Do not say, “Just as he has done to me, so shall I do to him;
I will pay back the man according to his deed.”
30 I passed by the field of a lazy person,
and over the vineyard of a person lacking sense;
31 and behold, it was overgrown—all of it was covered *with* thorns, its surface with nettles,
and its stone wall was broken down.

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| 32 | Then I myself saw and my heart considered;
I looked, and I took hold of instruction: |
| 33 | A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands for rest, |
| 34 | and your poverty will come running,
and your lack like an armed warrior. |

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