

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

Proverbs 25–29

25:1 These are also proverbs of Solomon which officials of Hezekiah king of Judah copied:

Court Hierarchy and the Conflict of the Righteous and the Wicked

- 2 The glory of God conceals things,
but the glory of kings searches out things.
- 3 As heaven is to height and the earth is to depth,
so *is* the heart of kings—there is no searching.
- 4 Remove the dross from silver,
and it will become a vessel for the smith.
- 5 Remove the wicked before a king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- 6 Do not promote yourself before the king,
and in the place of the great ones do not stand.
- 7 For *it is* better *that* he say to you, “Ascend here,”
than he humble you before a noble.
What your eyes have seen,
8 do not hastily bring out to court,
for what will you do at its end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
- 9 Argue your argument with your neighbor *himself*,
the secret of another do not disclose,
10 lest he who hears shame you
and your ill repute will not end.
- 11 Apples of gold in a setting of silver
is a matter spoken at its proper time.
- 12 A ring of gold and an ornament of fine gold
is a rebuke of the wise to the ear of a listener.
- 13 Like the cold of snow on a day of harvest
is a faithful messenger to those who send him,
and the soul of his master is refreshed.
- 14 *Like* clouds and wind when there is no rain,
so too is a man who boasts in a gift of deception.
- 15 With patience a ruler may be persuaded,
and a soft tongue will break a bone.
- 16 *If* you find honey, eat what is sufficient for you,
lest you have your fill of it and vomit it out.
- 17 Make your foot scarce in the house of your neighbor,
lest he become weary of you and hate you.
- 18 *Like* a club and sword and a sharp arrow
is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.
- 19 A bad tooth and a lame foot
is the trust of a faithless person in a time of trouble.
- 20 *Like* one who removes a garment on a cold day, *or like* vinegar on [soda],
is he who sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 21 If your enemy *is* hungry, feed him bread,
and if thirsty, let him drink water.
- 22 For coals of fire you will heap upon his head,
and Yahweh will reward you. [[Rom 12:20](#)]
- 23 The wind of the north produces rain,
and a backbiting tongue, angry faces.
- 24 Better to live upon the corner of a roof
than *with* a woman of contention and *in* a shared house.
- 25 *Like* cold water upon a weary soul,
so too is good news from a distant place.
- 26 *Like* a muddied spring or a polluted fountain
is the righteous who gives way before the wicked.

- 27 To eat much honey is not good,
nor *is* seeking one's honor honorable.
- 28 A breached city *where* there is no wall
is like a man who has no self-control for his spirit.

The Fool

- 26:1 Like snow in the summer and like rain at the harvest,
so honor is not fitting for a fool.
- 2 Like the sparrow *is* to fluttering and like the swallow *is* to flying,
so an undeserved curse does not go forth.
- 3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,
and a rod for the back of fools.
- 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly
lest you become like him—even you.
- 5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
or else he will be wise in his own eyes.
- 6 *Like* cutting off feet *or* drinking violence,
so *is* he who sends messages in the hand of a fool.
- 7 *Like* legs that hang limp from a lame person,
so *is* a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 8 Like binding a stone in a sling,
so *is* giving honor to a fool.
- 9 *Like* a thorn that goes up in the hand of a drunkard,
so *is* a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 10 *Like* an archer who wounds everyone,
so *is* he who hires a fool or he who hires passersby.
- 11 Like a dog returning to his vomit
is a fool reverting to his folly.
- 12 *Do you see* a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

The Sluggard

- 13 A lazy person says "A lion *is* in the road!
A lion among the streets!"
- 14 The door turns on its hinge,
and a lazy person on his bed.
- 15 A lazy person buries his hands in the dish;
he is *too* tired to return it to his mouth.
- 16 A lazy person is wiser in his eyes
than seven who answer discreetly.

Four Kinds of Trouble-makers

- 17 Grabbing onto the ears of a dog passing by
is one who meddles in a quarrel *that is* not his own.
- 18 Like a maniac who shoots
firebrands, arrows, and death,
so *is* a man who deceives his neighbor,
but says "Am I not joking?"
- 20 For lack of wood, a fire goes out,
and where there is no whisperer, quarreling will cease.
- 21 As charcoal *is* to hot embers and wood *is* to fire,
so a man of quarrels *is* to kindling strife.
- 22 The words of a whisperer *are* like delicious morsels,
and they go down to the inner parts of the body.
- 23 *Like* impure silver which overlays an earthen vessel,
so *are* smooth lips and an evil heart.
- 24 On his lips, an enemy will pretend,
but inside he will harbor deceit.

- 25 When he makes his voice gracious, do not believe him,
for seven abominations *are* in his heart.
- 26 Though hatred is covered with guile,
its evil will be exposed in the assembly.
- 27 He who digs a pit, in it he will fall,
and he who rolls a stone, on him it will come back.
- 28 A tongue of deceit hates its victim,
and a flattering mouth makes ruin.

Of Friends and Friendships

- 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what the day will bring.
- 2 May another praise you and not your own mouth,
a stranger and not your own lips.
- 3 Heavy *is* a stone and weighty *is* sand,
but *the* provocation of a fool *is* heavier than both of them.
- 4 Cruel *is* wrath and overwhelming *is* anger,
but who will stand before jealousy?
- 5 Better a rebuke that is open
than a love that is hidden.
- 6 The wounds of a friend mean well,
but the kisses of an enemy are profane.
- 7 An appetite that is sated spurns honey,
but *to* an appetite that is ravenous, all bitterness *is* sweet.
- 8 Like a bird that strays from its nest,
so is a man who strays from his place.
- 9 Perfume and incense will gladden a heart,
and the pleasantness of one's friend *is* personal advice.
- 10 As for your friend and a friend of your father, do not forsake *them*,
and the house of your brother, do not enter on the day of your calamity.
Better is a close neighbor than a distant brother.
- 11 Be wise, my child, and make my heart glad,
and I will answer him who reproaches me *with* a word.
- 12 *When* the clever sees danger, he hides;
the simple go on *and* suffer.
- 13 Take his garment, for he gives surety *to* a stranger,
and to an adulteress—*so* take his pledge.
- 14 He who blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning,
a curse will be reckoned to him.
- 15 Dripping constantly on a day of heavy rain
and a woman of contention are alike.
- 16 *In* restraining her, he restrains wind,
and his right hand will grasp oil.
- 17 As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another.
- 18 He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,
and he who guards his master will be honored.
- 19 As the waters *reflect* face to face,
so the heart of a person *reflects* the person.
- 20 Sheol and Abaddon will not be satisfied,
and the eyes of a person will not be satisfied *either*.
- 21 A crucible *is* for the silver, and a furnace for the gold,
but a man *is tested by* the mouth of him who praises him.
- 22 If you crush a fool in the mortar with the pestle along with the crushed grain,
it will not drive folly from upon him.

A Wise Manager

- 23 You will surely know the condition of your flock;
your heart attends to the herds.
- 24 For riches *are* not forever,
nor a crown for generation *after* generation.
- 25 When the grass is gone, then green growth will appear,
and the herbs of the mountains will be gathered.
- 26 Lambs *will be* your clothing,
and goats the price of the field.
- 27 And *there will be* enough goats' milk for your food,
for *the* food of your household and *the* nourishment of your maidservants.

Law and Righteous Government

- 28:1 The wicked flee, but no one pursues,
but the righteous is bold like a lion.
- 2 By the rebellion of a land, her rulers increase,
but by a person of intelligence who knows justice, it will last.
- 3 A man *who is* poor and oppresses the impoverished
is a beating rain that leaves no food.
- 4 Those who forsake instruction will praise the wicked,
but they who guard instruction will struggle against them.
- 5 Men of evil do not understand justice,
but seekers of Yahweh understand completely.
- 6 Better *to be* poor and walking in one's integrity
than to be crooked of ways when one *is* rich.
- 7 He who keeps instruction *is* a child of understanding,
but the companion of gluttons will shame his father.
- 8 He who augments his wealth with interest and with usury
gathers it for him who is kind to the poor.
- 9 He who turns his ear from listening to instruction,
even his prayer *is* an abomination.
- 10 He who misleads the upright onto the way of evil,
into his pits he will fall.
But as for the blameless, they will inherit good.
- 11 A man of wealth *is* wise in his own eyes,
but the intelligent poor sees through him.

Relationship with God for Ruling and Gaining Wealth

- 12 When the righteous triumphs, great *is* the glory,
but with *the* rising of the wicked, a person will be hidden.
- 13 He who conceals his transgression will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes will obtain mercy.
- 14 Happy is the person who fears continuously,
but he who is stubborn of heart, will fall into calamity.
- 15 *Like* a roaring lion and a charging bear
is a wicked ruler over a poor people.
- 16 A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor,
but those who hate unjust gain will have long days.
- 17 A person who is burdened with *the* blood of another,
until death he will flee;
do not take hold of him.
- 18 He who walks in integrity will be safe,
but he who takes crooked paths will fall in one.
- 19 He who tills his ground will have plenty *of* bread,
but he who follows fantasies will have plenty *of* poverty.
- 20 A man of faithfulness *has* abundant blessings,
but he who hurries to become rich will not go unpunished.
- 21 Showing partiality *is* not good,

- and over a morsel of bread, a strong man will do wrong.
- 22 He who hurries for wealth is a man with an evil eye,
but he does not know that poverty will come upon him.
- 23 He who rebukes a person will afterward find *more* favor
than he who flatters *with the* tongue.
- 24 He who robs his father and his mother and says, “There is no crime,”
is partner to a man who corrupts.
- 25 The greedy person will stir up strife,
but he who trusts in Yahweh will be enriched.
- 26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
but he who walks in wisdom will be saved.
- 27 *For* he who gives to the poor, there is no lacking,
but *for* he who turns his eyes, *there are* many curses.
- 28 With *the* rising of the wicked, humankind will be hidden,
and with their perishing, *the* righteous will multiply.

Joy and Stability through Righteousness

- 29:1 A man who is reproved, being stubborn of neck—
suddenly he will be broken, and there will not be healing.
- 2 When the righteous are numerous, the people will rejoice,
but when the wicked are ruling, people will groan.
- 3 A man who loves wisdom will make his parents glad,
but the friend of prostitutes will squander his wealth.
- 4 By justice a king gives stability *to* a land,
but a man of bribes will ruin it.
- 5 A strong man who flatters his neighbor
is spreading a net for his feet.
- 6 In transgression, an evil man *is* a snare,
but *the* righteous will sing and rejoice.
- 7 *The* righteous knows *the* case of the poor,
but *the* wicked does not understand knowledge.

Peace through Righteousness

- 8 Men of scoffing set a city aflame,
but the wise turn away wrath.
- 9 *If* a wise man goes to court with a foolish man,
then there is rankling and ridicule, but there is no relief.
- 10 Men of blood hate *the* blameless,
and they seek the life of the upright.
- 11 A fool gives all his breath,
but *the* wise holds back in quiet.
- 12 A ruler listening to a word of falsehood,
all his officials are wicked.
- 13 The poor and a man of oppression have *this* in common:
Yahweh gives light to the eyes of them both.
- 14 A king who judges with truthfulness *to* the poor,
his throne will be established forever.

The Importance of Discipline

- 15 As for a rod and reproof, they will give wisdom,
but a neglected child is disgraced *by* his mother.
- 16 With the increase of the wicked, transgression will increase,
but the righteous will look on his downfall.
- 17 Discipline your children, and they will give you rest,
and they will give delight to your soul.
- 18 When there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint,
but as for he who guards instruction, happiness *is* his.
- 19 By words, a servant is not disciplined,

for he will understand, but there is no giving heed.

20 You see a man who is hasty in his words:
there is more hope for a fool than him.

21 He who pampers his servant from childhood,
arrogance will be his end.

Wrong Attitudes

22 A man of anger will stir strife,
and the owner of anger, much transgression.

23 The pride of a person will bring him humiliation,
and the lowly of spirit will obtain honor.

24 Being a partner with a thief is hating one's life;
a curse he will hear, but not disclose.

25 The fear of a person will lay a snare,
but he who trusts in Yahweh will be secure.

26 Many are those who seek the favor of a ruler,
but from Yahweh one obtains justice.

27 A man of injustice is an abomination to the righteous,
but the upright is an abomination to the wicked.

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