

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

Proverbs 12–14

Speech and Deeds—Part 1

- 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
But he who hates reproof is stupid.
- 2 A good man will obtain favor from the LORD,
But He will condemn a man who devises evil.
- 3 A man will not be established by wickedness,
But the root of the righteous will not be moved.
- 4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband,
But she who shames *him* is like rottenness in his bones.
- 5 The thoughts of the righteous are just,
But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.
- 6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.
- 7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more,
But the house of the righteous will stand.
- 8 A man will be praised according to his insight,
But one of perverse mind will be despised.
- 9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed and has a servant
Than he who honors himself and lacks bread.
- 10 A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal,
But *even* the compassion of the wicked is cruel.
- 11 He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,
But he who pursues worthless *things* lacks sense.
- 12 The wicked man desires the booty of evil men,
But the root of the righteous yields *fruit*.
- 13 An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips,
But the righteous will escape from trouble.
- 14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words,
And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.

Speech and Deeds—Part 2

- 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.
- 16 A fool's anger is known at once,
But a prudent man conceals dishonor.
- 17 He who speaks truth tells what is right,
But a false witness, deceit.
- 18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- 19 Truthful lips will be established forever,
But a lying tongue is only for a moment.
- 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil,
But counselors of peace have joy.
- 21 No harm befalls the righteous,
But the wicked are filled with trouble.
- 22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,
But those who deal faithfully are His delight.
- 23 A prudent man conceals knowledge,
But the heart of fools proclaims folly.
- 24 The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the slack *hand* will be put to forced labor.
- 25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down,
But a good word makes it glad.
- 26 The righteous is a guide to his neighbor,
But the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- 27 A lazy man does not roast his prey,

But the precious possession of a man *is* diligence.

- 28 In the way of righteousness is life,
And in *its* pathway there is no death.

Speech and Ethics

- 13:1 A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline,
But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
2 From the fruit of a man's mouth he enjoys good,
But the desire of the treacherous is violence.
3 The one who guards his mouth preserves his life;
The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.
4 The soul of the sluggard craves and *gets* nothing,
But the soul of the diligent is made fat.
5 A righteous man hates falsehood,
But a wicked man acts disgustingly and shamefully.
6 Righteousness guards the one whose way is blameless,
But wickedness subverts the sinner.

Wealth and Ethics

- 7 There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing;
Another pretends to be poor, but has great wealth.
8 The ransom of a man's life is his wealth,
But the poor hears no rebuke.
9 The light of the righteous rejoices,
But the lamp of the wicked goes out.
10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife,
But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.
11 Wealth *obtained* by fraud dwindles,
But the one who gathers by labor increases *it*.

Fulfillment through Wisdom versus Frustration through Folly

- 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.
13 The one who despises the word will be in debt to it,
But the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded.
14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,
To turn aside from the snares of death.
15 Good understanding produces favor,
But the way of the treacherous is hard.
16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge,
But a fool displays folly.
17 A wicked messenger falls into adversity,
But a faithful envoy *brings* healing.
18 Poverty and shame *will come* to him who neglects discipline,
But he who regards reproof will be honored.
19 Desire realized is sweet to the soul,
But it is an abomination to fools to turn away from evil.

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

- 20 He who walks with wise men will be wise,
But the companion of fools will suffer harm.
21 Adversity pursues sinners,
But the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.
22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,
And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.
23 Abundant food *is in* the fallow ground of the poor,
But it is swept away by injustice.
24 He who withholds his rod hates his son,

- But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.
25 The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite,
But the stomach of the wicked is in need.

Walking in Wisdom

- 14:1 The wise woman builds her house,
But the foolish tears it down with her own hands.
2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD,
But he who is devious in his ways despises Him.
3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for *his* back,
But the lips of the wise will protect them.
4 Where no oxen are, the manger is clean,
But much revenue *comes* by the strength of the ox.
5 A trustworthy witness will not lie,
But a false witness utters lies.
6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and *finds* none,
But knowledge is easy to one who has understanding.
7 Leave the presence of a fool,
Or you will not discern words of knowledge.

Not Walking by Sight

- 8 The wisdom of the sensible is to understand his way,
But the foolishness of fools is deceit.
9 Fools mock at sin,
But among the upright there is good will.
10 The heart knows its own bitterness,
And a stranger does not share its joy.
11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed,
But the tent of the upright will flourish.
12 There is a way *which seems* right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.
13 Even in laughter the heart may be in pain,
And the end of joy may be grief.
14 The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways,
But a good man will *be satisfied* with his.

Contrasting Social Characterizations and Consequences

- 15 The naive believes everything,
But the sensible man considers his steps.
16 A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil,
But a fool is arrogant and careless.
17 A quick-tempered man acts foolishly,
And a man of evil devices is hated.
18 The naive inherit foolishness,
But the sensible are crowned with knowledge.
19 The evil will bow down before the good,
And the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
20 The poor is hated even by his neighbor,
But those who love the rich are many.
21 He who despises his neighbor sins,
But happy is he who is gracious to the poor.
22 Will they not go astray who devise evil?
But kindness and truth *will be to* those who devise good.
23 In all labor there is profit,
But mere talk *leads* only to poverty.
24 The crown of the wise is their riches,
But the folly of fools is foolishness.
25 A truthful witness saves lives,

- But he who utters lies is treacherous.
- 26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence,
And his children will have refuge.
- 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
That one may avoid the snares of death.
- 28 In a multitude of people is a king's glory,
But in the dearth of people is a prince's ruin.
- 29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding,
But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.
- 30 A tranquil heart is life to the body,
But passion is rotteness to the bones.
- 31 He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker,
But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.
- 32 The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing,
But the righteous has a refuge when he dies.
- 33 Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding,
But in the hearts of fools it is made known.
- 34 Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a disgrace to *any* people.
- 35 The king's favor is toward a servant who acts wisely,
But his anger is toward him who acts shamefully.

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