

Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 3 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 15–17

Upholding Righteousness with a Gentle Tongue

- 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable,
But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
Watching the evil and the good.
- 4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life,
But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

The Importance of Instruction

- 5 A fool rejects his father's discipline,
But he who regards reproof is sensible.
- 6 Great wealth is *in* the house of the righteous,
But trouble is in the income of the wicked.
- 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge,
But the hearts of fools are not so.
- 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
But the prayer of the upright is His delight.
- 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
But He loves one who pursues righteousness.
- 10 Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way;
He who hates reproof will die.
- 11 Sheol and Abaddon *lie open* before the LORD,
How much more the hearts of men!
- 12 A scoffer does not love one who reproves him,
He will not go to the wise.
- 13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful face,
But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.
- 14 The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge,
But the mouth of fools feeds on folly.
- 15 All the days of the afflicted are bad,
But a cheerful heart *has* a continual feast.
- 16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD
Than great treasure and turmoil with it.
- 17 Better is a dish of vegetables where love is
Than a fattened ox *served* with hatred.
- 18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,
But the slow to anger calms a dispute.
- 19 The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns,
But the path of the upright is a highway.

Consequences of Righteousness and Wickedness

- 20 A wise son makes a father glad,
But a foolish man despises his mother.
- 21 Folly is joy to him who lacks sense,
But a man of understanding walks straight.
- 22 Without consultation, plans are frustrated,
But with many counselors they succeed.
- 23 A man has joy in an apt answer,
And how delightful is a timely word!
- 24 The path of life *leads* upward for the wise
That he may keep away from Sheol below.
- 25 The LORD will tear down the house of the proud,
But He will establish the boundary of the widow.
- 26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD,

- But pleasant words are pure.
27 He who profits illicitly troubles his own house,
But he who hates bribes will live.
28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,
But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
29 The LORD is far from the wicked,
But He hears the prayer of the righteous.
30 Bright eyes gladden the heart;
Good news puts fat on the bones.

The Importance of Being Teachable

- 31 He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof
Will dwell among the wise.
32 He who neglects discipline despises himself,
But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.
33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom,
And before honor *comes* humility.

The Sovereignty of the LORD

- 16:1 The plans of the heart belong to man,
But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight,
But the LORD weighs the motives.
3 Commit your works to the LORD
And your plans will be established.
4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose,
Even the wicked for the day of evil.
5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.
6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for,
And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.
7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD,
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
8 Better is a little with righteousness
Than great income with injustice.
9 The mind of man plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.

The King

- 10 A divine decision is in the lips of the king;
His mouth should not err in judgment.
11 A just balance and scales belong to the LORD;
All the weights of the bag are His concern.
12 It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts,
For a throne is established on righteousness.
13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings,
And he who speaks right is loved.
14 The fury of a king is *like* messengers of death,
But a wise man will appease it.
15 In the light of a king's face is life,
And his favor is like a cloud with the spring rain.

Good and Bad Speech

- 16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold!
And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.
17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil;
He who watches his way preserves his life.
18 Pride *goes* before destruction,

- And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
- 19 It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 20 He who gives attention to the word will find good,
And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
- 21 The wise in heart will be called understanding,
And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.
- 22 Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it,
But the discipline of fools is folly.
- 23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth
And adds persuasiveness to his lips.
- 24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
- 25 There is a way *which seems* right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.
- 26 A worker's appetite works for him,
For his hunger urges him *on*.
- 27 A worthless man digs up evil,
While his words are like scorching fire.
- 28 A perverse man spreads strife,
And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
- 29 A man of violence entices his neighbor
And leads him in a way that is not good.
- 30 He who winks his eyes *does so* to devise perverse things;
He who compresses his lips brings evil to pass.

The Splendid Crown of Old Age through Righteousness

- 31 A gray head is a crown of glory;
It is found in the way of righteousness.
- 32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.
- 33 The lot is cast into the lap,
But its every decision is from the LORD.
- 17:1 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it
Than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 2 A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully,
And will share in the inheritance among brothers.
- 3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,
But the LORD tests hearts.
- 4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips;
A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.
- 5 He who mocks the poor taunts his Maker;
He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 6 Grandchildren are the crown of old men,
And the glory of sons is their fathers.

A Collection of Proverbs on Fools

- 7 Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool,
Much less are lying lips to a prince.
- 8 A bribe is a charm in the sight of its owner;
Wherever he turns, he prospers.
- 9 He who conceals a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.
- 10 A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding
Than a hundred blows into a fool.
- 11 A rebellious man seeks only evil,
So a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
- 12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs,

- Rather than a fool in his folly.
- 13 He who returns evil for good,
Evil will not depart from his house.
- 14 The beginning of strife is *like* letting out water,
So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.
- 15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous,
Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.
- 16 Why is there a price in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom,
When he has no sense?
- 17 A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.
- 18 A man lacking in sense pledges
And becomes guarantor in the presence of his neighbor.
- 19 He who loves transgression loves strife;
He who raises his door seeks destruction.
- 20 He who has a crooked mind finds no good,
And he who is perverted in his language falls into evil.
- 21 He who sires a fool *does so* to his sorrow,
And the father of a fool has no joy.
- 22 A joyful heart is good medicine,
But a broken spirit dries up the bones.
- 23 A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom
To pervert the ways of justice.
- 24 Wisdom is in the presence of the one who has understanding,
But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.
- 25 A foolish son is a grief to his father
And bitterness to her who bore him.
- 26 It is also not good to fine the righteous,
Nor to strike the noble for *their* uprightness.
- 27 He who restrains his words has knowledge,
And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
- 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.

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