

## Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 4 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

## Proverbs 18–20

**The Speech of Fools versus the Speech of the Wise**

- 18:1 He who separates himself seeks *his own* desire,  
He quarrels against all sound wisdom.
- 2 A fool does not delight in understanding,  
But only in revealing his own mind.
- 3 When a wicked man comes, contempt also comes,  
And with dishonor *comes* scorn.
- 4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;  
The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.
- 5 To show partiality to the wicked is not good,  
*Nor* to thrust aside the righteous in judgment.
- 6 A fool's lips bring strife,  
And his mouth calls for blows.
- 7 A fool's mouth is his ruin,  
And his lips are the snare of his soul.
- 8 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels,  
And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.
- 9 He also who is slack in his work  
Is brother to him who destroys.
- 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
The righteous runs into it and is safe.
- 11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city,  
And like a high wall in his own imagination.
- 12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty,  
But humility *goes* before honor.
- 13 He who gives an answer before he hears,  
It is folly and shame to him.
- 14 The spirit of a man can endure his sickness,  
But *as for* a broken spirit who can bear it?
- 15 The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge,  
And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
- 16 A man's gift makes room for him  
And brings him before great men.
- 17 The first to plead his case *seems* right,  
*Until* another comes and examines him.
- 18 The *cast* lot puts an end to strife  
And decides between the mighty ones.
- 19 A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city,  
And contentions are like the bars of a citadel.
- 20 With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied;  
He will be satisfied *with* the product of his lips.
- 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

**Wealth and Wisdom in the Court and in the Home**

- 22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing  
And obtains favor from the LORD.
- 23 The poor man utters supplications,  
But the rich man answers roughly.
- 24 A man of *too many* friends *comes* to ruin,  
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- 19:1 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity  
Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.
- 2 Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge,  
And he who hurries his footsteps errs.
- 3 The foolishness of man ruins his way,

- And his heart rages against the LORD.
- 4 Wealth adds many friends,  
But a poor man is separated from his friend.
- 5 A false witness will not go unpunished,  
And he who tells lies will not escape.
- 6 Many will seek the favor of a generous man,  
And every man is a friend to him who gives gifts.
- 7 All the brothers of a poor man hate him;  
How much more do his friends abandon him!  
He pursues *them with words, but* they are gone.
- 8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;  
He who keeps understanding will find good.
- 9 A false witness will not go unpunished,  
And he who tells lies will perish.
- 10 Luxury is not fitting for a fool;  
Much less for a slave to rule over princes.
- 11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger,  
And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.
- 12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion,  
But his favor is like dew on the grass.
- 13 A foolish son is destruction to his father,  
And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.
- 14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers,  
But a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- 15 Laziness casts into a deep sleep,  
And an idle man will suffer hunger.
- 16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul,  
*But* he who is careless of conduct will die.
- 17 One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD,  
And He will repay him for his good deed.
- 18 Discipline your son while there is hope,  
And do not desire his death.
- 19 *A man of great anger* will bear the penalty,  
For if you rescue *him*, you will only have to do it again.
- 20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline,  
That you may be wise the rest of your days.
- 21 Many plans are in a man's heart,  
But the counsel of the LORD will stand.
- 22 What is desirable in a man is his kindness,  
And *it is* better to be a poor man than a liar.

### **The Pedagogue and Punishment of Fools**

- 23 The fear of the LORD *leads* to life,  
So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.
- 24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish,  
*But* will not even bring it back to his mouth.
- 25 Strike a scoffer and the naive may become shrewd,  
But reprove one who has understanding and he will gain knowledge.
- 26 He who assaults *his* father *and* drives *his* mother away  
Is a shameful and disgraceful son.
- 27 Cease listening, my son, to discipline,  
*And you will* stray from the words of knowledge.
- 28 A rascally witness makes a mockery of justice,  
And the mouth of the wicked spreads iniquity.
- 29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers,  
And blows for the back of fools.
- 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,  
And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

- 2 The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion;  
He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.
- 3 Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man,  
But any fool will quarrel.
- 4 The sluggard does not plow after the autumn,  
So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.
- 5 A plan in the heart of a man is *like* deep water,  
But a man of understanding draws it out.
- 6 Many a man proclaims his own loyalty,  
But who can find a trustworthy man?
- 7 A righteous man who walks in his integrity—  
How blessed are his sons after him.
- 8 A king who sits on the throne of justice  
Disperses all evil with his eyes.
- 9 Who can say, “I have cleansed my heart,  
I am pure from my sin”?
- 10 Differing weights and differing measures,  
Both of them are abominable to the LORD.
- 11 It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself  
If his conduct is pure and right.

#### Speech and Commerce

- 12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye,  
The LORD has made both of them.
- 13 Do not love sleep, or you will become poor;  
Open your eyes, *and* you will be satisfied with food.
- 14 “Bad, bad,” says the buyer,  
But when he goes his way, then he boasts.
- 15 There is gold, and an abundance of jewels;  
But the lips of knowledge are a more precious thing.
- 16 Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger;  
And for foreigners, hold him in pledge.
- 17 Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man,  
But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.
- 18 Prepare plans by consultation,  
And make war by wise guidance.
- 19 He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets,  
Therefore do not associate with a gossip.

#### Honoring Parents

- 20 He who curses his father or his mother,  
His lamp will go out in time of darkness.
- 21 An inheritance gained hurriedly at the beginning  
Will not be blessed in the end.

#### Trust God to Avenge Wrong

- 22 Do not say, “I will repay evil”;  
Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.
- 23 Differing weights are an abomination to the LORD,  
And a false scale is not good.
- 24 Man’s steps are *ordained* by the LORD,  
How then can man understand his way?
- 25 It is a trap for a man to say rashly, “It is holy!”  
And after the vows to make inquiry.

#### A Wise King

- 26 A wise king winnows the wicked,  
And drives the *threshing* wheel over them.

- 27 The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD,  
Searching all the innermost parts of his being.
- 28 Loyalty and truth preserve the king,  
And he upholds his throne by righteousness.
- 29 The glory of young men is their strength,  
And the honor of old men is their gray hair.
- 30 Stripes that wound scour away evil,  
And strokes *reach* the innermost parts.

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