

Proverbs Collection II: Solomon's Proverbs – Part 5 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 21:1–22:16

Doing Righteousness and Justice

- 21:1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD;
He turns it wherever He wishes.
- 2 Every man's way is right in his own eyes,
But the LORD weighs the hearts.
- 3 To do righteousness and justice
Is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.
- 4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart,
The lamp of the wicked, is sin.
- 5 The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage,
But everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.
- 6 The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue
Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.
- 7 The violence of the wicked will drag them away,
Because they refuse to act with justice.
- 8 The way of a guilty man is crooked,
But as for the pure, his conduct is upright.
- 9 It is better to live in a corner of a roof
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
- 10 The soul of the wicked desires evil;
His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.
- 11 When the scoffer is punished, the naive becomes wise;
But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.
- 12 The righteous one considers the house of the wicked,
Turning the wicked to ruin.
- 13 He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor
Will also cry himself and not be answered.
- 14 A gift in secret subdues anger,
And a bribe in the bosom, strong wrath.
- 15 The exercise of justice is joy for the righteous,
But is terror to the workers of iniquity.
- 16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding
Will rest in the assembly of the dead.
- 17 He who loves pleasure *will become* a poor man;
He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.
- 18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous,
And the treacherous is in the place of the upright.
- 19 It is better to live in a desert land
Than with a contentious and vexing woman.
- 20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise,
But a foolish man swallows it up.
- 21 He who pursues righteousness and loyalty
Finds life, righteousness and honor.
- 22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty
And brings down the stronghold in which they trust.
- 23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue,
Guards his soul from troubles.
- 24 "Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names,
Who acts with insolent pride.
- 25 The desire of the sluggard puts him to death,
For his hands refuse to work;
- 26 All day long he is craving,
While the righteous gives and does not hold back.
- 27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination,
How much more when he brings it with evil intent!
- 28 A false witness will perish,

- But the man who listens *to the truth* will speak forever.
- 29 A wicked man displays a bold face,
But as for the upright, he makes his way sure.
- 30 There is no wisdom and no understanding
And no counsel against the LORD.
- 31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
But victory belongs to the LORD.

Wealth and Moral Instruction

- 22:1 A *good* name is to be more desired than great wealth,
Favor is better than silver and gold.
- 2 The rich and the poor have a common bond,
The LORD is the maker of them all.
- 3 The prudent sees the evil and hides himself,
But the naive go on, and are punished for it.
- 4 The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD
Are riches, honor and life.
- 5 Thorns *and* snares are in the way of the perverse;
He who guards himself will be far from them.
- 6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.
- 7 The rich rules over the poor,
And the borrower *becomes* the lender's slave.
- 8 He who sows iniquity will reap vanity,
And the rod of his fury will perish.
- 9 He who is generous will be blessed,
For he gives some of his food to the poor. [[2 Cor 9:7](#)]
- 10 Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out,
Even strife and dishonor will cease.
- 11 He who loves purity of heart
And whose speech is gracious, the king is his friend.
- 12 The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge,
But He overthrows the words of the treacherous man.
- 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside;
I will be killed in the streets!"
- 14 The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit;
He who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it.
- 15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.
- 16 He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself
Or who gives to the rich, *will only come to poverty.*

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