

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

Proverbs 25–29

25:1 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, transcribed.

Court Hierarchy and the Conflict of the Righteous and the Wicked

- 2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
- 3 As the heavens for height and the earth for depth,
So the heart of kings is unsearchable.
- 4 Take away the dross from the silver,
And there comes out a vessel for the smith;
5 Take away the wicked before the king,
And his throne will be established in righteousness.
- 6 Do not claim honor in the presence of the king,
And do not stand in the place of great men;
7 For it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here,"
Than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the prince,
Whom your eyes have seen.
- 8 Do not go out hastily to argue *your case*;
Otherwise, what will you do in the end,
When your neighbor humiliates you?
- 9 Argue your case with your neighbor,
And do not reveal the secret of another,
10 Or he who hears *it* will reproach you,
And the evil report about you will not pass away.
- 11 *Like* apples of gold in settings of silver
Is a word spoken in right circumstances.
- 12 *Like* an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold
Is a wise reprove to a listening ear.
- 13 Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
Is a faithful messenger to those who send him,
For he refreshes the soul of his masters.
- 14 *Like* clouds and wind without rain
Is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.
- 15 By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded,
And a soft tongue breaks the bone.
- 16 Have you found honey? Eat *only* what you need,
That you not have it in excess and vomit it.
- 17 Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house,
Or he will become weary of you and hate you.
- 18 *Like* a club and a sword and a sharp arrow
Is a man who bears false witness against his neighbor.
- 19 *Like* a bad tooth and an unsteady foot
Is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble.
- 20 *Like* one who takes off a garment on a cold day, *or like* vinegar on soda,
Is he who sings songs to a troubled heart.
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;
22 For you will heap burning coals on his head,
And the LORD will reward you. [[Rom 12:20](#)]
- 23 The north wind brings forth rain,
And a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.
- 24 It is better to live in a corner of the roof
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
- 25 *Like* cold water to a weary soul,
So is good news from a distant land.
- 26 *Like* a trampled spring and a polluted well
Is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

- 27 It is not good to eat much honey,
Nor is it glory to search out one's own glory.
- 28 *Like* a city that is broken into *and* without walls
Is a man who has no control over his spirit.

The Fool

- 26:1 Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest,
So honor is not fitting for a fool.
- 2 Like a sparrow in *its* flitting, like a swallow in *its* flying,
So a curse without cause does not alight.
- 3 A whip is 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,
Or you will also be like him.
- 5 Answer a fool as his folly *deserves*,
That he not be wise in his own eyes.
- 6 He cuts off *his own* feet *and* drinks violence
Who sends a message by the hand of a fool.
- 7 *Like* the legs *which* are useless to the lame,
So is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling,
So is he who gives honor to a fool.
- 9 *Like* a thorn *which* falls into 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 who hires those who pass by.
- 11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit
Is a fool who repeats 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 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!
A lion is in the open square!"
- 14 As the door turns on its hinges,
So *does* the sluggard on his bed.
- 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
He is weary of bringing it to his mouth again.
- 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven men who can give a discreet answer.

Four Kinds of Trouble-makers

- 17 *Like* one who takes a dog by the ears
Is he who passes by *and* meddles with strife not belonging to him.
- 18 Like a madman who throws
Firebrands, arrows and death,
So is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, "Was I not joking?"
- 20 For lack of wood the fire goes out,
And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down.
- 21 *Like* charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire,
So is a contentious man to kindle strife.
- 22 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels,
And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.
- 23 *Like* an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross
Are burning lips and a wicked heart.
- 24 He who hates disguises *it* with his lips,
But he lays up deceit in his heart.

- 25 When he speaks graciously, do not believe him,
For there are seven abominations in his heart.
- 26 *Though his* hatred covers itself with guile,
His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.
- 27 He who digs a pit will fall into it,
And he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him.
- 28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes,
And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Of Friends and Friendships

- 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow,
For you do not know what a day may bring forth.
- 2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.
- 3 A stone is heavy and the sand weighty,
But the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.
- 4 Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood,
But who can stand before jealousy?
- 5 Better is open rebuke
Than love that is concealed.
- 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.
- 7 A sated man loathes honey,
But to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.
- 8 Like a bird that wanders from her nest,
So is a man who wanders from his home.
- 9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.
- 10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend,
And do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity;
Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.
- 11 Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad,
That I may reply to him who reproaches me.
- 12 A prudent man sees evil *and* hides himself,
The naive proceed *and* pay the penalty.
- 13 Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger;
And for an adulterous woman hold him in pledge.
- 14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning,
It will be reckoned a curse to him.
- 15 A constant dripping on a day of steady rain
And a contentious woman are alike;
- 16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind,
And grasps oil with his right hand.
- 17 Iron sharpens iron,
So one man sharpens another.
- 18 He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit,
And he who cares for his master will be honored.
- 19 As in water face *reflects* face,
So the heart of man *reflects* man.
- 20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,
Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.
- 21 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold,
And each *is tested* by the praise accorded him.
- 22 Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain,
Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

A Wise Manager

- 23 Know well the condition of your flocks,
And pay attention to your herds;
- 24 For riches are not forever,
Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations.
- 25 *When* the grass disappears, the new growth is seen,
And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,
- 26 The lambs *will be* for your clothing,
And the goats *will bring* the price of a field,
- 27 *And there will be* goats' milk enough for your food,
For the food of your household,
And sustenance for your maidens.

Law and Righteous Government

- 28:1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing,
But the righteous are bold as a lion.
- 2 By the transgression of a land many are its princes,
But by a man of understanding *and* knowledge, so it endures.
- 3 A poor man who oppresses the lowly
Is *like* a driving rain which leaves no food.
- 4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
But those who keep the law strive with them.
- 5 Evil men do not understand justice,
But those who seek the LORD understand all things.
- 6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity
Than he who is crooked though he be rich.
- 7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son,
But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.
- 8 He who increases his wealth by interest and usury
Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.
- 9 He who turns away his ear from listening to the law,
Even his prayer is an abomination.
- 10 He who leads the upright astray in an evil way
Will himself fall into his own pit,
But the blameless will inherit good.
- 11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes,
But the poor who has understanding sees through him.

Relationship with God for Ruling and Gaining Wealth

- 12 When the righteous triumph, there is great glory,
But when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.
- 13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.
- 14 How blessed is the man who fears always,
But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.
- 15 *Like* a roaring lion and a rushing bear
Is a wicked ruler over a poor people.
- 16 A leader who is a great oppressor lacks understanding,
But he who hates unjust gain will prolong *his* days.
- 17 A man who is laden with the guilt of human blood
Will be a fugitive until death; let no one support him.
- 18 He who walks blamelessly will be delivered,
But he who is crooked will fall all at once.
- 19 He who tills his land will have plenty of food,
But he who follows empty *pursuits* will have poverty in plenty.
- 20 A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.
- 21 To show partiality is not good,

- Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.
22 A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth
And does not know that want will come upon him.
23 He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor
Than he who flatters with the tongue.
24 He who robs his father or his mother
And says, "It is not a transgression,"
Is the companion of a man who destroys.
25 An arrogant man stirs up strife,
But he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.
26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
But he who walks wisely will be delivered.
27 He who gives to the poor will never want,
But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.
28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves;
But when they perish, the righteous increase.

Joy and Stability through Righteousness

- 29:1 A man who hardens *his* neck after much reproof
Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.
2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice,
But when a wicked man rules, people groan.
3 A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad,
But he who keeps company with harlots wastes *his* wealth.
4 The king gives stability to the land by justice,
But a man who takes bribes overthrows it.
5 A man who flatters his neighbor
Is spreading a net for his steps.
6 By transgression an evil man is ensnared,
But the righteous sings and rejoices.
7 The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor,
The wicked does not understand *such* concern.

Peace through Righteousness

- 8 Scorners set a city aflame,
But wise men turn away anger.
9 When a wise man has a controversy with a foolish man,
The foolish man either rages or laughs, and there is no rest.
10 Men of bloodshed hate the blameless,
But the upright are concerned for his life.
11 A fool always loses his temper,
But a wise man holds it back.
12 If a ruler pays attention to falsehood,
All his ministers *become* wicked.
13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common:
The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.
14 If a king judges the poor with truth,
His throne will be established forever.

The Importance of Discipline

- 15 The rod and reproof give wisdom,
But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.
16 When the wicked increase, transgression increases;
But the righteous will see their fall.
17 Correct your son, and he will give you comfort;
He will also delight your soul.
18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,
But happy is he who keeps the law.

- 19 A slave will not be instructed by words *alone*;
For though he understands, there will be no response.
- 20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 21 He who pampers his slave from childhood
Will in the end find him to be a son.

Wrong Attitudes

- 22 An angry man stirs up strife,
And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.
- 23 A man's pride will bring him low,
But a humble spirit will obtain honor.
- 24 He who is a partner with a thief hates his own life;
He hears the oath but tells nothing.
- 25 The fear of man brings a snare,
But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.
- 26 Many seek the ruler's favor,
But justice for man *comes* from the LORD.
- 27 An unjust man is abominable to the righteous,
And he who is upright in the way is abominable to the wicked.

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