

**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 response turns away anger,  
but a harsh word stirs up wrath.
- 2 The tongue of the wise treats knowledge correctly,  
but the mouth of the fool spouts out folly.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
keeping watch on those who are evil and those who are good.
- 4 Speech that heals is like a life-giving tree,  
but a perverse tongue breaks the spirit.

**The Importance of Instruction**

- 5 A fool rejects his father's discipline,  
but whoever heeds reproof shows good sense.
- 6 In the house of the righteous is abundant wealth,  
but the income of the wicked brings trouble.
- 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge,  
but not so the heart of fools.
- 8 The LORD abhors the sacrifices of the wicked,  
but the prayer of the upright pleases him.
- 9 The LORD abhors the way of the wicked,  
but he loves those who pursue righteousness.
- 10 Severe discipline is for the one who abandons the way;  
the one who hates reproof will die.
- 11 Death and Destruction are before the LORD—  
how much more the hearts of humans!
- 12 The scorner does not love one who corrects him;  
he will not go to the wise.
- 13 A joyful heart makes the face cheerful,  
but by a painful heart the spirit is broken.
- 14 The discerning heart seeks knowledge,  
but the mouth of fools feeds on folly.
- 15 All the days of the afflicted are bad,  
but one with a cheerful heart has a continual feast.
- 16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD  
than great wealth and turmoil with it.
- 17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love  
than a fattened ox where there is hatred.
- 18 A quick-tempered person stirs up dissension,  
but one who is slow to anger calms a quarrel.
- 19 The way of the sluggard is like a hedge of thorns,  
but the path of the upright is like a highway.

**Consequences of Righteousness and Wickedness**

- 20 A wise child brings joy to his father,  
but a foolish person despises his mother.
- 21 Folly is a joy to one who lacks sense,  
but one who has understanding follows an upright course.
- 22 Plans fail when there is no counsel,  
but with abundant advisers they are established.
- 23 A person has joy in giving an appropriate answer,  
and a word at the right time—how good it is!
- 24 The path of life is upward for the wise person,  
to keep him from going downward to Sheol.
- 25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud,  
but he maintains the boundaries of the widow.
- 26 The LORD abhors the plans of the wicked,

- but pleasant words are pure.
- 27 The one who is greedy for gain troubles his household,  
but whoever hates bribes will live.
- 28 The heart of the righteous considers 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 A bright look brings joy to the heart,  
and good news gives health to the body.

### **The Importance of Being Teachable**

- 31 The person who hears the reproof that leads to life  
is at home among the wise.
- 32 The one who refuses correction despises himself,  
but whoever hears reproof acquires understanding.
- 33 The fear of the LORD provides wise instruction,  
and before honor comes humility.

### **The Sovereignty of the LORD**

- 16:1 The intentions of the heart belong to a man,  
but the answer of the tongue comes from the LORD.
- 2 All a person's ways seem right in his own opinion,  
but the LORD evaluates the motives.
- 3 Commit your works to the LORD,  
and your plans will be established.
- 4 The LORD works everything for its own ends—  
even the wicked for the day of disaster.
- 5 The LORD abhors every arrogant person;  
rest assured that they will not go unpunished.
- 6 Through loyal love and truth iniquity is appeased;  
through fearing the LORD one avoids evil.
- 7 When a person's ways are pleasing to the LORD,  
he even reconciles his enemies to himself.
- 8 Better to have a little with righteousness  
than to have abundant income without justice.
- 9 A person plans his course,  
but the LORD directs his steps.

### **The King**

- 10 The divine verdict is in the words of the king,  
his pronouncements must not act treacherously against justice.
- 11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD;  
all the weights in the bag are his handiwork.
- 12 Doing wickedness is an abomination to kings,  
because a throne is established in righteousness.
- 13 The delight of kings is righteous counsel,  
and they love the one who speaks uprightly.
- 14 A king's wrath is like a messenger of death,  
but a wise person appeases it.
- 15 In the light of the king's face there is life,  
and his favor is like the clouds of the spring rain.

### **Good and Bad Speech**

- 16 How much better it is to acquire wisdom than gold;  
to acquire understanding is more desirable than silver.
- 17 The highway of the upright is to turn away from evil;  
the one who guards his way safeguards his life.
- 18 Pride goes before destruction,

- and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- 19 It is better to be lowly in spirit with the afflicted  
than to share the spoils with the proud.
- 20 The one who deals wisely in a matter will find success,  
and blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD.
- 21 The one who is wise in heart is called discerning,  
and kind speech increases persuasiveness.
- 22 Insight is like a life-giving fountain to the one who possesses it,  
but folly leads to the discipline of fools.
- 23 A wise person's heart makes his speech wise  
and it adds persuasiveness to his words.
- 24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
- 25 There is a way that seems right to a person,  
but its end is the way that leads to death.
- 26 A laborer's appetite works on his behalf,  
for his hunger urges him to work.
- 27 A wicked scoundrel digs up evil,  
and his slander is like a scorching fire.
- 28 A perverse person spreads dissension,  
and a gossip separates the closest friends.
- 29 A violent person entices his neighbor,  
and leads him down a path that is terrible.
- 30 The one who winks his eyes devises perverse things,  
and one who compresses his lips brings about evil.

#### **The Splendid Crown of Old Age through Righteousness**

- 31 Gray hair is like a crown of glory;  
it is attained in the path of righteousness.
- 32 Better to be slow to anger than to be a mighty warrior,  
and one who controls his temper is better than one who captures a city.
- 33 The dice are thrown into the lap,  
but their every decision is from the LORD.
- 17:1 Better is a dry crust of bread where there is quietness  
than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 2 A servant who acts wisely will rule  
over an heir who behaves shamefully,  
and will share the inheritance along with the relatives.
- 3 The crucible is for refining silver and the furnace is for gold,  
likewise the LORD tests hearts.
- 4 One who acts wickedly pays attention to evil counsel;  
a liar listens to a malicious tongue.
- 5 The one who mocks the poor insults his Creator;  
whoever rejoices over disaster will not go unpunished.
- 6 Grandchildren are like a crown to the elderly,  
and the glory of children is their parents.

#### **A Collection of Proverbs on Fools**

- 7 Excessive speech is not becoming for a fool;  
how much less are lies for a ruler!
- 8 A bribe works like a charm for the one who offers it;  
in whatever he does he succeeds.
- 9 The one who forgives an offense seeks love,  
but whoever repeats a matter separates close friends.
- 10 A rebuke makes a greater impression on a discerning person  
than a hundred blows on a fool.
- 11 An evil person seeks only rebellion,  
and so a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

- 12 It is better for a person to meet a mother bear being robbed of her cubs,  
than to encounter a fool in his folly.
- 13 As for the one who repays evil for good,  
evil will not leave his house.
- 14 Starting a quarrel is like letting out water;  
stop it before strife breaks out!
- 15 The one who acquits the guilty and the one who condemns the innocent—  
both of them are an abomination to the LORD.
- 16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool,  
since he has no intention of acquiring wisdom?
- 17 A friend loves at all times,  
and a relative is born to help in adversity.
- 18 The one who lacks wisdom strikes hands in pledge,  
and puts up financial security for his neighbor.
- 19 The one who loves a quarrel loves transgression;  
whoever builds his gate high seeks destruction.
- 20 The one who has a perverse heart does not find good,  
and the one who is deceitful in speech falls into trouble.
- 21 Whoever brings a fool into the world does so to his grief,  
and the father of a fool has no joy.
- 22 A cheerful heart brings good healing,  
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
- 23 A wicked person receives a bribe secretly  
to pervert the ways of justice.
- 24 Wisdom is directly in front of the discerning person,  
but the eyes of a fool run to the ends of the earth.
- 25 A foolish child is a grief to his father,  
and bitterness to the mother who bore him.
- 26 It is terrible to punish a righteous person,  
and to flog honorable men is wrong.
- 27 The truly wise person restrains his words,  
and the one who stays calm is discerning.
- 28 Even a fool who remains silent is considered wise,  
and the one who holds his tongue is deemed discerning.

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