**The Book of Proverbs**

**Proverbs Chapter 1**

**1:1** Proverbs of King Solomon of Israel, son of King David of Israel. **1:2** Learn and discern wisdom, wise advice, and moral instruction. **1:3** Receive moral instruction in skillful living, righteousness, and justice. **1:4** Give discernment and a wise plan to the morally naïve and to young people. **1:5** Let the wise and the discerning hear and gain instruction and guidance! **1:6** Discern the meaning of proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles.

**1:7** Learning wisdom is the start of moral knowledge, but fools hate wisdom and instruction.

**1:8** Listen to and follow your parents’ instruction and teaching. **1:9** Your parents' instruction and teaching are like a crown on your head and jewellery around your neck.

**1:10** If evildoers try to tempt you, do not agree! **1:11** If they say, “Join us! We lie in wait to attack innocent people. **1:12** We kill healthy, innocent people. **1:13** We steal wealth and fill our houses with loot. **1:14** Join us! We all share equally in what we steal.” **1:15** Avoid their path. **1:16** They desire to cause harm and rush to do violence. **1:17** It is useless to spread traps in plain sight of any birds, **1:18** but these people attack their own lives! **1:19** Unfairly gained profit kills those who obtain it!

**1:20** Wisdom shouts in the street and in the squares. **1:21** She speaks in noisy streets and at the city gates. **1:22** “How long do fools hate knowledge? How long do mockers enjoy mockery? **1:23** If you accept my correction, then I generously teach you. **1:24** Yet, I called and reached out, and you refused to listen, **1:25** you refused all my advice and my correction, **1:26** so I laugh when what you fear comes, **1:27** when trouble strikes like a storm and comes like a whirlwind. **1:28** Then they call me, but I do not answer. They actively seek me and do not find me. **1:29** They hated moral knowledge and refused to apply wisdom. **1:30** They rejected all my advice and my correction. **1:31** They eat from the fruit of their actions and get full of their own advice. **1:32** Fools’ folly kills them, and the careless ease of fools destroys them. **1:33** But whoever listens to me lives secure and safe from harm.”

**Proverbs Chapter 2**

**2:1** If you receive my words and store my instructions within you, **2:2** by focusing on wisdom and understanding, **2:3** if you call for discernment and understanding – **2:4** if you search for it like silver and like hidden treasure, **2:5** then you understand knowledge about God and how to apply wisdom.

**2:6** God gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. **2:7** He stores effective advice for the righteous. He is like a shield for those who have integrity, **2:8** to guard and protect the paths of righteous, loyal people. **2:9** Then you understand righteousness, justice, and every good way. **2:10** Wisdom enters your heart, and moral knowledge pleases you. **2:11** Discretion and understanding guard and protect you, **2:12** to rescue you from the wicked, from those speaking corruptly, **2:13** who leave upright paths to walk in darkness, **2:14** who rejoice in doing evil, **2:15** who are morally crooked and deceptive in their actions, **2:16** to rescue you from the disloyal woman who speaks tempting words, **2:17** who leaves her husband and forgets her marriage contract made before God. **2:18** Her house and her paths lead to death. **2:19** None who have sex with her return or reach the paths of life.

**2:20** Walk in righteousness and keep on the righteous paths.

**2:21** The righteous live in the land, and those who have integrity stay in it, **2:22** but the wicked, including traitors, are removed from the land.

**Proverbs Chapter 3**

**3:1** Remember my teaching. Let your heart keep my instructions, **3:2** for they give you well-being and a long, full life. **3:3** Keep truth and mercy with you. Tie them around your neck and write them on your heart. **3:4** Then you find favor and understanding with God and people.

**3:5** Trust God with all your heart, and do not trust your own understanding. **3:6** Acknowledge God in all you do, and he makes your paths smooth and straight.

**3:7** Do not be wise in your own eyes. Apply wisdom. Turn from evil. **3:8** This heals your body and renews your spirit.

**3:9** Honor God from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops, **3:10** then your barns are completely full, and your vats are completely full of new wine.

**3:11** Love training and correction from God. **3:12** God corrects those he loves, like a dad corrects the son he loves.

**3:13** Whoever finds wisdom and obtains understanding is blessed.

**3:14** Income from wisdom is more profitable than silver and better than gold. **3:15** She is more valuable than rubies, and nothing you desire compares with her. **3:16** Long life is in her right hand. Riches and honor are in her left hand. **3:17** All her ways are very pleasant, and all her paths are peaceful. **3:18** She is life to those who gain her, and all who embrace her are blessed.

**3:19** God established the heavens and the earth by wisdom and understanding. **3:20** By his knowledge, the original sea was broken open, and the clouds drip dew.

**3:21** Protect wisdom and discretion. Keep them in your sight. **3:22** They give you life and kindness to adorn your neck. **3:23** Then you walk with security, and you do not fall. **3:24** When you lie down, you are peaceful. Your sleep is pleasant. **3:25** You are not afraid of sudden disaster or when the wicked are destroyed.

**3:26** God gives you confidence and keeps your feet from traps.

**3:27** Give good to those who need it when you can help. **3:28** Do not tell your neighbor, “I will give it tomorrow.” when you already have it with you.

**3:29** Do not plot evil against your neighbor when they dwell by you unsuspectingly. **3:30** Do not accuse anyone if they did not treat you wrongly.

**3:31** Do not envy violent people, and do not imitate them.

**3:32** Those who stray offend God, but God reveals his hidden advice to the righteous. **3:33** God curses the house of the wicked, but God blesses the home of the righteous. **3:34** God is cruel to the cruel, yet he is generous to the generous.

**3:35** The wise inherit honor, but God publicly shames fools.

**Proverbs Chapter 4**

**4:1** Listen carefully to your dad’s instruction to gain discernment.

**4:2** I give you good instruction. Do not abandon my teaching.

**4:3** When I was a son to my dad and my mom’s only child, **4:4** my dad said to me, “Let your heart grab my words. Keep my instructions so you live. **4:5** Gain wisdom and understanding. Remember and do not wander from the words I speak. **4:6** Wisdom guards and protects you. Love her. Do not abandon her. **4:7** Wisdom is primary. Whatever you do, gain wisdom and understanding! **4:8** Value wisdom highly, and she elevates you. She honors you if you embrace her. **4:9** She puts a beautiful crown on your head.”

**4:10** Listen and receive my words, so the years of your life will be many. **4:11** I guide you in wisdom and lead you in upright paths. **4:12** Your steps are unrestricted when you walk, and you do not fall when you run. **4:13** Hold on to instruction. Do not let it go. Protect it because it is your life.  
**4:14** Do not enter or walk the wicked path.

**4:15** Avoid it. Do not go on it. Turn from it and go on the righteous path. **4:16** The wicked cannot sleep unless they cause harm and make someone fall. **4:17** They eat bread and drink wine gained from wickedness and violence. **4:18** But the righteous path is like the morning light, growing brighter until full day. **4:19** The path of wickedness is dark. The wicked do not know why they fall.

**4:20** Listen carefully to my words. **4:21** Keep them in your sight. Guard them in your heart. **4:22** They are life to those who find them and healing to your entire body. **4:23** Guard the source of life, your heart, with all alertness.

**4:24** Remove corrupt speech from your mouth. Keep deceptive talk far from your lips.

**4:25** Look directly in front of you. **4:26** Make the path smooth for your feet, so all your actions are established. **4:27** Do not turn to the right or the left. Turn from evil.

**Proverbs Chapter 5**

**5:1** Focus on my wisdom and my understanding. **5:2** Guard discretion and have your lips guard knowledge.

**5:3** The disloyal woman’s seductive words drip honey and are smoother than olive oil,  
**5:4** but she is bitter and sharp as a sword.  
**5:5** Her steps lead to death.  
**5:6** With her unstable ways, she does not know she avoids the path of life.  
**5:7** Listen to me. Do not turn from what I speak.  
**5:8** Keep far from her and far from her house,  
**5:9** or you will give your energy to others and your years to cruel people,  
**5:10** and your work will benefit another man’s house.  
**5:11** At the end of your life, you will groan when your body is wasted away.  
**5:12** You will say, “I hated discipline and rejected correction!  
**5:13** I did not obey my teachers, and I did not listen to them.  
**5:14** I almost came to complete ruin for all to see!”

**5:15** Drink water from your own reservoir and running water from your own well. **5:16** Do your springs, your streams of water, need to be spread outside in the wide streets? **5:17** Let them be for you alone, and not for strangers with you.

**5:18** May your fountain be blessed. May you rejoice in your youthful, loving, and graceful wife. **5:19** May her breasts always please you. May you always be attracted by her love.

**5:20** Why be captured by disloyal women, and embrace other women’s breasts?

**5:21** God see your ways and weighs all your paths.

**5:22** The wicked are captured and held by their own wrongdoing. **5:23** They die from lack of discipline. They fall because of their folly.

**Proverbs Chapter 6**

**6:1** If you are a guarantor for strangers, **6:2** if you are trapped by what you said, **6:3** then rescue yourself. Go, humble yourself, and appeal strongly to your neighbors. **6:4 – 6:5** Do not sleep until you rescue yourself like an antelope and like a bird from a trap.

**6:6** Observe the ant and be wise! **6:7** It has no commander or ruler, **6:8** yet it prepares its food in the summer and gathers its food at the harvest.

**6:9** How long will you lie there? When will you get up? **6:10** Sleep a little, fold your hands to relax, **6:11** and your poverty, your need, comes like an armed robber.

**6:12** Worthless, wicked people go around saying corrupt things. **6:13** They wink, signal, and point. **6:14** They plot evil and spread conflict. **6:15** Their disaster comes instantly and breaks them permanently.

**6:16** God hates these seven things that are a horror to him: **6:17** proud eyes, lying tongues, hands shedding innocent blood, **6:18** hearts plotting wicked plans, feet running to evil, **6:19** witnesses who pour out lies, and fools spreading conflict among family members.

**6:20** Guard and always follow your parents’ commands and instruction. **6:21** Tie them constantly on your heart and around your neck. **6:22** They guide you when you are awake and guard you when you sleep.

**6:23** Instruction is a light, and corrections are the road to life, **6:24** by keeping you from the evil woman, from the disloyal woman’s smooth tongue. **6:25** Do not lust for her beauty, and do not let her attract you with her eyes. **6:26** One is brought to poverty for a whore, and another man’s wife preys on your life. **6:27** Can you hold fire to your chest without burning your clothes? **6:28** Can you walk on hot coals without burning your feet? **6:29** Whoever has sex with his neighbor’s wife is punished. **6:30** People do not hate a thief when he steals to eat when he is hungry. **6:31** Yet if he is caught, he must repay seven times. He might have to give all he has. **6:32** A foolish man commits adultery with a woman and destroys his own life. **6:33** He is beaten and hated, and his shame remains. **6:34** Jealousy kindles a husband’s anger, and he takes merciless revenge. **6:35** He refuses any compensation, even if you multiply it.

**Proverbs Chapter 7**

**7:1** Keep my words. Treasure my instructions. **7:2** Obey my instructions and treasure them so that you live. **7:3** Tie them on your lower arm. Write them on your heart.

**7:4** Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call understanding a close relative, **7:5** so they protect you from the disloyal woman who seduces with her words.

**7:6 – 7:7** I looked out my window and saw a foolish young man. **7:8 – 7:9** He marched to her house at night. **7:10** A woman, dressed like a whore and with seductive intention, came to meet him! **7:11 - 7:12** (She is loud and defiant. She does not stay at home. She waits by every corner.) **7:13** She grabbed him and kissed him, and she said to him with a bold look, **7:14 - 7:15** “I have food at home, and I am very lonely! That is why I came to find you! **7:16** I have richly colored Egyptian fabric on my bed. **7:17** I scented my bed with myrrh, aloe, and cinnamon. **7:18** Come. Let us delight ourselves with sex and lovemaking all night. **7:19** My husband is not at home. He is gone on a journey far away. **7:20** He took a bag of money with him. He returns at the end of the month.” **7:21** She persuaded him with her words. **7:22** He followed her like an ox to its death, like a deer to a trap, **7:23** like a bird rushing into a trap, unaware it costs him his life. **7:24** Listen carefully to what I speak. **7:25** Do not turn to her. Do not have sex with her. **7:26 - 7:27** She has killed many. Her house leads to death.

**Proverbs Chapter 8**

**8:1** Wisdom and understanding calls and raises her voice. **8:2** She stands on the elevated places at the intersections. **8:3** She cries beside the city gates. **8:4** “I call to you and to all humanity. **8:5** Discern wisdom and understand discernment! **8:6** Listen. I speak excellent things, and I speak what is right. **8:7** I speak truth, and I hate wickedness. **8:8** All my words are righteous. I speak nothing twisted. **8:9** All my words are clear to the discerning and righteous to those who find knowledge. **8:10** Receive my instruction and my knowledge instead of silver and high-quality gold. **8:11** Wisdom is better than rubies, and desirable things cannot be compared to her.

**8:12** I, wisdom, live with wisdom, and I find knowledge and discretion.

**8:13** To apply wisdom is to hate pride, wickedness, and corrupt speech.

**8:14** I have advice, wisdom, understanding, and strength.

**8:15** Kings reign by using wisdom, and rulers decree righteousness. **8:16** Princes and righteous judges rule by using wisdom.

**8:17** I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

**8:18** Riches, honor, long-lasting wealth, and righteousness are with me.

**8:19** My fruit is better than the purest gold, and what I produce is better than the best silver.

**8:20** I walk the path of righteousness and justice.

**8:21** I cause those who love me to inherit wealth, and I fill their treasuries.

**8:22** God created me first. **8:23** I was chosen from the beginning, before the world existed. **8:24** I was created before the oceans and the springs of water. **8:25** I was created before the hills and mountains were set in place, **8:26** and before God made the earth and its fields, or the dust of the world. **8:27** I was there when he established the heavens and marked the horizon, **8:28** when he established the clouds, when the fountains of water grew strong, **8:29** when he ordered the waters to keep their boundary and marked the earth’s foundations, **8:30** I was beside him as a master craftswoman, and I was his daily delight, always rejoicing, **8:31** rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth and in its people.

**8:32** Listen to me. Those who apply wisdom are blessed. **8:33** Listen to my instruction so you may be wise, and do not ignore it. **8:34** Whoever listens to me daily is blessed. **8:35** Whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from God. **8:36** But whoever does not find me harms themself. All who hate me love death.”

**Proverbs Chapter 9**

**9:1** Wisdom built her house and carved its seven pillars. **9:2** She prepared food, mixed wine, and arranged her table. **9:3** She sent out her female servants. She calls on the city’s highest places. **9:4** “Whoever is naïve, turn in here,” she says to those without understanding. **9:5** “Eat my food and drink my mixed wine. **9:6** Abandon folly so that you live and advance in the way of understanding.”

**9:7** Whoever corrects mockers, wicked people, asks for insults and receives abuse. **9:8** Do not correct mockers, or they hate you. Correct wise people, and they love you. **9:9** Teach wise, righteous people, and they will be wiser and add to their learning. **9:10** Learning wisdom is the beginning of wisdom and understanding. **9:11** Wisdom adds years to your life. **9:12** If you are wise, you benefit, but if you mock, you suffer.

**9:13** The woman called Folly knows nothing. **9:14** She sits at the door of her house at the city’s highest point, **9:15** calling to those passing by her, going straight on their way. **9:16** “Whoever is naive, turn in here,” she says to those without understanding. **9:17** “Stolen waters are sweet, and food obtained in secret is pleasant!” **9:18** But they do not know her guests are dead.

**Proverbs Chapter 10**

**10:1** Wise children make parents rejoice, but foolish children make parents suffer.

**10:2** Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness saves you from death.

**10:3** God grants what the righteous desire, but he defeats what the wicked desire.

**10:4** Lazy people become poor, but active workers become wealthy. **10:5** Wise people harvest in the summer, but fools sleep during the harvest.

**10:6** The righteous are blessed, but the speech of the wicked is violent.  
**10:7** The reputation of the righteous is a blessing, but the reputation of the wicked rots.

**10:8** Wise people accept instructions, but whoever speaks folly is ruined.

**10:9** Whoever lives in integrity is secure, but whoever behaves corruptly is discovered.

**10:10** Winking and speaking folly causes trouble and brings ruin.

**10:11** Righteous teaching is a fountain of life, but wicked speech is violent.

**10:12** Hatred incites conflict, but love forgives all wrongdoings.

**10:13** Discerning people’s words are wise, but fools are corrected.  
**10:14** The wise store knowledge, but foolish speech leads to destruction.

**10:15** Rich people’s wealth is like a walled city, but the poor are ruined by their poverty.

**10:16** The righteous are rewarded. The wicked are punished.

**10:17** The wise listen to instruction, but fools reject instruction.

**10:18** Fools hide hatred, speak lies, and spread slander.

**10:19** Wrongdoing is unavoidable when words overflow, but controlling your words is wise.

**10:20** What the righteous say is like the best silver, but what the wicked think is of little value.

**10:21** Righteous teaching feeds many, but fools die from folly.

**10:22** God’s blessing makes you rich, and God adds no sorrow to his blessing.

**10:23** Fools enjoy doing wicked schemes, and discerning people enjoy wisdom.

**10:24** What the wicked fear happens. What the righteous desire is given.  
**10:25** Storms sweep the wicked away, but the righteous are an everlasting foundation.

**10:26** Lazy people are like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes of those who send them.

**10:27** Applying wisdom lengthens life, but the lifespan of the wicked is shortened.

**10:28** The righteous desire joy, but the desire of the wicked is unsatisfied.  
**10:29** God’s way is like a fortress for the righteous, and it is destruction to evildoers.  
**10:30** The righteous are never moved, and the wicked do not inherit the land.

**10:31** Righteous speech has the fruit of wisdom, but corrupt speakers are destroyed. **10:32** Righteous speech is pleasing, but wicked speech is corrupt.

**Proverbs Chapter 11**

**11:1** God hates dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

**11:2** Shame comes with pride, but wisdom comes with humility.

**11:3** Integrity guides the righteous, but wickedness destroys the disloyal. **11:4** Wealth does not profit in the day of trouble, but righteousness saves from mortal danger. **11:5** The righteous walk straight paths, but the wicked fall from their own wickedness. **11:6** The righteousness of the upright saves them, but the wicked are captured by their desires. **11:7** When wicked people die, the hope of their strength dies. **11:8** The righteous are rescued from trouble, and the wicked show up in their place. **11:9** The wicked destroy their neighbors with their words, but knowledge rescues the righteous. **11:10** The city rejoices when the righteous do well. There is joy when the wicked die. **11:11** Righteous blessing elevates a city, but wicked advice destroys a city.

**11:12** Fools curse their neighbors, but discerning people keep silent. **11:13** Whoever slanders reveals secrets, but whoever is trustworthy keeps secrets.

**11:14** A nation falls without guidance, but the abundance of advisors brings success.

**11:15** Giving security for strangers brings trouble. Avoiding giving security for strangers brings security.

**11:16** Generous women gain honor, and cruel men steal wealth.

**11:17** Kind people benefit themselves, but cruel people trouble themselves.

**11:18** The wicked earn deceitful wages, but the righteous earn genuine rewards. **11:19** True righteousness leads to life. Following evil leads to death.

**11:20** God hates the corrupt, but he loves the innocent.

**11:21** The wicked are punished, but the righteous are spared unfair judgment.

**11:22** Beautiful women who reject discretion are like gold rings in pigs’ noses.

**11:23** Righteous desires lead to good, but wicked desires lead to evil.

**11:24** Generous people grow wealthier, but misers keep too much and grow poorer. **11:25** Generous people are enriched, and whoever gives water to others is themself satisfied.

**11:26** People curse whoever withholds grain, but they praise whoever sells grain.

**11:27** Whoever actively seeks good seeks favor, but whoever seeks evil finds evil.

**11:28** Whoever trusts in their riches falls, but the righteous thrive like green leaves.

**11:29** Whoever troubles their family inherits nothing, and fools serve the wise.

**11:30** Righteous fruit is like the tree of life, and winning souls is wise.

**11:31** The righteous and the wicked are compensated on earth, especially the wicked!

**Proverbs Chapter 12**

**12:1** Whoever loves correction loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

**12:2** The righteous obtain God’s favor, but God curses wicked schemers. **12:3** The wicked cannot be established, but the righteous cannot be moved.

**12:4** A wise wife is the crown of her husband, but a foolish wife is like rottenness in his bones.

**12:5** Righteous plans are upright. Wicked advice is deceptive. **12:6** Wicked words shed innocent blood, but righteous words rescue the innocent. **12:7** The wicked are defeated and die, but the righteous household stands.

**12:8** You are praised for your wisdom, but those with twisted minds are hated.

**12:9** A humble person that has a servant is better than a prideful person that has no food.

**12:10** The righteous care for their animals, but even the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

**12:11** Whoever works their field has plenty of food, but fools chase daydreams and starve.

**12:12** The wicked desire a fortress, but the righteous endure. **12:13** The wicked are trapped by their corrupt speech, but the righteous escape from trouble. **12:14** The righteous are pleased with good from the fruit of their words and the work of their hands.

**12:15** Fools’ folly is right in their own mind, but whoever listens to wise advice is wise. **12:16** Fools show their annoyance, but the wise forgive insults.

**12:17** Loyal witnesses speak truth, but false witnesses lie.

**12:18** Careless words harm, but wise words heal.

**12:19** Whoever tells the truth endures forever, but liars last only for a moment. **12:20** Those who plot evil have lies in their hearts, but those who promote peace have joy.

**12:21** The righteous are spared from harm, but the wicked are filled with pain.

**12:22** God hates liars, but the truthful are his delight.

**12:23** Discerning people conceal knowledge, but fools promote folly.

**12:24** Active people rule, but lazy people are slaves.

**12:25** Anxiety weighs you down, but encouragement brings you joy.

**12:26** The righteous are careful in friendship, but wickedness leads the wicked astray.

**12:27** Lazy people do not feed themselves, but active people value possessions.

**12:28** Righteousness leads to life, but wickedness leads to death.

**Proverbs Chapter 13**

**13:1** Wise children accept their dad’s correction, but mockers reject correction.

**13:2** The righteous eat good things from the fruit of their speech, but the wicked desire the fruit of violence.

**13:3** Guarding your words guards your life. Talking too much brings ruin.

**13:4** Lazy people desire and get nothing, but active people desire and are abundantly satisfied.

**13:5** The righteous hate anything false, but the wicked act shamefully.

**13:6** Righteousness guards the upright, but wickedness defeats wrongdoers.

**13:7** One pretends to be rich yet has nothing. Another pretends to be poor yet has great wealth.

**13:8** The ransom of wealthy people’s lives is their wealth, but poor people hear no threat.

**13:9** The righteous light shines brightly, but the wicked lamp dies.

**13:10** Conflict comes with pride, but wisdom is with the well-advised.

**13:11** Wealth quickly gained shrinks away, but whoever gathers wealth little by little is rich.

**13:12** Delayed desires make you sick, but desires fulfilled make you healthy.

**13:13** Whoever hates instruction pays the penalty, but whoever values instruction is rewarded.

**13:14** Instruction from the wise, like a life-giving fountain, turns you from deadly traps.

**13:15** Excellent insight wins favor, but the disloyal behave cruelly.

**13:16** Discerning people act with knowledge, but fools show their folly.

**13:17** Unreliable messengers fall into trouble, but loyal messengers heal.

**13:18** Refusing correction brings poverty and shame, but accepting correction brings honor.

**13:19** Desires fulfilled are sweet to the soul, but fools hate turning from evil.

**13:20** Whoever associates with the wise grows wise, but companions of fools suffer harm.

**13:21** Pain follows wrongdoers, but prosperity rewards the righteous.

**13:22** Kind people give their grandchildren inheritance, but wrongdoers’ wealth is stored for the righteous.

**13:23** The field of the poor has abundant food, but it is stolen by injustice.

**13:24** Whoever hates their children does not correct them, but whoever loves their children corrects them.

**13:25** The righteous have enough food to eat, but the wicked starve.

**Proverbs Chapter 14**

**14:1** Every wise woman builds her household, but a foolish woman destroys her household.

**14:2** The righteous apply wisdom, but the wicked hate God.

**14:3** Fools’ words bring them correction, but the words of the wise protect the wise.

**14:4** Feeding troughs are clean when there are no oxen, but abundant harvests are produced by strong oxen.

**14:5** Truthful witnesses speak truth, but false witnesses lie.

**14:6** Mockers seek and find no wisdom, but discerning people easily understand.

**14:7** Leave fools’ presence, or you will not understand wise advice. **14:8** Discerning people’s wisdom is to discern their actions, but fools’ folly is deception. **14:9** Fools mock restoration, but there is favor among the righteous.

**14:10** The heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.

**14:11** The wicked household is destroyed, but the righteous tent thrives.

**14:12** Folly can seem right to you, but it leads to death.

**14:13** The heart might ache even in laughter, and joy might end in grief.

**14:14** The wicked are punished for their actions, but the righteous are rewarded for their actions.

**14:15** Naïve people believe everything, but discerning people discern their steps.

**14:16** The wise are careful and turn from evil, but fools are careless and unrestrained.

**14:17** People quick to anger do foolish things, and crafty schemers are hated.

**14:18** The naïve inherit folly, but discerning people are crowned with knowledge.

**14:19** The evil bow before the good, and the wicked bow at the gates of the righteous.

**14:20** The poor are disliked even by their neighbors, but many people love the rich. **14:21** Those who hate their neighbors do wrong, but whoever is kind to the needy is blessed.

**14:22** Those who plot evil go astray. Those who plan good show loyal love.

**14:23** All hard work brings profit, but only talking about hard work brings poverty.

**14:24** The crown of the wise is their riches, but fools’ folly is their wealth.

**14:25** Truthful witnesses rescue lives, but liars deceive.

**14:26** The righteous confidently apply wisdom, and wisdom protects their children.

**14:27** Applying wisdom gives life and turns you from deadly traps.

**14:28** A king’s honor is the abundance of his subjects, but the lack of subjects is a ruler’s ruin.

**14:29** People with great understanding are slow to anger, but fools are quick to anger.

**14:30** Peace renews your body, but envy rots your bones.

**14:31** Whoever abuses the poor insults God, but whoever gives favor to the needy honors God.

**14:32** The wicked are destroyed in their trouble, but the righteous are protected from death.

**14:33** Wisdom rests in discerning hearts. Wisdom is also known in fools’ hearts.

**14:34** Righteousness elevates nations, but wrongdoing is shameful to any people.

**14:35** The king gives favor to wise servants, but his anger falls on foolish servants.

**Proverbs Chapter 15**

**15:1** Gentle responses turn away anger, but cruel words incite anger.

**15:2** The mouths of the wise treat knowledge correctly, but fools’ mouths gush folly.

**15:3** God sees everything. He comforts the righteous and convicts the wicked.

**15:4** Healing speech strengthens the spirit, but corrupt speech breaks the spirit.

**15:5** Fools reject their dad’s correction, but whoever listens to correction shows good sense.

**15:6** Abundant wealth is in the righteous house, but the income of the wicked brings trouble.

**15:7** Wise lips spread knowledge, but fools’ hearts do not spread knowledge.

**15:8** God hates wicked offerings, but righteous prayer pleases him. **15:9** God hates wickedness, but he loves the righteous.

**15:10** Severe correction is for those who abandon wisdom. Those who hate correction die.

**15:11** Death, destruction, and especially the hearts of humans are before God!

**15:12** Mockers do not love those who correct them. Mockers do not go to the wise.

**15:13** A joyful heart makes your face cheerful, but a painful heart breaks your spirit.

**15:14** Discerning hearts seek knowledge, but fools seek folly.

**15:15** All the days of the troubled are bad, but cheerful people have a constant feast.

**15:16** Better is little with applying wisdom than great wealth with stress.

**15:17** Meals of vegetables with love are better than meals of meat with hatred.

**15:18** Being quick to anger incites conflict and being slow to anger calms conflict.

**15:19** Laziness is like a thorny hedge, but righteousness is like a highway.

**15:20** Wise children bring joy to their parents, but foolish children hate their parents.

**15:21** Fools enjoy folly, but those with understanding follow an upright course.

**15:22** Plans fail without advice, but plans are established with an abundance of advisers.

**15:23** You enjoy giving suitable answers, and how good timely words are!

**15:24** The path of life keeps the wise from death.

**15:25** God destroys the proud house, but he maintains the boundaries of widows.

**15:26** God hates wicked plans, but pleasant words are pure.

**15:27** Greedy people trouble their household, but whoever hates bribes lives.

**15:28** Righteous hearts consider how to answer, but wicked mouths pour out evil things. **15:29** God is far from the wicked, but he answers righteous prayers.

**15:30** Bright looks and good news bring you joy and heal you.

**15:31** Whoever hears the correction that leads to life is at home among the wise. **15:32** Whoever refuses correction hates themself, but whoever listens to correction gains understanding.

**15:33** God gives wise instruction, and humility comes before honor.

**Proverbs Chapter 16**

**16:1** Your intentions belong to you, but your answers come from God. **16:2** Your actions all seem right in your own eyes, but God evaluates the motives. **16:3** Commit your works to God, and your plans are established.

**16:4** God works everything for its own purpose, including the wicked for the day of trouble. **16:5** God hates and punishes every prideful person.

**16:6** Loyal love and truth disarm corruption. Applying wisdom avoids evil.

**16:7** Your actions please God when you reconcile with your enemies.

**16:8** Having a little with righteousness is better than having abundant income without justice.

**16:9** You plan your course, but God directs your steps.

**16:10** The divine verdict is in the king’s words. He must not act against justice.

**16:11** Honest scales and balances are from God. All the weights in the bag are his work.

**16:12** Doing wickedness is a horror to kings. Thrones are established by righteousness. **16:13** Kings delight in righteous advice, and they love whoever speaks righteously. **16:14** A king’s anger is like a messenger of death, but wise people disarm the king’s anger. **16:15** There is life in the light of the king’s face, and his favor is like the spring rain.

**16:16** Gaining wisdom and understanding is much better and more desirable than gold and silver.

**16:17** The righteous turn from evil. Guarding your way guards your life.

**16:18** Pride goes before destruction and before a fall.

**16:19** It is better to be humble with the troubled than to share spoils with the proud.

**16:20** Whoever trusts God and deals wisely is blessed and finds success.

**16:21** Wise people are called discerning, and kind words increase persuasiveness.

**16:22** Insight to those who have it is a life-giving fountain, but folly leads to correction of fools.

**16:23** Wise people’s hearts make their words wise and more persuasive.

**16:24** Pleasant words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

**16:25** Folly can seem right to you, but it leads to death.

**16:26** Your hunger drives you to work.

**16:27** Evildoers dig up evil, and their slander is like a fire.

**16:28** Corrupt people spread conflict, and gossip disconnects the closest friends.

**16:29** Violent people tempt their neighbors and lead them astray.

**16:30** Winkers and lip-biters plot corruption and bring evil.

**16:31** Gray hair is a crown of honor gained from righteousness.

**16:32** Being slow to anger and controlling emotions is better than being a warrior and capturing a city.

**16:33** The dice are thrown, but their every decision is from God.

**Proverbs Chapter 17**

**17:1** A dry bread crust where there is quietness is better than feasting where there is conflict.

**17:2** Wise servants share the inheritance with the relatives and rule foolish heirs.

**17:3** Crucibles purify silver, furnaces purify gold, and God purifies hearts.

**17:4** Whoever lies and acts wickedly follows evil advice. **17:5** Whoever mocks the poor and delights in disaster insults God and is punished.

**17:6** Grandchildren are like the elderly’s crown, and parents are their children’s honor.

**17:7** Too many words are not suitable for fools and lies are much less suitable for rulers!

**17:8** A bribe works well for whoever offers it. They succeed in whatever they do.

**17:9** Whoever forgives seeks love, but whoever repeats something negative disconnects close friends.

**17:10** A correction on a discerning person is more effective than a hundred punches on a fool.

**17:11** Evil people rebel, so cruel messengers are sent against them.

**17:12** It is better to meet a mother bear being robbed of her cubs than to meet fools in their folly.

**17:13** Evil does not leave the house of those who repay evil for good.

**17:14** Starting a fight is like letting out water. Stop before conflict erupts!

**17:15** Those who acquit the guilty and condemn the innocent are a horror to God.

**17:16** Money is useless to you unless you gain wisdom.

**17:17** Friends always love, and relatives help during trouble.

**17:18** Fools give financial security for their neighbors.

**17:19** Whoever loves conflict loves wrongdoing and seeks destruction.

**17:20** Fools with corrupt hearts and deceptive speech find evil and fall into trouble. **17:21** Fools’ parents have no joy, only grief.

**17:22** Joy heals your body, but depression sickens your body.

**17:23** The wicked accept bribes to corrupt justice.

**17:24** Discerning people focus on wisdom, and fools’ minds wander everywhere.

**17:25** Foolish children are grief and bitterness to their parents.

**17:26** Punishing righteous, honorable people is terrible and wrong.

**17:27** Wise, discerning people stay calm and control their words.

**17:28** Fools who keep silent are considered wise and discerning.

**Proverbs Chapter 18**

**18:1** Whoever isolates themself rejects good judgment and seeks their own desires.

**18:2** Fools love telling what is on their mind and hate understanding.

**18:3** The wicked bring disrespect and shame, and correction comes with shame.

**18:4** Your spoken words and the fountain of wisdom are like flowing water.

**18:5** Depriving the righteous of justice by showing favor to the wicked is terrible.

**18:6** What fools say enters conflict and invites punishment. **18:7** What fools say is their ruin and a trap for their life.

**18:8** Gossip goes into your inner being.

**18:9** Lazy workers are the destroyer’s siblings.

**18:10** God is like a strong tower for the righteous to run to and be safe.

**18:11** Rich people’s wealth is like a strong city and like a high wall in their imaginations.

**18:12** Pride comes before destruction, and humility comes before honor.

**18:13** It is folly and shame for you to answer before you listen.

**18:14** Your spirit carries you through sickness, but who can carry a depressed spirit?

**18:15** Wise, discerning people seek and gain knowledge.

**18:16** Your gift makes room for you and leads you to important people.

**18:17** The first to state their case seems right, until their opponent cross-examines them.

**18:18** Coin tosses end disputes.

**18:19** Offended relatives are harder to reach than a strong city, and disputes are like a fortress’ barred gates.

**18:20** You and your stomach are fed from the fruit of your mouth.

**18:21** Life and death are in the tongue’s power, and those who love its use eat its fruit.

**18:22** Whoever finds a wife receives a pleasing gift from God.

**18:23** The poor ask for help, and the rich refuse to help.

**18:24** Your “friends” might harm you, but there are friends who stay closer than siblings.

**Proverbs Chapter 19**

**19:1** Poor people who have integrity are better than fools who have corrupt speech.

**19:2** Passion without knowledge is dangerous and hasty action leads to poor choices.

**19:3** Fools’ folly corrupts them, and their hearts hate God.

**19:4** Wealth adds many friends, and a poor person is disconnected from their friend.

**19:5** Witnesses who pour out lies are punished.

**19:6** Many people seek the generous person’s favor, and everyone is the gift-giver’s friend.

**19:7** All of a poor person’s relatives hate them, and their friends avoid them.

**19:8** Whoever gains wisdom and maintains understanding loves themself and prospers.

**19:9** Witnesses who pour out lies die.

**19:10** Luxury is unsuitable for fools, and it is more unsuitable for a servant to rule over princes!

**19:11** The wise are slow to anger, and it is their honor to forgive offenses.

**19:12** A king’s anger is like a lion’s roar, and his favor is like dew on the grass.

**19:13** Foolish children are their parents’ ruin, and a combative wife is like a constant dripping.

**19:14** A house and wealth are inherited from parents, and a wise wife is from God.

**19:15** Laziness brings on deep sleep, and lazy people starve.

**19:16** Those who obey instructions guard their lives. Those who hate wisdom die.

**19:17** Whoever is kind to the poor lends to God, and God repays their good deeds.

**19:18** Correct your children. There is hope, but do not cause their death.

**19:19** Angry people pay the penalty, and if you save them from it once, you must do it again.

**19:20** Listen to advice and receive correction, so you may be wise.

**19:21** Your mind has many plans, but God’s advice stands.

**19:22** Showing loyal love is desirable, and poor people are better than liars.

**19:23** Whoever applies wisdom lives. They are not troubled by pain.

**19:24** Lazy people are too lazy to feed themselves.

**19:25** Correct mockers, and they learn wisdom. Correct discerning people, and they understand knowledge.

**19:26** Children who rob and chase their parents away bring shame.

**19:27** If you stop listening to instruction, you stray from knowledge.

**19:28** Corrupt witnesses mock justice.

**19:29** Judgments are prepared for mockers and fools.

**Proverbs Chapter 20**

**20:1** Getting drunk from wine and strong drink is foolish. Getting drunk leads to mocking and fighting.

**20:2** An angry king is like a roaring lion. Whoever angers the king hurts themself.

**20:3** Ceasing from conflict is an honor, but every fool fights.

**20:4** Lazy people do not plant during the planting season, so they look for the crop at harvest time and have nothing.

**20:5** Advice in your heart is like water, and an understanding person draws it out.

**20:6** Many people claim to be loyal, but who can find loyal people?

**20:7** The righteous apply integrity, and their children are blessed.

**20:8** A king sits on the throne to judge evil.

**20:9** Who can say, “I kept clean. I am pure from my wrongdoing.”

**20:10** God hates dishonest weights and dishonest measures.

**20:11** Even young people are known by their actions, whether their activity is pure and right.

**20:12** God made our ears to hear and our eyes to see.

**20:13** Do not love sleep, or you will be poor. Open your eyes so you might be filled with food.

**20:14** “It’s worthless!” says the buyer, but they brag after they buy it.

**20:15** Gold and rubies are abundant, but knowledge is like priceless jewels.

**20:16** Hold people in pledge and take their clothes when they give security for strangers.

**20:17** Bread gained by deceit tastes sweet to fools, but their mouths are filled with dirt.

**20:18** Plans are established by advice, so make war with guidance.

**20:19** Avoid gossipers. They reveal secrets.

**20:20** Whoever curses their parents dies in darkness.

**20:21** An easily gained inheritance is not blessed.

**20:22** Do not say, “I pay back evil!” Wait for God to defend you.

**20:23** God hates dishonest weights, and dishonest scales are wicked.

**20:24** God directs your steps, so how can you understand your own way?

**20:25** It is a trap for you to promise hastily without considering the cost first.

**20:26** Wise kings judge the wicked and destroy them.

**20:27** Your spirit, like God’s lamp, searches all your inner being.

**20:28** Loyal love and truth save a king and elevate his throne.

**20:29** Young men’s strength and old men’s gray hair are their honor.

**20:30** Defeats and wounds cleanse your inner being from evil.

**Proverbs Chapter 21**

**21:1** God directs the king’s heart wherever he wants, like channels of water.

**21:2** Your actions all seem right to you, but God evaluates your motives.

**21:3** Doing righteousness and justice is more acceptable to God than offerings.

**21:4** Proud eyes and proud hearts produce evil.

**21:5** Active people’s plans lead to plenty, but all hasty people come to poverty.

**21:6** Those who make fortunes by lying seek death, and their fortunes vanish into thin air.

**21:7** The wicked refuse to do what is right, and their violence takes them away.

**21:8** Guilty people are deceptive, but pure people are upright.

**21:9** It is better to live on a corner of a roof than in a house with a combative wife.

**21:10** The wicked desire evil and show their neighbors no favor.

**21:11** The naïve gain wisdom when mockers are punished. The wise gain knowledge from instruction.

**21:12** God throws the wicked to their ruin.

**21:13** Those who ignore the cries of the poor are ignored when they cry.

**21:14** Gifts or bribes given secretly conquer anger.

**21:15** Doing justice brings joy to the righteous and terror to the wicked.

**21:16** Whoever stops applying wisdom dies.

**21:17** Whoever loves pleasure, wine, and anointing oil is poor.

**21:18** The wicked are a ransom for the righteous.

**21:19** It is better to live in a desert land than with a combative, easily angered woman.

**21:20** The wise have treasure and olive oil, but fools use up all they have.

**21:21** Pursuing righteousness and love brings life, reward, and honor.

**21:22** Wise people can destroy a city’s trusted fortress.

**21:23** Guarding your mouth keeps your life from troubles.

**21:24** Mockers act with overpowering pride.

**21:25** Lazy people’s desires kill them because they refuse to work. **21:26** They desire greedily all day, but the righteous give without restraint.

**21:27** Wicked people’s offering is a horror, especially when they bring it with evil intention.

**21:28** Lying witnesses die, but truthful witnesses speak forever!

**21:29** The wicked show boldness with their face, but the righteous discern their ways.

**21:30** There is no wisdom, no understanding, and no advice against God.

**21:31** Horses are prepared for battle, but victory is from God.

**Proverbs Chapter 22**

**22:1** Good reputation and favor are more valuable than great wealth, including silver and gold.

**22:2** God creates the rich and the poor.

**22:3** Discerning people see danger and avoid it, but the naïve keep going and suffer.

**22:4** The reward for humility and applying wisdom is riches, honor, and life.

**22:5** Guarding yourself keeps you far from the corrupt path full of thorns and traps.

**22:6** Train children in wisdom, and they will keep growing in wisdom their whole life.

**22:7** The rich rule over the poor, and borrowers are the lenders’ servants.

**22:8** The wicked receive trouble, and their unleashed anger comes to an end.

**22:9** Generous people are blessed for giving food to the poor.

**22:10** Remove the mocker, then conflict leaves, and insults stop.

**22:11** The king is the friend of people with kind speech and pure hearts.

**22:12** God guards knowledge and overthrows wicked people’s words.

**22:13** Lazy people say, “Lions are outside! We will be killed!”

**22:14** The disloyal woman’s mouth is like a pit. The men God is angry with fall into it.

**22:15** Correction removes folly far from children’s hearts.

**22:16** Whoever robs from the poor and gives to the rich ends up poor.

**22:17** Listen to wise words and apply my instruction. **22:18** It is pleasing if you keep wise words within you and have them ready on your lips. **22:19** I am revealing them so you may trust God. **22:20** I wrote advice and knowledge for you, **22:21** to show you true, reliable words, so you can accurately answer those who sent you.

**22:22** Do not abuse the poor because they are poor and do not abuse the needy in court, **22:23** for God pleads their case and robs those who rob them.

**22:24** Avoid angry people, and do not be their friend, **22:25** or you will learn their ways and get trapped.

**22:26** Do not give security for debts. **22:27** If you do not have enough to pay, your bed is taken from under you!

**22:28** Do not move ancient boundary stones set by your ancestors.

**22:29** Skilled workers take their place before kings, not before obscure people.

**Proverbs Chapter 23**

**23:1** Consider carefully what is before you when you sit to eat with rulers, **23:2** and control your appetite if you are very hungry. **23:3** Do not desire their deceptive food.

**23:4** Do not exhaust yourself to be rich. Be wise enough to control yourself. **23:5** When you gaze at riches, they are gone. They fly away like eagles!

**23:6** Do not eat or desire misers’ food. **23:7** They count the cost in their mind. “Eat and drink,” they say, but their hearts are not with you. **23:8** You will regret what you ate and waste your pleasant words.

**23:9** Do not speak to fools. They hate wisdom.

**23:10** Do not move ancient boundary stones or take over the fields of the fatherless. **23:11** Their Protector is strong. He pleads their case against you.

**23:12** Apply instruction and knowledge.

**23:13** Correct children, and they will live. **23:14** If you correct children, you rescue them from death.

**23:15** If your heart is wise, then my heart is glad. **23:16** I rejoice when you speak what is right.

**23:17** Do not envy wrongdoers. Always apply wisdom.

**23:18** There is a future and a hope. **23:19** Listen and be wise. Guide your heart in righteousness.

**23:20** Do not spend time with drunks and gluttons. **23:21** Drunks and gluttons become poor from sleepiness.

**23:22** Listen to your parents, and do not hate them when they are old.

**23:23** Gain truth, wisdom, discipline, and understanding. Keep them with you.

**23:24** Wise, righteous people’s parents have joy. **23:25** May your parents have joy.

**23:26** Give me your attention and observe my ways.

**23:27** A whore is like a pit and a well. **23:28** She lies in wait like a robber and increases the disloyal among men.

**23:29** Who has grief, conflicts, complaints, wounds without cause, and weary eyes? **23:30** Those who linger over and look for wine and mixed wine. **23:31** Do not look at wine when it sparkles in the cup and when it goes down smooth. **23:32** It bites and stings. **23:33** You see strange things, and your mind speaks corrupt things. **23:34** You are like whoever lies on the ship’s rigging. **23:35** You say, “They struck me, and I am unharmed! When do I awake and get another drink?”

**Proverbs Chapter 24**

**24:1** Do not envy evil people. Do not desire to be with them. **24:2** They focus on violence, and their words harm.

**24:3** By wisdom and understanding, a house is built and established by wisdom and understanding. **24:4** By knowledge, its rooms are filled with priceless, pleasing treasures.

**24:5** A wise warrior is strong, and a man of knowledge makes himself stronger. **24:6** Wage your war with guidance. Numerous advisers bring victory.

**24:7** Fools cannot gain wisdom. They keep silent in court.

**24:8** Schemers plan to do evil. **24:9** Foolish schemes are wrongdoing, and mockers are a horror.

**24:10** If you faint in the day of trouble, you are weak!

**24:11** Rescue those being taken away and those slipping to death. **24:12** If you say, “We didn’t know about it,” whoever evaluates you and guards you, knows and repays you for your deeds.

**24:13** Eat honey. It is good and sweet. **24:14** Wisdom is also good and sweet. If you find wisdom, you have a future and a hope.

**24:15** Do not attack the righteous. **24:16** The righteous fall and get back up, but the wicked are brought down by pain.

**24:17** Do not rejoice when your enemies fall, **24:18** or God will see it, be displeased, and remove his anger from them.

**24:19** Do not fear evil people. Do not envy wicked people. **24:20** Evil people have no future, and their lamp dies.

**24:21** Apply wisdom. Respect God and the king. Avoid rebels. **24:22** Their destruction catches them, and who knows what destruction both God and the king can bring?

**24:23** Showing bias in judgment is terrible. **24:24** Nations curse those who call the guilty innocent. **24:25** But those who convict the guilty receive blessing.

**24:26** Giving honest answers is like kisses on the lips.

**24:27** Establish your work outside and get your fields ready, then build your house.

**24:28** Do not witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your words.

**24:29** Do not say, “I will do to them as they did to me.”

**24:30** I passed a lazy fool’s field and vineyard. **24:31** Thorns and weeds had grown all over. The stone wall had collapsed. **24:32** I received instruction from what I saw. **24:33** “Sleep a little, fold your hands to relax, **24:34** and your poverty comes like a bandit and your need like an armed robber.”

**Proverbs Chapter 25**

**25:1** These are proverbs of Solomon copied by King Hezekiah of Judah’s men: **25:2** It is God’s honor to conceal matters, and it is kings’ honor to investigate matters. **25:3** As the sky is high and the earth is deep, so kings’ hearts are unsearchable.

**25:4** Remove impurity from silver, and material for the silversmith emerges. **25:5** Remove the wicked from before the king, and his throne is established in righteousness. **25:6** Do not honor yourself and do not stand with great people before the king. **25:7** It is better for the king to tell you, “Come here,” than to put you lower than a prince.

**25:8** Do not go to court hastily, or what do you do when your neighbor shames you? **25:9** When you discuss a case with your neighbor, do not reveal other people’s secrets, **25:10** or whoever hears it will shame you permanently.

**25:11** Skillfully spoken words are like apples of gold in settings of silver. **25:12** Wise correction to whoever listens is like fine gold jewellery.

**25:13** Loyal messengers refresh their masters’ hearts like snow at harvest time.

**25:14** Bragging of a gift not given is like clouds and wind that produce no rain.

**25:15** Patience and gentle speech can persuade rulers and even the most stubborn people.

**25:16** When you find honey, eat only as much as you can handle.

**25:17** Do not go too often to your neighbor’s house, or they will tire of you and hate you. **25:18** Whoever lies about their neighbor is like a club, a sword, or an arrow.

**25:19** Trusting disloyal people is like having a bad tooth or a bad foot.

**25:20** Singing to heavy hearts is like taking off clothing on a cold day or like pouring vinegar on soda.

**25:21** Give your enemy food if they are hungry and give them water if they are thirsty. **25:22** They may choose not to be your enemy, and God will reward you.

**25:23** The north wind brings rain and gossiping gets you angry.

**25:24** It is better to live on a corner of a roof than in a house with a combative wife.

**25:25** Good news is like cold water to thirsty people.

**25:26** The righteous giving way to the wicked are like a muddy spring and a polluted well.

**25:27** Eating too much honey is bad, and it is not honorable to seek your own honor.

**25:28** Whoever does not control their emotions is vulnerable like a broken, unwalled city.

**Proverbs Chapter 26**

**26:1** Like snow in summer or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for fools.

**26:2** Curses without cause, like fluttering birds, do not come to rest.

**26:3** Whips for horses, bridles for donkeys, and correction for fools! **26:4** Do not answer fools with folly, or you will be like them. **26:5** Answer fools with wisdom, or they wrongly consider themselves wise. **26:6** Having fools send your messages is like cutting off your feet or suffering violence. **26:7** Proverbs in fools’ mouths is like having limp, lame legs. **26:8** Giving honor to fools is like tying a stone in a sling. **26:9** Proverbs spoken by fools are like thorns in drunks’ hands. **26:10** Hiring fools or any passerby is like an archer wounding randomly. **26:11** Fools repeat their folly. **26:12** Fools have more hope than someone wise in their own eyes.

**26:13** Lazy people say, “Lions are outside!” **26:14** Lazy people turn on their beds like doors turns on their hinges. **26:15** Lazy people are too lazy to feed themselves. **26:16** A lazy person is wiser in their eyes than seven people who reply with good sense.

**26:17** Getting angry over someone else’s fight is like grabbing a wild dog by the ears.

**26:18** Like those who shoot burning wood and deadly arrows, **26:19** so is whoever deceives their neighbor and says, “I was joking.”

**26:20** Fires go out where there is no wood, and conflict stops where there is no gossip. **26:21** Like charcoal to burning coals and wood to fire, so combative people kindle conflict.

**26:22** Gossip goes into your inner being.

**26:23** Glowing lips with evil hearts are like glazed pottery. **26:24** Whoever hates others hides it with their words, and they store deceit within. **26:25** When they speak kindly, do not believe them. There are seven horrors in them. **26:26** Though their hatred may be hidden, their evil gets openly revealed.

**26:27** Whoever digs a pit falls into it. A boulder rolls back on whoever rolls it.

**26:28** A lying tongue ruins and hates those it abuses.

**Proverbs Chapter 27**

**27:1** Do not brag about tomorrow. You do not know what a day brings.

**27:2** Let someone else praise you and not your own mouth.

**27:3** Harassment by fools is heavier than a boulder and weighty sand.

**27:4** Anger is cruel and overpowering, but who can stand before jealousy?

**27:5** Open correction is better than hidden love.

**27:6** Friends’ wounds are loyal, but enemies’ kisses are too much.

**27:7** Whoever is full hates honey, but every bitter thing is sweet to the hungry.

**27:8** People wander from their home like birds wander from their nests.

**27:9** Ointment, incense, and friends’ sweet, sincere advice make your heart rejoice. **27:10** Do not abandon your friend and your parents’ friend, and do not enter your sibling’s house in your day of trouble. A neighbor nearby is better than a sibling far away.

**27:11** Be wise and make me glad, so I can answer anyone who mocks me.

**27:12** Discerning people see danger and avoid it, but the naïve keep going and suffer.

**27:13** Hold people in pledge and take their clothes when they give security for strangers.

**27:14** Giving untimely, unwise blessings curses you.

**27:15** A combative wife is like a constant dripping. **27:16** Whoever has her tries to hide the wind or tries to grab oil with his hand.

**27:17** You sharpen your friends like iron sharpens iron.

**27:18** Whoever cares for a tree eats its fruit, and whoever cares for their master is honored.

**27:19** Your heart reflects you like water reflects your face.

**27:20** Death, destruction, and your eyes are never satisfied.

**27:21** As the crucible is for silver and the furnace is for gold, so you are tested by praise you receive.

**27:22** Not even severe physical punishment removes folly from fools.

**27:23** Give careful attention to your flocks and your herds.

**27:24** Riches do not last forever, nor does a crown last from generation to generation.

**27:25** When hay is removed, new grass appears, and grass from the hills is gathered in, **27:26** the lambs’ wool is for your clothes, and the goats are for the price of a field. **27:27** And there is enough goat’s milk for food for you and your household.

**Proverbs Chapter 28**

**28:1** The wicked flee when there are no pursuers, but the righteous are as confident as a lion.

**28:2** A rebellious country has many princes, but order is maintained by discerning, knowledgeable people.

**28:3** Poor people abusing the weak is like a pouring rain without food.

**28:4** Fools praise the wicked, but the wise battle the wicked.

**28:5** Evil people do not understand justice, but those who seek God understand it all.

**28:6** Poor people who have integrity are better than rich people who are corrupt.

**28:7** Whoever applies wisdom is discerning, but a companion of gluttons shames their parents.

**28:8** Whoever increases their wealth by increasing interest gathers wealth for whoever is kind to the needy.

**28:9** Whoever refuses to learn wisdom, even their prayer is a horror.

**28:10** Whoever leads the righteous astray falls into their own pit.

**28:11** The rich are wise in their own eyes, but discerning poor people evaluate them accurately.

**28:12** It is great honor when the righteous rejoice, but people hide when the wicked rise to power.

**28:13** Whoever hides their wrongdoings does not prosper, but whoever confesses and abandons their wrongdoings finds mercy.

**28:14** Whoever is always humble is blessed, but whoever hardens their heart falls into evil.

**28:15** Wicked rulers over poor people are like roaring lions or roaming bears.

**28:16** Foolish princes abuse, but whoever hates unfair gain lengthens their life.

**28:17** Let no one help murderers who have guilty consciences from killing the innocent.

**28:18** Innocent people are rescued, but corrupt people fall.

**28:19** Workers are filled with food, but daydreamers are filled with poverty.

**28:20** Loyal people are abundantly blessed, but whoever rushes to gain riches dishonestly is punished.

**28:21** Showing bias is terrible. Fools trespass for breadcrumbs.

**28:22** Misers rush after riches without knowing they end up poor.

**28:23** Those who correct another find more favor than those who praise too much.

**28:24** Whoever robs their parents and says, “I did no wrong,” is the destroyer’s companion.

**28:25** Greedy people incite conflict, but whoever trusts God prospers.

**28:26** Fools trust their own hearts, but whoever walks in wisdom escapes.

**28:27** Whoever gives to the poor is wealthy, but whoever refuses to help the poor receives many curses.

**28:28** People hide when the wicked rule, but the righteous increase when the wicked die.

**Proverbs Chapter 29**

**29:1** Refusing to be humble and learn from mistakes brings permanent ruin.

**29:2** The people rejoice when the righteous increase. The people groan when the wicked rule.

**29:3** A wise man brings joy to his parents, but whoever has sex with whores wastes his wealth.

**29:4** A king strengthens a land and serves his people by applying wisdom, but a king weakens a land and serves himself by collecting heavy taxes.

**29:5** Excessively praising your neighbors spreads traps for their steps.

**29:6** Evil people’s wrongdoing traps them, but the righteous sing and rejoice. **29:7** The righteous know the legal rights of the poor. The wicked do not understand such knowledge.

**29:8** Rude people anger a city, but the wise turn away anger. **29:9** If wise people go to court with fools, there is no peace if the fools are angry or laugh.

**29:10** The wicked hate people that have integrity. The righteous protect people that have integrity.

**29:11** Fools unleash all their anger, but the wise control their emotions.

**29:12** If rulers listen to lies, all their ministers will be wicked.

**29:13** God gives sight to the eyes of the poor and to the eyes of abusers.

**29:14** If kings judge the poor in truth, their thrones are established forever.

**29:15** Correction gives wisdom, but uncontrolled children shame their moms.

**29:16** Wrongdoing increases when the wicked increase, but the righteous see the wicked fall.

**29:17** Correct your children, and they give you rest and bring you happiness.

**29:18** People act foolishly without inspiring visions, but whoever applies wisdom is blessed!

**29:19** Servants understand correction by words but do not obey and need to be trained another way.

**29:20** Fools have more hope than those who are hasty in their words.

**29:21** Spoiling servants from youth makes them weak.

**29:22** Angry people incite conflict and overflow in wrongdoing.

**29:23** Prideful people get humbled, but humble people gain honor.

**29:24** Whoever shares in stolen loot is their own enemy. They keep silent in court.

**29:25** Fearing people is a trap, but trusting God is freedom.

**29:26** Many people seek justice from rulers, but it is God who gives justice.

**29:27** The wicked are a horror to the righteous, and the righteous are a horror to the wicked.

**Proverbs Chapter 30**

**30:1 – 30:2** Agur’s words: I am the most foolish, and I lack understanding. **30:3** I did not learn wisdom, and I have no knowledge of God. **30:4** Who ascended into heaven and then descended? Who gathered the winds in his fists and water in the clouds? Who established all the earth? What is his name and his son’s name? **30:5** Every word of God is purified. He protects those who take shelter in him. **30:6** Do not add to his words, or he will correct you and prove you to be a liar.

**30:7** Two things I ask from you. **30:8** Remove lies far from me. Do not give me poverty or riches. Feed me my ration of bread, **30:9** or I will get satisfied, act deceptively, and deny God. Or I will be poor and steal and damage God’s reputation.

**30:10** Do not wrongly accuse servants, or you will be found guilty and must pay damages.

**30:11** There are those who curse their parents. **30:12** There are those who are pure in their own eyes, yet they are filthy. **30:13** There are those who are prideful. **30:14** There are those who steal from and kill the poor and the needy.

**30:15** The leech has two daughters. These four things are never pleased: **30:16** the grave, barren wombs, land unsatisfied with water, and all-consuming fires.

**30:17** Whoever mocks and hates obeying their parents is treated poorly after death.

**30:18** There are four things too wonderful to understand: **30:19** eagles in the sky, snakes on rocks, ships at sea, and men with women.

**30:20** A disloyal woman sees no wrong in what she does.

**30:21** Under four things the earth trembles and cannot support: **30:22** servants who become kings; fools stuffed with food; **30:23** unloved, married women; and female servants who dispossess their mistresses.

**30:24** These four things are small and extremely wise: **30:25** Ants have little strength, and they prepare their food in the summer. **30:26** Rock badgers have little power, and they make their homes in the cliffs. **30:27** Locusts have no king, and they go forward by ranks. **30:28** You can catch lizards with your hand, and they get into kings’ palaces.

**30:29** These four things move about magnificently: **30:30** lions, the strongest of animals, do not retreat from anything; **30:31** roosters; goats; and a king surrounded by his army.

**30:32** Cover your mouth if you foolishly elevated yourself or planned evil!

**30:33** Churning milk produces butter, punching the nose produces blood, and inciting anger produces conflict.

**Proverbs Chapter 31**

**31:1** Wisdom King Lemuel’s mom taught him: **31:2 – 31:3** My son, do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to what ruins kings. **31:4** It is not for kings to drink wine or desire strong drink, **31:5** or they will drink and forget the law and remove legal rights from all the poor. **31:6** Give strong drink to the dying and give wine to the very troubled. **31:7** Let them drink to forget their misery and their poverty. **31:8** Speak for those unable to speak and for the legal rights of all the dying. **31:9** Speak, rule in righteousness, and declare the cause of the poor and needy.

**31:10** Who can find a righteous wife? Her value is far higher than rubies. **31:11** Her husband trusts her, and he has no lack of gain. **31:12** She brings him good, not evil, all the days of her life. **31:13** She obtains wool and flax, and she enjoys working with her hands. **31:14** Like merchant ships, she brings her food from far away. **31:15** She gets up at night and prepares food for her entire household. **31:16** She considers a field, buys it, and plants a vineyard from her own income. **31:17** She works intensely and strengthens her arms. **31:18** She knows her merchandise is good, and her lamp stays on all night. **31:19** She holds the distaff and the spindle. **31:20** She reaches out to the poor and the needy. **31:21** She is unafraid of cold weather. All her household has warm clothes. **31:22** She makes her own bedding. Her clothes are fine linen and purple. **31:23** Her husband is well-known in the city gates as an elder of the land. **31:24** She makes and sells linen clothing and sashes. **31:25** She wears strength and honor, and she is ready for the future. **31:26** She speaks wisdom and loving instruction. **31:27** She guards her household and keeps active. **31:28** Her children call her blessed and her husband praises her. **31:29** “Many daughters have done bravely, but you are the best!” **31:30** Charm deceives and beauty fades, but a wise woman is praised. **31:31** Give her credit for her accomplishments, and let her works praise her in the city gates.