

28. Proverbs - Mishlei

(Version 4.2) - 7-24-17

Chapter 1

1:1 The proverbs of Shelomoh,
son of David, King of Yisra'el,

1:2 for the sake of knowing
wisdom and discipline,
for the sake of comprehending
words of knowledge,

1:3 for the sake of receiving
discipline, wisdom, justice, judgment, and uprightness,

1:4 for the sake of giving
insight to the unaware,
knowledge and discretion to the young.

1:5 The wise *one* listens attentively.
And he causes learning to increase.
And the understanding *one* obtains guidance
1:6 for the sake of understanding
a proverb or a maxim,
the words of the wise, or their riddles.

1:7 The reverence of **YAHWEH**
is the beginning of knowledge.
Wisdom and instruction fools despise.

1:8 Listen attentively, my son,
to the instruction of your father!
And do not leave the teaching of your mother!
1:9 Indeed, they are a wreath of favor
for your head and chains for your neck!

1:10 My son, if those offending deceive you,
you are not to consent!
1:11 If they say, "Come with us ourselves **נא**!
We will lie in wait for blood!
We will lie in wait the innocent without cause.
1:12 We will swallow them alive like She'ol,
even entirely, like those going down to the pit!

She'ol - Hades or the world of the dead.
This is traditionally translated as "the grave". But in Hebrew culture it is viewed as something quite different from an earthly grave or tomb. It's understood to be the place where "the person" (or more accurately, their personality) goes after death. It does not contain their body, but rather, their enduring essence. Most English writers call this a "spirit". But this is misleading because the Hebrews had no such concept. It is entirely a Greek term that only came into existence within the Greek culture.
She'ol is seen as the place where these "personalities" await the final judgment day.
But there are many who have been taught to view this as a place of judgment "now", rather than a mere place of waiting. Thus, for some, this is viewed as "hades", or "hell" - with all of the associated connotations. This, too, is unfortunate since it does not adequately identify what She'ol is. Hades, or hell, are best viewed as the place of final retribution for those who have rejected YAHWEH.

1:13 We will find all the precious substances.
We will fill our houses with spoil.
1:14 Cast in your lot among us.
We will all have one purse."

1:15 My son, do not walk in the way with them!
Keep your foot from their path,
1:16 because their feet run to evil

and they hurry for the sake of shedding blood.

1:17 Indeed, for nothing the net is spread out
in the eyes of any possessor of wings!

1:18 And they will lie in wait for their own blood.
They will lie in wait for their *own* lives.

1:19 According to this are the ways
of everyone gaining by violence.
The life *itself* **nx** of its owners
will be taken away.

1:20 Wisdom shouts outside.
She gives forth her voice in the open spaces.

1:21 At the top of the roaring she calls out,
at the openings of the gates.

In the city she speaks her words,

1:22 "Until when
will the unaware one love unawareness,
and the scornful delight in their scorning,
and fools hate knowledge?"

1:23 Turn back at my correction!
Behold, I will cause my breath
to be poured out at you!
I will cause my words to be known
to you yourselves **nx**!

1:24 Because I have called out,
but you have refused,
I have stretched out my hand.
But no one has paid attention.
1:25 And you have dismissed all my advice.
And you have not agreed with my correction.

1:26 I myself will even laugh at your calamity.
I will mock at the coming of your terror,
1:27 at the coming of your devastation.
Then your calamity will come like a whirlwind,
as distress and anguish come upon you!

1:28 Then they will call me.
But I will not answer.
They will diligently seek me.
But they will not find me.

1:29 Instead, because they hated knowledge
and they did not choose the reverence of **YAHWEH**,
1:30 they did consent to my counsel,
they rejected all my correction,
1:31 even they will eat
from the fruit of their own way.
And they will be filled with their own devices.

1:32 Indeed, the apostasy of the unaware
will kill them,
and the security of fools will destroy them!

1:33 But whoever listens attentively to me
will dwell secure.
And they will be at ease from the terror of evil."

Chapter 2

2:1 My son, if you accept my words,
and you hide away my directives with you yourself **nx**

2:2 for the sake of paying attention
with your ear to wisdom
you will cause your heart to expand
for the sake of understanding.

2:3 Indeed, if you call out for discernment,
give forth your voice for the sake of understanding,
2:4 if you will seek her like silver,
and search for her like hidden treasures,
2:5 then you will understand
the reverence of **YAHWEH!**
And knowledge of The Elohim you will find!

2:6 Indeed, **YAHWEH** gives wisdom!
From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding!
2:7 And He has hidden away sound wisdom
for the sake of the upright,
a shield for the sake of those walking with integrity,
2:8 for the sake of maintaining
the paths of judgment.
And He will protect the way of His kind ones.

2:9 Then you will understand justice,
and judgment, and uprightness,
every good path.

Verses 6-8 appear to be a parenthetical expression, inserted prior to the final conclusion for the actions of calling out for wisdom and discernment. Verse 9 gives the result of such actions, along with the following verses.

2:10 Indeed, wisdom will enter into your heart
and knowledge will be delightful to your life.
2:11 Discretion will protect you,
understanding will maintain you
2:12 for the sake of causing you to be delivered
from a bad way,
from a man speaking perversities,
2:13 *from* those abandoning
the paths of uprightness
for the sake of walking in paths of darkness,
2:14 *from* those being glad to do bad,
rejoicing in the perversities of what is bad,
2:15 for whom their paths are crooked,
and they are devious in their ways;
2:16 for the sake of causing you to be delivered
from a devious woman,
from a foreigner who causes one
to be flattered with her words,
2:17 *one* who abandons the companion of her youth,
and has forgotten The Covenant *itself* **in** of her Elohim.
2:18 Indeed, her household has sunk down to death,
and her tracks *are* to the departed ones.
2:19 Everyone going in to her will not return.
And they will not reach the paths of *eternal* Life.

2:20 On account of this
walk in the way of goodness,
and protect the paths of justice.
2:21 Indeed, the upright will dwell in the earth,
and the blameless will remain in it.
2:22 But the morally wrong will be cut off,
and those acting treacherously
will be torn away from it.

Chapter 3

3:1 My son, you are not to forget my instruction!

And your heart is to maintain my directives!

3:2 Indeed, length of days,
and years of life, and shalom
they will cause to be added to you.

3:3 Do not let kindness
and faithfulness abandon you!
Bind them upon your neck!

Inscribe them on the tablet of your heart!
3:4 Then you will find favor and good insight
in the eyes of The Elohim and a human being.

3:5 Trust in **YAHWEH** with all your heart!
But to your *own* understanding you are not to lean.
3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make all your paths straight!

3:7 Do not be wise in your *own* eyes!
Revere **YAHWEH Himself nx**!
And turn away from what is bad!
3:8 It will be health
for the sake of your navel
and moisture for the sake of your bones.

3:9 Honor **YAHWEH Himself nx**
from your substance,
even from the first of all your income.
3:10 Then your storehouses
will be filled with abundance
and the new wine of your vats will overflow.

3:11 The discipline of **YAHWEH**, my son,
you are not to despise!
And do not be disgusted with His rebuke!

3:12 Indeed, whomever *himself nx*
YAHWEH loves He corrects,
even as a father *does to the son himself nx*
he is pleased with.

3:13 Happy is the man who has found wisdom,
even the man who obtains understanding!
3:14 Indeed, better is her profit
than the profit from silver
or the revenue from gold.
3:15 She is more precious than rubies.
And all your desires are not comparable to her.

3:16 Length of days is in her right hand.
In her left hand *are* wealth and honor.
3:17 Her ways are pleasant ways.
And all her paths *are* shalom.
3:18 She herself is a tree of life
to those strengthened by her.
And those grasping onto her will be glad.

3:19 **YAHWEH** with wisdom
laid a foundation for the earth.
He established the skies with understanding.
3:20 With His knowledge
the depths have been burst open
and the clouds drop down dew.

3:21 My son, they are not
to depart from your eyes.

Maintain sound wisdom and discretion
3:22 and they will exist as life
for the sake of your being
and as favor for the sake of your neck.

3:23 Then you will walk as secure in your ways.
And your foot will not stumble.

3:24 If you lie down you will not be frightened.
And you will lie down
and your sleep will be sweet.

3:25 You will not be frightened by sudden terror,
nor by the devastation of the morally wrong
when it comes

3:26 because **YAHWEH** is at your side!
And He will protect your foot from being captured.

3:27 You are not to withhold good from its owners
when it is in the power of your hand to do.

3:28 You are not to say to your neighbor,
"Go!
Then return!
And tomorrow I will give it.",
but it is there with you yourself **nx**.

3:29 You are not to devise what is bad
concerning your neighbor.
Then he himself will be dwelling as secure
with you yourself **nx**.

3:30 You are not to contend
with a human being without cause
if he has treated you badly.

3:31 You are not to be jealous
of a violent man.
And you are not to choose any of his ways!

3:32 Indeed, those being perverse
are a detestable thing to **YAHWEH**.
But His secret counsel
is with the upright themselves **nx**.

3:33 The curse of **YAHWEH**
is against the house of the morally wrong.
But home of the just He blesses.

3:34 Surely He mocks the mockers.
But to the humble He grants favor.

3:35 The wise will inherit honor.
But fools cause the lifting up of shame!

Chapter 4

4:1 Listen attentively, children,
to the discipline of a father.
And pay attention

for the sake of knowing understanding.

4:2 Indeed, I have given to you good instruction.
Do not abandon my teaching!

4:3 Indeed, I was a tender son to my father,
and the only one before the face of my mother.

4:4 And he caused me to learn.

And he said to me,

"Hold fast to my words with your heart!

Protect my directives!

Then live!

4:5 Acquire wisdom!
Acquire understanding!

You are not to forget!
And you are not to turn away
from the words of my mouth!

4:6 Do not abandon her!
Then she will protect you.
Love her!
Then she will preserve you.

4:7 The beginning of wisdom is *this*:
Acquire wisdom!
And among all your possessions
acquire understanding!

4:8 Exalt her!
Then she will lift you up!
She will honor you when you embrace her.
4:9 She will give for your head a wreath of favor.
A crown of beauty she will present to you.

4:10 Listen attentively, my son,
and accept my words!
And may the years of your life be many.

4:11 I have taught you
concerning the ways of wisdom.
I have caused you to walk on the right paths.
4:12 In your walking your steps will not be hindered.
And when you run you will not stumble.

4:13 Grab hold on instruction!
Do not let go!
Maintain her because she is your life!

4:14 Do not enter into the path of the morally wrong!
And do not go forward on the way of evil!
4:15 Expose it!
Do not pass over on it!
Turn aside from upon it and pass by!

4:16 Indeed, they will not sleep
unless they have caused something bad.
And their sleep is taken away
unless they cause someone to fall.
4:17 Indeed, they have eaten the food
of moral wrong.
And they drink the wine of violence.

4:18 But the path of the just
is like a brilliant light.
And it will be illuminating
until the establishing of the day.

4:19 The way of the morally wrong
is like darkness.
They do not know how they will stumble.

4:20 My son, pay attention to my words!
Extend your ear to my sayings!
4:21 Do not let them to depart from your eyes!
Protect them in the midst of your heart!

4:22 Indeed, they are life to those finding them,
and health to all their flesh!

4:23 With all watchfulness maintain your heart
because from it are the goings forth of life!

4:24 Cause to turn away from you a crooked mouth.
And cause perverse lips to be far from you.

4:25 Cause your eyes to look in front of you
and your eyelids to look straight before you.

4:26 Consider the path of your feet!
Then all your ways will be established.

4:27 Do not turn aside to the right or the left!
Cause your foot to move away from what is bad!

Chapter 5

5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom!
Extend your ear to my insight
5:2 for the sake of protecting discretion.
Then your lips will maintain knowledge.

5:3 Indeed, the lips of a devious woman drip honey.
And her mouth is smoother than oil.

5:4 But her final end
is bitter like wormwood,
sharp as a two edged sword.

5:5 Her feet are going down to death.
Her steps grasp She'ol

5:6 lest she ponder the path of life.
Her ways are unstable.
She does not know *them*.

5:7 And now children,
listen attentively to me!
And do not depart from the words of my mouth!

5:8 Cause your feet to be far from beside her!
And do not approach toward the door of her house

5:9 lest you give to others your vigor
and your years to the cruel,

5:10 lest strangers are filled with your strength
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner.

5:11 Then you will howl at your final end
at the consumption of your flesh and your body.

5:12 Then you will say,
"How I hated instruction,
and my heart despised reproof!

5:13 And I have not listened attentively
to the voice of my teachers.

And I have not extended my ear
to those who were instructing me!

5:14 In a little while I was into everything bad
in the midst of the assembly and congregation."

5:15 Drink water from your *own* cistern,
and running water from the midst of your *own* well.

5:16 Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?

5:17 Yours are to be for you alone,
and not for strangers to you yourself **HN**.

5:18 Your fountain will be blessed.

Then rejoice because of the wife of your youth,
5:19 a loving deer and a pleasant doe!
And her breasts will satisfy you at all times.
And with her love you will be enraptured continually.

5:20 And why are you, my son,
enraptured with a devious woman
or *why do you* embrace the bosom of a stranger?

5:21 Indeed, in front of the eyes of YAHWEH
are the ways of a man!
And He is pondering all his paths.

5:22 The morally wrong is captured
by his own moral perversities *themselves* **nx**.
And he is held tightly by the cords of his offense.

5:23 He is without instruction.
And in the abundance of his foolishness
he goes astray.

Chapter 6

6:1 My son, if you:
have become a guarantor for your friend,
have clasped hands for the sake of a stranger,

6:2 have been snared
on account of the words of your mouth,
have been seized on account of
the words of your mouth,

6:3 do this now, my son,
and be delivered,
because you have come
into the authority of your friend.

Go! Humble yourself!
And urge your friend strongly!

6:4 Do not give sleep to your eyes,
nor slumber to your eyelids!

6:5 Be delivered like a gazelle
from the hand of a *hunter*,
and like a bird
from the hand of the trapper!

6:6 Go to the ant, lazy one!
Observe her ways.
Then act wisely.

6:7 She has no captain, overseer, nor ruler.
6:8 She prepares her bread in the summer,
gathers her food at harvest.

6:9 Until when, lazy one, will you lie *there*?
When will you get up from your sleep?

6:10 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands
for the sake of lying down

6:11 and your poverty will come
like one traveling,
and your need like an armed man.

6:12 A human being of worthlessness,
a man of mischief,
is walking with a deceitful mouth,

6:13 winking with his eyes,
shuffling with his feet,
pointing with his fingers.

6:14 Perversity is in his heart.
He is plotting harm at all times.

He sends out strifes.
6:15 For this reason his calamity
will come suddenly.
Instantly he will be broken.
And there will be no healing.

6:16 These six things **YAHWEH** has hated,
even seven *are* morally disgusting to His life:
6:17 eyes being lifted up,
a deceitful tongue,
and hands shedding the blood of the innocent,
6:18 a heart devising schemes of mischief,
feet running swiftly to what is bad,
6:19 a false witness uttering falsehoods,
and one sending out strife between kindred.

6:20 My son, maintain your father's directive.
And do not forsake the teaching of your mother.
6:21 Bind them over your heart continually.
Tie them upon your neck.

6:22 When you are walking yourself about
it will guide you yourself **nx**.
When you are lying down
it will keep watch over you.
And when you have awakened
it will speak to you.

6:23 Indeed, the directive is a lamp,
and The Torah is a light,
and reproofs of discipline *are* a way of life
6:24 for the sake of protecting you
against an evil woman,
from the flattering tongue of a devious woman.

6:25 You are not to delight in her beauty
in your heart.
And you are not to be captivated by her eyelids.
6:26 Indeed, through a woman of adultery
one is *reduced* to a crust of bread.
And the husband of an adulteress wife
will hunt a precious life.

6:27 Can a man take fire to his chest
and his garments not be burned?
6:28 Can a man walk on burning coals
and his feet not be scorched?

6:29 According to this
is one going in to the wife of his neighbor.
Anyone touching on her
will not be declared innocent.

6:30 There is no contempt for a thief
when he steals to satisfy his life
when he is hungry.
6:31 But having been found
he will repay sevenfold.
All the wealth itself **nx** of his house
he will give.

6:32 The one committing adultery with a woman
lacks a heart.
The one doing it is destroying his life.
6:33 He will find a blow and disgrace.

And his reproach will not be erased.

6:34 Indeed, jealousy enrages a man.
And he will not have pity in the day of revenge.

6:35 He will not treat favorably any ransom,
nor will he be agreeable
even when there are many gifts.

Chapter 7

7:1 My son, protect my words.
And hide away my directives for you yourself **nx**!

7:2 Protect my directives and live,
even my teaching as the apple of your eye!

7:3 Bind them upon your fingers!
Inscribe them upon the tablet of your heart!

7:4 Say to wisdom, "My sister."
and call out to understanding,
"My intimate friend herself **nx**,"

7:5 for the sake of protecting you
from a stranger,
from a foreigner causing her words to flatter.

7:6 Indeed, at the window of my house
I looked down through my lattice.

7:7 And I watched among the unaware.
I discerned among the youths
a young man lacking a heart

7:8 passing over the street beside her corner.
And he was going the way to her house

7:9 In the twilight, at dusk,
in the dark of night, even darkness.

7:10 And behold!
A woman *came* to meet him
with the attire of a prostitute,
with a concealed heart.

7:11 She was loud and stubborn.
Her feet did not stay at her house.

7:12 Now in the street,
now in the squares,
and beside every corner she lies in wait.

7:13 And she took hold of him.
And she kissed him.
She hardened her face.

And she said to him,
7:14 "Sacrifices of shelem are beside me.
Today I have paid my vows.

7:15 For this reason I came out to meet you,
to diligently seek your face.
And I have found you.

7:16 I have spread my bed with coverings,
colored linens of Mitsraim.

7:17 I have sprinkled my bed
with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

7:18 Come! We will be satisfied
with love until morning.
We will enjoy ourselves with sexual intimacy!

7:19 Indeed, the man of the house is not at home.
He has gone on a distant journey.

7:20 He has taken a bag of silver in his hand.
On the day of the new moon he will come to his house."

7:21 With her abundant persuasive speech
she causes him to go astray.

With her flattering lips she compels him.

7:22 He goes after her immediately.

Like an ox to the slaughter he goes,
even as *if* in leg chains,
to the discipline of a fool

7:23 until an arrow pierces his liver.

He is like a bird rushing to a snare,
but it did not know it was with its life.

7:24 And now, children,

listen attentively to me!

And pay attention to the words of my mouth!

7:25 Do not turn aside your heart to her ways!

Do not go astray into her paths!

7:26 Indeed, many are the wounded
she has caused to fall,

and numerous are all her slain ones.

7:27 Her house is the way to She'ol,
descending to the chambers of death.

Chapter 8

8:1 Does not wisdom call out,
and understanding give forth her voice?

8:2 At the top of the heights,
beside the way,
between the paths,
she has taken her stand.

8:3 Next to the gates
at the opening to the city,
at the entrances she shouts,

8:4 "To you men I call out,
even with my voice to the sons of a human being!

8:5 You unaware ones,
cause discretion to be understood!

And you foolish ones,
cause your heart to be understanding!

8:6 Listen attentively!

Indeed, I will speak honorable words,
and with the opening of my lips, fairness!

8:7 Indeed, my mouth speaks truth.

And moral wrong is a detestable thing to my lips.

8:8 All the words of my mouth are with justice.

Nothing in them *is* devious or perverse.

8:9 All of them *are* straightforward
to the discerning,
and upright to those finding knowledge.

8:10 Accept my instruction, but not silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold!

8:11 Indeed, wisdom is better than rubies.
And anything desirable is not comparable to her.

8:12 I myself, wisdom,
have dwelt with craftiness.
And I discover knowledge of schemes.

8:13 The reverence of **YAHWEH**
is to hate what is bad.
I have hated pride, and arrogance,
and the bad way, and perversity.

8:14 Advice is mine,
even sound wisdom.
I myself am understanding.
Power is mine.

8:15 By me kings reign
and rulers make just decrees.
8:16 By me princes rule, and nobles,
all those judging with justice.

8:17 I myself love those loving me.
And those diligently seeking me will find me.

8:18 Wealth and honor are with me myself אנ,
enduring wealth and justice.

8:19 My fruit is better than gold,
even fine gold,
and my revenue *better* than choice silver.

8:20 I walk in the way of justice,
in the midst of the paths of judgment,
8:21 causing those loving me
to inherit what exists.
And their storehouses I will fill.

8:22 **YAHWEH** created me
as the beginning of His ways,
as the first of His deeds of long ago.

8:23 From eternity
I was molded long ago,
from the beginning,
from the ancient earth.

8:24 On account of there being no depths,
I was brought forth.
On account of there being no springs abounding with water,
8:25 before the mountains had settled,
before the faces of the hills,
I was brought forth
8:26 before He had made the ground
or the open spaces,
or the first dust of the world.

8:27 When He established the skies
I myself was there.
When He decreed a circuit
on the face of the deep,
8:28 when He established the clouds above,
when He strengthened the fountains of the deep,
8:29 when He placed a decree
for the sake of the sea,
and the waters were not to pass over His word,
when He engraved the foundations of the earth,
8:30 then I existed beside Him,
as a craftsman.
And I was delighted day by day,
rejoicing before His face at all the times,
8:31 rejoicing on account of the world,
His earth.

And my delights were with the children themselves אנ
of the human being.

8:32 And now, children,

listen attentively to me!
Even blessed are those who protect my ways.

8:33 Listen attentively to instruction
and be wise!
And do not let loose of it!

8:34 Happy is the man
who is listening attentively to me,
for the sake of watching daily beside my gates,
for the sake of keeping watch
at the doorposts of my doors.

8:35 Indeed, the one finding me
will be finding life!
And he will obtain favor from **YAHWEH!**

8:36 But the one offending *against* me
is doing violence to his life.
All those hating me have loved death.”

Chapter 9

9:1 Wisdom has built her house.
She has quarried her seven columns.
9:2 She has slaughtered her animals.
She has mingled her wine.
She has also arranged her table.
9:3 She has sent out her maidservants.

She calls out upon the high points of the city,
9:4 “Whoever is unaware turn aside here!
Whoever lacking of heart she says to him,
9:5 Come! Eat of my food!
And drink of the wine I have mingled!
9:6 Abandon the unaware ones and live!
And go straight forward on the way of understanding!”

9:7 The one rebuking a scoffer
receives disgrace for himself.
And one arguing with the morally wrong
receives his injury.

9:8 Do not rebuke a scoffer lest he hate you.
Rebuke a wise one and he will love you.

9:9 Give *instruction* to the wise
and he will be wiser still.
Cause a just one to know
and he will cause learning to increase.

9:10 The beginning of wisdom
is reverence of **YAHWEH**.
And knowledge of the set part is understanding.

9:11 Indeed, with me your days will be many
and years of life will be added for you.

9:12 If you have been wise,
you have been wise for your own sake.
And if you have mocked,
it is for you alone to bear it.

9:13 A foolish woman is noisy,
unaware, and knows nothing.

9:14 And she has sat down
at the door of her house,

on a seat *at* the high points of the city,
9:15 for the sake of calling
to those passing over the road,
those going straight on their path,
9:16 "Whoever is unaware,
turn aside here!"
And whoever is lacking of heart
she says to him,
9:17 "Waters having been stolen are sweet.
And food *from* a hiding place is delightful."

9:18 But he does not know
that the departed ones are there.
Those she has been calling
are in the depths of She'ol.

Chapter 10

10.0 The Proverbs of Shelomoh.

10:1 A wise son makes a father glad.
But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.

10:2 Of no benefit are the treasures of moral wrong.
But right action causes one to be delivered from death.

10:3 **YAHWEH** will not cause the just to hunger.
But He will disregard the calamities
of the morally wrong.

10:4 Being destitute is one
acting with a deceitful hand.
But the hand of the diligent
causes one to be wealthy.

10:5 One gathering in summer is a prudent son.
One sleeping soundly at harvest
is a son causing shame.

10:6 Blessings are on the head of the just.
But the mouth of the morally wrong
is covered with violence.

10:7 The memory of the just
is for the sake of blessing.
But the name of the morally wrong will putrefy.

10:8 The wise of heart accepts directives.
But the lips of a fool will be ruined.

10:9 One walking with integrity walks safely.
But one perverting his ways will be known.

10:10 One winking the eye causes injury.
And the lips of a fool will be ruined.

10:11 A fountain of life is the mouth of the just.
But the mouth of the morally wrong
is covered with violence.

10:12 Hatred stirs up strifes.
But love covers over all rebellions.

10:13 On the lips of one with understanding
wisdom will be found.
But a rod is for the back of one lacking a heart.

10:14 The wise store away knowledge.
But ruin is close by to the mouth of a fool.

10:15 The wealth of the rich is his fortified city.
The ruin of the poor is their poverty.

10:16 The compensation of the just
is for the sake of life.
The revenue of the morally wrong
is for the sake of offense.

10:17 One guarding instruction is on the way to life.
But one abandoning rebuke is going astray.

10:18 One concealing hatred has lying lips.
And one sending out slander, he is a fool.

10:19 In an abundance of words
rebellion is not lacking.
But one restraining his lips causes one to be wise.

10:20 Choice silver is the tongue of the just.
The heart of the morally wrong is *worth* little.

10:21 The lips of the just will shepherd many.
But fools with a lack of heart will be die.

10:22 The blessing of **YAHWEH**,
it causes one to be rich.
And He does not add pain with it.

10:23 The doing of wicked schemes
is as humor to a fool.
But wisdom is for a man of understanding.

10:24 That feared by the morally wrong,
it will come to him.
But the desire of the just will be granted.

10:25 Like the passing over of a stormy wind,
likewise, the morally wrong will exist no more.
But the just one has a foundation to eternity.

10:26 As vinegar to the teeth
and smoke to the eyes,
according to this is the lazy one
to those sending him.

10:27 The reverence of **YAHWEH**
causes days to be added.
But the years of the morally wrong
will be cut short.

10:28 The just hope with joy.
But the expectation of the morally wrong will perish.

10:29 The way of **YAHWEH**
is a fortress for the blameless.
But *it is* ruin to those doing worthlessness.

10:30 The just will not be shaken to eternity.
But the morally wrong will not remain on the earth.

10:31 The mouth of the just
will bring forth wisdom.
But the tongue of the perverse

will be cut off.

10:32 The lips of the just
know what is acceptable.
But the mouth of the morally wrong *speaks* perversity.

Chapter 11

11:1 False scales
are a detestable thing to **YAHWEH**.
But a perfect weight is His delight.

11:2 Pride comes.
Then comes shame.
But with the humble *himself* **is** wisdom.

11:3 The integrity of the upright will guide them.
But the distortion of those acting treacherously
will destroy them.

11:4 Riches will be of no benefit in the day of wrath.
But justice will cause one to be delivered from death.

11:5 The right action of the blameless
will make his way straight.
But on account of his moral wrong
the morally wrong will fall.

11:6 The right action of the upright
will cause them to be delivered.
But on account of the desires
of those acting treacherously
they will be captured.

11:7 At the death of a morally wrong human being
hope will perish.
Also the expectation of the worthless will perish.

11:8 The just will be delivered from distress.
And the morally wrong will come in his place.

11:9 With the mouth of one defiled
he causes his neighbor to be destroyed.
But on account of knowledge
the just will be delivered.

11:10 When the just prosper the city rejoices.
And at the perishing of the morally wrong
there is joyful shouting.

11:11 By the blessing of the upright
the city is lifted up.
But on account of the mouth of the morally wrong
it is torn down.

11:12 Despising to his neighbor
is one lacking a heart.
And a man of insight holds his peace.

11:13 One coming with gossip
is revealing secrets.
But one faithful of breath conceals a matter.

11:14 With no guidance the people will fall.
But in the abundance of advice there is deliverance.

11:15 Bad. Bad is one
who is guarantor for a stranger.
And one hating an agreement will suffer harm.
But one hating the shaking of hands *in pledge*
will be secure.

11:16 A woman showing favor obtains honor.
But ruthless men obtain wealth.

11:17 A man of kindness
is treating his life well.
But one cruel is troubling his own flesh.

11:18 The morally wrong works deceitfully.
But the one sowing right action,
his compensation is sure.

11:19 Rightly so, justice is for the sake of life.
But pursuing what is bad *leads* to one's death.

11:20 A detestable thing to YAHWEH
are the perverse of heart.
But His delight are those blameless of way.

11:21 Hand to hand!
The bad will not be declared innocent!
But the seed of the just will be rescued.

"Hand to hand." is a Hebraism. It identifies the clasp of hands in agreement over something. Here it affirms what follows.

11:22 A ring of gold in the snout of a swine
is a beautiful woman who lacks good sense.

11:23 The desire of the just is only *what is* good.
The expectation of the morally wrong is wrath.

11:24 There is one scattering.
Yet he is increased still.
But one withholding more than is right
will only be impoverished.

11:25 The life of blessing will prosper.
And one who is causing to drink,
he will also be watered.

11:26 One withholding grain people will curse.
But blessing will be for the head of one
causing it to be sold.

11:27 One diligently seeking *what is* good
will search out what is pleasing.
But one seeking what is bad,
it will come to him.

11:28 One trusting in his riches,
he will fall.
But the just will flourish like a leaf.

11:29 One troubling his own household
will inherit wind.
And a fool *will be* a servant
to the wise of heart.

11:30 The fruit of the just is a tree of life.
And one accepting persons is wise.

11:31 Behold!
The just on the earth will be paid back.
How much more the morally wrong
and the offender!

Chapter 12

12:1 One loving discipline is loving knowledge.
But one hating a rebuke is stupid.

12:2 A good *person* obtains favor from YAHWEH.
But a man of hurtful schemes
He will cause to be declared wrong.

12:3 A human being is not established
on account of moral wrong.
And the root of the just will not be shaken.

12:4 A virtuous wife is the crown of her husband.
But like rotteness in his bones
is one causing shame.

12:5 The thoughts of the just *are* with justice.
The plans of the morally wrong *are* with deceit.

12:6 The words of the morally wrong are,
"Lie in wait for blood!"
But the mouth of the upright
causes them to be delivered.

12:7 The morally wrong will be overthrown,
and they will not exist.
But the house of the just will stand.

12:8 A man will be commended
according to his good sense.
But the one perverse of heart,
for him there will be contempt.

12:9 Better to be lightly honored
and have a servant
than one honoring himself,
but is lacking food.

12:10 The just acknowledges the life of his animal.
But the compassion of the morally wrong is cruelty.

12:11 The one working his land
will be satisfied with food.
The one working,
but the one pursuing worthlessness,
is lacking of heart.

12:12 The morally wrong is delighted
with *what is taken in the* net of the bad.
But the root of the just gives.

The Hebrew is difficult in this verse. It's precise meaning is unclear. The Hebrew suggests the morally wrong are delighted by what is "taken" by the net of those who are bad. The second line literally reads, "The root of the just gives." The parallelism here supports the contrast given above.

12:13 In the rebellion of the lips is an evil snare.
But the just will come out from trouble.

12:14 From the fruit of a man's mouth

one is well satisfied.
And the benefit of a human being's hands
will be returned to him.

12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.
But one listening attentively to advice is wise.

12:16 A fool's wrath is known at once.
But a cunning one covers his disgrace.

12:17 One speaking truth
causes justice to be declared,
but a false witness, deceit.

12:18 There is one speaking rashly,
like piercings of a sword.
But the tongue of the wise *speaks* with healing.

12:19 A lip of truth is established forever.
But a lying tongue is *only* for a moment.

12:20 Deceit is in the heart
of those devising harm.
But *in the heart of* counselors of shalom *is* joy.

12:21 No harm will happen to the just.
But the morally wrong will be filled with harm.

12:22 Lying lips are detestable to **YAHWEH**.
But those acting faithfully are His delight.

12:23 A cunning human being conceals knowledge.
But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule.
But the lazy will be for forced labor.

12:25 Anxiety in the heart of a man
causes him to crouch.
But a good word makes him glad.

12:26 The just searches things out
because of his friend.
But the way of the morally wrong
causes them to go astray.

12:27 The lazy one has no game to roast.
But the wealth of a human being
is precious to the diligent.

12:28 In the path of justice is life.
And the way of the path is not death.

Chapter 13

13:1 A wise son *accepts* his father's discipline.
But one who mocks will not listen attentively to a rebuke.

13:2 Because of the fruit of a man's mouth
he will eat *what is* good.
But the life of those acting treacherously, of violence.

13:3 One keeping watch over his mouth
is protecting his life.
But he who opens wide his lips,
ruin is his.

13:4 The life of a lazy one desires for itself,
but has nothing.
But the life of the diligent will prosper.


13:5 A just one hates a lying word.
But a morally wrong one is repulsive.
And he will be disgraced.

13:6 Justice watches over those
with a way of integrity.
But moral wrong overthrows the offender.

13:7 There is one making himself rich,
yet he has nothing at all.
One is making himself poor,
yet he has abundant wealth.

13:8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches.
But the poor does not listen attentively to a rebuke.

13:9 The light of the just will rejoice.
But the lamp of the morally wrong will be extinguished.

13:10 Only with pride comes strife.
But with those being advised *themselves* 
there is wisdom.

13:11 Wealth from vanity will be diminished.
But one gathering by hand will be caused to increase.

13:12 Hope delayed
causes the heart to be sick.
But a tree of life is a desire that comes.

13:13 One holding contempt for The Word
will be bound for the sake of it.
But one revering the directive,
he will be paid back.

13:14 The instruction of the wise
is a fountain of life,
for the sake of turning one aside
from the snares of death.

13:15 One of good understanding
will be granted favor.
But the way of those acting treacherously
will be difficult.

13:16 All the prudent act with knowledge.
But a fool spreads foolishness.

13:17 A morally wrong messenger
will fall into mischief.
But a faithful ambassador is healthful.

13:18 Poverty and disgrace
are for one ignoring discipline.
But he who is watching over a rebuke
will be honored.

13:19 A desire having been accomplished
is sweet for a life.
But it is a detestable thing to fools
to turn away from what is bad.

13:20 One walking with the wise *himself* תא
then will be wise.
But one feeding fools will be fed *foolishness*.

The last line is unclear in the Hebrew text. The word means shepherding or pasturing a flock, hence feeding them. But it appears there is a word missing at the end of the text. The tense of the verbs suggests what is given above.

13:21 Evil pursues offenders.
But the just *themselves* תא
will be repaid with good.

You'll note the term "offenders" being used instead of "sinners". This change is based on the understanding that what is traditionally called "sin" is an act of rebellion against YAHWEH. It offends Him because one has rejected His instructions to His people. Thus, it is an offense. It's important to see this distinction. False teaching has led many to misunderstand the character of "sin", and why it is such a problem in their relationship with YAHWEH.

13:22 The good causes an inheritance
for his children's children.
But the wealth of the offender
is being stored away for the just.

13:23 An abundance of food
is in the tillable ground of those being destitute.
But what exists will be swept away
on account of lack of judgment.

13:24 He who is restraining his rod
is hating his child.
But he who is loving him
examines him early with discipline.

13:25 The just will be eating
for the sake of satisfying his life.
But the belly of the morally wrong
will be lacking *food*.

Chapter 14

14:1 A wise woman has built her house.
But a foolish one tears it down with her hands.

14:2 He who is walking in his uprightness
reveres **YAHWEH**.
But he whose ways are turned aside despises Him.

14:3 In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride.
But the lips of the wise protect them.

14:4 When there are no oxen the manger is clean.
But there is an abundant of crop
with the strength of an ox.

14:5 A trustworthy witness does not lie.
But a false witness breathes out lies.

14:6 A scoffer has sought wisdom, but has none.
But knowledge is easy for him who has understanding.

14:7 Go away from in front of a foolish one
or you will not recognize lips of knowledge.

14:8 The wisdom of the prudent

is to understand His way.
But the foolishness of fools is deception.

14:9 Fools cause guilt to be mocked.
But between the upright *there is favor*.

14:10 The heart knows the bitterness of its life.
And no stranger shares its joy.

14:11 The house of the morally wrong
will be destroyed.
But the tent of the upright will flourish.

14:12 There is a way which seems right
to the face of a man.
But the end of it is the ways of death.

14:13 Even in laughter
there can be pain of heart.
And the end of *such* joy is sorrow.

14:14 One turning away the heart
will be satisfied from his *own* ways.
But a good man *will be satisfied* from above.

14:15 The unaware is caused to trust at every word.
But the shrewd one is discerning
for the sake of his going.

14:16 The wise is afraid.
And he turns aside from what is bad.
But a fool passes on and is careless.

14:17 One short of temper acts foolishly.
And a man planning mischief will be hated.

14:18 The unaware have inherited foolishness.
But the shrewd are caused
to be crowned with knowledge.

14:19 The bad will be humiliated before the good,
and the morally wrong at the gates of the just.

14:20 The destitute will be hated
even by his own neighbor.
But the friends of the rich *will be* many.

14:21 One showing contempt to his neighbor
is offending.
But one showing favor to the afflicted,
happy is he.

14:22 Do not those go astray
who are planning evil?
But kindness and faithfulness
are for those planning good.

14:23 In all labor there is gain.
But the talk of the lips only *leads* to impoverishment.

14:24 The crown of the wise is their riches.
The foolishness of fools is foolishness.

14:25 A faithful witness
causes lives to be delivered.
But one breathing out lies is deceitful.

14:26 In the reverence of **YAHWEH**
there is strong confidence.
And for His children there is shelter.

14:27 The reverence of **YAHWEH**
is a fountain of life.
It exists for the sake of turning one away
from the snares of death.

14:28 In a multitude of people is a king's honor.
But in a lack of people is the ruin of a prince.

14:29 One slow to anger is of much understanding.
But one short of breath exalts foolishness.

"one short of breath" us a Hebraism that means
"quick to anger".

14:30 A healthy heart is life to the flesh.
But jealousy is rottenness to the bones.

14:31 One oppressing the poor
dishonors The One making him.
But the one honoring Him
shows favor to the destitute.

14:32 By his badness
the morally wrong will be thrown down.
But the just will have hope at his death.

14:33 In the heart of one with understanding
rests wisdom.
Even in the midst of fools it is known.

14:34 Justice exalts a nation.
But offense is a disgrace to the peoples.

14:35 The king' shows favor to a wise servant.
But his wrath exists for those causing him shame.

Chapter 15

15:1 A gentle answer causes wrath to turn away.
But a painful word causes anger to rise up.

15:2 The tongue of the wise
causes beneficial knowledge.
But the mouth of fools
causes foolishness to gush forth.

15:3 In every place *are* the eyes of **YAHWEH**.
They are watching the bad ones and the good ones.

15:4 A healing tongue is a tree of life.
But perversion in it, a breach in the breath.

15:5 A fool rejects the discipline of his father.
But one regarding a rebuke is shrewd.

15:6 The household of the just
is a great treasure.
But with the revenue of the morally wrong
there will be trouble.

15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge.
But the heart of fools is not so.

15:8 The sacrifice of the morally wrong
is a detestable thing to **YAHWEH**.
But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

15:9 A detestable thing to **YAHWEH**
is the way of the morally wrong.
But one pursuing justice He loves.

15:10 Discipline is bad
to one abandoning the way.
One hating rebuke will die.

15:11 She'ol and Abbadon
are in front of **YAHWEH**.
Truly indeed, *so are* the hearts
of the children of human beings.

5:12 A mocker does not love
one causing his rebuke.
He will not go to the wise.

15:13 A joyful heart causes a pleasing face.
But with sorrow of heart the breath is forced out.

15:14 The heart of one having understanding
seeks knowledge.
But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

15:15 All the days of the afflicted are bad.
But goodness of heart is a continual feast.

15:16 Better is a little
with the reverence of **YAHWEH**,
than much treasure, but with panic.

15:17 Better is a meal of herbs,
and love is there,
than a fattened ox,
and hatred is with it.

15:18 A man of wrath stirs up strife.
But one slow to anger quiets strife.

15:19 The path of the lazy
is like a hedge of thorns.
But the path of the upright is a highway.

15:20 A wise son makes a father glad.
But a foolish human being dishonors his mother.

15:21 Foolishness is joy to one lacking a heart.
But a man of understanding is walking uprightly.

15:22 Without counsel
plans are caused to be broken.
But with many counselors they will stand.

15:23 There is joy for a man
in the answer of his mouth.
And how good is a word spoken in its season!

15:24 The path of life is upward for the wise,
for the sake of turning *him* aside from she'ol below.

15:25 The house of the proud
YAHWEH will tear away.

But He will cause to stand
the boundary of the widow.

15:26 A detestable thing to YAHWEH
are the thoughts of the bad.
But undefiled words are a delight.

15:27 One being greedy for gain
is troubling his own household.
But one hating bribes will live.

15:28 The heart of the just
ponders how to answer.
But the mouth of the morally wrong
gushes forth what is bad.

15:29 YAHWEH is far from the morally wrong.
But He listens attentively to the prayer of the just.

15:30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart.
A good report gives prosperity.

15:31 An ear listening attentively
to a rebuke of a life
will dwell in the midst of the wise.

15:32 One ignoring discipline
dishonors his life.
But one listening attentively to a rebuke
obtains understanding.

15:33 The reverence of YAHWEH
is the discipline of wisdom.
And before the face of honor is humility.

Chapter 16

16:1 To the human being
belongs the arrangements of the heart.
But from YAHWEH is the response of the tongue.

16:2 All the ways of a man
are pure in his *own* eyes.
But YAHWEH weighs the breaths.

ruach - wind; by resemblance breath.
zak - to be clear; clean, pure.
There are two issues of importance here. The concept of purity, cleanness, is central to Yisra'elite thought. Everything within the teachings of Yisra'el revolves around purity, lack of defilement. If one was defiled they were not permitted anywhere near that which was holy. They were in effect banned from the presence of YAHWEH.
Thus the concept of purity here is vitally important. In one's own eyes a person sees themselves as undefiled. That's part one.
The second part of this proverb is even more important than the first. But to understand it one must comprehend what is understood in Hebrew culture to be represented by "the breath" of a person.
Their view of breath everything involved that flowed in and out of a person. It represented their inner character, or nature. Without the breath one does not live. Thus, without breath the person's inner nature is no longer there.
YAHWEH is seen as The One who weighs in the balances the breaths of a person, their inner nature. He assesses whether it is a good nature or a bad one.

16:3 Commit your actions to YAHWEH.
Then your plans will be established.

16:4 YAHWEH has made everything for its purpose,
and even the morally wrong for the day of evil.

16:5 A detestable thing to YAHWEH
is everyone proud of heart.
Hand to hand! (Of a certainty!)
He will not be declared innocent.

16:6 With kindness and faithfulness
moral perversity is atoned.
And in the reverence of YAHWEH
one turns away from what is bad.

16:7 When a man's ways
are pleasing to YAHWEH
even his adversaries
will be caused to be at peace
with he himself תנ.

16:8 Better is a little with justice
than abundant revenue with no judgment.

16:9 The heart of a human being
considers his way.
But YAHWEH causes his steps to be established.

16:10 A divination is on the lips of a king.
In judgment his mouth will not act treacherously.

16:11 A just scale and balances are YAHWEH's.
All the stones of a bag are His work.

16:12 It is a detestable thing
for kings to do moral wrong.
Indeed, a throne is established by justice.

16:13 Just lips are the delight of kings.
And one speaking uprightly they love.

16:14 The wrath of a king
is *like* messengers of death.
But a wise man will atone for it.

16:15 In the light of the face of a king is life.
And his favor is like a cloud of spring rain.

16:16 How much better it is
to obtain wisdom than gold!
And to obtain understanding
is to be chosen more than to silver.

16:17 The highway of the upright
is to turn away from what is bad.

One protecting his life
is maintaining his way.

16:18 Before the face of ruin, pride.
And before the face of stumbling, an arrogant nature.

16:19 Better to be humble of breath
with the afflicted themselves תנ
than to divide spoil
with the proud themselves תנ.

16:20 He who acts wisely
concerning a matter will find good.
And one trusting in YAHWEH, happy is he.

16:21 To the wise of heart is called, "Discerning".
And sweetness of the lips
causes learning to increase.

16:22 Discretion is a fountain of life
to him who masters it.
But the disciplining of fools is foolishness.

16:23 The heart of the wise
causes the prudence of his mouth.
And upon his lips learning is added.

16:24 *Like* the honey of a honeycomb
are pleasant words,
sweet to a life, and healing to the bones.

16:25 There is a way that is right
before the face of a man.
But its final end *is* the ways of death.

16:26 The toiling life labors for itself
on account of of the craving of its mouth.

16:27 A man of worthlessness
digs up what is bad.
And on his lips it is like a burning fire.

16:28 A perverse man sends forth strife.
And one finding fault
causes intimate friends to separate.

16:29 A violent man deceives his neighbor.
And he causes him to go
in a way that is not good,
16:30 winking his eyes
for the sake of considering fraud.
With the moving of his lips
he has completed what is bad.

16:31 Grey hair is a decorative crown.
It is to be found in the way of justice.

16:32 Better is one slow to anger
than the powerful,
and one ruling with his breath
than one capturing a city.

16:33 The lot itself **nx**
is hurled into the lap.
But all its determinations are from YAHWEH.

Chapter 17

17:1 Better is a dry piece of food
and quietness with it
than a house filled with the slaughterings of strife.

17:2 A servant acting wisely
will have dominion
over a son causing shame.
And in the midst of kindred
he will have a portion of the inheritance.

17:3 A refining pot is for silver
and a furnace for gold.
But **YAHWEH** tests the hearts.

17:4 An evildoer pays attention
to lips of worthlessness.
A liar lends an ear to a tongue of desire.

17:5 One mocking the destitute
defames The One making him.
One being glad for the sake of a calamity
will not be declared innocent.

17:6 The crown of old men is children's children.
And the glory of children is their fathers.

17:7 Excess speech is not fitting for a fool.
much less, lying lips for a noble.

17:8 A bribe is a stone of favor
in the eyes of its owner.
Toward whatever he turns he prospers.

17:9 One covering a rebellion is seeking love.
But one repeating concerning a matter
causes intimate friends to separate.

17:10 A rebuke enters deeper
into a man of understanding
than a hundred blows to a fool.

17:11 One who is bad seeks only bitterness.
And a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

17:12 *Better is* meeting a bear bereaved of her cubs
than a fool in his foolishness.

17:13 One returning bad in place of good,
what is bad will not depart from his house.

17:14 The beginning of strife
is like the releasing of water.
Even before it itself is meddled with,
leave the fight.

17:15 One causing the morally wrong
to be justified,
and one causing the just to be condemned;
both of them are a detestable thing to **YAHWEH**.

17:16 Why is this,
a price in the hand of a fool
for the sake of obtaining wisdom,
but there is no heart?

17:17 A friend loves at all times.
And kindred is born for the sake of adversity.

17:18 A human being lacking a heart
shakes hands, conveying a pledge.
He is a guarantor before the face of his friend.

17:19 One loving rebellion loves strife.

One causing his doorway to be exalted


is seeking ruin.

17:20 One crooked of heart will find no good.
And one being perverse of tongue
will fall into what is bad.

17:21 One bringing forth a fool,
it will be to his sorrow.
And the father of a fool will not rejoice.

17:22 A rejoicing heart will cause good health.
But a broken nature withers the bones.

17:23 A bribe from the chest of the morally wrong
is taken for the sake of turning aside
the paths of judgment.

17:24 Wisdom is before the face itself 
of one having understanding.
But the eyes of a fool
are on the extremities of the earth.

17:25 A foolish son is a provocation to his father
and bitterness to her who bore him.

17:26 Also, it is not good to punish the just,
nor to strike the generous on account of fairness.

17:27 One sparing his words
comprehends knowledge.
And calm of breath is a man of discretion.

17:28 Even a fool causing his peace to be held
is considered wise,
one shutting his lips as one being discerning.

Chapter 18

18:1 For the sake of desire
one seeks to be separated.
He is obstinate against all sound wisdom.

18:2 A fool does not delight in discretion,
but rather in exposing his heart.

18:3 At the coming of the morally wrong
contempt also comes.
And with disgrace comes scorn.

18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters.
A fountain of wisdom is a flowing stream.

18:5 It is not good to show partiality
to the morally wrong
nor to turn aside the just in judgment.

18:6 A fool's lips enter into contention.
And his mouth calls out for blows.

18:7 A fool's mouth is his ruin.
And his lips are a snare to his life.

18:8 The words of a slanderer are like wounds.
And they go down into the chambers of the belly.

18:9 Also, he who is slacking in his work,

he himself is brother to a master of destruction.

18:10 The name of **YAHWEH** is a strong tower.
The just run into it.
And they are safe.

18:11 The wealth of the rich is his strong city,
even like a high wall in his imagination.

18:12 Before the face of ruin
the heart of a man is arrogant.
And before the face of honor is humility.

18:13 One returning a word
before he listens attentively to it,
it is foolishness to him, even disgrace.

18:14 The nature of a man contains his sickness.
But who can bear a damaged nature?

18:15 The heart of a discerning one
obtains knowledge.
And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

18:16 A man's gift makes room for him.
And it causes him to come
before the face of great men.

18:17 Just is the first in a dispute
until his neighbor comes and examines him.

18:18 The lot causes contentions to be settled
and causes separation between the powerful.

18:19 Kindred rebelling against a strong city,
and contentions,
are like the bars of a fortress.

18:20 From the fruit of his mouth
a man satisfies his belly.
With the produce of his lips he will be filled.

18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
and those loving it will eat its fruit.

18:22 One who has found a wife
has found good,
and he has obtained favor from **YAHWEH**.

18:23 The destitute speaks with earnest pleas.
But the rich answers harshly.

18:24 Friends of a man can be harmful to him.
But there is a loving one
adhering more *close*ly than a brother!

Chapter 19

19:1 Better is the destitute walking in his integrity
than one whose lips are perverse and he is a fool.

19:2 Also, a life with no knowledge is not good.
And one hurrying with his feet is offending.

19:3 The foolishness of a human being
distorts his way.
Then his heart is enraged against **YAHWEH**.

19:4 Wealth adds many friends.
But the weak will be separated from his friend.

19:5 A false witness will not be declared innocent.
And one causing lies to be breathed out will not escape.

19:6 Many request the favor of the generous.
And everyone is a friend to a man of gifts.

19:7 All the kindred of the destitute
have hated him.
Indeed, how much more
when his friends go far away from him!
He has been pursuing with words.
But they are not *there*.

19:8 One acquiring a heart
is loving his own life.
He is protecting discretion
for the sake of finding *what* is good.

19:9 A false witness will not be declared innocent.
And one causing lies to be breathed out will perish.

19:10 Pleasure is not fitting for a fool.
How much less *fitting is it* for a slave
to rule among leaders.

19:11 The good sense of a human being
causes him to be slow to anger.
And his honor is to pass over a rebellion.

19:12 The king's wrath is *like* the roaring of a lion.
But like dew on grass is his favor.

19:13 A calamity to his father is a foolish son.
And a continual dripping
is the contentions of a wife.

19:14 A house and wealth
are the possession of fathers.
But from **YAHWEH** is a wife who is acting prudently.

19:15 Laziness causes one to fall into a deep sleep.
And a life of negligence will be hungry.

19:16 He who is protecting a directive
is protecting his life.
One despising His ways
will be put to death.

Traditionally the word "command" is used here. But Scripture affirms that YAHWEH does not issue "commands" to His people. Instead, He gives them directions (directives). They are then free to choose whether to follow those directions or not. With a command there is no freedom of choice. It is compulsory. Given this perspective the use of 'His' (rather than 'his') reflect the understanding that the reference is to what YAHWEH gives as direction, not some human being.

19:17 One showing favor to the weak
is lending to **YAHWEH**.
And He will repay his act.

19:18 Discipline your son while there is hope.

But do not let your life be carried away,
causing him to die.

19:19 A lot cast for wrath carries a fine.
Indeed, if you cause him to be delivered
then he will do it again.

This is very different from traditional texts. The first word in the Hebrew text is "lot", referring to the casting of lots to make a judicial determination. To leave this out is to do injustice to the text. All of what follows is dependent upon the understanding of the use of lots in making judicial determinations.

19:20 Listen attentively to advice!
And accept discipline
in order that you will be wise at your final end.

19:21 Many are the thoughts
in the heart of a man.
But the counsel of **YAHWEH**,
it will stand.

19:22 Desirable of a human being
is his kindness.
And the goodness of the destitute
is *more desirable* than a man of the lie.

19:23 The reverence of **YAHWEH**
is for the sake of life.
And one having it will remain satisfied.
He will not be visited with what is bad.

19:24 A lazy one buries his hand in a dish.
And he does not cause it to return to his mouth.

19:25 Cause a mocker to be struck
and the unaware will be caused to be shrewd.

And cause one to be rebuked
for the sake of understanding.
Then he will discern knowledge.

19:26 One ravaging a father
will cause his mother to flee.
He is a son causing shame and reproach.

19:27 Cease, my son,
to listen attentively to discipline,
for the sake of straying
from the words of knowledge.

19:28 A witness of worthlessness
mocks judgment.
And the mouth of the morally wrong
devours worthlessness.

19:29 Judgments will be prepared for mockers
and stripes for the backs of fools.

Chapter 20

20:1 The wine is a mocker
Roaring *is* of strong drink.
And everyone being deceived by it is not wise.

20:2 The dread of a king
is like the roaring of a lion.

Whoever provokes him offends against his life.

20:3 An honor for a man
is *his* ceasing from strife.
But every fool is obstinate.

20:4 Because of autumn
the lazy one does not plow.
He will inquire at harvest time.
But there will be nothing.

20:5 Counsel in the heart of man
is *like* deep water.
And a man of discretion will draw it out.

20:6 Many men will call out,
each about his own kindness.
But who can find a man of faithfulness?

20:7 A just one walks in his integrity.
Happy are his children behind him.

20:8 A king is sitting on the throne of judgment,
scattering with his eyes everything bad.

20:9 Who can say,
"I have cleansed my heart.
I have been purified from my offense."?

20:10 A stone and a stone.
An ephah and an ephah.
Both of them alike
are a detestable thing to YAHWEH.

It was common practice for many sellers to have different sets of stone weights in their bag to be used on the scales. One was fair, the other was generally too heavy, giving the seller the advantage. Thus they were cheating their customers. This practice did not please YAHWEH, especially when it was done in The Temple courtyards.

20:11 Even a child causes himself
to be known by his actions,
whether his act is pure and upright.

20:12 The ear listening attentively
and the eye seeing,
YAHWEH has even made both of them.

20:13 Do not love sleep
lest you are impoverished.
Open your eyes.
Be satisfied with food!

20:14 "Bad! Bad!" says the one buying.
But having gone his way, then he boasts.

20:15 There is gold
and an abundance rubies.
But lips of knowledge are a precious vessel.

20:16 Take the garment of one
who is guarantor for a stranger
and hold it as a pledge when it is for foreigners.

20:17 Food of deceit is sweet to a man.
But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

20:18 With advice plans will be established.
But with wise counsel wage battle.

20:19 One exposing secrets is a slanderer.
But to one flattering with his lips,
you are not to associate yourself with him.

20:20 One cursing his father or his mother,
his lamp will be put out with black darkness.

20:21 An inheritance obtained
by greed at the beginning
will not be blessed at the final end.

20:22 You are not to say, "I will repay evil!"
Wait for **YAHWEH**, and He will deliver you.

20:23 A detestable thing to **YAHWEH**
are stones and stones (differing weights).
And a deceitful scale is not good.

20:24 From **YAHWEH** are the steps of a man.
And a human being,
what does he understand of his way?

20:25 It is a snare for a human being
to say rashly, "It is set apart.",
and *only* afterward to consider *his* vows.

20:26 A wise king disperses the morally wrong
and causes the wheel to turn back over them.

20:27 The lamp of **YAHWEH**
is the breath of a human being,
searching out all of the chambers of his belly.

This verse accurately describes the Hebrew concept of the breath, *ruach*. This word does NOT mean 'spirit'. "Spirit is a Greek term that has never existed in Hebrew culture. The Hebrew view of the breath involved its ability to flow in and out of a life. It reached to the farthest inward portions of the body, and it was believed to carry the very inner nature of a person in and out as it travelled.

20:28 Kindness and faithfulness will maintain a king.
And his throne will be sustained by kindness.

20:29 The splendor of young men is their vigor.
And the magnificence of old men is grey hair.

20:30 The welts of a wound
cause purification in what is bad.
And likewise, blows to the inner parts of the body.

Chapter 21

21:1 The heart of a king
is like channels of water
in the hand of **YAHWEH**.
He causes it to turn aside
according to whatever He desires.

21:2 All the ways of a man
are upright in his own eyes.
But **YAHWEH** weighs the hearts in the balances.

21:3 Doing justice and judgment

is to be chosen for the sake of YAHWEH
more than a sacrifice.

21:4 A raised eye,
and an arrogant heart,
the plowing of the morally wrong,
they are *all* an offense.

21:5 The thoughts of the diligent
are only toward gain.
But everyone hurrying,
only toward a need.

21:6 Work *like* treasure,
is meaningless with a lying tongue,
being driven away by those seeking death.

21:7 The violence of the morally wrong
will destroy them
because they have refused
to act with judgment.

21:8 The way of a guilty man is devious.
But the pure, upright is his deed.

21:9 It is better to be dwelling
beside a corner of a house top
than with a contentious woman
in a shared house.

21:10 The life of the morally wrong
desires what is bad.
He will not be shown favor
in his eyes of his neighbor.

21:11 When a mocker is punished
the unaware is made wise.
And when the wise is caused to consider it
he receives knowledge.

21:12 The just is caused to be prudent
toward house of the morally wrong,
hindering the morally wrong
for the sake of what is bad.

21:13 One stopping up his ears
from the outcry of the weak,
he will also cry.
But there will be no response.

21:14 A gift in secret pacifies anger,
and a bribe in the lap, strong wrath.

21:15 It is a joy to the just to do judgment,
but ruin to those doing worthlessness.

21:16 A human being who strays
from the way of understanding
will rest in the assembly of the dead.

21:17 A man of poverty
will be one loving pleasure.
One loving wine and oil will not be rich.

21:18 The morally wrong
is a ransom for the just,

and those acting unfaithfully, for the upright.

21:19 It is better to dwell in a wilderness
than with a contentious and angry woman.

21:20 Treasure to be desired and oil
are in the home of the wise.
But a foolish human being will swallow it up.

21:21 One pursuing justice and kindness
will find life, justice, and honor.

21:22 A city of mighty men
the wise one has climbed.
And he has caused to come down
the strength of its confidence.

21:23 One protecting his mouth and tongue
is protecting his life from trouble.

21:24 The arrogant, the elevated,
'Mocker' is his designation.
He acts with the wrath of arrogance.

21:25 The desire of the lazy
will cause him to be die
because his hands have refused to do something.
21:26 All the day he longs with longing.
But the just gives.
And he does not withhold.

21:27 The sacrifice of the morally wrong
is a detestable thing,
especially when he causes it to be brought
with mischief in mind!

21:28 A false witness will perish.
But the man who listens attentively
will speak forever.

21:29 A morally wrong man
has caused his face to be hardened.
But the upright,
he causes his way to be established.

21:30 There is no wisdom,
and no discretion,
and no advice
for the sake of opposing of **YAHWEH**.

21:31 A horse is prepared for the day of battle.
But the victory belongs to **YAHWEH**.

Chapter 22

22:1 A *good* name is to be chosen
more than great riches.
good favor more than silver
and more than gold.

22:2 The rich and those being destitute have met.
The One making all of them is **YAHWEH**.

22:3 The shrewd sees what is bad.
And he has hidden.
But the unaware pass over and are punished.

22:4 The result of humility,
the reverence of YAHWEH,
is riches, and honor, and life.

22:5 Thorns *and* snares
are in the ways of the perverse.
One protecting his life will be far from them.

22:6 Train a child
concerning the way he is to go!
Indeed, when he is old
he will not turn away from it.

22:7 The rich has dominion
concerning the destitute.
And one borrowing is servant to the one lending.

22:8 One sowing injustice will reap trouble.
And the rod of his wrath will perish.

22:9 One good of eye will be blessed
because he has given of his food to the weak.
"good of eye" is a Hebraism for "generous".

22:10 Drive out the mocker
and strife will go out.
Then condemnation and disgrace will cease.

22:11 One loving purity of heart
shows favor with his lips.
The king is his friend.

22:12 The eyes of YAHWEH
have preserved knowledge.
And He overthrows the words
of those acting treacherously.

22:13 The lazy one says,
"There is a lion outside!
I will be killed in the midst of the streets!"

22:14 The mouth of a devious woman is a deep pit.
The devious one, being enraged at YAHWEH,
will fall in in there.

22:15 Foolishness is bound up
in the heart of a young child.
The rod of discipline
will cause him to be far from it.

22:16 One is oppressing the weak
for the sake of causing his wealth to increase.
One is giving to the rich,
only for the sake of need.

22:17 Extend your ear and listen attentively
to the words of the wise!
Then set your heart toward my knowledge.
22:18 Indeed, they are pleasant.
When you protect them within your belly
they will be established at once upon your lips.

22:19 Your confidence is to be in YAHWEH.
I have caused you to know *it* today,
even you yourself **nx**.

22:20 Have I not written to you previously
concerning counsels and knowledge
22:21 for the sake of causing you to know
the certainty of the words of truth,
for the sake of returning words of truth
to those sending to you?

22:22 You are not rob the weak
because he is weak.
And you are not to beat down the afflicted at the gate.
22:23 Indeed, YAHWEH will plead their cause.
And He will rob
those *themselves* **תא** who are robbing them.

22:24 You are not to be a friend
with a *master of anger himself* **תא**
And you are not to go
with a *man of rage himself* **תא**
22:25 lest you learn his ways
and you are captured with a snare for your life.

22:26 You are not to be among those
shaking hands in a pledge,
one being a guarantor of debts.

22:27 If there is nothing of yours
for the sake of paying,
why should he take away your bed from under you?

22:28 You are not to move the ancient boundary
which your forefathers have made.

22:29 Have you seen a man
who is skilled in his work?
He will stand himself
before the face of kings.
He will not stand himself
before the face of the insignificant.

Chapter 23

23:1 When you sit to eat
with one *himself* **תא** who is ruling
consider, consider *that itself* **תא**
which is before your face.

23:2 Then place a knife in your throat
if you are a life possessing a large appetite.

23:3 You are not to desire his delicacies.
Even the food itself is a deception.

23:4 You are not to labor
for the sake of being rich.
Cease from your own understanding!

23:5 Do you set your eyes on it,
and it is no more?
Indeed it makes, makes wings for itself
like an eagle.
And it flies away to the skies.

23:6 You are not to eat
the food itself **תא** of one who is stingy.
And you are not to lust for his delicacies.

23:7 Indeed, according to what he thinks
he sets as a price in his life.
According to this is he.

"Eat and drink!" he says to you.
But his heart is not with you.
23:8 The morsel you have eaten
you will be caused to vomit.
And you will corrupt your pleasant words.

23:9 You are not to speak in the ears of a fool
because he will have contempt
for the wisdom of your words.

23:10 You are not to move an ancient boundary.
And into the fields of the fatherless you are not to enter.
23:11 Indeed, their *kinsman* redeemer is strong.
He himself will plead their cause *itself* **nx**
with you *yourself* **nx**.

23:12 Cause discipline to come to your heart,
and your ears to words of knowledge.

23:13 You are not to withhold discipline from a child.
If you cause him to be struck with a rod
he will not die.

23:14 You *yourself* **nx**
are to cause him to be struck with a rod.
And you will cause his life
to be delivered from she'ol.

23:15 My son, if your heart is wise
my heart will rejoice, even I myself.
23:16 And my kidneys will be jubilant
when your lips speak what is right.

23:17 Your heart is not to be zealous
concerning offenders,
but rather, concerning the reverence of YAHWEH
all the day,

23:18 because for certain
there is a final end.
And your hope will not be cut off.

23:19 Listen attentively,
you *yourself* **nx**, my son!
And be wise!
And guide your heart in the way!

23:20 You are not to be with
those drinking wine heavily
or with those gluttonously eating their meat.

23:21 Indeed, the drunkard and the glutton
will be impoverished.
And drowsiness will cause one
to be clothed with rags.

23:22 Listen attentively to your father.
This one has brought you forth!
And you are not to despise your mother when she is old.

23:23 Buy the truth!
But you are not to sell
wisdom, or discipline, or understanding!

23:24 The father of the just rejoices.
He will rejoice,
the one bringing forth the wise,
and he will be glad concerning him.

23:25 May your father and your mother be glad.
And may she who bore you rejoice.

23:26 My son, give your heart to me!
And let your eyes observe my ways.

23:27 Indeed, a prostitute is a deep pit.
And a devious woman is a narrow well.

23:28 Indeed, she lies in wait
on account of prey.
And she causes treachery to increase
among human beings.

23:29 Who has woe?
Who has sorrow?
Who has contentions?
Who has complaints?
Who has injuries without cause?
Who has redness of eyes?
23:30 *It* is to those staying long over wine,
to those going to search out mixed wine.

23:31 You are not to look at wine when it is red,
when it gives its color in the cup,
as it flows itself smoothly!

23:32 At its final end it bites.
Even like an adder it stings.

23:33 Your eyes will look at devious women.
And your heart will speak perversities.

23:34 And you will be like one
lying down in the heart of the sea,
and as one lying down
at the top of the mast saying,

23:35 "They have caused me to be struck.
I have not been sick!
They have beaten me.
I have not known *it*!
When will I awaken?
I will continue.
I will seek it again!"

Chapter 24

24:1 You are not to be jealous
concerning bad men.
And you are not to desire to be
with *they themselves* **PN**

24:2 Indeed, their heart speaks of violence
and their lips talk of trouble.

24:3 With wisdom a house is built.
And with understanding it is prepared.

24:4 And with knowledge
the chambers will be filled
with every substance precious and pleasant.

24:5 The valiant man is wise with strength.
And a man of knowledge is courageous with power.

24:6 Indeed, with wise counsel
you will wage your battle.
And deliverance is *found* in a multitude of counselors.

24:7 Wisdom is *too* high for a fool.
In the gate he will not open wide his mouth.

24:8 One planning to cause evil
will be called a master of evil plans.

24:9 The purpose of foolishness is offense.
And a mocker is a detestable thing
to human beings.

24:10 If you show yourself weak in a day of distress,
your strength is small.

24:11 Cause to be delivered
those being taken to death.
and those stumbling to the slaughter
if you are able to restrain *them*.

24:12 If you say,
"Behold! We did not know this!",
will not The One weighing the hearts understand?
Even The One maintaining your life,
He knows.
And will He cause to return to a human being
according to his action.

24:13 My son, eat honey because it is good,
and the honeycomb *is* sweet upon your palate!
24:14 Know that wisdom is thus to your life.
If you have found it
then there will be a final end,
and your hope will not be cut off.


24:15 You are not to lie in wait
with the morally wrong
against the dwelling of the just.
You are not to destroy his resting place.

24:16 Indeed, seven times the just may fall.
Then he gets up.
But the morally wrong will be overthrown
on account of what is bad.

24:17 When your adversary falls
you are not to be glad,
and at his stumbling
your heart is not to rejoice
24:18 lest **YAHWEH** sees
and it is bad in His eyes,
and He turns away His wrath from him.

24:19 You are not to fret yourself
on account of those causing what is bad to be done.
You are no to be jealous
concerning the morally wrong.

24:20 Indeed, there is no final end for the bad.
The lamp of the morally wrong will be extinguished.

24:21 My son, revere **YAHWEH Himself** 
and the king!
You are not to mingle with those who change *positions*.
24:22 Indeed, their calamity will rise up suddenly.
And the ruin of both of them, who knows?

24:23 These also are for the wise:

To cause partiality to be shown in judgment
is not good.

24:24 One saying to the morally wrong,
"You yourself **nx** are just!",
peoples will curse him.

Nations will be enraged at him.

24:25 But to those causing rebuke
it is pleasant.

And a good blessing will come upon them.

24:26 One causing a right answer to return
kisses the lips.

24:27 Prepare your outside work.
And make ready for yourself in the field.
Afterwards you can build your house.

24:28 You are not to be a witness
without cause against your neighbor.
And you are not to deceive with your lips.

24:29 You are not to say,
"According to what he has done to me,
according to this I will do to him.
I will cause to return to a man
according to his actions."

24:30 I passed over beside the field
of a man of laziness,
even beside the vineyard
of a human being lacking a heart.

24:31 And behold!

All of it was overgrown with thorns.
Its surface was covered with nettles.
And its stone wall was torn down.

24:32 And I saw *it*.

I set my heart on it.

Having seen I received discipline.

24:33 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,

24:34 and your poverty will come
like one travelling himself,
and your lack like an armed man.

Chapter 25

25:1 These also are proverbs of Shelomoh
which the men of Hizkiyah, king of Yahudah copied:

25:2 *It is* the honor of The Elohim
to cause a matter to be concealed.
And *it is* the honor of kings to search out a matter.

25:3 The skies *are* for height
and the earth *is* for depth.
But the heart of kings can not be examined.

25:4 Remove the dross from silver.
Then a vessel will go forth to the one refining.

25:5 Remove moral wrong
from before the face of the king
and his throne will be established with justice.

25:6 You are not to glorify yourself
before the face of a king.
And in the place of the great
you are not to stand.

25:7 Indeed, it is better for him to say to you,
"Come up here!"
than that you should be caused to be lower
before the face of a noble whom your eyes have seen.

25:8 You are not to go forth in haste
for the sake of disputing.
Otherwise, what will you do at the end of it
when your neighbor has caused you to be disgraced?

25:9 Dispute your cause
with your neighbor himself דן.
And you are not to expose
the secret counsel of another
25:10 lest one hearing it puts you to shame.
Then your bad report will return.

25:11 A word spoken at the proper time
is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

25:12 A ring of gold,
even an ornament of fine gold,
is the wise one causing correction
to an ear listening attentively.

25:13 Like the cold of snow
in the day of harvest
is a faithful messenger
to those sending him.
And the life of his masters
he causes to be refreshed.

25:14 Clouds and wind without rain
is a man boasting himself falsely
concerning his gifts.

25:15 By slowness to anger a leader is persuaded.
And a gentle tongue will shatter a bone.

25:16 You have found honey.
Eat what is sufficient for you
lest you be filled with it
and you are caused to vomit.

25:17 Cause your foot to withdraw
from the house of your neighbor
lest he has enough of you and has hated you.

25:18 A club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow
is a man responding with a false witness
against his neighbor.

25:19 A broken tooth,
or a foot out of joint
is confidence in one acting treacherously
in a day of trouble.

25:20 One causing a garment
to be taken away on a day of cold
is like vinegar on lye,
or one singing songs to a heavy heart.

25:21 If one hating you is hungry,
cause him to eat food.
And if he is thirsty,

cause him to drink water.

25:22 Indeed, you yourself **תן**
will be heaping coals of fire on his head!
And **YAHWEH** will pay it back to you.

25:23 The north wind brings forth rain,
but a concealed tongue an enraged face.

25:24 It is better to dwell in a corner of a roof
than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

25:25 Like cold water upon a thirsty life
so is good news from a distant land.

25:26 A muddied spring
and a polluted fountain
is a just one shaken
before the face of the morally wrong.

25:27 It is not good to eat much honey.

It is not good to seek one's own honor?

25:28 A broken down city with no wall
is a man who has no control to his life

Chapter 26

26:1 Like snow in summer and rain at harvest,
according to this honor is not fitting for a fool.

26:2 As a bird is to wandering,
as a swallow is to flying about,
according to this is a curse without cause.
It will not come.

26:3 A whip *is* for a horse.
A bridle *is* for a male ass.
And a rod *is* for the back of a fool.

26:4 Do not answer a fool
according to his foolishness
lest you also be compared to him,
even you yourself **תן**.

26:5 Answer a fool
according to his foolishness,
lest he is wise in his own eyes.

26:6 One sending a message
by the hand of a fool
is cutting off the feet,
drinking violence.

26:7 The legs of the lame hang limp.
Likewise a proverb in the mouth of fools.

26:8 Like one binding a stone in a sling,
according to this is one giving honor to a fool.

26:9 A thorn has gone up
into the hand of a drunkard.
Thus is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

26:10 An archer wounding *just* anyone,
thus is one hiring a fool

or hiring one passing by.

26:11 As a dog returning to his own vomit,
a fool will repeat his foolishness.

26:12 Have you seen a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

26:13 The lazy one says,
"There is a lion in the road!
A fierce lion is in the streets!"

26:14 The door turns on its hinges.
And the lazy one turns on his bed.

26:15 The lazy one buries his hand in a dish.
It wearies him to return it to his mouth.

26:16 A lazy one is wiser in his own eyes
than seven returning discernment.

26:17 One taking hold of the ears of a dog
is one passing over into strife not his.

26:18 Like one behaving himself as a madman,
shooting arrows of firebrands and death,
26:19 according to this is a man
who has deceived his neighbor himself nx,
and says, "Was I myself not joking!"

26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out.
And without a slanderer strife will cease.

26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals,
and wood to fire,
likewise is a man of contentions
to the kindling of strife.

26:22 The words of one slandering
are like things swallowed greedily.
And they have gone down
to the chambers of the belly.

26:23 Like silver dross covering potsherds
are burning lips and an evil heart.

26:24 One hating pretends with his lips.
But within his midst he places deceit.

26:25 When he speaks kindly do not trust him,
because seven detestable things *are* in his heart.

26:26 Hatred covers itself with deception.
His badness will be uncovered in the assembly.

26:27 One digging a pit will fall into it.
And one rolling a stone,
it will turn back toward him.

26:28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes.
And a flattering mouth makes destruction.

Chapter 27

27:1 You are not to boast yourself
concerning tomorrow!
Indeed, you do not know what a day will bring forth.

27:2 Let another man commend you
and not your own mouth,
a stranger, and not your own lips.

27:3 A stone is heavy and sand is weighty.
But the wrath of a fool is heavier than either.

27:4 Wrath is cruel and anger *is* overwhelming.
But who is able to stand before the face jealousy?

27:5 Exposed rebuke is better than concealed love.

27:6 The wounds of a friend are trustworthy.
But the kisses of one hating are deceitful.

27:7 A satisfied life loathes the honeycomb.
But to a hungry life everything bitter is sweet.

27:8 Like a bird wandering from its nest,
so is a man wandering from his place.

27:9 Ointment and perfume gladden the heart.
Likewise is the sweetness of one's friend
because of the counsel of his life.

27:10 Your friend and your father's friend
you are not to abandon.
And the house of your kindred you are not to enter
in the day of your calamity.
Better is a neighbor nearby than kindred far away.

27:11 Be wise, my son, and gladden my heart.
Then I can cause one reproaching me to turn back.

27:12 A shrewd man will see what is bad.
He will be concealed.
The unaware will pass over.
They will be punished.

27:13 Take the garment of him
when he is guarantor for a stranger.
And for a devious woman take a pledge.

27:14 One blessing his friend
with a loud voice early in the morning
will have it reckoned as a curse to him.

27:15 A continual dripping on a rainy day
and a contentious woman are comparable.
27:16 One concealing her conceals the wind,
and his right hand grasps oil.

27:17 Iron against iron causes it to be sharp.
And a man causes the face of his friend to be sharp.

27:18 One maintaining a fig tree will eat its fruit.
And one protecting his master will be honored.

27:19 Like water *reflects* a face as a face,
so the heart of the human being *does*
for a human being.

27:20 She'ol and Abaddon are not satisfied.
Likewise the eyes of a human being are not satisfied.

27:21 A refining pot is for silver,
and a furnace for gold.
Likewise a man is a *refiner*
for the praise of his mouth.

27:22 Even if you grind the fool *himself* nx
in a mortar amidst the grain with a pestle
his foolishness will not depart from him.

27:23 Know!
Know the face of your sheep!
Place your heart toward your herds
27:24 because wealth is not to eternity,
nor a crown to generation after generation.
27:25 Hay is removed and new grass is seen.
And the vegetation of the mountains are gathered.
27:26 The lambs *are* for your clothing,
and the goats *are* for the price of a field,
27:27 and sufficient is goats' milk for your food,
as food of your household,
and life for your young girls.

Chapter 28

28:1 The morally wrong have fled,
but no one was pursuing.
But the just are as confident as a lion.

28:2 On account of the rebellion of a land
its leaders are many.
But with a human being causing understanding
and having knowledge what is right is maintained.

28:3 A poor man oppressing the weak
is like rain sweeping *things* away.
Then there is no food.

28:4 Those abandoning The Instruction
commend the morally wrong.
Those protecting The Instruction
contend themselves against them.

28:5 Evil men do not understand judgment.
But those seeking **YAHWEH** will understand everything.

28:6 Better is one being poor
who is walking in his integrity
than one of perverse ways,
yet he is rich.

28:7 One maintaining instruction
is a child causing understanding.
But a companion of gluttons
causes disgrace to his father.

28:8 One causing his possessions
to be increased by usury and unjust gain
gathers it for the sake of him
who is showing favor to the weak.

28:9 One causing his ear to turn aside
from listening attentively to instruction,
even his prayer is a detestable thing.

28:10 One causing the upright
to go astray into a bad way

will fall into his own pit.
But the blameless will inherit what is good.

28:11 A rich man is wise in his own eyes.
But a poor one having understanding
will search out *wisdom*.

28:12 When the just are jubilant
there is much beauty.
But in the rising up of the morally wrong
a human being will conceal himself.

28:13 One covering his rebellions will not prosper.
But one confessing and abandoning them
will find compassion.

28:14 Happy is the human being
who is continually revering **YAHWEH**.
But one causing his heart to be hardened
will fall into what is bad.

28:15 A roaring lion and a charging bear
is one morally wrong ruling over poor people.

28:16 A leader with a lack of understanding
is also a great oppressor.

One hating greed will prolong his days.

28:17 A human being having been oppressed
on account of life blood will flee into a pit.
Let no one support him.

28:18 One walking blamelessly will be delivered.
But one being of perverse ways will fall at once.

28:19 One working his land
will be satiated with food.
But one pursuing worthless things
will be satiated with poverty.

28:20 A faithful man will have many blessings.
But one hurrying to be rich
will not be declared innocent.

28:21 To show partiality is not good.
Even concerning a morsel of food
a man will rebel.

28:22 A man hurrying to be rich is stingy.
And he does not consider that poverty is coming.

28:23 One causing rebuke to a human being
will find more favor afterward
than one causing flattery with the tongue.

28:24 One robbing his father or his mother,
but saying, "It is not rebellion.",
he is a companion to a man of destruction.

28:25 A greedy life stirs up strife.
But one trusting in **YAHWEH** will prosper.

28:26 One trusting in his own heart,
he is a fool.
But one walking with wisdom,

he will be delivered.

28:27 One giving to the poor will not lack.
But one hiding his eyes will have many curses.

28:28 With the rising up of the morally wrong
human beings will be hidden.
But at their perishing
the just will increase.

Chapter 29

29:1 A man reproved often
who is causing his neck to be hardened,
will be suddenly broken.
And there will be no healing.

29:2 When the just are many the people rejoice.
But when the morally wrong rule the people groan.

29:3 A man loving wisdom gladdens his father.
But one keeping company with prostitutes destroys wealth.

29:4 A king causes the land to be established
by right judgment.
But a man of bribes will destroy it.

29:5 A man causing flattery
concerning his neighbor
is spreading a net for his own feet.

29:6 On account of the rebellion
of a bad man *there is* a snare.
But the just will sing for joy,
and he will rejoice.

29:7 The just one knows the cause of the weak.
The morally wrong one
does not understand *such* knowledge.

29:8 Men of scorn cause a city to be ensnared.
But the wise turn back anger.

29:9 A wise man is being judged
by a foolish man *himself* nx.
And he trembles.
Then he laughs.
But there is no rest.

29:10 Men of blood hate the blameless.
But the upright seeks his *lifestyle*.

29:11 A fool causes all his breath to go forth.
But the wise soothes it in the end.

29:12 One ruling
who is listening attentively to lying words,
all his ministers will be morally wrong.

29:13 The destitute and the man of oppression
have come face to face.
YAHWEH enlightens the eyes of both of them.

29:14 A king judging the weak with faithfulness,
his throne will be established forever.

29:15 A rod and correction give wisdom.
But a youth sent forth *without them*
will cause his mother to be put to shame.

29:16 With the increase of the morally wrong
rebellion will be abundant.
But the just will see their ruin.

29:17 Correct your son.
Then he will cause you rest.
And he will give pleasure to your life.

29:18 When there is no vision
the people will be exposed.
But happy is the one protecting instruction.

29:19 A servant is not corrected with words.
Indeed, he understands, but he does not respond.

29:20 You have seen a man hasty in his words.
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

29:21 One is pampering his servant from youth.
And he will have him as a son in the end.

29:22 A man of anger stirs up strife.
And a possessor of rage abounds with rebellion.

29:23 The pride of a human being
will cause him to be abased.
But the humble of breath will obtain honor.

29:24 One sharing with a thief
is hating his own life.
He listens attentively to an oath,
but he does not make it known.

29:25 The anxiety of a human being sets a snare.
But one trusting in **YAHWEH** will be set in safety.

29:26 Many are seeking the face of one ruling.
But the judgment of man is from **YAHWEH**.

29:27 A detestable thing to the just
is a morally wrong man.
And a detestable thing to the morally wrong
is one who is the upright of way.

Chapter 30

30:1 The words of Agur son of Yakeh, an oracle.
This man declared to Ithi'el, to Ithi'el and Ukal:

Agur means gathered. Yakeh means obedient. Ithi'el means Happy is El. Ukal means consumed.

30:2 Indeed, I am more stupid than any man.
And there is for me no understanding
of a human being.

30:3 And I have not learned wisdom.
nor do I have knowledge of the set apart ones,

30:4 Who has ascended to The Heavens
and come down?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the extremities of the earth?
What is His name?
And what is the name of His son?
Surely you know!

30:5 Every Word of The Elohim is refined.
He is a shield to those taking refuge in Him.

30:6 You are not to cause *a thing*
to be added above His Words,
lest He argue with you,
and you are found to have lied.

30:7 Two things I have requested
from You Yourself **nx**.

Do not withhold them from me before I die.

30:8 Cause worthlessness and a lying word
to be far from me.

Do not give to me either poverty or riches.

Cause me to be fed my portion of food

30:9 lest I am fully satisfied and deny You,

and say, "Who is **YAHWEH?**";

and lest I be dispossessed and steal,
and abuse the name of my Elohim.

30:10 Do not slander a servant to his master
lest he curse you and you are found guilty.

30:11 There is a generation that curses its father,
and does not bless its mother herself **nx**.

30:12 There is a generation undefiled in its own eyes,
but it has not been washed from its own filth.

30:13 There is a generation,
how lofty have been their eyes.
Even their eyelids are lifted up.

30:14 There is a generation,
its teeth are swords
and its jawbones are knives
for the sake of devouring the afflicted from the earth,
and the destitute from among human beings.

30:15 The leech has two daughters.
Give! Give!

Three are not satisfied.

Four have not said, "Enough":

30:16 She'ol and a barren womb.

Ground not satisfied with water.

And fire have not said, "Enough."

30:17 An eye that mocks at a father,
or mocks at obedience to his mother
the ravens of the wadi will dig it out,
and the young eagles will eat it!

30:18 Three things are extraordinary, beyond me.

Even four I have not comprehended:

30:19 the way of an eagle in the skies,

the way of a serpent upon a rock,

the way of a ship in the heart of the sea,

and the way of a man with a virgin.

30:20 According to this is the way
of a woman committing adultery:
She has eaten.
And she has wiped her mouth.
And she has said,
"I have not practiced worthlessness!"

30:21 Under three things the earth has trembled.
Even under four it is not able to be sustained:
30:22 under a slave when he reigns,
or a fool when he is satisfied with food;
30:23 under a woman being hated when she marries,
or a female slave when she dispossesses her mistress.

30:24 There are four little ones of the earth,
but they are exceedingly wise.
30:25 The ants are a people not strong.
But they cause their food to be prepared in summer.
30:26 The rock badgers are a people not powerful.
But they place their homes among the craggy rocks.
30:27 There is no king for the locusts.
But they go forth in ranks, all of them.
30:28 A lizard you can catch with the hands.
But it is in the palaces of a king.

30:29 There are three things majestic of pace.
Even four are majestic as they walk.
30:30 A lion is mighty among the animals.
And he does not turn back from the face of anything.
30:31 A greyhound,
also a male goat,
and a king whose army is with him.

30:32 If you have been foolish
in lifting up yourself
or if you have devised evil,
put your hand to your mouth!

30:33 Indeed, as milk under pressure
brings forth curds,
and as a nose under pressure
brings forth blood,
so wrath under pressure
brings forth strife.

Chapter 31

31:1 The words of King Lemu'el,
An utterance which his mother taught him.

Lemu'el means belonging to El.
It's a symbolic name for Shelomoh.

31:2 What, my son?
Even what, son of my womb?
Even what, son of my vows?

31:3 Do not give your strength to women,
nor your ways to causing kings to be wiped out.

31:4 *It is* not for kings, Lemu'el,
it is not for kings to drink wine,
nor for princes to desire strong drink,
31:5 lest they drink
and forget what has been decreed,
and alter the judgment
of all the sons of the afflicted.

31:6 Give strong drink to one who is perishing,
and wine to those bitter of life.

31:7 He will drink.

And he will forget his poverty.

And his misery he will remember no more.

31:8 Open your mouth wide
for the sake of the speechless,
in the cause of all the sons of destruction.

31:9 Open your mouth wide.

Judge justly!

And plead the cause of the afflicted and the destitute.

31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman?

She is worth far more than even rubies!

31:11 The heart of her husband has trusted in her.

And he will have no lack of spoil.

31:12 She will treat him good and not bad
all the days of her life.

31:13 She will seek wool and linen.

And with pleasure she will act with her hands.

31:14 She will be like the ships of those trading.

She will cause her food to come from far away.

31:15 And she will get up while it is still night
and give meat to her household,
and a portion to her maidservants.

31:16 She will consider a field and accept it.

From the fruit of her hands

she will plant a vineyard.

31:17 She will gird her loins with strength.

And she will strengthen her arms.

31:18 She will perceive when her gain is good.

Her lamp will not be extinguished at night.

31:19 She will extend her hand

onto the spinning wheel.

And her hand will hold the spindle.

31:20 She will stretch out her hand

to the afflicted.

And she will extend her hands

for the sake of the destitute.

31:21 She is not afraid for her household

because of snow

because all of her household

is dressed with scarlet.

31:22 She will make a covering for herself.

Her clothing will be fine linen and purple.

31:23 Her husband will be known in the gates
as he sits among the elders of the land.

31:24 She will make linen and sell it.

And she will give belts to the merchants.

31:25 Strength and beauty are her clothing.

And she will laugh at the time to come.

31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom.
And on her tongue is the instruction of kindness.

31:27 She is watching the ways of her household.
And she does not eat the bread of idleness.

31:28 Her children will rise up and call her blessed.
Her husband *also*, and he will commend her.
31:29 "Many daughters have done nobly.
But you have risen above them all."

31:30 Showing favor is deceptive.
And beauty is vain.
A woman who is revering **YAHWEH**,
she is to be praised.

31:31 Give to her from the fruit of her hands!
And commend her in the gates for her works!