



PROVERBS

Table of Contents – The Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 1 – The Beginning of Knowledge

- Purpose and theme of Proverbs
- Warning against enticement by sinners
- Wisdom's urgent call and warning to the naïve

Proverbs 2 – The Value of Wisdom

- The pursuit of wisdom as protection
- Wisdom preserves from evil men
- Wisdom delivers from the seductress

Proverbs 3 – Trust in the Lord

- Exhortation to trust and honor God
- Blessings of wisdom and understanding
- The discipline of the Lord
- Wisdom's rewards and security

Proverbs 4 – A Father's Instruction

- Parental guidance in the path of wisdom
- The path of the righteous vs. the wicked
- Guarding the heart above all else

Proverbs 5 – Warning Against Adultery

- The seductive danger of the immoral woman
- The bitter consequences of infidelity
- The blessing of marital faithfulness

Proverbs 6 – Warnings and Admonitions

- Against foolish pledges and laziness
- The example of the ant
- The worthless person and his schemes
- Seven things the Lord hates
- Adultery and its ruinous consequences

Proverbs 7 – The Allure of the Adulteress

- Wisdom as a protective sister
- A vivid parable of seduction
- The cost of yielding to temptation

Proverbs 8 – The Praise of Wisdom

- Wisdom's public and noble call
- Wisdom's eternal origin and role in creation
- Wisdom as the path to life and favor

Proverbs 9 – The Invitations of Wisdom and Folly

- Wisdom's banquet and invitation to life
- Correction of the wise vs. the scoffer
- The seductive and deadly lure of folly

Proverbs 10 – Proverbs of Solomon: Wise Living

- Contrast between the righteous and the wicked
- Speech, diligence, integrity, and consequences

Proverbs 11 – Righteousness vs. Wickedness

- The value of integrity and generosity
- Humility and pride
- The rewards of righteousness

Proverbs 12 – Conduct and Character

- Diligence vs. laziness
- Truthfulness vs. deceit
- The righteous rooted in stability

Proverbs 13 – The Wise and the Foolish

- The fruit of wise words
- The value of discipline
- Wealth and poverty

Proverbs 14 – The Way That Seems Right

- Wisdom builds up, folly tears down

- Fear of the Lord vs. pride
- Righteousness exalts a nation

Proverbs 15 – The Power of a Gentle Answer

- The tongue's effect on peace or conflict
- The Lord sees all
- Wisdom in speech and response to correction

Proverbs 16 – God's Sovereign Guidance

- God directs the steps of man
- Pride before destruction
- Righteous leadership and humility

Proverbs 17 – The Testing of the Heart

- The value of peace and integrity
- A friend loves at all times
- The dangers of strife and foolishness

Proverbs 18 – Words and Relationships

- The power of the tongue
- Wisdom in listening
- The blessing of a good spouse

Proverbs 19 – Integrity and Prudence

- Wealth, poverty, and contentment
- Discipline and instruction
- Trusting the Lord in adversity

Proverbs 20 – Honest Living

- The value of wise counsel
- Integrity and the fear of the Lord
- Justice and righteousness

Proverbs 21 – The Lord Weighs the Heart

- Righteousness over sacrifice
- The danger of pride and hasty speech

- Victory belongs to the Lord

Proverbs 22 – A Good Name and Wisdom

- Value of a good reputation
- Warnings about debt and bad company
- The importance of training children

Proverbs 23 – Warnings and Instruction

- Self-control with wealth and indulgence
- Warnings against drunkenness and immorality
- A father's wise instruction

Proverbs 24 – Wisdom in Adversity

- Do not envy the wicked
- Strength in the day of trouble
- Justice, fairness, and patience

Proverbs 25 – Hezekiah's Collection: Counsel and Restraint

- The glory of concealment and searching out
- Proper conduct before rulers
- Restraint in speech and action

Proverbs 26 – The Fool and the Sluggard

- Characteristics of fools
- The lazy and their excuses
- Warnings about gossip and deceit

Proverbs 27 – Friendship and Integrity

- Sharpening through friendship
- The value of honest rebuke
- Stewardship and preparation

Proverbs 28 – Boldness and Justice

- The contrast between wickedness and righteousness
- Greed vs. generosity
- Justice for the poor

Proverbs 29 – Righteous Rule and Discipline

- The impact of wise or foolish rulers
- Correction leads to wisdom
- Fear of man vs. trust in the Lord

Proverbs 30 – Sayings of Agur

- Agur's humility and wisdom
- Four things too wonderful
- Numerical proverbs of observation and order

Proverbs 31 – The Sayings of King Lemuel & The Virtuous Woman

- Warnings from Lemuel's mother
- Characteristics of a godly, noble wife
- The praise of a woman who fears the Lord

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs Chapter 1 – The Call of Wisdom

This opening chapter lays the foundation for the entire book. It defines the purpose of Proverbs: to impart wisdom, discipline, and discernment. The chapter warns against the enticement of sinners and closes with Wisdom personified, calling out in the streets with an urgent plea to listen before judgment falls.

Proverbs Chapter 2 – The Protection of Wisdom

Chapter 2 emphasizes the diligent pursuit of wisdom as a matter of life and safety. True understanding comes from the Lord, and those who seek it will be guarded from evil paths and people, including the seductive influence of immoral behavior.

Proverbs Chapter 3 – Trust and Honor

This beloved chapter urges wholehearted trust in God, underscoring the blessings of faithfulness, humility, and integrity. It teaches that wisdom leads to a secure, peaceful life and invites the reader to fear the Lord and depart from evil.

Proverbs Chapter 4 – The Path of the Righteous

A father's loving exhortation to his children forms the heart of this chapter. It urges the reader to guard their heart and choose the path of wisdom over the path of wickedness. The way of righteousness leads to life and clarity.

Proverbs Chapter 5 – The Bitter End of Adultery

This chapter offers a sobering warning against the seduction of an immoral woman. What begins with sweetness ends in bitterness and destruction. The path to safety is found in rejoicing in one's spouse and fleeing temptation.

Proverbs Chapter 6 – Life Lessons and Divine Hatred

Practical warnings fill this chapter: avoiding unwise financial pledges, sloth, and deceitful behavior. It includes a striking list of seven things the Lord hates—highlighting how seriously God regards integrity and moral discipline.

Proverbs Chapter 7 – Seduction's Subtle Snare

Proverbs 7 delivers a vivid and dramatic depiction of a young man being lured into adultery. The chapter stresses the importance of treasuring God's wisdom in the heart to avoid falling prey to the path that leads to death.

Proverbs Chapter 8 – Wisdom from Eternity Past

Here, Wisdom is personified and portrayed as eternal, present at creation, and essential to life. She offers counsel, riches, and life to all who listen. This chapter celebrates wisdom as the voice of God calling humanity to truth.

Proverbs Chapter 9 – The Two Invitations

The final chapter in the introduction contrasts the invitations of Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly. One leads to life and understanding; the other, to death. The reader is called to choose carefully which voice to heed.

Proverbs Chapter 10 – The First Collection of Solomon's Proverbs

With chapter 10, the book transitions into a series of concise, often contrasting sayings. These proverbs emphasize the difference between righteousness and wickedness, wisdom and foolishness, and their consequences.

Proverbs Chapter 11 – The Rewards of Righteousness

This chapter continues the contrast between wise and foolish conduct, stressing that integrity, humility, and generosity lead to honor, while deceit and pride bring ruin.

Proverbs Chapter 12 – The Path of the Upright

Emphasizing the blessings of discipline and the danger of lies, this chapter continues to develop the theme that the righteous will be established, while the wicked will be overthrown.

Proverbs Chapter 13 – Discipline and Destiny

Discipline and diligence mark the wise. The chapter warns that the fool reaps poverty and destruction, while those who embrace correction will enjoy the fruits of life and peace.

Proverbs Chapter 14 – The House Wisdom Builds

This chapter reminds us that wisdom builds up what folly tears down. It includes reflections on the heart, the fear of the Lord, and how the path that "seems right" can end in death.

Proverbs Chapter 15 – Words that Heal or Harm

With a focus on the tongue, this chapter teaches that gentle words calm, while harsh ones stir strife. The Lord weighs hearts, hears prayers, and blesses the upright.

Proverbs Chapter 16 – God's Sovereign Hand

This chapter affirms that while humans make plans, the Lord ultimately directs their steps. It stresses humility, righteousness, and divine oversight in all our ways.

Proverbs Chapter 17 – Wisdom in the Home and Community

Relationships come into focus here: family, friendship, and justice. Wisdom brings peace and joy; folly brings strife and shame.

Proverbs Chapter 18 – The Power of the Tongue

This chapter focuses on the impact of words—how they can bring life or death. It also explores themes of pride, isolation, and the value of wise counsel and friendship.

Proverbs Chapter 19 – Living with Honor

Practical wisdom about wealth, discipline, and honesty fills this chapter. The fear of the Lord, compassion for the poor, and integrity are shown to lead to peace and blessing.

Proverbs Chapter 20 – Weights and Measures

Justice, moderation, and honesty dominate this chapter. It warns against drunkenness, rash speech, and deceitful dealings while encouraging righteous living.

Proverbs Chapter 21 – Righteousness Over Religion

This chapter teaches that God values righteousness over religious acts. It highlights the Lord's sovereignty, the ruin of pride, and the reward of generosity and justice.

Proverbs Chapter 22 – A Good Name and Wise Foundations

A good reputation is more valuable than riches. This chapter provides further warnings about poor company and unjust gain, and introduces the importance of training children in wisdom.

Proverbs Chapter 23 – Discipline and Discernment

The chapter warns against gluttony, drunkenness, envy, and immorality. It highlights the importance of receiving discipline and clinging to truth.

Proverbs Chapter 24 – Strength in Wisdom

This chapter encourages building life with wisdom and standing firm in adversity. It also includes warnings against gloating over others' misfortune and calls for justice and diligence.

Proverbs Chapter 25 – Wisdom for Kings and Courtiers

Collected during King Hezekiah's reign, these proverbs focus on leadership, restraint, and the power of gracious speech. Humility and discretion are exalted.

Proverbs Chapter 26 – Fools, Sluggards, and Schemers

This chapter humorously yet seriously portrays the fool and the lazy person. It also warns against meddling, gossip, and deceptive flattery.

Proverbs Chapter 27 – Sharpening Relationships

True friends sharpen one another, and wise stewardship is praised. The chapter warns against false confidence and encourages diligence and honesty in relationships.

Proverbs Chapter 28 – The Boldness of the Righteous

This chapter contrasts the wicked and the righteous in justice, leadership, and personal conduct. It emphasizes that those who walk with integrity will be upheld.

Proverbs Chapter 29 – Leadership and Correction

Righteous leadership brings joy; wicked rule brings chaos. This chapter reinforces the necessity of correction and the danger of fearing people over God.

Proverbs Chapter 30 – The Humble Wisdom of Agur

Agur's sayings introduce numerical proverbs and declarations of humility. The chapter marvels at creation and exposes the folly of arrogance and greed.

Proverbs Chapter 31 – Wisdom's Crown: The Noble Woman

King Lemuel's mother gives royal counsel against indulgence and injustice. The book ends with the portrait of a virtuous woman whose fear of the Lord is her crowning glory.

CHAPTER 1:

Verse 1:

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

This opening verse introduces the purpose of the book: to present wise sayings attributed to Solomon, renowned for his wisdom, and to establish the biblical authority behind these proverbs by linking Solomon to King David, Israel's revered king. It sets the tone that these sayings are divinely inspired guidance meant to instruct and instructively shape the moral and spiritual outlook of the reader. The mention of Solomon's lineage emphasizes wisdom's divine origin and royal endorsement, suggesting that these proverbs are not merely practical advice but carry spiritual significance for understanding God's principles.

Verse 2:

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

Here, the purpose of these proverbs is clarified: they aim to cultivate wisdom and proper instruction. The phrase "to know wisdom" indicates the goal of gaining discernment and insight into right living and understanding. "Instruction" points to correction and teaching, ensuring the reader receives guidance. "Perceive the words of understanding" emphasizes not only acquiring knowledge but also developing the ability to interpret and apply that knowledge wisely. Overall, this verse underscores that the Proverbs serve as a vital tool for developing discernment and comprehension in spiritual and moral matters.

Verse 3:

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

This verse details the specific qualities that wisdom and instruction encompass. "Justice" and "judgment" relate to fairness and the ability to make sound decisions, while "equity" emphasizes integrity and righteous treatment of others. The purpose is for the reader to accept and embrace these virtues, which form the foundation of a just society and righteous character. The Proverbs aim to guide individuals toward understanding and practicing fairness, righteousness, and balanced judgment in their daily lives, aligning personal conduct with divine standards.

Verse 4:

To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Here, the focus is on equipping the naïve or inexperienced—referred to as "the simple"—with wisdom that allows them to navigate life's complexities. "Subtlety" or discernment helps avoid pitfalls; "knowledge" provides factual understanding, and "discretion" involves prudent judgment in actions and speech. The Proverbs are thus essential tools for young men (and by extension, all learners), helping them develop maturity, sound judgment, and the ability to make wise choices, ultimately leading to a more successful and righteous life.

Verse 5:

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

This verse emphasizes the importance of humility and continual learning. A "wise man" actively listens

to advice and instruction, recognizing that wisdom is an ongoing journey rather than a destination. “Increase learning” suggests that wisdom grows through study and openness to correction. “Man of understanding” is someone who seeks and attains wise counsel, showing that wisdom involves both humility and a desire for growth. This verse encourages ongoing education and receptiveness to wise guidance as essential for developing true understanding.

Verse 6:

To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

The purpose here is to deepen comprehension—not only of straightforward instructions but also of more complex or “dark sayings,” which may be riddles or allegories. Understanding proverbs and wise sayings requires reflection, discernment, and sometimes insight into deeper spiritual truths. The verse indicates that wisdom includes the ability to interpret and extract meaning from various forms of instruction, enriching the reader’s grasp of moral and spiritual principles that may be presented in cryptic or poetic language.

Verse 7:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

This foundational verse highlights that true wisdom starts with reverence and awe for God. Recognizing God’s sovereignty and holiness is the basis for acquiring knowledge that aligns with divine truth. Conversely, “fools” dismiss wisdom and instruction, showing a disregard for divine authority and moral guidance. This contrast underscores that genuine understanding and moral uprightness are rooted in a proper reverence for God, and without that, one remains foolish and blind to true wisdom.

Verse 8:

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

This verse appeals to the importance of parental guidance, emphasizing that listening to instruction from parents—both father and mother—is vital for a young person’s moral and spiritual development. The “law of thy mother” symbolizes the moral teachings and values passed down, which serve as foundational principles for life. Respecting and obeying parental instruction is presented as a key step toward acquiring wisdom and cultivating a righteous character.

Verse 9:

For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

The benefits of heeding parental wisdom are vividly illustrated: these teachings are like adornments —“ornament of grace”—that beautify and honor the individual, and like “chains,” which could symbolize bonds of discipline and commitment. These metaphors suggest that following wise counsel brings dignity, respect, and stability, enhancing one’s reputation and inner character. The verse encourages valuing parental guidance as a precious and valuable adornment that influences one’s life positively.

Verse 10:

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

This verse warns against peer pressure and the temptation to engage in sinful activities. It presents a clear admonition: resist the enticements of sinners. The phrase “consent thou not” implies active

rejection of wrongful influences, reinforcing the importance of moral integrity. This counsel aims to prepare the young to stand firm against peer pressure, emphasizing that true wisdom involves the strength to refuse temptation and uphold righteousness even when others may encourage wrongdoing.

Verse 11:

If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

This verse presents the invitation from those who seek to lure others into wrongful acts, such as violence and deception. It highlights how peer pressure and the desire for quick gain or thrill can lead individuals into dangerous and sinful paths. The language of “lay wait for blood” and “lurk privily” underscores the sinister and clandestine nature of their plans, emphasizing the seriousness and evil intent behind their solicitation. It serves as a warning that evil companions often entice others with promises of adventure or easy gains, but these paths lead to destruction and moral ruin.

Verse 12:

Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Here, the conspirators describe their malicious intent with vivid imagery, suggesting that they aim to destroy the innocent completely—like devouring them alive or consuming them entirely, as in death and destruction. The metaphor of “swallowing them up alive” and “going down into the pit” illustrates the destructive consequences of falling into such schemes. It reveals the deadly nature of sin and the destructive power of evil companionship, warning that aligning with those who promote violence or injustice leads to spiritual death.

Verse 13:

We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

This verse exposes the selfish motives behind the rebellious and sinful plans: the desire to acquire wealth, possessions, and material gain through wrongful means. The phrase “find all precious substance” and “fill our houses with spoil” demonstrates greed and covetousness, emphasizing that those who pursue wickedness are motivated by the hope of gaining riches at the expense of others. It warns that the pursuit of material wealth through sin ultimately leads to loss and ruin, as such gains are often ill-gotten and fleeting.

Verse 14:

Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse.

The conspirators are inviting others to join their wicked scheme, suggesting a shared effort and common reward. “Cast in thy lot” indicates a collective commitment to the plans, and “one purse” symbolizes shared gains and responsibilities. This verse emphasizes the allure of camaraderie and the temptation to partake in sin as a group, making wrongful acts seem more appealing and justifiable when done in unity. It highlights how peer influence can persuade individuals to abandon moral integrity for the sake of fellowship and shared profit.

Verse 15:

My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

The father’s wise counsel intervenes here, warning against associating with the wicked. “Walk not in the way with them” and “refrain thy foot” symbolize avoiding their influence and not following their example. This verse underscores the importance of discernment and the necessity of steering clear of

those who promote evil, understanding that proximity to wickedness can entrap and lead one astray from righteousness. It's a call for personal integrity and cautiousness in choosing companions.

Verse 16:

For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood:

This verse describes the eagerness and impulsiveness of wicked individuals, whose “feet run to evil.” The phrase “make haste to shed blood” emphasizes how quickly and eagerly they pursue violence and harm. It reveals their reckless and destructive nature, warning that their actions are not only wrong but also impulsive and dangerous. The verse serves as a stark reminder of the destructive consequences of aligning with such people and the urgency of avoiding their influence.

Verse 17:

Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

This metaphor illustrates the futility and foolishness of evil schemes. Just as a bird can see a net spread out before it and avoid it, so too should humans recognize traps and dangers laid by wrongdoers. The verse emphasizes that wicked plans are often obvious and destined to fail when wise discernment is exercised. It encourages vigilance and awareness, warning that wicked individuals' attempts to entrap others are ultimately futile if one remains alert and discerning.

Verse 18:

And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

This verse reveals the self-destructive nature of wickedness. Those who plot evil against others are ultimately working against their own well-being, akin to laying wait for their own blood or lurking in secrecy for their own lives. It highlights the idea that sin and wickedness are self-defeating—those who plot harm will often bring harm upon themselves. This serves as a warning that evil plans not only hurt others but also entangle and destroy the wicked who conceive them.

Verse 19:

So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

This verse draws a parallel between greed and destructive behavior, stating that the pursuit of material gain leads to spiritual and possibly literal death. Greed consumes the individual, ultimately taking away their life—whether through loss, ruin, or moral decay. It warns that greed-driven actions are inherently harmful, leading to the destruction of one's well-being and integrity. The verse underscores the danger of covetousness and the importance of contentment and righteousness.

Verse 20:

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

This verse personifies wisdom as a woman calling out publicly, actively seeking to be heard. Wisdom “crieth without” and “uttereth her voice in the streets,” symbolizing its availability and urgency for all to hear. It emphasizes that divine wisdom is accessible and openly proclaimed in public spaces, calling people to listen and turn from folly. The verse underscores the importance of attentiveness to divine guidance, portraying wisdom as a powerful, persistent voice that offers life and understanding to those willing to listen.

Verse 21:

She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her

words, saying,

This verse personifies wisdom as a woman calling out publicly in the busiest and most prominent parts of the city—at the gates and open places where people gather. It illustrates that divine wisdom is accessible and loudly proclaiming its message to all who pass by, emphasizing that wisdom is not hidden but openly available to everyone. The imagery suggests the urgency and importance of listening to wisdom, as it is present in the very heart of community life, urging people to turn aside from folly and heed her counsel.

Verse 22:

How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Here, wisdom questions the delay in seeking understanding, addressing “simple ones” who prefer ignorance and complacency. It also confronts “scorers,” who mock and reject wisdom, and “fools,” who despise knowledge. The verse highlights the stubbornness and resistance of those who reject wisdom, warning that their love of ignorance, mockery, and foolishness leads to destruction. There's an implied plea for repentance and a call to change before it's too late.

Verse 23:

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Wisdom offers a gracious invitation to listen and correct one's ways (“turn you at my reproof”). It promises a divine response: the pouring out of her spirit and the revelation of her words. This indicates that God's wisdom and guidance are available and eager to be shared if one is willing to accept correction and instruction. It underscores the merciful aspect of divine wisdom, which seeks to lead people into understanding and righteousness.

Verse 24:

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Wisdom laments that she has faithfully called out to people, but they have rejected her. The imagery of stretching out her hand suggests an act of outreach and invitation, but it was ignored. This verse highlights human obstinance and the tragedy of rejecting divine guidance, which results in missed opportunities for safety and blessing. It portrays wisdom as persistent and patient, yet ultimately unheeded by those who refuse her call.

Verse 25:

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

This verse emphasizes the consequences of ignoring wisdom's counsel and reproof. The phrase “set at nought” indicates total disregard and contempt for divine advice. It suggests that rejecting wisdom is a willful act that leads to ignorance and peril, as all guidance offered is dismissed. It underscores the seriousness of ignoring divine instruction, which can lead to adverse and preventable outcomes.

Verse 26:

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

Wisdom warns that if people continue to reject her, she will respond with divine justice—mocking and laughing at their distress when trouble inevitably comes. This is a sobering picture of the consequences

of stubborn disobedience, illustrating that divine patience has limits, and neglecting wisdom will lead to regret and despair. It's a reminder that ignoring divine guidance results in inevitable judgment.

Verse 27:

When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

This verse describes the sudden and overwhelming nature of divine judgment and calamity. “Fear,” “desolation,” and “destruction” come swiftly like a whirlwind, emphasizing the severity and unpredictability of divine discipline when warnings are ignored. It serves as a vivid warning that ignoring wisdom results in chaos and suffering.

Verse 28:

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Here, wisdom states that in times of crisis, those who previously rejected her will seek her desperately but will find her unavailable. The phrase “call upon me” and “seek me early” shows that the opportunity for reconciliation is lost when wisdom is spurned, illustrating divine justice and the importance of timely repentance. It underscores that procrastination in seeking wisdom leads to permanent separation.

Verse 29:

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:

This verse explains the reason for divine rejection—people’s hatred of knowledge and their refusal to choose the fear of the Lord. It reveals that rejection of divine wisdom stems from an attitude of disdain for understanding and reverence for God, which are essential for true wisdom. This choice leads to spiritual blindness and separation from divine guidance.

Verse 30:

They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

This verse further emphasizes human stubbornness, indicating that people outright rejected divine counsel and despised correction. Such rejection shows a deliberate choice to ignore divine wisdom, which results in their downfall. It highlights the tragic consequence of refusing God’s instruction and discipline.

Verse 31:

Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Because of their rejection, people will reap the consequences of their own choices—“eat of the fruit of their own way.” They will be filled with the outcomes of their own schemes and decisions, which are often destructive. This verse warns that sin and rebellion lead to personal suffering and regret, as individuals must face the results of their own actions.

Verse 32:

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

This verse makes it clear that turning away from wisdom results in death and destruction. The “simple” are led to their demise by their rejection of guidance, and “fools” are destroyed by their own arrogance and foolish pursuits. It emphasizes that ignoring wisdom is ultimately deadly and destructive.

Verse 33:

But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

In contrast to the previous warnings, this verse offers a promise to those who listen to wisdom. They will dwell in safety and peace, free from the fear of harm or evil. It underscores the protective and peaceful outcome of embracing divine wisdom and living according to God's guidance, highlighting the blessings of obedience and reverence for God.

CHAPTER 2:**Verse 1:**

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

This verse begins with a loving and instructive appeal, urging the listener (or reader) to accept and value the wisdom offered. "Receive my words" suggests an active openness to learning and understanding, while "hide my commandments" indicates treasuring these divine instructions deeply within the heart. The imagery of hiding emphasizes the importance of internalizing wisdom so that it becomes a guiding force in life. It underscores that gaining true wisdom requires intention and a willing heart to listen and preserve divine truths.

Verse 2:

So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

Here, the emphasis is on active listening and intentional effort. "Incline thine ear" suggests a deliberate turning toward wisdom, showing receptiveness and attentiveness. "Apply thine heart" indicates a wholehearted effort to understand and internalize wisdom beyond just hearing—an active pursuit of understanding that involves the will and emotions. The verse stresses that acquiring wisdom involves both mental focus and heartfelt dedication.

Verse 3:

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

This verse portrays the fervent pursuit of wisdom as crying out and lifting up one's voice, suggesting urgency and earnestness. It implies that seeking understanding isn't a passive activity but one of active desperation and persistence. The imagery encourages sincere prayer and supplication, emphasizing that true wisdom requires a passionate desire and persistent effort to attain understanding, much like pleading for help in times of need.

Verse 4:

If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

The pursuit of wisdom is likened to diligently seeking silver or hidden treasures, emphasizing the value and rarity of divine understanding. It suggests that acquiring wisdom requires effort, perseverance, and determination—searching through obstacles and investing time and energy. This analogy highlights that wisdom is precious, worth seeking after with the same intensity as valuable commodities, and that diligent effort is essential to find it.

Verse 5:

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

This verse promises that diligent pursuit leads to true understanding—specifically, understanding the

“fear of the Lord,” which is the foundation of wisdom, and gaining knowledge of God Himself. It underscores that divine wisdom results in reverence for God and a deeper relationship with Him. The “fear” here is respectful awe and reverence, which opens the way to divine insight and understanding.

Verse 6:

For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Here, divine origin is emphasized: God is the ultimate source of wisdom. Wisdom doesn’t come from human effort alone but is a gift from God, who provides knowledge and understanding directly from His mouth. This verse reminds believers that true wisdom is divine and that seeking it requires humility and dependence on God’s revelation.

Verse 7:

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

This verse describes God as a provider and protector of those who live righteously. “Layeth up sound wisdom” suggests that God stores or reserves wisdom for His people, ensuring they have access to divine guidance. The image of God as a “buckler”—a shield—illustrates His protection and defense for upright individuals, safeguarding them from harm and guiding their steps in righteousness.

Verse 8:

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

God actively preserves and guides those who pursue righteousness. “Keepeth the paths of judgment” indicates divine oversight over moral and just conduct, ensuring that His followers stay on the correct and righteous way. “Preserveth the way of his saints” underscores God’s ongoing care and protection for His chosen people, safeguarding their journey through life against danger and deception.

Verse 9:

Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

This verse promises that with divine wisdom, believers will attain understanding of essential virtues: righteousness (moral uprightness), judgment (discernment), and equity (fairness). It also broadens the scope to include “every good path,” suggesting that divine wisdom illuminates all aspects of life, guiding believers in making righteous choices in every area. It’s a comprehensive promise of moral and practical understanding.

Verse 10:

When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

This verse describes the deep internalization of wisdom. When wisdom takes root in the heart, it becomes a source of joy (“pleasant unto thy soul”). The imagery suggests that divine wisdom isn’t just intellectual but resonates emotionally and spiritually, bringing peace, satisfaction, and delight when it is truly embedded within. It emphasizes that the fruit of seeking divine wisdom is inner joy and fulfillment.

Verse 11:

Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

This verse highlights the protective power of wisdom—discretion and understanding act as safeguards for a person’s life. Discretion involves prudent judgment and careful decision-making, while understanding provides insight into situations. Together, they serve as divine gifts that shield

individuals from harm, guiding them away from danger and foolish choices. It underscores that wisdom is not only beneficial but essential for safety and success in life.

Verse 12:

To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

Wisdom's role includes actively rescuing believers from paths leading to evil. The "way of the evil man" and "froward" (twisted or perverse) speech represent deceptive and corrupt influences. Wisdom acts as a deliverer, helping individuals avoid entrapment in immoral or harmful conduct by recognizing danger and steering clear of such influences.

Verse 13:

Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

This verse describes those who abandon righteousness to walk in darkness—symbolic of sin, ignorance, and spiritual blindness. Such individuals turn away from moral truth, choosing ignorance and unrighteousness, which lead to destruction. Wisdom's protection is crucial because it warns believers against following these destructive paths.

Verse 14:

Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

This verse characterizes the wicked as joyful in their evil deeds and pleased with perversity. It highlights the moral corruption and delight in wrongdoing that defines wickedness. Wisdom aims to prevent believers from adopting such attitudes and behaviors by guiding them toward righteousness and away from the corrupting influence of sin.

Verse 15:

Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:

The wicked are described as having "crooked" (twisted or deceptive) ways and being "froward" (perverse) in their conduct. Their paths are morally distorted, leading to spiritual ruin. Wisdom's role is to help believers recognize such crookedness and avoid being entangled in their destructive conduct.

Verse 16:

To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;

This verse introduces the danger of seduction and false allure, symbolized by the "strange woman," who uses flattery to deceive. Wisdom is presented as a protector against such seduction, warning believers to be cautious of enticing words that lead away from moral integrity and into temptation.

Verse 17:

Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

The "strange woman" is also depicted as abandoning her moral and spiritual commitments—forsaking her youthful guidance and forgetting her covenant with God. This emphasizes her betrayal of sacred vows and her departure from righteousness, serving as a warning against forsaking divine guidance and moral principles.

Verse 18:

For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.

This verse vividly portrays the destructive consequences of succumbing to temptation. The "house" of

the seductress symbolizes the path of sin, which leads to death and the grave. It underscores that following such temptations results in spiritual and possibly literal death, reinforcing the importance of wisdom's protection.

Verse 19:

None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

This verse emphasizes the irreversible consequences of falling into temptation—the individuals who follow the seductive path of the “strange woman” do not return to righteousness. They relinquish the way of life, illustrating that sin often leads to permanent separation from God and spiritual ruin.

Verse 20:

That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

The purpose of wisdom's guidance is to enable believers to walk in the company of good and righteous people and to maintain the correct moral paths. It encourages choosing righteous companions and adhering to the right way, which leads to blessing and spiritual safety.

Verse 21:

For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

This verse promises stability and security for those who live uprightly. The “land” symbolizes a place of blessing and divine favor, and “dwell” and “remain” suggest permanence and peace for the righteous. It affirms that righteousness leads to security and God's continued blessing.

Verse 22:

But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

In stark contrast, this verse describes the ultimate downfall of the wicked. They will be “cut off” and “rooted out,” signifying divine judgment and removal from God's blessings. It emphasizes that wickedness and transgression lead to destruction and separation from divine favor, reinforcing the importance of choosing the path of righteousness.

CHAPTER 3:

Verse 1:

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

This opening verse emphasizes the importance of internalizing divine instruction. The father appeals to his son to remember and not forget God's law, highlighting that true obedience begins in the heart. “Keep my commandments” implies a sincere commitment to living by divine principles, not merely external compliance but heartfelt obedience. It underscores that a genuine relationship with God involves internal dedication and remembrance of His teachings, which serve as the foundation for a righteous life.

Verse 2:

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Here, the promise is that obedience to divine guidance results in temporal blessings—long life, peace, and stability. The verse suggests that reverence for God's commandments not only ensures longevity

but also promotes inner peace. It illustrates that divine wisdom is connected to both physical well-being and a peaceful, fulfilled life, emphasizing the benefits of living according to God's statutes.

Verse 3:

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

This verse urges believers to hold fast to mercy and truth as guiding virtues. The imagery of binding them “about thy neck” and writing them “on the table of thine heart” signifies making these qualities an inseparable part of one's character and identity. It emphasizes that mercy and truth should be central to how one lives and interacts with others, serving as constant reminders of divine principles that shape a righteous life.

Verse 4:

So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Living with mercy and truth brings divine favor and the approval of others. The verse highlights that genuine righteousness and integrity lead to favorable relationships—both with God and with people. It underscores that divine approval and human respect are linked to living morally and truthfully, which fosters trust and respect in the community.

Verse 5:

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

This well-known verse emphasizes complete reliance on God rather than one's own limited wisdom. Trusting in the Lord with all one's heart signifies total faith and dependence, while “lean not unto thine own understanding” warns against relying solely on human reasoning. It encourages believers to surrender their own judgment and instead trust divine guidance, acknowledging that God's wisdom surpasses human understanding.

Verse 6:

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

This verse teaches that recognizing God in every aspect of life leads to divine guidance. Acknowledging Him involves seeking His will in decisions and actions, and in return, God promises to direct our paths. It underscores that divine guidance is available when we consciously include God in our daily choices, ensuring a life aligned with His purpose.

Verse 7:

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

This verse warns against arrogance and self-reliance, urging humility before God. “Be not wise in thine own eyes” cautions against overestimating personal wisdom, which can lead to pride. Instead, the believer is called to fear the Lord—respect and reverence for God—and to turn away from evil, recognizing that true wisdom begins with humility and reverence for divine authority.

Verse 8:

It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Obedience to God's commandments is depicted here as beneficial to physical health and vitality. The phrase “health to thy navel” and “marrow to thy bones” symbolizes strength, vitality, and well-being,

illustrating that spiritual obedience and reverence for God contribute to overall physical health and vitality. It emphasizes the holistic blessings that come from living in accordance with divine wisdom.

Verse 9:

Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

This verse advocates for giving God the first and best of one's possessions—tithes and offerings—as an act of honor and trust. Honoring God with material wealth demonstrates acknowledgment of His sovereignty and provision. It reflects a heart of gratitude and faith, trusting that God will bless and sustain those who prioritize Him in their resources.

Verse 10:

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

The concluding promise is that honoring God with one's possessions results in abundant material blessings. "Barns filled with plenty" and "presses bursting out with new wine" symbolize prosperity, abundance, and God's favor. It reassures believers that faithful stewardship and honoring God ultimately lead to tangible blessings and provision, reinforcing the principle that obedience to divine commands results in divine blessing.

Verse 11:

My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:

This verse encourages believers to accept divine discipline with humility and patience. "Despise not" and "be weary not" suggest that correction from God, though sometimes uncomfortable, is an expression of His love and concern for our growth. God's chastening is meant to guide us away from sin and toward righteousness, and resisting it shows a lack of faith or understanding. Embracing correction with a respectful attitude is essential for spiritual maturity and helps us avoid destructive paths.

Verse 12:

For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

This verse provides reassurance that divine correction is an act of love. Just as a father disciplines his child out of affection and a desire for their well-being, God's discipline is a sign of His delight and care for us. It emphasizes that God's correction should not be seen as punishment but as a necessary and loving intervention to shape character and prevent harm.

Verse 13:

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Here, the pursuit of wisdom and understanding is linked to true happiness. Gaining divine wisdom is presented as a valuable treasure that leads to a joyful and fulfilled life. It implies that wisdom isn't just an abstract virtue but a source of genuine happiness, guiding individuals toward the right path and helping them navigate life's challenges successfully.

Verse 14:

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

This verse emphasizes the incomparable value of wisdom over material riches. "Merchandise" here symbolizes the worth or profit from wisdom, which is described as more precious than silver and gold.

Pursuing wisdom is depicted as a better investment than accumulating wealth, highlighting that spiritual and moral understanding brings eternal and deeper benefits than earthly riches.

Verse 15:

She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Wisdom is personified as a precious jewel—more valuable than rubies—and surpasses all worldly desires. The verse underscores the incomparable worth of wisdom, indicating that nothing the world offers can match its significance. It encourages prioritizing the pursuit of wisdom above all material or worldly pursuits, as it leads to true fulfillment and divine favor.

Verse 16:

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

This verse highlights the blessings associated with wisdom: longevity, wealth, and honor. Wisdom's right hand symbolizes strength and favor, while her left hand holds blessings of prosperity and respect. It suggests that embracing wisdom brings a balanced life—both long life and material as well as social honor—showing that divine wisdom enriches all aspects of life.

Verse 17:

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Wisdom's ways lead to happiness and peace. The “pleasantness” of her paths signifies joy, contentment, and harmony, while “peace” emphasizes tranquility and security. This verse assures that living according to wisdom results in a life free from unnecessary turmoil, fostering inner peace and harmonious relationships.

Verse 18:

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

Wisdom is likened to a “tree of life,” symbolizing vitality, sustenance, and eternal life for those who embrace her. “Lay hold upon her” indicates actively grabbing or holding onto wisdom, and “retaineth her” suggests maintaining and cherishing it. The verse underscores that those who cling to wisdom will experience happiness and spiritual vitality, reinforcing its value as essential for a fulfilled life.

Verse 19:

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

This verse celebrates divine wisdom as the foundation of creation. It attributes the universe's stability and order to God's wisdom and understanding, emphasizing that divine insight was essential in the creation and ongoing preservation of the world. It reminds us that wisdom is rooted in God's nature and is fundamental to the universe itself.

Verse 20:

By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

The final verse illustrates how divine knowledge governs natural phenomena—causing the depths of the earth to be stirred and the clouds to release dew. It signifies that God's understanding influences the natural world, ensuring its harmony and fertility. This verse underscores that divine wisdom and knowledge are not only fundamental to creation but also sustain and nurture life on earth.

Verse 21:

My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

This verse emphasizes the importance of constant vigilance in valuing wisdom and discretion. “Let not them depart from thine eyes” suggests that wisdom should be kept front and center in one’s thoughts and actions, never neglected or forgotten. The call to “keep sound wisdom and discretion” highlights the necessity of actively guarding these virtues as guiding principles in life, which serve as protective and guiding forces to maintain moral integrity and sound judgment.

Verse 22:

So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

Here, the beneficial results of valuing wisdom are described. Wisdom and discretion will bring “life unto thy soul,” meaning spiritual vitality, peace, and a sense of purpose. Additionally, they will be “grace to thy neck,” symbolizing honor and beauty—qualities that adorn and elevate a person’s character in the eyes of others. This verse underscores that choosing wisdom enriches both the inner life and outward reputation.

Verse 23:

Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

This verse promises safety and stability for those who pursue and uphold wisdom. Walking “in thy way safely” suggests a life free from unnecessary danger and trouble, while “thy foot shall not stumble” indicates confidence and security in one’s journey. Wisdom acts as a protective guide, ensuring that believers can navigate life’s challenges without falling into destructive pitfalls.

Verse 24:

When thou lyeest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

This verse highlights the peace and tranquility that come from trusting in divine wisdom. The assurance that “thou shalt not be afraid” suggests freedom from fear and anxiety, even in times of uncertainty. “Sleep shall be sweet” symbolizes restful, undisturbed sleep, reflecting inner peace that results from living in harmony with divine guidance and trusting in God’s provision and protection.

Verse 25:

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

This verse encourages confidence and courage, warning believers not to fear sudden shocks or calamities that may come upon the wicked. It reassures that those who walk in wisdom need not be anxious about unexpected troubles or the downfall of evildoers, as divine protection and stability are available to those who trust in the Lord.

Verse 26:

For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Here, the Lord is described as a source of confidence and security. Trusting in God provides a firm foundation, allowing believers to face life’s uncertainties with assurance. The phrase “shall keep thy foot from being taken” indicates divine protection from stumbling or falling into danger, emphasizing that God’s guidance and safety are reliable for those who trust Him.

Verse 27:

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

This verse emphasizes the importance of generosity and timely action in doing good. If you have the ability to help others or do what is right, do not withhold it. The verse underscores that moral obligation includes actively seeking to bless others when you are able, reflecting divine compassion and justice.

Verse 28:

Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to-morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

This verse warns against procrastination in doing good or helping others. If you have the means to assist your neighbor, don't delay or make excuses; instead, act promptly. It stresses the value of timeliness and generosity, encouraging believers to seize opportunities to do good without unnecessary delay.

Verse 29:

Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

This verse forbids plotting harm against others, especially when they live peacefully nearby. The phrase "seeing he dwelleth securely by thee" suggests trust and peaceful coexistence, making malicious intent unjustifiable. It underscores the importance of fostering trust and good relationships rather than sowing discord or evil schemes.

Verse 30:

Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

This verse advises against unnecessary conflict or quarrels, emphasizing that one should not contend with others without valid reasons, especially if they have not wronged you. It promotes peace and restraint, encouraging believers to avoid disputes that lack justification, thereby maintaining harmony and avoiding unnecessary strife.

Verse 31:

Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

This verse warns against envy of those who unjustly oppress others or pursue wrongful paths. It reminds believers to avoid adopting the behaviors or attitudes of oppressors and to reject their ways. The verse promotes integrity and righteousness over imitation of evil or unjust practices, emphasizing that such conduct ultimately leads to destruction.

Verse 32:

For the froward is an abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.

This verse underscores that God detests the crooked (froward) ways, which are considered an abomination. Conversely, God's "secret"—meaning divine favor, guidance, and blessing—is with the righteous. It highlights the moral contrast between wickedness and righteousness, affirming that God draws near and reveals His blessings to those who walk uprightly.

Verse 33:

The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

This verse contrasts the consequences of wickedness and righteousness. The "curse of the Lord" rests upon the wicked's home, implying divine displeasure and judgment. In contrast, God's blessing resides

in the dwelling of the righteous, indicating divine favor, prosperity, and peace. It underscores that moral conduct influences God's attitude toward one's home and life.

Verse 34:

Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

This verse reveals that God opposes the proud and scornful, showing contempt for those who mock or disdain His ways. Conversely, He offers grace to the humble and lowly, lifting them up and favoring them. It emphasizes humility as a virtue that attracts divine grace and favor, while arrogance leads to divine scorn.

Verse 35:

The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

The concluding verse contrasts the outcomes for the wise and fools. Wisdom leads to honor, glory, and respect—an inheritance of lasting reputation. On the other hand, fools are destined for shame and disgrace, which is their “promotion” or elevation in worldly view. It reinforces that choosing wisdom results in eternal and spiritual rewards, whereas foolishness leads to shame and downfall.

CHAPTER 4:

Verse 1:

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

This verse emphasizes the importance of listening attentively to parental guidance. It calls children to pay close attention to the instruction their father provides, recognizing that such guidance is foundational to acquiring true understanding. The phrase “attend to know understanding” suggests active engagement and focus, highlighting that wisdom is best learned through careful listening and receptiveness to wise counsel, especially from those who have experience and divine insight.

Verse 2:

For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

The father affirms that his teachings are beneficial—“good doctrine”—and urges the children not to abandon or ignore these divine principles. This verse underscores that God's commandments and instructions are for our good, guiding us away from harm and toward righteousness. Faithfulness to divine law is essential for a life blessed by God, emphasizing that neglecting wisdom leads to spiritual and moral decline.

Verse 3:

For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

Here, the speaker reflects on his personal background, emphasizing his close relationship with both parents, especially highlighting tenderness and love. This personal note illustrates that wisdom and understanding often come through nurturing, love, and the influence of a caring family environment. It also shows humility, recognizing that wise instruction is rooted in genuine love and affection.

Verse 4:

He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

This verse recounts parental instruction, urging the listener to hold these teachings “in the heart.” The

emphasis is on internalizing divine commandments, which leads to life—meaning both physical life and spiritual vitality. It underscores that obedience rooted in heartfelt acceptance is the pathway to true life and well-being.

Verse 5:

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

The father's command is urgent and clear: pursue wisdom and understanding earnestly. "Get" signifies active effort, and the exhortation to "forget it not" stresses the importance of holding onto wisdom diligently. The phrase "neither decline from the words of my mouth" warns against complacency or drifting away from divine truth, emphasizing that steadfastness in pursuit of wisdom is crucial.

Verse 6:

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Wisdom is personified as a woman offering protection and preservation. The father advises to abandon not wisdom, for it will guard and keep the believer safe. Loving wisdom indicates valuing and cherishing divine guidance, resulting in divine preservation. The verse highlights that a loving attitude toward wisdom leads to divine safeguarding from harm.

Verse 7:

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

This verse declares the supreme importance of wisdom—"the principal thing"—and exhorts actively to acquire it. The phrase "with all thy getting" emphasizes that obtaining understanding should be a priority above all else. It underscores that wisdom and understanding are the foundation for a righteous and successful life, and diligent pursuit of these virtues is essential.

Verse 8:

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

Here, wisdom is portrayed as deserving of honor and respect. Exalting her means valuing and esteeming wisdom highly. When one does so, wisdom will promote and elevate them, leading to honor and recognition. Embracing wisdom is presented as the key to achieving respect and dignity in life, highlighting the reward of valuing divine insight.

Verse 9:

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

This verse emphasizes the beautifying and honor-giving effects of wisdom. An "ornament of grace" and "a crown of glory" symbolize dignity, beauty, and splendor that come from living wisely. Wisdom adorns the person inwardly and outwardly, bringing respect, admiration, and divine favor, illustrating the profound benefits of pursuing wisdom diligently.

Verse 10:

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

The father calls for attentive listening and acceptance of his words, promising that such receptiveness will lead to a long and prosperous life. This verse underscores the connection between obedience to wise instruction and longevity, reinforcing that divine wisdom is integral to a fulfilling and extended life, both physically and spiritually.

Verse 11:

I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

This verse highlights the father's role in guiding his son along the path of wisdom, emphasizing that wisdom is something taught and led into by divine guidance. It reassures that the journey of righteousness has a clear direction and that divine instruction is purposeful and caring. The father's words reflect confidence that proper guidance leads to right living and that following divine wisdom results in a secure and steady path.

Verse 12:

When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

This verse promises stability and safety for those who follow wisdom's path. "Not be straitened" suggests that their journey will not be constricted or hindered, and "shall not stumble" indicates confidence and security in their walk. It emphasizes that divine guidance provides a firm footing, preventing missteps and obstacles that might otherwise cause falling or failure.

Verse 13:

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

The father urges firm commitment to wisdom—"take fast hold"—and to never let go. Wisdom is described as essential for life itself, emphasizing its importance as the foundation for a successful and meaningful existence. The plea to keep her reflects the need for constant vigilance and dedication to divine instruction, which sustains and preserves life.

Verse 14:

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

This verse commands avoidance of sinful paths. The "path of the wicked" and "way of evil men" symbolize destructive lifestyles that lead away from righteousness. The instruction is clear: believers must actively steer clear of temptation and immoral influences, recognizing that even walking near such paths can lead to spiritual danger.

Verse 15:

Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

This verse intensifies the command to avoid evil paths by emphasizing the need for active rejection—"avoid," "pass not by," "turn from," and "pass away." It underscores the importance of decisiveness in avoiding temptation, not lingering or hesitating near sin. The words highlight that deliberate action is necessary to stay on the righteous path.

Verse 16:

For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

This verse describes the relentless nature of evil, suggesting that wicked individuals are driven by a desire to do harm and cannot rest until they cause mischief or downfall in others. Their "sleep is taken away" unless they succeed in leading others into error. It underscores the danger of associating with or being influenced by wickedness, which is relentless and destructive.

Verse 17:

For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

This metaphor vividly illustrates that wicked people find sustenance and pleasure in evil—“bread of wickedness” and “wine of violence.” It emphasizes that their lives are centered around sin and harm, and such pursuits are destructive and corrupting. It warns believers to be cautious about being drawn into such lifestyles or influences.

Verse 18:

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

This verse offers a beautiful contrast to the wicked, describing the righteous as walking in the light that grows brighter toward full daylight. The “shining light” symbolizes increasing clarity, guidance, and righteousness, suggesting that those who follow wisdom will continue to progress in their spiritual journey, gaining more understanding and holiness until they reach full maturity.

Verse 19:

The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

In stark contrast, the wicked’s path is described as darkness—confusing and blind—where they stumble without awareness. This imagery highlights their ignorance and spiritual blindness, which leads to confusion and failure. It underscores that wickedness is inherently unstable and perilous, causing individuals to falter without realizing the danger.

Verse 20:

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

The father appeals again for attentive listening, urging his son to focus carefully on his words and teachings. “Attend” and “incline thine ear” emphasize active listening and receptiveness, crucial for internalizing divine wisdom. The verse underscores the importance of deliberate focus on spiritual instruction for a successful and righteous life.

Verse 21:

Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

This verse reinforces the importance of internalizing divine wisdom—keeping it “in the midst of thine heart” and constantly in view. It warns against neglect or forgetfulness, urging believers to hold wisdom close, making it a central part of their inner life, where it can influence every thought and action.

Verse 22:

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

The benefits of wisdom are described as life and health—both spiritual and physical. Divine wisdom revitalizes the soul (“life”) and promotes well-being (“health”). This underscores that wisdom is essential not only for moral living but also for overall vitality and wholeness.

Verse 23:

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

This verse emphasizes the importance of guarding one’s heart diligently because it is the source of all life’s outcomes. The “issues of life” refer to thoughts, decisions, and actions that flow from the heart. Protecting the heart from sin and evil is crucial for maintaining a righteous and fulfilling life.

Verse 24:

Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

This instruction calls for guarding speech—avoiding lying, gossip, or harmful words. “Froward” and “perverse” lips symbolize speech that leads others astray or causes harm. The verse underscores that purity and righteousness in speech are vital for a godly life.

Verse 25:

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

This verse encourages focus and unwavering attention on the path of righteousness. Avoid distractions and be deliberate in your direction. Keeping “eyes right on” signifies steadfastness and concentration on divine goals.

Verse 26:

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

The believer is urged to carefully consider and plan their actions (“ponder the path”) to ensure they are aligned with divine guidance. This deliberate reflection leads to stability (“established” ways), promoting a secure and righteous life.

Verse 27:

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

The final verse emphasizes strict focus—staying on the straight path without swerving to either side. It calls for decisive rejection of evil in all directions, maintaining integrity and unwavering commitment to righteousness. This discipline ensures a life aligned with divine will and free from the pitfalls of sin.

CHAPTER 5:**Verse 1:**

My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

This opening verse emphasizes the importance of attentive listening to divine wisdom and understanding. The father encourages his son to focus carefully on the teachings being offered, highlighting that true understanding requires deliberate attention and humility. By “attend” and “bow thine ear,” it suggests active engagement—listening intently with an open heart—so that one can grasp the depth of divine truth that leads to righteous living.

Verse 2:

That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

The purpose of attentive listening is to cultivate discretion—prudence and sound judgment—and to ensure that speech remains wise and knowledgeable. The verse underscores that wisdom influences how one speaks and acts, and that careful speech is a reflection of inner understanding. It emphasizes that true knowledge should be expressed thoughtfully and with discernment.

Verse 3:

For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:

This verse warns of the seductive power of an adulteress, whose words are sweet and alluring—like honey and oil—making temptation enticing. It highlights how sin often appears attractive and tempting

on the surface, luring individuals with pleasant words that conceal danger. Recognizing this deception is crucial to resisting spiritual and moral compromise.

Verse 4:

But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword:

Contrasting the sweetness of her words, this verse reveals the destructive outcome of succumbing to temptation. “Bitter as wormwood” and “sharp as a two-edged sword” depict the pain, harm, and destruction that follow sin. It warns that what appears pleasurable can lead to suffering, emphasizing the importance of discernment and resisting seductive influences.

Verse 5:

Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell:

This verse vividly describes the deadly path of temptation—leading directly to death and hell. The imagery underscores the final and irreversible consequences of giving in to immoral allurements. It serves as a stark warning that indulging in sin is not merely transient folly but a path that results in spiritual death and separation from God.

Verse 6:

Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

This verse cautions against being complacent or careless about the seductive path, as her “ways are moveable,” meaning unpredictable and deceptive. It warns that failing to recognize and avoid temptation can lead one astray, making it difficult to discern the true path of life. Vigilance and awareness are essential to avoid being misled by false promises of pleasure.

Verse 7:

Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

The father urgently exhorts his children to listen carefully and to avoid straying from wisdom’s instruction. “Depart not” signifies the importance of steadfastness in obeying divine guidance, warning that deviation leads to danger. The verse emphasizes obedience to wisdom as the safeguard against temptation and destructive choices.

Verse 8:

Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

This verse explicitly instructs to distance oneself from temptation—symbolized by her house—by actively avoiding her presence and influence. It underscores the importance of setting boundaries and exercising self-control to prevent falling into sin. The imagery of “not nigh the door” emphasizes the need for vigilance in avoiding situations that could lead to moral failure.

Verse 9:

Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

The father warns that engaging in immoral relationships can result in losing one’s honor and reputation (“give thine honor unto others”) and suffering hardship (“years unto the cruel”). It highlights the social and personal costs of sin, including shame and loss of dignity, reinforcing the importance of guarding one’s integrity and reputation.

Verse 10:

Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger:

This verse warns that succumbing to temptation may lead to losing one's wealth and labor—resources earned through diligent work—being taken by others (“strangers”). It suggests that sin can result in material and personal loss, where one's hard-earned possessions and efforts are forfeited to those who are morally corrupt or untrustworthy. It underscores the importance of prudence and faithfulness to avoid such devastating consequences.

Verse 11:

And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

This verse warns of the regret and sorrow that will come in the end after indulging in sinful pleasures, specifically in illicit relationships. It emphasizes that the consequences of unfaithfulness and immoral living are not only spiritual but also physical and emotional, leading to deterioration and pain. The imagery of mourning “when thy flesh and thy body are consumed” underscores the devastating toll that continued sin can take on a person's health and well-being, highlighting the urgency of avoiding such destructive paths.

Verse 12:

And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

Here, the person reflects on their past attitude of resistance—how they rejected wisdom and correction. It's a remorseful acknowledgment that their initial disdain for discipline and guidance led to their downfall. The verse reveals the importance of humility and openness to correction, warning that rejecting wise counsel and divine instruction ultimately results in regret and suffering.

Verse 13:

And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

This verse continues the reflection, emphasizing disobedience and neglect of those who provided guidance—teachers and wise counselors. It underscores that ignoring or refusing to listen to instruction is a key factor in one's downfall. It highlights the importance of humility and attentiveness to divine and earthly teachers as a safeguard against destructive choices.

Verse 14:

I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and the assembly.

The individual admits that they were close to falling into sin, even within the community or the congregation. This highlights how temptation is often prevalent among others and can be difficult to resist, especially in familiar or social settings. It serves as a warning that even in the midst of righteousness, one must remain vigilant against falling prey to evil influences.

Verse 15:

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

This verse encourages faithfulness and fidelity in marriage and personal relationships. “Drink waters out of thine own cistern” signifies remaining committed to one's spouse and avoiding the temptation of seeking satisfaction elsewhere. The imagery of “running waters out of thine own well” emphasizes purity, loyalty, and contentment within one's own relationship, warning against infidelity and the dangers of external temptations.

Verse 16:

Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

This verse continues the metaphor of fidelity but also suggests that love and joy should be shared appropriately—within boundaries—and not be wasted or expressed inappropriately. It can also imply the importance of maintaining purity and integrity in one's relationships, ensuring that private blessings are not exposed or misused publicly.

Verse 17:

Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

This verse reinforces the idea of exclusivity in relationships, emphasizing that sacred bonds, especially marriage, should be kept private and protected from outsiders. It highlights the importance of faithfulness and guarding one's relationship against external influences that could bring harm or shame.

Verse 18:

Let thy fount be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

This verse celebrates the joy and blessing of a faithful marriage. It encourages husbands to find happiness and contentment in their spouse, especially in their youth. The emphasis is on gratitude for divine blessing and the importance of nurturing and rejoicing in a loving, committed relationship.

Verse 19:

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

This poetic verse depicts marital love as tender, desirable, and fulfilling. Comparing a wife to a “loving hind” and “pleasant roe” emphasizes grace and beauty, while “breasts” symbolize nourishment and comfort. The verse urges husbands to find continual joy and passion in their marriage, maintaining love and intimacy as vital elements of a happy and faithful life.

Verse 20:

And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

This verse questions the foolishness of succumbing to temptation—being captivated by an adulteress or stranger. It warns against the destructive allure of infidelity, which can lead to ruin. The rhetorical question highlights the danger of abandoning faithful love for fleeting, sinful pleasures that ultimately bring shame and destruction.

Verse 21:

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.

This verse reminds us that God sees all our actions and considers every step we take. It emphasizes divine omniscience and accountability—that no sin or secret is hidden from God. This awareness should inspire reverence, caution, and righteousness, knowing that divine judgment is always present.

Verse 22:

His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

The verse warns that sinners are ultimately their own captors. Their iniquities and sinful choices bind and trap them, like cords or chains. It underscores the self-destructive nature of sin—that acting unrighteously leads to bondage, suffering, and eventual downfall, reinforcing the importance of avoiding sin before it ensnares us.

Verse 23:

He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

This final verse warns of the tragic consequences of rejecting wisdom and divine instruction. Without guidance, a person is destined to perish—spiritually or physically—and to wander aimlessly in foolishness. It emphasizes that folly leads to destruction, underscoring the importance of heeding divine wisdom throughout life.

CHAPTER 6:**Verse 1:**

My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

This verse warns against becoming guarantor or surety for someone else's debts or obligations, especially a friend or stranger. It cautions that entering into such financial commitments can entangle you in unnecessary trouble and potential loss. The imagery of "stricken thy hand" symbolizes a pledge or guarantee, emphasizing the importance of prudence in financial dealings to avoid being caught in burdensome obligations that could lead to hardship.

Verse 2:

Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

Here, the verse highlights the danger of careless speech—how one can become trapped or ensnared by their own words. It warns that rash promises or commitments made verbally can lead to difficult situations, emphasizing the importance of wisdom and restraint in speech to prevent regret and entanglement in trouble.

Verse 3:

Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

This verse urges immediate action to free oneself from the consequences of foolish or rash commitments. The advice is to humble oneself and seek reconciliation or clarification—especially when caught in the web of a friend's obligations. It underscores humility and proactive effort as essential virtues to resolve situations before they worsen.

Verse 4:

Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

This verse emphasizes vigilance and alertness. It warns against complacency or laziness in resolving issues or avoiding trouble. Staying alert and attentive is vital to preventing disaster, implying that neglect or procrastination can lead to greater problems if one does not act promptly.

Verse 5:

Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the snare of the fowler.

The verse uses vivid imagery of escape—comparing oneself to a deer or bird caught in a trap—and urges quick action to free oneself from danger. It highlights the importance of decisive effort and vigilance in avoiding or escaping peril, reinforcing that passive waiting often leads to harm.

Verse 6:

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

This verse advocates for observing nature—specifically the ant—as a lesson in diligence and hard work. The ant’s industrious behavior serves as a model for overcoming laziness. The call to “consider her ways” encourages reflection on the virtues of effort, planning, and perseverance as keys to success and stability.

Verse 7:

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

This verse points out that the ant operates without supervision or leadership, relying on innate instinct and self-motivation. It underscores the idea that even without external authority, the ant’s diligent work ethic is admirable and instructive, serving as a model for personal responsibility and industriousness.

Verse 8:

Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

Here, the ant is praised for foresight—working diligently in summer to store food for future needs. It highlights the importance of planning ahead, working hard during fruitful times, and preparing for times of scarcity or difficulty, exemplifying wisdom in resource management.

Verse 9:

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

This verse is a call to wakefulness and action, questioning laziness and urging the sluggard to rise from inactivity. It emphasizes the dangers of complacency and the need for prompt effort to achieve success and avoid poverty or hardship.

Verse 10:

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

The verse depicts the temptation to indulge in laziness—just “a little sleep” or “folding of the hands”—which can lead to a cycle of procrastination and neglect. It warns that such small acts of idleness can accumulate into significant poverty or trouble if not corrected, emphasizing the importance of diligence and discipline.

Verse 11:

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

This verse warns that laziness and procrastination will lead to poverty and want suddenly and inevitably, much like a traveler who arrives unexpectedly or an armed man who appears to threaten. It emphasizes that neglecting diligence and responsibility can bring unforeseen hardship, highlighting the importance of continual effort and preparedness to avoid falling into poverty.

Verse 12:

A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

Here, the verse describes the characteristics of a corrupt individual—specifically one who is wicked and dishonest. The “froward mouth” indicates a person who speaks perversely or deceitfully, embodying moral corruption. This sets the stage for understanding the behaviors associated with wickedness and the dangers of associating with such individuals.

Verse 13:

He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

This verse vividly illustrates the subtle and deceptive ways a wicked person communicates and signals their true intentions. Winking, foot movements, and finger gestures symbolize secretive, manipulative, or dishonest conduct. The verse suggests that such individuals often use body language and subtle cues to deceive others while hiding their true motives.

Verse 14:

Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he sendeth forth discord.

This verse reveals that wickedness originates from within the heart of the person—frowardness meaning perversity or crookedness. The individual is constantly scheming or devising evil and intentionally sowing discord among others. It highlights the persistent and malicious nature of wickedness rooted in a corrupt heart.

Verse 15:

Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

Because of his persistent wickedness and schemes, this verse warns that calamity will strike unexpectedly and irreparably. The individual's downfall is inevitable, and the harm will be sudden and irreversible, serving as a warning that evil actions often lead to swift and final judgment.

Verse 16:

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

This verse introduces a list of behaviors that God detests, emphasizing their severity by including the phrase “seven are an abomination.” It underscores that these sins are especially offensive to God, illustrating the importance of moral integrity and righteousness.

Verse 17:

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

The first three sins listed are a “proud look,” indicating arrogance; a “lying tongue,” representing deceit; and “hands that shed innocent blood,” symbolizing violence and injustice. These behaviors reflect pride, dishonesty, and cruelty—sins that deeply offend God and threaten societal harmony.

Verse 18:

And heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

This verse continues the list: a “heart that deviseth wicked imaginations” signifies premeditated evil thoughts, and “feet that be swift in running to mischief” describes eagerness to commit wrongdoings. Together, they depict a person inclined toward evil from internal thoughts to active pursuit of trouble.

Verse 19:

A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

The final two sins are bearing false witness—spreading lies—and actively sowing discord among others. These acts undermine truth and unity, and are strongly condemned because they damage relationships and justice, further illustrating behaviors that are abhorrent to God.

Verse 20:

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

This verse shifts focus to the importance of adhering to parental guidance and divine law. It emphasizes

respect for the teachings of both father and mother, viewing them as vital sources of moral instruction that protect and guide the believer away from evil, reinforcing obedience as a safeguard against sin.

Verse 21:

Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

This verse emphasizes the importance of internalizing wisdom and moral guidance by keeping them close to the heart and wearing them as a symbol of commitment. Binding these principles constantly signifies dedication to living by divine truth, ensuring that they influence every thought and action. Tying them around the neck symbolizes publicly carrying and valuing these virtues, serving as a safeguard against temptation and evil.

Verse 22:

When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

Here, wisdom and divine guidance are portrayed as constant companions—leading, guarding, and communicating with the believer throughout all times—day and night. This highlights the perpetual importance of internalized moral principles that direct one’s life, protect from danger, and provide counsel in every circumstance, emphasizing the value of continual obedience.

Verse 23:

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

This verse likens divine commandments to a lamp and the law to light, illuminating the darkness of ignorance and sin. Reproofs and correction are described as vital guides that lead to life, showing that discipline and instruction are essential for moral clarity and spiritual vitality. It underscores that divine guidance directs us toward righteousness and away from destructive paths.

Verse 24:

To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

This verse warns of the dangers posed by temptresses—symbolized by the “evil woman”—whose flattery can lead one astray. The divine guidance provided by wisdom is meant to protect believers from seductive words and immoral influences that promise pleasure but ultimately lead to ruin, emphasizing vigilance and moral purity.

Verse 25:

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

This verse urges guard against lust and superficial attraction, warning that desire rooted in the heart can lead to temptation. The mention of “eyelids” signifies the seductive power of glances and flirtation. It emphasizes inner purity and restraint to avoid being ensnared by deceptive allurements that can lead to moral downfall.

Verse 26:

For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

This verse warns that falling into sexual sin—symbolized by a “whorish woman”—can lead to poverty and ruin (“a piece of bread”). The adulteress is portrayed as someone who dangerously seeks to destroy

the life of her victim. It highlights the destructive consequences of unfaithfulness and the high stakes involved in moral purity.

Verse 27:

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

This rhetorical question illustrates the danger of engaging in sinful behaviors—like sexual immorality—that are inherently destructive. Just as one cannot hold fire without being burned, so too, engaging in sin inevitably leads to harm. It underscores the inevitability of consequences from immoral actions.

Verse 28:

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

Similar to the previous verse, this metaphor emphasizes that crossing into dangerous or sinful territory results in injury. Walking on hot coals would surely burn the feet, symbolizing that immoral pursuits carry inevitable pain and damage, reinforcing the need for caution and avoidance.

Verse 29:

So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

This verse condemns adultery explicitly, stating that those who commit this act are guilty and cannot claim innocence. It highlights the moral and spiritual guilt associated with betrayal and the destructive nature of unfaithfulness, which damages both the individual and others involved.

Verse 30:

Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

This verse acknowledges that society may be more understanding or lenient toward a thief stealing out of necessity, such as hunger. It shows that context influences judgments, but crime still carries consequences. It introduces the idea that motives matter but do not justify wrongdoing.

Verse 31:

But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

This verse emphasizes that theft, when discovered, must be compensated generously—sevenfold or even all that one has. It highlights the seriousness of stealing and the principle of restitution, underscoring accountability and the need for reparation for wrongful acts.

Verse 32:

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

This verse condemns adultery as a sign of ignorance and foolishness, stressing that such acts are self-destructive. It underscores that pursuing adulterous relationships damages one's own life and well-being, emphasizing the harmful consequences of moral folly.

Verse 33:

A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

The consequences of adultery are severe: shame, dishonor, and lasting reproach. These social and personal damages are not easily removed, serving as a warning that such sins leave enduring scars on reputation and integrity.

Verse 34:

For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

This verse highlights the destructive power of jealousy, which can provoke intense anger and violence. It warns that a jealous man will not hesitate to seek vengeance, and that such emotions can lead to destructive actions that escalate conflicts and harm relationships.

Verse 35:

He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

This final verse emphasizes that once anger and jealousy are aroused, attempts at appeasement—such as offering gifts—are futile. The vengeful person will not be satisfied or forgiving, illustrating that some sins and passions can lead to relentless and unforgiving destruction, reinforcing the importance of moral restraint and prudence.

CHAPTER: 7**Verse 1:**

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

This verse underscores the importance of treasuring divine instructions as precious treasures. The father urges his son to internalize and preserve God's commandments, implying that steadfast obedience and remembrance are essential for a righteous life. Keeping God's words close acts as a safeguard against temptation and moral failure, emphasizing the value of diligent study and reverence for divine guidance.

Verse 2:

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Here, obedience is linked directly to life, suggesting that following God's commandments leads to spiritual vitality and longevity. The phrase “as the apple of thine eye” signifies something cherished and protected fiercely, emphasizing that God's law should be held in the highest regard and guarded carefully, reflecting deep love and reverence for divine truth.

Verse 3:

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

This verse visualizes the act of inscribing God's commandments physically and mentally—binding them to the fingers symbolizes practical application, while writing them on the heart signifies internalization. It stresses that divine law should influence every aspect of life, guiding actions and decisions at all times, not just external adherence.

Verse 4:

Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

The father encourages the son to personify wisdom and understanding as close relatives—sisters and kin—highlighting the intimate relationship believers should have with divine insight. This personification signifies that wisdom and understanding should be familiar, accessible, and valued as family members, fostering a deep connection that guides moral and spiritual conduct.

Verse 5:

That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

The purpose of cultivating wisdom and understanding is to protect oneself from seductive influences—specifically, the “strange woman” who flatteringly seeks to lead astray. Wisdom acts as a shield against deception, helping believers discern and avoid alluring but destructive temptations that can compromise moral integrity.

Verse 6:

For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

This verse introduces a scene where the father observes from his house, implying he is watching and analyzing the behaviors around him. It symbolizes vigilance and awareness, emphasizing the importance of observing and understanding the dangers that lurk outside one’s personal boundaries or moral boundaries.

Verse 7:

And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

The father notices a naive young man lacking understanding—someone easily deceived or led astray. This observation highlights vulnerability among the inexperienced and underscores the importance of wisdom to protect oneself from being misled by seductive appearances or cunning words.

Verse 8:

Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

The young man is depicted as walking along a familiar street and heading toward the woman’s house—symbolizing temptation and the proximity of immoral influence. This illustrates how easily one can be led astray when they stray into dangerous territory, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and avoiding situations that can lead to sin.

Verse 9:

In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

This verse sets the scene during the night, a time traditionally associated with secrecy and danger. The darkness symbolizes moral obscurity and vulnerability, suggesting that temptation often strikes when one is least alert and most susceptible to deception.

Verse 10:

And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

The scene culminates with the encounter of a woman dressed provocatively, symbolizing seduction and moral danger. Her “subtil of heart” indicates craftiness and deceitfulness, portraying her as a cunning lure meant to entrap the naive and unwise. This imagery underscores the peril of succumbing to superficial allurements without discernment.

Verse 11:

(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house;)

This verse describes the woman of temptation as loud and stubborn—traits that suggest arrogance and inconsistency. Her feet “abide not in her house,” implying restlessness and a lack of stability, which symbolizes her roaming freely to lure others into sin. Her behavior reflects a rebellious and untrustworthy nature, emphasizing her unwillingness to be confined or restrained, thus making her a dangerous influence leading others astray.

Verse 12:

Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.

This verse illustrates her opportunistic and deceitful nature, constantly moving between public spaces—outside and on the streets—ready to catch the unwary. Her lurking “at every corner” indicates her readiness to tempt and trap unsuspecting victims, symbolizing the pervasive danger of temptation that can appear in various forms and locations, waiting for the right moment to strike.

Verse 13:

So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

This verse describes a specific act of seduction: she seizes the man, kisses him boldly, and then begins to speak to him with a shameless attitude. It highlights the manipulative and brazen nature of temptation, where the woman’s outward confidence masks her intent to deceive and entrap, emphasizing the danger of succumbing to alluring but morally corrupt influences.

Verse 14:

I have peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows.

She claims to have performed religious duties, offering peace offerings and fulfilling vows, to appear righteous and innocent. This feigned piety is a deception designed to lower the man’s guard, making her seem trustworthy and virtuous. It underscores how false appearances can be used to conceal malicious intentions, enticing others into sin under the guise of righteousness.

Verse 15:

Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

She admits that she actively sought out the man, implying intentional pursuit. Her words suggest that her approach is deliberate and strategic, aimed at ensnaring him. This highlights the premeditated nature of temptation—she doesn’t stumble upon him by accident but seeks him out purposefully to lead him into sin.

Verse 16:

I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

This verse describes her bed as beautifully decorated—made with rich fabrics and fine linen—symbolizing luxury, comfort, and seduction. It emphasizes the allure of physical pleasures and material comfort used to entice and tempt, making sin appear appealing and desirable.

Verse 17:

I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

She continues to describe her seductive environment with fragrant perfumes—myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon—adding an aromatic appeal to her invitation. This sensory imagery underscores the allure of temptation, appealing to the senses and making sin seem pleasurable and irresistible.

Verse 18:

Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

This verse reveals her invitation to indulging in illicit love, suggesting a desire for continuous pleasure from evening until morning. The words “take our fill” and “solace ourselves” portray a pursuit of sensual gratification without regard for morality or consequences, emphasizing the reckless abandonment that accompanies temptation.

Verse 19:

For the Goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:

She justifies her actions by claiming her husband is away on a long journey, implying that she is free from the constraints of her marriage. This excuse aims to justify her immoral behavior, highlighting how temptation often relies on circumstances and perceived opportunity to lure individuals into sin.

Verse 20:

He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

She further rationalizes her actions by stating that her husband has taken money with him and will return at the appointed time, suggesting that her opportunity for secret pleasure is limited but available. This underscores the temptation to indulge when circumstances seem temporarily favorable, but also hints at the eventual reckoning when the truth is revealed.

Verse 21:

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

This verse describes how seductive words and flattery can manipulate and persuade someone to abandon their principles. The woman's "fair speech" and "flattering lips" are tools of deception, convincing the naive or unwary to give in to temptation. It highlights the danger of being swayed by superficial charm and emphasizing the power of persuasive speech to lead people astray.

Verse 22:

He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

Here, the individual's reckless pursuit of temptation is compared to an ox heading to slaughter or a fool walking into punishment. This vivid imagery underscores the inevitable danger and destruction that follow giving in to temptation without restraint or wisdom. It warns that succumbing impulsively to desire leads to harm and regret.

Verse 23:

Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

This verse vividly depicts the devastating consequences of sin—like a deadly arrow piercing the vital organs—leading to death or destruction. The comparison to a bird rushing into a trap illustrates how temptation often appears harmless or enticing, but ultimately results in fatal harm, often without the victim realizing the danger until it's too late.

Verse 24:

Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

The father urges his children to listen carefully and heed his warnings. The call to "hearken" underscores the importance of paying close attention to divine and wise counsel to avoid falling into the traps of temptation and sin, emphasizing that listening is a vital step toward safety and righteousness.

Verse 25:

Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

This verse warns against allowing one's heart to turn toward the seductive woman's ways. It emphasizes the importance of steadfastness in morality—avoiding the allure of temptation—and not

wandering into destructive paths that lead away from righteousness. Maintaining resolve and focus is crucial in resisting temptation.

Verse 26:

For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

This verse underscores the destructive power of temptation, stating that many have been “cast down” or defeated by her—symbolizing the adulteress or seductress. It warns that even strong, capable men are vulnerable, emphasizing the danger and destructive potential of giving in to sinful allurements.

Verse 27:

Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

The final verse vividly describes her house as the pathway to destruction—“hell”—and the chambers of death. It symbolizes the ultimate consequences of succumbing to temptation: spiritual death and separation from God. The imagery serves as a stark warning that following such paths leads to ruin, reinforcing the importance of wisdom and restraint to avoid eternal loss.

CHAPTER 8:

Verse 1:

Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

This verse personifies wisdom and understanding as beings that actively cry out and seek to be heard. It emphasizes that divine wisdom is not silent or passive but boldly calls to humanity, urging people to listen and seek understanding. The imagery suggests that wisdom is accessible and eager to guide those who are willing to pay attention, highlighting its importance as a divine gift that must be sought actively.

Verse 2:

She standeth in the top of high places, by the way, in the places of the paths.

Wisdom is depicted as standing prominently in high, visible places—at crossroads and major pathways—symbolizing that it is available and present in public, accessible to all. Its position indicates that divine understanding is not hidden but plainly observable for those seeking direction in life. It urges individuals to be attentive at life's critical junctures where choices are made.

Verse 3:

She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

This verse continues personifying wisdom, describing her as calling out at the city gates and entrances—places of gathering, judgment, and decision-making. It signifies that divine wisdom is present at the most influential and public points of life, calling out to all who enter or exit, offering guidance and urging people to choose righteousness over folly.

Verse 4:

To you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

Wisdom directly addresses humanity, emphasizing that her call is universal and inclusive of all people—men and women alike. Her voice is for everyone, inviting all to listen and consider her counsel, underscoring that wisdom is accessible and vital for human life and decision-making.

Verse 5:

O ye simple, understand wisdom: and ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

This verse calls specifically to the “simple” and “fools,” urging them to gain understanding and wisdom. It implies that wisdom is within reach even for those lacking knowledge or experience, and it invites the foolish to develop understanding. The verse emphasizes the importance of humility and the desire to grow in divine insight.

Verse 6:

Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

Wisdom invites attention, promising to speak of “excellent things”—truths of great value and worth. Her words are described as “right things,” signifying honesty, righteousness, and divine truth. It emphasizes the importance of listening to wisdom’s voice, which offers guidance rooted in goodness and divine excellence.

Verse 7:

For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

This verse underscores the integrity of wisdom’s speech—truth will be spoken, and wickedness is utterly detestable to her. It establishes that divine wisdom is fundamentally opposed to evil, emphasizing that her teachings promote righteousness and moral purity, aligning with God’s holiness.

Verse 8:

All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

Wisdom’s words are entirely righteous, without any crooked or perverse elements. This assures that divine guidance is pure, honest, and trustworthy. It encourages believers to seek wisdom’s counsel, knowing that her teachings are free from deception or moral distortion.

Verse 9:

They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

This verse states that wisdom’s words are clear and understandable to those who seek understanding and knowledge. For those who genuinely desire wisdom, her teachings are accessible and straightforward, providing clarity and insight that lead to righteous living. It emphasizes the value of earnest pursuit of divine understanding.

Verse 10:

Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

Wisdom urges to value her instruction more than material riches—silver and gold—highlighting that divine wisdom and understanding are far more precious than worldly wealth. It stresses that spiritual riches—wisdom and knowledge—are worth pursuing above all material gains, as they lead to eternal benefits and true fulfillment.

Verse 11:

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

This verse emphasizes the incomparable value of wisdom, asserting that it surpasses even precious rubies—one of the most valuable gemstones—and that no material possessions or worldly desires can compare to the worth of divine understanding. It highlights that true riches are found in wisdom, which offers eternal benefits and moral guidance that wealth cannot buy.

Verse 12:

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

Here, wisdom presents herself as residing alongside prudence, suggesting a close association between wisdom and careful judgment. She also claims to discover knowledge of clever inventions—innovations and solutions that benefit life. This highlights how wisdom is practical, resourceful, and essential for progress and problem-solving in life.

Verse 13:

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

This verse links reverence for God with a strong disdain for evil. Wisdom declares that true respect for the Lord involves hating pride, arrogance, wickedness, and dishonest speech. It underscores that humility, reverence, and moral integrity are core to divine wisdom and that hating evil is fundamental to living rightly before God.

Verse 14:

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

Wisdom asserts her role as the source of sound counsel, understanding, and strength. She positions herself as the foundation for wise decision-making and resilience, emphasizing that true strength and guidance stem from divine wisdom, which provides stability and power to those who seek her.

Verse 15:

By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

This verse highlights the authority and influence of wisdom in governance and justice. Kings and princes rely on wisdom to rule righteously and make just decrees. It underscores that divine wisdom is essential for leadership, fairness, and the proper administration of justice in society.

Verse 16:

By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

Continuing the theme of influence, this verse states that rulers, nobles, and judges depend on wisdom to govern effectively. It emphasizes that wise counsel is vital for just rulings and leadership, reinforcing that divine insight underpins the proper functioning of societal institutions.

Verse 17:

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Wisdom declares her affectionate relationship with those who love her, promising that sincere seekers will find her. The phrase “seek me early” suggests that earnest pursuit of wisdom should be prioritized early in life, emphasizing the importance of valuing divine understanding from the beginning of one’s journey.

Verse 18:

Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

This verse declares that true riches—wealth and honor—are found in wisdom, along with enduring riches and righteousness. It signifies that wisdom leads to lasting prosperity and moral integrity, which surpass transient material wealth and superficial honor.

Verse 19:

My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

Wisdom claims that her “fruits”—the benefits and rewards she provides—are superior to gold and silver. Her gains bring greater value, emphasizing that the blessings of divine wisdom are more precious and enduring than material riches, offering lasting fulfillment and spiritual wealth.

Verse 20:

I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

This verse portrays wisdom as a guide leading along the paths of righteousness and justice. She directs believers toward moral uprightness and fair judgment, reinforcing her role as the divine guide that ensures a life aligned with righteousness and the principles of divine law.

Verse 21:

That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

This verse expresses wisdom’s desire to bless those who love her by granting them inheritance—symbolizing prosperity, abundance, and divine provision. It highlights that love for wisdom results in material and spiritual riches, emphasizing the generous nature of divine wisdom and its role in enriching the lives of those who seek her earnestly.

Verse 22:

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

Wisdom affirms her eternal existence, stating that she was present with God from the very beginning—before creation. This underscores her divine origin and integral role in God’s creative work, emphasizing that true wisdom is rooted in divine truth and has existed since the foundation of the world.

Verse 23:

I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

Continuing her testimony, wisdom declares she has existed “from everlasting,” predating the creation of the earth. This eternal existence signifies her divine nature and the timeless value of wisdom, which was established before the universe came into being.

Verse 24:

When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

This verse poetically describes wisdom’s emergence before the formation of the depths and waters, symbolizing the chaos or primal chaos before creation. Wisdom’s “bringing forth” indicates her foundational role in the universe’s order and her primordial connection to divine purpose.

Verse 25:

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

Wisdom states she existed before the mountains and hills, emphasizing her preexistence and foundational role in creation. It suggests that divine wisdom predates physical features and is essential to the order and stability of the natural world.

Verse 26:

While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest parts of the dust of the world.

This verse underscores that wisdom was present even before God formed the earth, fields, and dust—highlighting her divine origin and integral part in divine plans from the very beginning of creation.

Verse 27:

When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the deep:

Wisdom was present at the time of the creation of the heavens and the firmament, symbolized by “setting a compass,” indicating divine order and precision. Her presence during the formation of the universe signifies her essential role in establishing the cosmos.

Verse 28:

When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the foundations of the deep:

This verse continues to describe wisdom’s presence during the creation of the sky and the deep waters, emphasizing her involvement in the structural and atmospheric aspects of the universe—highlighting her as a divine principle underlying the stability of creation.

Verse 29:

When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his command, when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Wisdom was present when God set boundaries for the seas and laid the earth’s foundations, indicating her role in ensuring order and stability in nature. Her involvement at these foundational moments underscores her importance in divine governance and cosmic law.

Verse 30:

Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

This verse portrays wisdom as a close companion of God, “brought up” with Him, sharing in divine joy and pleasure. It suggests an intimate relationship with the Creator, emphasizing that wisdom delights in divine fellowship and is integral to divine joy in creation.

Verse 31:

Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

Wisdom expresses her happiness in the beautiful and livable parts of the earth, and her pleasure is found in humanity. This reveals that divine wisdom takes joy in the well-being of creation and desires to guide and bless mankind.

Verse 32:

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.

The call to listen continues, highlighting that those who follow wisdom’s ways are blessed. It reaffirms the importance of obedience and attentiveness to divine wisdom as the path to true blessing and happiness.

Verse 33:

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

This verse urges an open and receptive attitude toward instruction, emphasizing that rejecting wisdom’s guidance leads to folly. It underscores that wisdom’s counsel is life-giving and essential for living rightly.

Verse 34:

Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

The person who diligently seeks wisdom—constantly listening and watching—is blessed. The imagery of waiting at her gates and doors signifies vigilance and readiness, underscoring that persistent pursuit of wisdom is rewarded by divine favor.

Verse 35:

For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

Finding wisdom equates to discovering life and gaining God's favor. It emphasizes that divine wisdom is the ultimate source of life's meaning and blessing, leading to a fulfilled and favored existence.

Verse 36:

But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Rejecting wisdom harms oneself, as sin against divine understanding results in spiritual death or destruction. Those who hate wisdom demonstrate their love for death—symbolic of separation from God and eternal life—highlighting the tragic consequences of turning away from divine truth.

CHAPTER 9:**Verse 1:**

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

This verse portrays wisdom as a builder of a grand house, symbolizing stability, strength, and completeness. The “seven pillars” represent perfection and divine fullness, indicating that wisdom's foundation is solid and trustworthy. The image suggests that true wisdom is carefully constructed and provides a secure refuge for those who seek it, emphasizing its importance as a place of safety and stability.

Verse 2:

She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

Wisdom prepares a feast, symbolizing abundance, nourishment, and hospitality. The “killed beasts” and “mingled wine” evoke a sense of celebration and provision, representing the richness and generosity of divine wisdom. Her table being furnished signifies readiness to welcome those who seek understanding, offering sustenance for the soul.

Verse 3:

She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Wisdom actively invites others to come to her, sending out messengers—maidens—symbolizing her outreach to the community. The call from “the highest places” indicates that wisdom's invitation is accessible to all, reaching people at the most prominent and conspicuous points of life, urging them to accept her guidance.

Verse 4:

Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

This verse extends an open invitation to the “simple” and those lacking understanding. Wisdom calls to the naive or inexperienced, encouraging them to turn toward her for guidance. It emphasizes her graciousness in offering help to those who recognize their need for divine insight.

Verse 5:

Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Wisdom invites all to partake in her provisions—symbolized by bread and wine—representing sustenance and joy. The invitation signifies a sharing of divine truth and life, offering nourishment for the spiritual journey and the satisfaction that comes from embracing divine understanding.

Verse 6:

Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

This verse urges leaving behind foolishness and embracing wisdom, which leads to life. It presents a clear choice: abandon folly and walk in understanding. Following wisdom's path guarantees a meaningful, fulfilled life rooted in divine truth.

Verse 7:

He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

Correcting a scorner or wicked person often results in shame or disgrace, as such individuals resist correction. This warns that confronting stubborn or malicious individuals can be challenging and may bring personal shame or dishonor, highlighting the difficulty of addressing pride and wickedness.

Verse 8:

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

The verse advises discretion in correction: avoid rebuking a scorner, who may hate or despise you, but rebuke the wise, who will appreciate and love constructive correction. It underscores the importance of wisdom in knowing how and whom to rebuke for effective and healthy relationships.

Verse 9:

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Wisdom and righteousness are receptive to instruction; those who are wise or just will continue to grow in knowledge and understanding when taught. It emphasizes the value of ongoing learning and humility in seeking divine wisdom for personal growth.

Verse 10:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

This foundational principle states that reverence for God is the starting point of true wisdom. Recognizing His holiness leads to understanding, implying that divine fear and respect are essential for acquiring genuine insight and moral discernment.

Verse 11:

For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Living according to wisdom results in a longer, more prosperous life. Wisdom's guidance is presented as a divine gift that extends life and enhances its quality, encouraging individuals to seek her for longevity and blessing.

Verse 12:

If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shall bear it.

Wisdom benefits the individual directly; embracing her brings personal growth. Conversely, scorn or rejection of wisdom leads to personal consequences, emphasizing personal responsibility in the pursuit or rejection of divine guidance.

Verse 13:

A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

This verse describes a “foolish woman” as loud and boisterous, representing folly and ignorance. Her simplicity and lack of understanding portray her as a symbol of reckless distraction and unwise influence, contrasting with wisdom’s calm and stable nature.

Verse 14:

For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

The foolish woman is depicted as sitting openly at her house, in prominent places, symbolizing her accessibility and the danger she poses. Her position at the city’s high places indicates her influence over those passing by, inviting them into her folly.

Verse 15:

To call passengers who go right on their ways:

She calls out to those who are confidently walking their paths, tempting them to join her. Her attempt to lure travelers signifies the persistent nature of temptation that seeks to divert people from righteousness.

Verse 16:

Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

The foolish woman’s invitation to the naive and unwise mirrors wisdom’s earlier call, but her motives are destructive. Her words entice those lacking understanding, tempting them to follow her into folly and ruin.

Verse 17:

Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

This verse highlights that forbidden pleasures—like stolen waters and secret food—seem attractive and tempting. It suggests that illicit or hidden indulgences appear pleasurable, but they ultimately lead to harm, portraying the deceptive nature of sin.

Verse 18:

But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

The verse warns that behind her allure lies death and destruction—those who indulge in her offerings do not realize they are heading toward spiritual death or destruction. Her “guests” are in the depths of hell, emphasizing the deadly consequences of succumbing to folly and sin.

CHAPTER 10:

Verse 1:

The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

This verse highlights the profound impact of a child's character on their parents. A wise son brings joy

and pride to his father, reflecting the benefits of wisdom and good conduct. Conversely, a foolish son causes grief and sorrow to his mother, illustrating how folly and reckless behavior can burden and sorrow those who care for him. It underscores the importance of wisdom as a foundation for a harmonious family life.

Verse 2:

Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

This verse contrasts ill-gotten wealth with righteousness, emphasizing that material riches obtained through wicked means are ultimately useless and cannot bring true security or salvation.

Righteousness, however, offers deliverance from death—symbolic of spiritual death or destruction—highlighting that moral integrity and living rightly are far more valuable than worldly wealth.

Verse 3:

The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

Here, divine provision is assured for the righteous, who will not lack sustenance because of God's care. In contrast, the wealth of the wicked is fleeting and will ultimately be taken away or wasted. This underscores God's justice and His protective love for those who live righteously.

Verse 4:

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

This verse emphasizes the value of diligence and hard work. Lazy or slack hands lead to poverty, while diligent effort and perseverance result in wealth and prosperity. It encourages a strong work ethic as a divine principle for success.

Verse 5:

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

This verse advocates for foresight and hard work. Gathering in summer symbolizes preparing and working during favorable times, which is wise. Sleeping through harvest represents laziness or neglect, leading to shame because of missed opportunities and failure to provide.

Verse 6:

Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

The righteous are blessed, and their lives are marked by divine favor and prosperity. In contrast, the wicked are often associated with violence and evil speech, which cover or conceal their true nature. This verse highlights the spiritual and moral contrast between righteousness and wickedness.

Verse 7:

The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Good reputation and remembrance are the blessings of the righteous, whose lives leave a positive legacy. Conversely, the wicked's reputation is doomed to decay and be forgotten, reflecting the transient nature of evil and the enduring value of virtue.

Verse 8:

The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a froward mouth shall be cast down.

Wise individuals are receptive to instruction and commandments, valuing correction and learning. The

foolish or crooked of speech, however, will be brought low—either by their own words or by others—due to their unwise and rebellious attitude. It underscores humility and teachability as marks of wisdom.

Verse 9:

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Living uprightly provides security and confidence, both in life and before God. Those who distort or pervert their paths will eventually be exposed, revealing their true character. Integrity leads to safety, while deception and corruption bring shame and downfall.

Verse 10:

He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

Deceptive or sneaky actions, like winking with the eye, can cause confusion or sorrow, as they imply dishonesty or hidden motives. On the other hand, a fool who is talkative or boastful will ultimately face downfall. This emphasizes the importance of honesty and restraint in speech and actions to avoid trouble.

Verse 11:

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

This verse highlights the power of righteous speech, portraying the words of a virtuous person as a source of life and blessing—like a well that sustains and refreshes others. In contrast, the wicked’s mouth is associated with violence, destructive speech that covers or conceals true intent, leading to harm and chaos. It underscores the importance of speaking life-giving words and the destructive potential of wickedness.

Verse 12:

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Hatred breeds conflict and division, fueling strife among people. Conversely, love acts as a covering—protecting and forgiving, concealing faults and promoting harmony. This verse emphasizes that love is the greatest virtue for maintaining peace and unity, and that it can override offenses and wrongdoings.

Verse 13:

In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

Wise speech reflects understanding and wisdom, serving as a valuable asset. Those lacking understanding are often disciplined or corrected harshly, symbolized by a “rod,” which signifies punishment or correction. The verse underscores the importance of wisdom in speech and the consequences of ignorance.

Verse 14:

Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

Wisdom involves actively gathering and preserving knowledge, which provides stability and guidance. The foolish, however, are reckless with their words, leading themselves toward destruction. This stresses the importance of wisdom and prudence in speech and decision-making.

Verse 15:

The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.

The wealthy often rely on their riches as a fortress of security, while the impoverished face destruction through their lack of resources. This contrast highlights how wealth can provide safety, but also suggests that poverty leaves individuals vulnerable to ruin, emphasizing social and economic disparities.

Verse 16:

The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

The efforts of the righteous lead to life, meaning spiritual vitality and blessing, while the work of the wicked results in sin and spiritual death. This verse underscores that righteous labor aligns with divine blessing, whereas wicked pursuits lead away from life.

Verse 17:

He that keepeth instruction is in the way of life: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

Obedience to discipline and instruction is the way to life—prosperity, spiritual growth, and divine favor. Rejecting correction, however, leads to error and downfall. It highlights the value of humility and teachability.

Verse 18:

He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.

Deceiving others about hatred or speaking ill of others through slander marks a fool. Such behavior masks malice and spreads falsehood, which are destructive and foolish. Honesty and kindness are the wise choices.

Verse 19:

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Much talking increases the likelihood of sin, as careless or excessive speech can lead to trouble. Wisdom lies in restraint—knowing when to speak and when to remain silent. Silence is portrayed as a sign of wisdom.

Verse 20:

The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked prolongeth violence.

The speech of the righteous is precious and valuable, like fine silver—truthful, pure, and beneficial. Conversely, the heart of the wicked is associated with ongoing violence, implying that wickedness breeds continual conflict and harm. This emphasizes the importance of righteous speech and the destructive nature of wickedness.

Verse 21:

The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

This verse emphasizes the influential power of righteous speech, which nourishes and sustains others—like food that provides life and strength. The words of the righteous have the capacity to guide, encourage, and uplift many. In contrast, fools suffer from their lack of wisdom, leading to their spiritual and moral demise. It underscores the vital importance of wise and righteous communication for the well-being of individuals and communities.

Verse 22:

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Divine blessing is portrayed as the ultimate source of true riches—material and spiritual—that come with peace and contentment. Unlike worldly wealth that often brings trouble and sorrow, God's blessing enriches without adding pain or regret. It highlights that genuine prosperity is rooted in God's favor and is free from the burdens of worldly worries.

Verse 23:

It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Fools find entertainment and pleasure in causing trouble or engaging in sinful actions—viewing mischief as a game or sport. Conversely, wise individuals recognize the harm in such behavior and act with understanding and restraint. Wisdom leads to responsible choices, while foolishness delights in chaos and harm.

Verse 24:

The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

This verse contrasts the outcomes for the wicked and the righteous. The wicked's fears will come true—possibly their anxieties or consequences—because their actions invite judgment. The righteous, however, will have their desires fulfilled, as their trust and integrity position them to receive God's blessings. It underscores divine justice and favor.

Verse 25:

As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous stand forever.

The suddenness of a whirlwind symbolizes the swift destruction of the wicked, who vanish like a passing storm. In contrast, the righteous endure eternally, grounded in stability and divine stability. This verse highlights the transient nature of wickedness versus the enduring strength of righteousness.

Verse 26:

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

The lazy person is likened to vinegar that irritates the teeth and smoke that stings the eyes—causing discomfort and annoyance. Such a person is unreliable and a burden to those who depend on him. It underscores the importance of diligence and the frustration caused by laziness and neglect.

Verse 27:

The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Reverence for God is associated with longevity and blessings, implying that living in awe of God leads to a longer, more prosperous life. Conversely, wickedness results in a shortened lifespan, possibly due to the consequences of sinful behavior. It emphasizes the benefits of fearing and honoring God.

Verse 28:

The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

The righteous find joy and satisfaction in their hope—trust in God's promises—while the wicked's expectations ultimately fail and perish. This verse underscores the stability and fulfillment that come from living righteously versus the fleeting and futile hopes of the wicked.

Verse 29:

The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Walking in God's way provides strength, protection, and stability for the upright. In contrast, those who pursue iniquity face destruction—spiritual ruin or divine judgment. It highlights that divine guidance leads to strength and safety, while wickedness leads to downfall.

Verse 30:

The righteous shall never be moved: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

The righteous are stable and secure, rooted in God's righteousness, and will not be shaken. Conversely, the wicked will ultimately be removed from the earth—either in death or divine judgment—signifying divine justice and the ultimate triumph of righteousness over wickedness.

Verse 31:

The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

This verse emphasizes the power of righteous speech, where the words of the just—those who live uprightly—naturally produce wisdom and edify others. Their speech reflects their moral integrity and divine understanding, spreading goodness and truth. Conversely, the “froward tongue,” or crooked and deceitful speech, will ultimately be silenced or removed—“cut out”—because such words are harmful, untruthful, and contrary to divine righteousness. This highlights the importance of speaking wisely and righteously, as one's words can either build up or destroy.

Verse 32:

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

The righteous are characterized by their speech—they know and speak what is acceptable and pleasing to God, reflecting discernment and moral integrity. Their words align with divine principles, promoting harmony and righteousness. In contrast, the wicked speak “frowardness,” meaning twisted, perverse, or dishonest words that lead others astray and foster discord. This verse underscores that true righteousness is reflected in speech that honors God, while wickedness is evident in crooked, harmful words.

CHAPTER 11:**Verse 1:**

A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.

This verse highlights the importance of honesty and integrity in all dealings. Using a false balance—cheating customers or manipulating scales—is detestable to God because it involves dishonesty and injustice. Conversely, a true and fair measure is pleasing to Him, reflecting righteousness and fairness. It emphasizes that God values honesty in business and personal conduct, and dishonesty is an abomination in His sight.

Verse 2:

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Pride leads to shame, as arrogance often results in downfall or disgrace. Humility, on the other hand, is associated with wisdom—those who are humble are more receptive to learning and divine guidance.

This verse underscores the virtue of humility and warns against pride, which ultimately brings shame and dishonor.

Verse 3:

The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

Integrity—being honest and morally upright—serves as a guiding principle for righteous individuals, leading them along the right path. In contrast, those who are perverse and rebellious against God's ways will face destruction due to their wickedness. This highlights the protective power of integrity and the destructive consequences of wickedness.

Verse 4:

Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Material wealth cannot save a person on the day of judgment or divine wrath. True security comes from righteousness—living rightly before God—which offers deliverance from spiritual death and eternal separation from Him. Wealth may provide temporary comfort, but righteousness provides eternal salvation.

Verse 5:

The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

The righteous are guided by their moral integrity, which directs their paths and leads to stability and success. In contrast, the wicked bring about their own downfall through their evil actions. This verse emphasizes personal responsibility and the natural consequences of wickedness versus the guidance of righteousness.

Verse 6:

The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

Righteousness offers protection and deliverance for those who live uprightly. Conversely, transgressors—those who sin and rebel—are caught and harmed by their own wickedness. It underscores that evil deeds trap and destroy the wicked, while righteousness provides safety.

Verse 7:

When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

The hopes and expectations of wicked and unjust people are fleeting and ultimately perish at death. Their ambitions and schemes are temporary and do not survive beyond this life, highlighting the futility of wicked pursuits and the importance of righteousness for lasting hope.

Verse 8:

The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.

Righteous individuals are rescued and delivered from difficulties, often through divine intervention or wise actions. The wicked, however, may end up suffering the consequences, sometimes replacing the righteous in trouble or misfortune. This underscores divine justice and the protective nature of righteousness.

Verse 9:

The hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be

delivered.

Hypocritical speech—pretending to be righteous—can cause harm and destruction to others, often through gossip, slander, or deceit. True knowledge and wisdom, however, empower the righteous to be delivered from trouble and to act rightly. This highlights the destructive power of hypocrisy and the salvation found in true understanding.

Verse 10:

When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.
The well-being of the righteous benefits the entire community, causing joy and celebration within the city. Conversely, the downfall or death of the wicked results in rejoicing, as justice has been served and evil is removed. This verse reflects the societal impact of righteousness and wickedness, emphasizing that community peace and happiness are rooted in divine justice.

Verse 11:

By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.
This verse underscores the profound influence of righteousness on society. When the upright—those living morally and ethically—are blessed, their virtue elevates and strengthens the community, bringing honor and stability to the city. Conversely, the wicked's speech—full of deceit, slander, or malice—can overturn and ruin the social fabric, leading to chaos and downfall. It highlights the power of moral integrity and wise speech in shaping a thriving society.

Verse 12:

He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.
This verse emphasizes that fools or those lacking wisdom tend to look down on or despise others, often leading to conflict or discord. In contrast, a person of understanding exercises restraint, choosing to be silent rather than engage in unnecessary disputes. Wisdom nurtures harmony and patience in relationships, promoting peaceful coexistence.

Verse 13:

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.
Gossip and betrayal are condemned here—those who spread secrets cause harm and distrust among people. Faithful and trustworthy individuals, however, keep confidences and protect others' privacy. This verse highlights the value of loyalty and discretion in fostering trust and harmonious relationships.

Verse 14:

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.
This verse stresses the importance of wise advice and collective counsel. Without guidance, people are prone to failure and disaster. Conversely, seeking counsel from many wise sources provides safety and leads to better decisions, emphasizing humility and the value of shared wisdom.

Verse 15:

He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretyship is sure.
Guaranteeing the debt or obligation for a stranger can lead to hardship and suffering if things go wrong. Those who avoid such risky commitments—haters of suretyship—are safer and more secure. The verse warns against unwisely taking on financial obligations that could become burdensome.

Verse 16:

A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.

This verse contrasts qualities valued in women and men. A gracious woman—kind, respectful, and virtuous—maintains her honor and dignity. Strong men, through their strength and integrity, preserve wealth and prosperity. It underscores that virtue and strength are key to lasting honor and riches.

Verse 17:

The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

Acts of mercy and kindness benefit the giver's own soul, bringing spiritual and emotional reward. Conversely, cruelty and harshness damage the perpetrator internally, leading to trouble and unrest. The verse highlights the self-beneficial nature of mercy and compassion.

Verse 18:

The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

Wickedness involves deception and false schemes, which ultimately lead to instability and loss. Righteousness, however, is like sowing good seeds that will yield a reliable and lasting reward. This advocates for integrity and honest work as the sure path to divine blessing.

Verse 19:

As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.

Living righteously leads to life—blessing, peace, and divine favor—while pursuing evil results in destruction and death. The verse underscores the stark contrast between the outcomes of righteousness and wickedness, encouraging a pursuit of virtue.

Verse 20:

They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Those with crooked, rebellious hearts are detestable to God, who desires righteousness and sincerity. Conversely, upright individuals—those who live honestly and sincerely—bring joy to God. This verse emphasizes the importance of integrity and pure motives in pleasing the Lord.

Verse 21:

Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

This verse emphasizes divine justice: no matter how united or powerful the wicked appear, they will not escape punishment for their wrongdoing. Conversely, the righteous, often persecuted or overlooked, are ultimately delivered and preserved by God's mercy. It highlights the certainty of divine justice and the assurance that righteousness will prevail in the end.

Verse 22:

As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

This vivid imagery compares an outwardly beautiful woman lacking wisdom or discretion to a jewel in a pig's snout—something precious yet misplaced and unworthy. It underscores that true beauty is complemented and enhanced by virtue and wisdom, and without discernment, external beauty is hollow and unvaluable.

Verse 23:

The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

The righteous have pure and noble desires, seeking good and righteousness in life. Their hopes are aligned with divine purposes and bring peace. In contrast, the wicked's expectations often lead to anger and wrath because their motives are selfish or sinful, which ultimately result in disappointment and divine judgment.

Verse 24:

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but tendeth to poverty.

Generosity and giving lead to abundance—those who scatter their resources wisely often find that they increase in prosperity. Conversely, hoarding or withholding more than necessary results in poverty, showing that selfishness and greed hinder true wealth and blessing.

Verse 25:

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

A generous and kind-hearted person will be blessed and prospered. Those who help and uplift others will themselves be supported and nourished. This verse promotes the principle of reciprocity—what we give out will come back to us in blessings.

Verse 26:

He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.

Refusing to sell or share necessary provisions, like grain, brings curses or dishonor from the community. Conversely, those who sell or distribute resources generously are blessed and respected, emphasizing fairness and charity in societal dealings.

Verse 27:

He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

Persistent pursuit of good and righteousness attracts divine favor and blessings. Conversely, those who actively seek harm or trouble will find that misfortune comes upon them. It encourages diligence in doing good and warns against malicious intent.

Verse 28:

He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Relying on wealth alone is unstable and ultimately leads to downfall. True stability and growth come from righteousness, which is likened to a flourishing branch—strong, healthy, and resilient—rooted in divine favor.

Verse 29:

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

Causing trouble within one's household results in emptiness or loss—symbolized by inheriting the wind—meaning no real gain. The foolish person ends up serving the wise, illustrating that foolishness leads to subservience and loss of authority or prosperity, while wisdom brings respect and stability.

Verse 30:

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

The righteous produce life-giving fruit, symbolized as a tree of life, bringing nourishment and blessing to others. Winning souls—leading others to righteousness—is a sign of wisdom and divine favor, emphasizing evangelism and spiritual influence as noble pursuits.

Verse 31:

Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

This verse affirms that the righteous will receive their reward and justice on earth, and even more so, the wicked and sinners will face their due judgment. It highlights divine fairness in rewarding virtue and punishing evil in this life.

CHAPTER 12:**Verse 1:**

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

This verse emphasizes the value of humility and an open heart toward correction. Those who genuinely love instruction and seek knowledge are receptive to discipline, recognizing it as a pathway to growth. Conversely, rejecting reproof—criticism or correction—reveals a brutish or foolish nature, indicating stubbornness, ignorance, and a lack of desire for self-improvement. It underscores that humility and teachability are essential qualities for wisdom.

Verse 2:

A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

Here, the verse highlights that those who live righteously and ethically earn God's favor and blessing. Their good conduct secures divine approval. In contrast, individuals who scheme wickedly or act deceitfully will face God's condemnation. This underscores divine justice and the importance of living righteously to receive divine favor.

Verse 3:

A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

This verse stresses that wickedness provides no real stability or foundation for lasting success. The righteous, however, are rooted in virtue and divine guidance, making them unshakable even amid adversity. It highlights that moral integrity and divine favor establish true stability in life.

Verse 4:

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

A virtuous wife enhances her husband's reputation and brings honor, symbolized as a crown—something precious and noble. Conversely, a woman who causes shame and dishonor to her husband is likened to rot in his bones, indicating deep, destructive harm. This underscores the importance of virtue and integrity in marriage and relationships.

Verse 5:

The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsel of the wicked is deceit.

Righteous individuals have honest, upright thoughts that guide their actions and decisions. Their

intentions are aligned with divine truth. The wicked, however, are characterized by deceitful counsel—schemes and falsehoods that lead others astray. This verse underscores the importance of purity of thought and integrity.

Verse 6:

The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

Wicked people often plot harm or violence, lying in wait to cause suffering or bloodshed. In contrast, the honest and upright have words that can deliver or save them, possibly through wise speech or righteous actions. It highlights the destructive nature of wicked speech versus the protective power of integrity.

Verse 7:

The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.

Wickedness leads to downfall and eventual disappearance, whereas the house—symbolizing stability, family, or legacy—of the righteous endures. This emphasizes divine justice: evil will ultimately be destroyed, but righteousness will stand firm through divine blessing.

Verse 8:

A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.

Wisdom garners respect and praise from others, highlighting its value in character and reputation. Conversely, individuals with perverse or corrupt hearts are despised, indicating that wickedness and moral deformity diminish a person's esteem. This encourages the pursuit of wisdom and integrity.

Verse 9:

He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.

Humility and contentment are better than arrogance and self-promotion. Even a person of humble means, if respected and valued, surpasses someone who seeks to appear honorable but lacks basic needs like food. It underscores the virtue of humility and reliance on divine provision.

Verse 10:

A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

The righteous show compassion and care, even for their animals, reflecting kindness and mercy. The wicked, however, may act cruelly under the guise of mercy or for selfish reasons, but their actions are ultimately unkind and harsh. This verse highlights the virtue of compassion and the moral contrast between righteousness and wickedness.

Verse 11:

He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

This verse underscores the value of honest labor and diligence. Those who work their land diligently will be rewarded with food and sustenance, symbolizing prosperity and provision. Conversely, those who chase after worthless pursuits or rely on idleness lack understanding and will find themselves empty-handed. It emphasizes that hard work grounded in integrity leads to fulfillment, while laziness or foolish associations lead to spiritual and material poverty.

Verse 12:

The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

The wicked seek to trap others or pursue harmful schemes, drawing them into evil. In contrast, the righteous, rooted in virtue and divine guidance, naturally produce good fruit—character, integrity, and blessings. This highlights the difference between those driven by wicked desires versus those who live righteously, with the latter's life bearing positive results.

Verse 13:

The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

Wicked individuals often fall into traps because of their careless or sinful speech—lies, slander, or foolish words—leading to their downfall. The righteous, however, who speak wisely and righteously, can find deliverance from trouble. This verse emphasizes the power of words and the protection that comes from righteous speech.

Verse 14:

A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

The words a person speaks have a significant impact, bringing satisfaction and good into their life. Similarly, the work and efforts of one's hands will be rewarded—kindness, honesty, and hard work lead to positive results. It underscores the principle of sowing and reaping, where righteous speech and diligent labor yield blessings.

Verse 15:

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Fools tend to be confident in their own judgment, often ignoring wise advice. True wisdom, however, involves humility and openness to counsel, which guides people onto the right path. This verse advocates for humility and the value of listening to wise counsel for true understanding.

Verse 16:

A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

Fools reveal their anger openly and impulsively, making their folly obvious to all. In contrast, a wise person exercises restraint, protecting themselves from shame and preventing their anger from causing harm. Patience and discretion are signs of true wisdom.

Verse 17:

He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

Truthful speech reflects righteousness and integrity, demonstrating a person's moral uprightness. Conversely, lying or bearing false witness spreads deception and wickedness. This highlights the importance of honesty in establishing trust and moral virtue.

Verse 18:

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Harmful words can cut deeply, like a sword piercing the flesh, causing pain and damage. Wise speech, however, heals and edifies—bringing health to relationships and communities. It emphasizes the power of words to either wound or heal.

Verse 19:

The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Truthful speech endures and establishes a person's reputation forever, reflecting divine and moral consistency. Lies, however, are temporary and ultimately lead to shame and destruction. This verse promotes honesty as a lasting virtue.

Verse 20:

Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.

Evil schemes originate from wicked thoughts within the heart. Conversely, those who promote peace and reconciliation bring joy and contentment. This verse underscores the importance of purity of heart and the happiness that comes from fostering peace rather than plotting evil.

Verse 21:

There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

This verse offers a comforting promise: those who live righteously and trust in God will be protected from evil and harm. Their lives are shielded by divine favor, and they can rest assured that misfortune will not overtake them. In contrast, the wicked, who pursue evil and rebellion, will be filled with trouble and mischief, experiencing the consequences of their sinful ways. It underscores the divine safeguard available to the righteous and the inevitable downfall of wickedness.

Verse 22:

Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.

God detests falsehood and deception, considering lying lips as an abomination—something utterly detestable in His sight. Truthfulness, however, pleases God and aligns with His nature. Those who speak truth and act honestly find favor with Him. This verse emphasizes the importance of integrity and the divine value placed on honesty in our words and actions.

Verse 23:

A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Wise individuals exercise discretion, choosing to keep certain knowledge private, perhaps to avoid unnecessary conflict or harm. They understand the value of timing and humility in sharing wisdom. Fools, however, reveal their foolishness openly, often speaking without thought or discretion, which can lead to their downfall. This highlights the wisdom of restraint and prudence in communication.

Verse 24:

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Diligence and hard work lead to influence, authority, and respect—those who are diligent will eventually lead and succeed. Conversely, laziness results in subservience or oppression; the slothful will serve others rather than rule themselves. This verse promotes the virtue of diligence as essential for leadership and independence.

Verse 25:

Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

An anxious or heavy heart causes one to become bowed down, burdened by worry, grief, or despair. Conversely, a kind or encouraging word can lift spirits, bringing joy and comfort. It underscores the power of positive speech in healing and uplifting others' hearts.

Verse 26:

The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

The righteous stand out as superior in integrity and virtue, providing a good example to others. Their conduct elevates them above their neighbors. The wicked, however, lead others astray through temptation and deceit, causing them to stumble. This highlights the influence of righteousness versus wickedness on community and personal morality.

Verse 27:

The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

Lazy people fail to utilize what they have acquired through effort or opportunity, such as hunting, implying a wastefulness that results from sloth. Diligent individuals, on the other hand, value and wisely manage their resources, making their substance precious and fruitful. It advocates for industriousness and careful stewardship.

Verse 28:

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Living in righteousness leads to life—spiritually and eternally—offering peace, fulfillment, and divine favor. The path of righteousness is safe and life-giving, with no true death or destruction awaiting those who walk in God's ways. It encourages choosing a life of virtue and obedience to God's commandments.

CHAPTER 13:

Verse 1:

A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

This verse highlights the importance of humility and teachability in a child. A wise son values and listens to his father's guidance, recognizing that correction and instruction are for his growth and well-being. In contrast, a scorner or mocker dismisses rebuke, refusing to accept discipline, which often leads to folly and downfall. It underscores that wisdom begins with a respectful attitude towards correction.

Verse 2:

A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

The words a person speaks have the power to bring about positive outcomes—blessings, provision, and good fortune. Conversely, those who live in rebellion and sin will reap destruction and violence, suffering the consequences of their wickedness. This verse emphasizes the cause-and-effect relationship between speech, actions, and divine justice.

Verse 3:

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Guarding one's speech is crucial for safety and preservation. Careless or boastful words can lead to

trouble and downfall, while restraint and wisdom in speech protect a person from harm. It encourages temperance and prudence in communication.

Verse 4:

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Lazy individuals long for comfort and success but do not attain it due to their inactivity. Diligent people, however, work hard and persist, resulting in abundance and fulfillment. This verse promotes the virtue of hard work and perseverance as keys to prosperity.

Verse 5:

A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

Honesty is a virtue cherished by the righteous, who despise deceit and falsehood. The wicked, characterized by dishonesty, bring shame upon themselves and are considered loathsome in the sight of God and others. It emphasizes the moral importance of truthfulness.

Verse 6:

Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

Living righteously provides protection and stability, guiding a person along the right path. Conversely, wickedness leads to destruction and downfall, ultimately overthrowing those who persist in sin. This underscores divine justice and the safety found in righteousness.

Verse 7:

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

Appearances can be deceiving; someone may pretend to be wealthy but lack true possessions or virtue, while others who are humble may possess great riches—spiritual, moral, or material. This highlights the importance of genuine wealth versus superficial appearances.

Verse 8:

The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

Riches can serve as a form of ransom or protection for a person, providing security and influence. The poor, lacking wealth, are often more vulnerable and may not receive correction or rebuke, possibly due to their marginalized position. It underscores disparities related to wealth and influence.

Verse 9:

The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

The righteous bring joy and brightness into their lives and communities, symbolized as light. The wicked, however, face eventual darkness and downfall, with their influence extinguished. It illustrates the moral contrast between good and evil.

Verse 10:

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Pride is often the root of conflict and strife, leading to division and discord. Humility and seeking counsel, on the other hand, bring about wisdom and harmony. This verse advocates for humility and humility's role in fostering peace and understanding.

Verse 11:

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

This verse highlights the fleeting nature of ill-gotten gains, warning that wealth acquired through dishonest means or false pursuits is temporary and will ultimately fade away. In contrast, diligent and honest labor leads to lasting prosperity and growth. It emphasizes the importance of hard work and integrity in building true wealth that endures over time.

Verse 12:

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

Unfulfilled or postponed hopes can cause deep disappointment and discouragement. However, when desires are fulfilled, they bring joy and vitality, symbolized as a tree of life—fruitful and life-giving. This verse encourages patience and trust, reminding us that perseverance eventually leads to blessing.

Verse 13:

Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Disregarding or disrespecting divine guidance and instruction leads to destruction, both spiritually and practically. Conversely, those who honor and obey God's commandments will be rewarded with blessings and stability. It underscores the importance of reverence for God's word as a foundation for a prosperous life.

Verse 14:

The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Wisdom's teachings serve as a source of life and safety, helping individuals avoid deadly pitfalls and traps. Following wise counsel aligns one with divine principles, leading to spiritual vitality and protection from harm. This verse emphasizes the life-giving power of wisdom and obedience.

Verse 15:

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

Having insight and understanding garners favor and respect from others, opening doors to opportunities and blessings. In contrast, those who rebel and transgress face hardship, difficulty, and suffering. This highlights the value of wisdom and righteous living as means to attain grace and ease in life.

Verse 16:

Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

Wise individuals act with knowledge and discretion, carefully considering their actions and decisions. Fools, however, reveal their ignorance through reckless behavior and lack of foresight, which leads to folly and trouble. This verse advocates for prudence and the importance of thoughtful conduct.

Verse 17:

A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.

Messengers or representatives who are wicked and untrustworthy bring trouble and disaster. In contrast, faithful and reliable messengers serve as sources of health and blessing, conveying truth and promoting peace. The verse underscores the importance of integrity in communication.

Verse 18:

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be

honoured.

Rejecting correction and refusing to accept instruction leads to shame and poverty—both moral and material. Those willing to learn and accept reproof, however, will gain respect and honor, as they grow in wisdom and virtue. It highlights humility as key to success.

Verse 19:

The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil.

Achieving one's honest desires brings joy and satisfaction to the soul. Conversely, fools hate to turn away from evil, finding it detestable and unpleasing. The verse emphasizes the fulfillment found in righteousness and the foolishness of rejecting moral correction.

Verse 20:

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Associating with wise and virtuous individuals leads to personal growth and wisdom. Conversely, mingling with fools results in destruction and downfall. This underscores the importance of choosing one's companions carefully, as they influence character and destiny.

Verse 21:

Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repaid.

This verse underscores the principle that wickedness often leads to trouble and misfortune, as evil actively seeks out and afflicts sinners. In contrast, those who live righteously are assured of divine favor and blessings; good will ultimately be their reward. It highlights the moral justice of God, affirming that righteousness is rewarded and wickedness is punished, encouraging believers to pursue a life aligned with divine standards.

Verse 22:

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

A righteous person plans and acts wisely, ensuring they leave a legacy not only for their children but for future generations. Their wealth and good deeds have lasting impact. Conversely, the wealth of the wicked—built through unrighteousness—ultimately belongs to the just, as divine justice reclaims and redirects it. This emphasizes the importance of righteous living and stewardship across generations.

Verse 23:

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

This verse illustrates that even the humble and poor often have enough food through diligent farming and hard labor. However, some are destroyed because they lack wisdom and proper judgment—perhaps through reckless decisions or injustice. It stresses that wisdom and sound judgment are crucial for maintaining and preserving resources and livelihood.

Verse 24:

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Discipline is an expression of love and care. A parent who refuses to correct and discipline their child shows hatred or neglect, risking their child's moral and character development. Conversely, timely and appropriate correction demonstrates love and helps guide children toward righteousness. It emphasizes the importance of discipline in nurturing proper behavior.

Verse 25:

The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

The righteous find fulfillment and contentment in their sustenance, satisfying both their physical and spiritual needs. The wicked, however, often face hunger, want, and emptiness—despite their material pursuits. This highlights the spiritual principle that righteousness brings true satisfaction, while wickedness leads to deficiency and longing.

CHAPTER 14:**Verse 1:**

Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

This verse highlights the vital role of wisdom and prudence in maintaining and strengthening a household. A wise woman actively builds her home through good judgment, kindness, and diligent management, creating a stable and nurturing environment. Conversely, foolishness—manifested through careless words or actions—can undermine and destroy the very foundation of her household. It underscores the importance of wisdom in fostering a harmonious family life.

Verse 2:

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Living with integrity and righteousness reflects a reverence for God. Those who walk uprightly fear and honor the Lord, demonstrating their faith through their conduct. In contrast, those with perverse or corrupt ways show disdain for God's authority and moral standards. This verse emphasizes that true righteousness is rooted in a respectful relationship with God.

Verse 3:

In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Fools often speak arrogantly and boastfully, using their words to inflate their pride and provoke conflict—like a rod that can cause pain or harm. Wise individuals, however, use their words carefully, which guards and preserves them from trouble. This highlights the power of speech and the virtue of humility and wisdom in communication.

Verse 4:

Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

This proverb points out that having livestock—symbolic of work and productivity—inevitably leads to mess and disorder (the “crib being dirty”). However, the effort involved in managing and working the ox yields greater harvest and prosperity. It teaches that valuable rewards often come with effort and mess, and that diligence and labor are essential for growth.

Verse 5:

A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Trustworthiness and integrity in testimony are vital. A faithful witness speaks truthfully and can be relied upon, safeguarding justice and righteousness. Conversely, a false witness spreads lies and deception, which can cause harm and injustice. The verse underscores the importance of honesty in all dealings.

Verse 6:

A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

Mockers and scoffers often reject wisdom because they are closed-minded or prideful, making it difficult for them to learn or grow. In contrast, those who truly seek understanding find knowledge readily accessible. This highlights the value of humility and sincere pursuit of wisdom.

Verse 7:

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Avoid associating with foolish individuals whose speech and behavior lack wisdom and understanding. Their influence can lead one astray or cause unnecessary folly. It advocates discernment in choosing companions to preserve one's own integrity and growth.

Verse 8:

The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

Prudent people seek to understand their actions and motives, exercising wisdom to navigate life correctly. Fools, however, are often deceived by their own foolishness, which leads them astray. The verse encourages self-awareness and wisdom in decision-making.

Verse 9:

Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

Fools treat sin lightly or mock at it, showing a lack of reverence for God's standards, which leads to spiritual ruin. Righteous people, however, show favor and respect for divine commandments, cultivating divine approval and blessings. It underscores the importance of respecting God's moral law.

Verse 10:

The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

Each person understands their own inner struggles and pains—no outsider can fully comprehend their personal suffering or happiness. This verse emphasizes the importance of empathy and respect for individual experiences, recognizing that true understanding comes from within.

Verse 11:

The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

This verse contrasts the fate of the wicked versus the righteous. The dwelling or influence of the wicked is destined for destruction, symbolizing the instability and impermanence of wrongful living. In contrast, the righteous—symbolized as the upright—will flourish and thrive, their lives built on divine principles that lead to stability and growth. It underscores divine justice: wickedness leads to downfall, while righteousness leads to lasting success.

Verse 12:

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

This verse warns about the danger of trusting one's own judgment without divine guidance. What appears to be right or good in human eyes may ultimately lead to destruction and death—spiritual or even physical. It emphasizes the importance of seeking God's wisdom rather than relying solely on personal perception or worldly standards.

Verse 13:

Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

This verse reveals that outward happiness or laughter can mask inner pain or sorrow. Joy that is superficial or fleeting may ultimately give way to heaviness or sadness. It reminds us that true peace and lasting happiness come from inner contentment and divine comfort, not just external appearances.

Verse 14:

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Those who turn away from righteousness—backslide—will find themselves filled with the consequences of their own choices, often leading to dissatisfaction and emptiness. Conversely, the good and upright find contentment within themselves, deriving satisfaction from living rightly and aligning with God's will. It highlights personal responsibility and the internal fulfillment that comes from virtue.

Verse 15:

The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

Naive or trusting individuals accept every word they hear, which can lead to deception or trouble. Wise and prudent people assess situations carefully, considering their actions and words before proceeding. This verse advocates for discernment and cautious judgment in navigating life.

Verse 16:

A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Wisdom involves reverence for God and avoidance of evil, leading to cautiousness and prudent behavior. Fools, however, act arrogantly and impulsively, often raging and confident in their foolishness. It underscores the importance of humility and fear of the Lord as foundations of wisdom.

Verse 17:

He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Quick temper and impulsiveness lead to foolish actions and poor decisions. Such behavior is destructive and often results in alienation or hatred from others. It highlights the virtue of patience and self-control as essential for wisdom and good relationships.

Verse 18:

The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

Naive or simple-minded individuals often fall into folly and ignorance, leading to trouble. In contrast, prudent and wise individuals are crowned with knowledge and understanding, which protect and guide them through life. It emphasizes the value of wisdom as a crown that elevates and safeguards.

Verse 19:

The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

This verse portrays the eventual submission of evil and wickedness to goodness and righteousness. Evil may appear strong, but ultimately, good will prevail, and the wicked will face judgment or defeat. It affirms divine justice and the triumph of righteousness over wickedness.

Verse 20:

The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

This verse reflects social realities where the poor often face rejection or disdain, even from those close to them, while the wealthy tend to have many friends and supporters. It highlights societal inequalities and the tendency for wealth to influence relationships, urging us to consider the importance of authentic kindness and charity beyond material wealth.

Verse 21:

He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

This verse underscores the importance of showing compassion and kindness toward others, especially the vulnerable and the poor. Disregarding or despising one's neighbor is considered a sin because it violates the moral duty of love and charity. Conversely, showing mercy and generosity leads to happiness and spiritual blessing, highlighting that acts of kindness reflect a righteous heart and bring personal joy and divine favor.

Verse 22:

Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.

Those who plan or plot evil are wandering from the path of righteousness and are destined for failure and judgment. In contrast, those who seek to do good with mercy and truth will find favor and blessing from God. It emphasizes the importance of intentional goodness and integrity in one's plans and actions.

Verse 23:

In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Hard work and diligent effort inevitably lead to gain and success. However, mere talk—idle words or empty promises—do not produce results and can lead to poverty or lack. This verse highlights the value of labor and perseverance over frivolous speech.

Verse 24:

The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.

Wisdom results in wealth and prosperity, symbolized here as a crown that adorns the wise. In contrast, fools are characterized by foolishness itself, which leads to ruin and emptiness. It underscores that true riches come from wisdom, not foolishness.

Verse 25:

A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

Honest witnesses save lives and uphold justice by speaking truthfully. Deceitful witnesses, on the other hand, spread falsehoods that can harm others and destroy innocence. The verse emphasizes the moral responsibility of truthful testimony.

Verse 26:

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

A reverent fear of God provides confidence and security, both spiritually and practically. Those who respect and honor the Lord can trust in His protection, and their families will also find refuge and safety under His care. It highlights the strength found in reverence for God.

Verse 27:

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Fearing and respecting God is like a fountain that gives life—spiritually, emotionally, and morally. It guides believers away from destructive behaviors and the snares of death, leading to eternal life and divine blessing. This underscores the importance of reverence for God as the foundation of a fruitful life.

Verse 28:

In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.

A leader's honor depends on having a large and loyal population or followers. When people are plentiful, a ruler's reputation is strengthened. Conversely, a lack of support or followers leads to downfall and destruction for leaders or authorities, emphasizing the importance of community and support.

Verse 29:

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Patience and self-control, especially in the face of anger, reflect wisdom and understanding. Impulsiveness and quick temper lead to foolish decisions and harm, highlighting the virtue of restraint and measured responses for wise living.

Verse 30:

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Inner peace and a pure heart are vital to a healthy and vibrant life. Conversely, envy eats away at the soul and causes spiritual decay, like rot in the bones. This verse underscores the destructive power of envy and the importance of cultivating a content and righteous heart.

Verse 31:

He that oppresseth the poor revileth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Oppressing the vulnerable, especially the poor, is an affront to God, revealing a disrespect for the Creator. Showing mercy and honor to the poor demonstrates reverence for God's image in them and aligns with divine values. It emphasizes compassion as a reflection of true worship.

Verse 32:

The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Wickedness leads to ultimate downfall and rejection, whereas the righteous have hope and confidence even in death, knowing they are secure in God's promise. This verse highlights the eternal perspective of righteousness and the assurance of divine salvation.

Verse 33:

Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

True wisdom resides within a person who has understanding, influencing their thoughts and actions. Fools, lacking understanding, reveal their folly through their words and deeds. It emphasizes that wisdom is a matter of the heart and character.

Verse 34:

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

The moral integrity of a nation elevates it, bringing honor, stability, and divine blessing. Sin, on the other hand, brings shame and disgrace, leading to downfall and reproach. It underscores the importance of righteousness at the national level for societal prosperity.

Verse 35:

The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

A wise and faithful servant gains the favor of a ruler, reflecting humility and competence. Conversely, those who bring shame or disgrace provoke the ruler's wrath. This highlights the value of wisdom and humility in service and leadership.

CHAPTER 15:

Verse 1:

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

This verse emphasizes the power of gentle and calm speech in diffusing anger and conflict. When faced with hostility or provocation, responding softly and patiently can prevent escalation and promote peace. Conversely, harsh or offensive words tend to inflame tempers, leading to greater strife. It teaches the value of restraint and kindness in communication as a means of maintaining harmony.

Verse 2:

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Wisdom guides individuals to speak knowledgeably and appropriately, using words that build up and clarify rather than tear down. Fools, on the other hand, speak recklessly, pouring out foolishness without thought or discernment. This verse highlights the importance of wise speech as a mark of understanding and maturity.

Verse 3:

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

God's omnipresence and omniscience are affirmed here. He observes all actions, both righteous and wicked. This awareness should inspire believers to live uprightly, knowing that nothing escapes divine notice, and that accountability is certain.

Verse 4:

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

Words that are wholesome, encouraging, and truthful are life-giving, nourishing the soul and fostering growth. In contrast, corrupt or perverse speech damages the spirit and causes spiritual harm. The verse underscores the importance of speaking life and truth.

Verse 5:

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Disregarding parental correction reflects foolishness, leading to folly. Those who accept and heed reproof demonstrate wisdom and prudence, recognizing correction as a pathway to growth. It highlights humility and teachability as virtues.

Verse 6:

In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

Righteousness brings stability, blessing, and abundance to a household, symbolized as treasure. Wickedness, however, promises wealth but ultimately results in trouble and instability. The verse advocates for living rightly to find true prosperity.

Verse 7:

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

Wise individuals share knowledge generously and effectively, helping others grow. Fools, however, withhold or fail to disseminate wisdom, remaining ignorant and unhelpful. This emphasizes the virtue of wise communication.

Verse 8:

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

God detests insincere or wicked offerings, but He delights in the sincere prayers of the righteous. Genuine devotion and integrity are pleasing to God, whereas hypocrisy and wickedness are offensive.

Verse 9:

The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

Wickedness is detestable to God, emphasizing His displeasure with evil. Conversely, God loves those who pursue righteousness, affirming that moral uprightness is pleasing to Him and brings divine favor.

Verse 10:

Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

Rejecting correction and turning away from righteousness brings hardship and spiritual death. Those who despise discipline are on a dangerous path. This verse underscores the importance of accepting correction for spiritual health and life.

Verse 11:

Death and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

This verse reminds us that God's omniscience encompasses both the spiritual realm and the hearts of people. While death and destruction are known to God and serve as warnings of divine judgment, He also fully perceives the intentions, thoughts, and feelings within human hearts. It underscores God's sovereignty and the importance of living with purity and integrity, knowing that nothing is hidden from His sight.

Verse 12:

A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

Mockers and scorners reject correction and rebuke, as they are unwilling to accept discipline or guidance. They avoid those who would instruct them in wisdom, preferring to remain in their folly. This highlights the obstinacy of pride and the difficulty of guiding those who despise correction, emphasizing the importance of humility in receiving wisdom.

Verse 13:

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Joyful hearts produce cheerful appearances and uplifted spirits, contributing to overall well-being.

Conversely, inner sorrow and grief can break the spirit, leading to despair and gloom. This verse highlights the power of a joyful attitude and the importance of cultivating inner peace and contentment.

Verse 14:

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

People with understanding and wisdom actively seek knowledge and truth, recognizing its value for growth and guidance. Fools, however, indulge in foolish and unproductive speech, neglecting true understanding. This underscores the virtue of diligent pursuit of wisdom over idle chatter.

Verse 15:

All the days of the oppressed are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

Those who are oppressed or burdened experience hardship and sorrow constantly. In contrast, a joyful and content heart brings ongoing happiness and fulfillment, regardless of external circumstances. This verse emphasizes the importance of maintaining inner joy even amid adversity.

Verse 16:

Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Living with reverence for God and contentment with modest means is preferable to pursuing wealth that brings stress and trouble. True security and peace come from fearing the Lord, not material riches. It advocates for spiritual richness over worldly wealth.

Verse 17:

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

A simple meal shared in love and harmony is more valuable than a lavish feast marred by conflict and hatred. This highlights the importance of love, unity, and genuine relationships over material abundance.

Verse 18:

A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Quick-tempered individuals cause chaos and discord, inciting conflict. Those who are slow to anger promote peace and reconciliation, calming disputes and fostering harmony. This underscores the virtue of patience and self-control.

Verse 19:

The way of the slothful is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

Lazy or procrastinating people create obstacles and difficulties in their path, like a hedge of thorns blocking progress. In contrast, those who live righteously and diligently find their paths clear and straightforward, leading to success. It emphasizes diligence and righteousness as keys to ease and progress.

Verse 20:

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Children who live wisely and honor their parents bring joy and pride to their fathers. Conversely, foolish behavior and disrespect toward parents cause sorrow and disappointment. This highlights the importance of wisdom, obedience, and respect within family relationships.

Verse 21:

Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

Foolishness can appear as entertainment or amusement to those lacking wisdom, often leading them into reckless or destructive behavior. Conversely, a person with understanding values righteousness and walks uprightly, making wise choices that lead to true fulfillment. This contrast highlights that true joy and stability come from wisdom, not folly.

Verse 22:

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Plans and ambitions are prone to failure if not properly advised. Seeking counsel from wise and trusted advisors helps ensure success and stability. It emphasizes the importance of community, wisdom, and humility in decision-making, warning against arrogance and independence.

Verse 23:

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

Words spoken at the right time can bring great joy and encouragement. Well-timed, thoughtful speech is a gift that uplifts others and fosters harmony. It underscores the power of words and the blessing of speaking wisdom and kindness.

Verse 24:

The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

Wisdom guides a person along the higher, divine path of life, helping them avoid destruction and eternal separation from God. Living according to divine wisdom elevates the soul and leads to eternal life, emphasizing the importance of spiritual discernment.

Verse 25:

The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

God opposes pride and arrogance, often bringing down those who exalt themselves. Conversely, He shows favor to the humble and vulnerable, such as widows, by establishing and protecting them. It underscores God's justice and His special care for the humble.

Verse 26:

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

God detests wicked thoughts, which are morally offensive to Him. Pure and sincere speech, however, is pleasing in His sight. This highlights the importance of purity in both thoughts and words, reflecting inner righteousness.

Verse 27:

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth bribes shall live.

Greed and the pursuit of wealth through dishonest means cause trouble and instability within a household. Those who reject bribery and dishonest gain live peacefully and righteously. It promotes integrity and warns against greed.

Verse 28:

The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

Righteous individuals carefully consider their responses, seeking to answer wisely and thoughtfully. In contrast, wicked people speak impulsively, often spilling evil and causing harm. This verse emphasizes the virtue of measured, thoughtful speech.

Verse 29:

The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

God distances Himself from those who live in wickedness, withholding His favor and presence.

Conversely, He listens to the prayers of the righteous, offering grace and divine support. It underscores the importance of living in obedience and righteousness to have God's ear.

Verse 30:

The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: but a good report maketh the bones fat.

Seeing good and positive things brings joy to the heart, illuminating the eyes like light. Additionally, hearing good news and receiving a good reputation strengthen and nourish the soul, making one strong and healthy. It highlights the uplifting power of joy and good reputation.

Verse 31:

The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

Those who accept correction and discipline demonstrate wisdom and humility. They remain teachable and continue to grow in righteousness. It emphasizes that receptiveness to discipline is a mark of true wisdom.

Verse 32:

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

Rejecting correction not only disrespects others but also harms oneself by missing opportunities for growth and understanding. Accepting reproof leads to wisdom and self-improvement, highlighting humility and teachability as virtues.

Verse 33:

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

True wisdom begins with reverence and awe for God. Humility precedes honor, meaning that those who are humble before God and others will ultimately be exalted. It underscores the divine principle that humility and reverence lead to true honor.

CHAPTER 16:

Verse 1:

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

This verse reminds us that while humans plan and prepare their words and intentions, ultimate authority and guidance come from God. Our thoughts and speech are subject to divine influence, and true wisdom recognizes that success and direction originate from God's sovereignty. It encourages humility in our plans, trusting that God directs our steps and provides the right words at the right time.

Verse 2:

All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

People often justify their actions, believing they are doing right. However, God examines the motives

and intentions behind our deeds—He judges not only what we do but why we do it. This verse urges self-examination and humility, recognizing that God’s judgment is perfect and that only He truly knows the heart’s condition.

Verse 3:

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Entrusting our plans and endeavors to God aligns our motives with His will. When we seek divine guidance and dedicate our efforts to Him, He stabilizes our thoughts and purposes, leading us toward success in accordance with His divine plan. It promotes reliance on God for direction and stability.

Verse 4:

The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

This verse emphasizes that everything in creation ultimately serves God's purpose. Even the wicked, who oppose righteousness, are used by God in His divine plan and will face judgment in due time. It highlights God's sovereignty over all creation and His justice in dealing with evil.

Verse 5:

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand joined in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

God detests pride, considering it a grievous sin. No matter how united or powerful the proud may seem, they cannot escape divine punishment. Humility is essential in God's sight, and pride will lead to downfall, reinforcing the need for humility before God.

Verse 6:

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

God’s mercy, combined with truth, provides forgiveness and cleansing from sin. Reverence for God instills a desire to avoid evil and pursue righteousness. This verse underscores the importance of mercy, truth, and reverence in overcoming sin and living rightly.

Verse 7:

When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Living in obedience and righteousness pleases God, which in turn brings peace and favor, even from enemies. A righteous life creates harmony and reduces conflict, demonstrating that divine favor results in peace and stability.

Verse 8:

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

True value is found in righteousness rather than material wealth. A modest life lived righteously is more desirable and fulfilling than wealth gained dishonestly or unjustly. It emphasizes integrity over greed.

Verse 9:

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.

People often devise their plans, but ultimately, God directs their path. Human effort is important, but divine guidance is essential for true success. This verse highlights the importance of seeking God's direction in all our plans.

Verse 10:

A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

A wise king or leader speaks with divine authority, and their judgment should be just and righteous. Their words carry weight and should align with divine principles. This verse underscores the importance of integrity and righteousness in leadership and judgment.

Verse 11:

A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

This verse emphasizes God's sovereignty over honesty and integrity in commerce. Honest measurements and fair dealings are not merely good business practices but are ultimately ordained by God. It teaches that righteousness and fairness in trade reflect divine standards, and those who uphold integrity align themselves with God's justice.

Verse 12:

It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

Righteousness is the foundation of legitimate authority. Kings and leaders who engage in wickedness offend God, as such behavior destabilizes their reign and corrupts their rule. True and lasting authority is rooted in justice and moral uprightness, underscoring the importance of righteous leadership.

Verse 13:

Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh uprightly.

Honest and wise speech pleases rulers and garners respect. Leaders value truthfulness and integrity in their advisors and subjects. This verse highlights the virtue of speaking uprightly, which can influence and honor those in authority.

Verse 14:

The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

The anger of a king can be deadly, capable of causing destruction and chaos. However, a wise person knows how to calm and de-escalate such wrath through prudence and diplomacy. Wisdom, therefore, is essential for maintaining peace and avoiding catastrophe in positions of power.

Verse 15:

In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain.

The approval and favor of a king bring life and prosperity to a nation. A king's benevolence and gracious appearance can refresh and revive his people, much like the nourishing rain after a drought. This underscores the importance of wise and gracious leadership.

Verse 16:

How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Wisdom and understanding surpass material wealth in value. Acquiring wisdom enriches a person's life and leads to true prosperity, while wealth alone is fleeting. This verse advocates prioritizing spiritual and moral growth over material riches.

Verse 17:

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

Living uprightly involves actively avoiding evil and staying on the right path. Such conduct preserves the soul and maintains spiritual health. It highlights that moral discipline and righteousness protect us from spiritual harm.

Verse 18:

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pride is a dangerous trait that precedes downfall and failure. Arrogance and high-mindedness set the stage for humiliation and ruin. The verse warns against pride and encourages humility as a safeguard against destruction.

Verse 19:

Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Humility is a virtue that leads to true honor and contentment, even among the humble and lowly. It is better to live humbly and peacefully than to seek riches and status by competing with the proud, which often results in conflict and loss.

Verse 20:

He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

Wise handling of life's challenges leads to favorable outcomes. Trusting in the Lord provides happiness and blessing, as divine guidance and favor bring success and peace. This verse emphasizes the importance of wisdom and faith in achieving a joyful life.

Verse 21:

The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

A person with wisdom and understanding develops a prudent and discerning heart, which garners respect and admiration from others. Additionally, gentle and kind speech enhances learning and fosters positive relationships. This verse highlights that wisdom and pleasant speech work together to promote growth, influence, and the gaining of knowledge.

Verse 22:

Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

True understanding provides life-giving benefits—clarity, wisdom, and direction—leading to a fulfilling and meaningful existence. In contrast, fools reject wisdom and embrace folly, which leads to destruction and confusion. The verse underscores the vital importance of seeking understanding for a prosperous life.

Verse 23:

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

Wisdom resides in the heart and influences speech. Wise individuals carefully select their words, which not only reflect their understanding but also encourage further learning. Their speech becomes a tool for teaching and growth, emphasizing the connection between internal wisdom and outward expression.

Verse 24:

Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Words that are kind, encouraging, and gracious have a soothing and healing effect on others. Like honeycomb, they are sweet and nourishing, bringing joy and well-being to the soul and even physical health. This highlights the importance of speaking positively and kindly.

Verse 25:

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Human judgment can be deceived; what appears to be right or good may ultimately lead to destruction. This verse warns against relying solely on our own understanding and emphasizes the necessity of divine guidance to avoid paths that lead to spiritual or physical death.

Verse 26:

He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

Hard work benefits the laborer personally because their efforts produce sustenance and success. The desire for the fruits of labor motivates diligence. This verse underscores the value of honest toil and the self-sufficiency it promotes.

Verse 27:

An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

Wicked individuals seek to cause harm and spread evil, often with malicious intent. Their words are destructive, like a burning fire, damaging others and inciting conflict. It emphasizes the destructive power of wicked speech.

Verse 28:

A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

People with deceitful and rebellious hearts stir up trouble and discord. Whisperers or gossipers can sever close relationships, causing division and alienation among friends and communities. It highlights the destructive impact of malicious speech and behavior.

Verse 29:

A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.

Violent and aggressive individuals influence others negatively, enticing them to follow harmful paths. Such leadership or influence results in destruction and trouble, emphasizing the importance of choosing good company and resisting violent or malicious influences.

Verse 30:

He that shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

People who deliberately ignore or turn a blind eye to evil intentions are often complicit in wrongdoing. Their words and actions can bring about harm and evil, illustrating how silence or deliberate concealment of evil can facilitate destructive deeds.

Verse 31:

The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

Respect for elders is a sign of honor and wisdom, especially when they have lived righteously. A long life of integrity is like a crown of glory, demonstrating that age and righteousness go hand in hand, and that wisdom gained over years is valuable.

Verse 32:

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Self-control and patience are greater virtues than physical strength or conquest. Mastery over one's

temper and spirit leads to true strength and respect, emphasizing that inner discipline is essential for real leadership and greatness.

Verse 33:

The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.

While chance or human decisions may seem random, ultimate control and sovereignty rest with God. Even when casting lots or making choices, believers acknowledge that God directs the outcome, trusting in His divine providence and plan.

CHAPTER 17:

Verse 1:

Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife.

This verse highlights the value of peace and contentment over material abundance and external rituals. A simple, quiet life is preferable to a household filled with sacrifices or wealth if it is marked by discord and strife. It teaches that harmony and tranquility are more valuable than outward religious displays when peace is absent.

Verse 2:

A servant, whose heart is wise, shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance.

Wisdom and good character can elevate a servant above the foolish or shameful son, granting them authority and share in blessings. This underscores that true worth and wisdom can lead to greater honor and reward, regardless of social status or birthright.

Verse 3:

The finding pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts.

While earthly processes refine metals, God tests and purifies the heart. This verse reminds us that divine scrutiny is more important and that God examines our motives, character, and sincerity to determine our worth, not just external appearances.

Verse 4:

A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

People engaged in wickedness often listen to lies and deceit, which further corrupt their actions. The verse warns that associating with falsehood and dishonesty leads to moral decline and destructive behavior, emphasizing the importance of discernment and integrity.

Verse 5:

Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

Mocking or insulting the vulnerable, such as the poor, is an offense against God, since all people are made in His image. Happy or gloating over others' misfortunes is also condemned, reminding us that justice and divine retribution are certain for cruelty and malice.

Verse 6:

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Legacy and family honor are emphasized here. The respect and pride of grandchildren are a crown for the elderly, and children's achievements and virtues bring glory to their parents. It underscores the importance of generational faithfulness and honor.

Verse 7:

Excellent speech becometh not a fool; much less do lying lips a prince.

Fools should avoid foolish talk, and even more so should leaders or princes abstain from lies. Integrity and wise speech are fitting for all, especially those in positions of authority, as their words influence others and reflect their character.

Verse 8:

A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

Bribes or gifts can influence perceptions and decisions, appearing valuable and persuasive. While this highlights the power of gifts, it also serves as a warning about corruption and the importance of acting righteously despite such temptations.

Verse 9:

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

Forgiving and covering others' faults fosters love and peace, while gossip or repeated accusations cause division and destroy friendships. This advocates for mercy and discretion in dealing with others' mistakes.

Verse 10:

A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

Wise individuals are more receptive to correction, understanding its value for growth. Conversely, fools are unresponsive to discipline, and physical punishment is ineffective. The verse emphasizes the importance of humility and openness to learning for wisdom.

Verse 11:

An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

This verse highlights that wicked individuals are driven by a desire for chaos and defiance, which ultimately leads to their downfall. Their rebellious nature provokes divine judgment, symbolized here by a cruel messenger sent to punish or correct them. It underscores that evil motives invite destruction and that rebellion against righteousness brings severe consequences.

Verse 12:

Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

Encountering a bear protecting her cubs is frightening and dangerous, but dealing with a fool in their foolishness is even more perilous. The verse warns that foolishness can be destructive and unpredictable, often leading to harm. It emphasizes the danger of foolish behavior and the importance of wisdom in avoiding conflict.

Verse 13:

Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

Responding to kindness with evil invites ongoing trouble and misfortune into one's home. This verse

teaches that evil deeds, especially when retaliating against good, lead to persistent hardship, reinforcing the principle of justice and the importance of doing good without expecting evil in return.

Verse 14:

The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water; therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

Just as a small leak can lead to a flood, minor disputes can escalate into major conflicts if not addressed early. Wisdom advises avoiding unnecessary quarrels before they grow beyond control, emphasizing patience and restraint in interpersonal matters.

Verse 15:

He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord.

God despises those who wrongly defend evil or condemn the righteous. Justice and righteousness are central to God's character, and human actions that distort these principles are detestable in His sight. It underscores the importance of upholding truth and integrity.

Verse 16:

Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

Fools may seek wisdom superficially or for personal gain, but their lack of genuine desire or humility renders their efforts useless. True wisdom requires a sincere heart and humility, which fools lack, making their pursuits futile.

Verse 17:

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

True friendship endures through all circumstances, offering consistent love and support. Additionally, family bonds are especially strengthened during difficult times, illustrating that genuine relationships are tested and proven in adversity.

Verse 18:

A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

Without understanding, a person may rashly commit to obligations, such as guaranteeing another's debt, which can lead to financial ruin or trouble. This warns against foolishly trusting too quickly or making reckless commitments.

Verse 19:

He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.

Loving rebellion and conflict is linked to destructive behavior. Those who boast or elevate themselves arrogantly—symbolized by exalting their gates—are headed toward ruin. Pride and love of strife bring about downfall.

Verse 20:

He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.

A deceitful or crooked heart prevents a person from experiencing good, while malicious speech leads to trouble. Inner corruption and harmful words are destructive, emphasizing the importance of integrity and purity of heart and speech.

Verse 21:

He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

Producing a foolish child causes grief and sorrow for the parent. Foolishness in offspring leads to disappointment, and the father of a fool finds no joy in their behavior. The verse highlights the importance of wisdom in raising children.

Verse 22:

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Inner joy and a positive attitude have healing effects on the body and mind. Conversely, despair and a broken spirit cause physical and emotional deterioration. It underscores the therapeutic power of joy and optimism.

Verse 23:

A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

Corrupt individuals accept bribes to influence justice and distort truth. Such behavior undermines fairness and leads to injustice, highlighting the destructive power of bribery and corruption.

Verse 24:

Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.

The wise person focuses on what is right and beneficial, while fools are distracted or aimless, seeking pleasure or gain in faraway places. Wisdom directs attention to what truly matters, whereas foolishness is characterized by aimless wandering.

Verse 25:

A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

A child's foolishness causes deep sorrow and heartache to parents. It emphasizes the importance of guiding children in wisdom to prevent grief and disappointment.

Verse 26:

Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

Injustice in punishing the righteous or fair leaders is displeasing to God. Justice must be upheld, and punishment should be righteous and equitable to maintain integrity and order.

Verse 27:

He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Wise individuals speak sparingly and thoughtfully, recognizing the power of words. Understanding and self-control lead to a noble and excellent spirit, fostering respect and wisdom.

Verse 28:

Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Silence can be a sign of wisdom, even in fools. Those who refrain from unnecessary or foolish speech are respected as wise, emphasizing the value of restraint and careful speech.

CHAPTER 18:

Verse 1:

Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

This verse highlights that individuals driven by personal desire often isolate themselves from others in their pursuit of what they want. Such separation is usually motivated by selfish motives, leading the person to seek knowledge or wisdom in ways that may be self-serving or meddlesome. It warns that selfish desire can cause alienation and interfere with genuine understanding and community.

Verse 2:

A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

Fools lack the genuine desire to seek understanding; instead, they are primarily interested in revealing their own feelings, opinions, or ego. This verse underscores that true wisdom involves humility and the pursuit of understanding for its own sake, rather than self-centeredness or self-promotion.

Verse 3:

When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

The arrival of wickedness or evil actions brings shame, dishonor, and contempt. This verse indicates that wicked deeds and wicked people inevitably lead to disgrace and social reproach, emphasizing the moral consequences of wickedness.

Verse 4:

The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Words can carry great depth and significance, much like deep waters, revealing the richness of a person's thoughts or character. Conversely, wisdom flows like a lively, refreshing stream, offering clarity and insight. The verse encourages careful and wise speech, recognizing its profound impact.

Verse 5:

It is not good to accept the persons of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

Favoritism or bias toward wicked individuals corrupts justice, leading to the unfair treatment of the righteous. This verse advocates for impartial judgment and warns against allowing personal biases to influence decisions, preserving justice and righteousness.

Verse 6:

A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

Fools often provoke conflicts through careless or foolish speech, inviting arguments and violence. Their words are like sparks that ignite fights, demonstrating the destructive power of thoughtless communication.

Verse 7:

A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

Foolish speech can lead to personal ruin, as words can trap and damage the speaker's reputation and well-being. It emphasizes the importance of controlling one's speech to avoid self-inflicted harm.

Verse 8:

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Gossip and malicious talk are as painful as wounds, penetrating deeply into a person's inner being. This warns that harmful words can cause lasting emotional damage and should be avoided.

Verse 9:

He that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great destroyer.

Laziness in work is akin to destructive behavior, leading to ruin and chaos. A lack of diligence can cause harm both to oneself and others, emphasizing the value of hard work and responsibility.

Verse 10:

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

God's name signifies His power and protection. Those who live righteously trust in the Lord and find safety and refuge in His strength. It encourages reliance on God as the ultimate source of security and salvation.

Verse 11:

The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit.

This verse illustrates how wealth can create a false sense of security and pride for the rich. They often view their riches as a fortress that protects and elevates them, fostering arrogance and self-sufficiency. However, this confidence in material wealth can be deceptive, as true security comes from God, not riches.

Verse 12:

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Pride precedes downfall, and humility paves the way for honor. When individuals become proud and self-exalting, they are on the verge of ruin. Conversely, humility is the virtue that leads to respect and true greatness in God's sight.

Verse 13:

He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Jumping to conclusions without fully understanding a situation is foolish and shameful. Wise judgment requires listening carefully and gathering all information before responding, reflecting humility and discernment.

Verse 14:

The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Inner strength and resilience help a person endure physical and emotional hardships. However, a wounded spirit—brokenness or despair—can be overwhelming and difficult to overcome. Spiritual vitality is vital for perseverance.

Verse 15:

The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Seeking knowledge is a mark of wisdom and prudence. Wise individuals actively pursue understanding, listening carefully and learning continuously. This pursuit enriches their lives and equips them to make better decisions.

Verse 16:

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Generosity and timely gifts can open doors and create opportunities, leading individuals to positions of influence and respect. This verse underscores the social power of giving and kindness.

Verse 17:

He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Initial appearances can be deceiving; a person may seem right in their own argument, but a fair and wise neighbor will investigate and reveal the truth. It advocates for impartial judgment and humility in disputes.

Verse 18:

The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

Dividing disputes through casting lots can bring peace and resolution, especially among powerful or conflicting parties. It shows that divine providence or chance can settle disagreements fairly.

Verse 19:

A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Repairing broken relationships, especially among close family, can be more difficult than conquering a fortified city. Once offense and bitterness take root, they become barriers that are hard to break, emphasizing the importance of reconciliation.

Verse 20:

A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

Words have the power to bring satisfaction and fulfillment. Speaking wisely and kindly can nourish the soul, and positive speech leads to personal and social blessing, highlighting the importance of mindful communication.

Verse 21:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

The tongue wields great power—words can bring life, encouragement, and healing or cause death, destruction, and harm. Loving and using speech wisely leads to positive outcomes, emphasizing responsibility in our words.

Verse 22:

Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

A good wife is a blessing from God, bringing favor, happiness, and stability. Finding a righteous and loving spouse is a divine gift that enriches life and attracts God's blessings.

Verse 23:

The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

The humble and needy often have to plead or entreat when seeking help, while the wealthy or proud respond harshly or dismissively. This highlights social disparities and calls for compassion and humility.

Verse 24:

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Friendships require effort and kindness; to have friends, one must be friendly and approachable. True friends are rare and precious—they are loyal and faithful, even closer than family in times of need.

CHAPTER 19:

Verse 1:

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

This verse emphasizes that righteousness and honesty are more valuable than wealth or social status. A humble person who lives with integrity and uprightness is truly blessed, even if poor. Conversely, those who speak deceitfully or act foolishly, despite possibly having wealth, are considered fools. It teaches that moral character and sincerity outweigh material riches and that true honor comes from living rightly before God.

Verse 2:

That the soul be not without knowledge, it is not good: and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

Lacking knowledge or rushing hastily into decisions can lead to mistakes and sin. Wisdom involves patience, careful consideration, and seeking understanding. Acting impulsively without knowledge can result in errors that harm oneself and others. This verse encourages patience and the pursuit of wisdom as essential for living a good and righteous life.

Verse 3:

The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord.

Foolish decisions distort a person's path in life, often leading to suffering and regret. Moreover, such foolishness can cause individuals to blame God or harbor resentment toward Him for their troubles. The verse warns that personal folly, rather than divine providence, is responsible for many problems, highlighting the importance of wisdom and obedience to God.

Verse 4:

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Material riches tend to attract friends and social connections, but the poor often face social isolation and loneliness. This verse reflects the reality that wealth can buy superficial friendships, whereas genuine relationships rooted in love and integrity are not dependent on wealth. It underscores the importance of authentic relationships that are not based on material gain.

Verse 5:

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Dishonest testimony and lying lead to inevitable judgment and divine punishment. The verse underscores that truthfulness is essential for justice; lies and falsehoods will ultimately be exposed and punished. It serves as a warning to uphold honesty in speech and dealings.

Verse 6:

Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

People often seek favor from influential leaders or wealthy individuals, and they are more inclined to be friendly with those who offer gifts or bribes. This reflects societal tendencies where relationships

can be superficial and transactional. It highlights the importance of genuine integrity over superficial or material-based relationships.

Verse 7:

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him! he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

The poor and even their relatives often face rejection or indifference, and friends may distance themselves in times of need. Despite attempts to reach out with words of friendship or support, they may find themselves alone. This verse points to the social challenges faced by the vulnerable and the importance of genuine compassion and loyalty.

Verse 8:

He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Valuing and acquiring wisdom is an act of self-love and self-care, leading to a better life. Those who seek understanding and live wisely will find good, peace, and prosperity. Wisdom protects and enriches the soul, making it essential for a fulfilled and righteous life.

Verse 9:

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Deceivers and liars cannot escape divine justice; their dishonesty will lead to punishment or destruction. The verse emphasizes the importance of truthfulness, warning that dishonesty ultimately results in ruin, reinforcing the value of integrity.

Verse 10:

Luxury is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

Foolishness makes luxury and privilege inappropriate, as fools lack the wisdom to handle wealth responsibly. Similarly, a servant or someone lacking virtue should not be given authority over princes or leaders. This verse underscores that wisdom and maturity are prerequisites for leadership and dignity.

Verse 11:

The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

This verse highlights the virtue of patience and self-control. A wise person exercises discretion by delaying anger, which prevents unnecessary conflict and harm. Passing over offenses with grace and forgiveness is considered a noble trait, bringing glory to the individual. It underscores that humility and restraint in the face of wrongdoing reflect true strength and wisdom.

Verse 12:

The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

The anger of a ruler or authority figure can be dangerous and destructive, akin to a deadly force. However, wise individuals know how to calm and de-escalate anger, preventing harm and maintaining peace. This verse emphasizes the importance of wisdom and diplomacy in handling authority and preventing violence or chaos.

Verse 13:

A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

A foolish child can bring ongoing trouble and grief to his parents, causing emotional and relational strain. Similarly, a contentious wife, like a persistent drip, creates constant irritation and unrest in the home. The verse reflects the importance of wisdom and harmony in family relationships for peace and stability.

Verse 14:

House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.

Material possessions like houses and wealth are gifts from fathers, but a wise and prudent wife is a divine blessing. This verse highlights that true blessing and stability come from both material provision and divine wisdom in marriage, emphasizing the importance of choosing a partner guided by wisdom and God's blessing.

Verse 15:

Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Laziness leads to spiritual and physical neglect, resulting in a state of stagnation and poverty. An idle person is like someone asleep, missing opportunities for growth and provision. Diligence is necessary for well-being and sustenance, warning against complacency and procrastination.

Verse 16:

He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul: but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

Obedience to God's commandments preserves the soul and leads to life. Conversely, rejecting God's ways results in spiritual death and destruction. This verse underscores the importance of following divine guidance for genuine life and safety.

Verse 17:

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Showing compassion to the poor is akin to lending to God Himself, who promises to repay such kindness. This verse teaches that caring for the needy is a divine act that results in divine reward, emphasizing generosity and kindness as spiritual investments.

Verse 18:

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Discipline and correction are necessary while there is still time and opportunity, as neglecting to teach a child properly can lead to future ruin. The verse advocates for timely correction, even if it causes tears, because it is ultimately for the child's good.

Verse 19:

A man of great wrath shall suffer the punishment; for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.

A person prone to anger is heading toward trouble and punishment. Even if one temporarily escapes consequences, their anger will likely cause problems repeatedly. The verse warns about the destructive nature of uncontrolled wrath and the need for temperance.

Verse 20:

Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Listening to advice and accepting instruction are essential steps toward gaining wisdom. This humility

and willingness to learn prepare us for a better future, guiding us to wise and righteous living in the long run.

Verse 21:

There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

This verse reminds us that while humans have countless plans and schemes, ultimately, God's divine counsel prevails. Human efforts and intentions are numerous and varied, but God's purpose and will are steadfast and unstoppable. It encourages believers to trust in God's sovereignty, knowing that His plans will come to pass despite human opposition or uncertainty.

Verse 22:

The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

Genuine kindness and sincerity are more valuable than wealth or deceit. A person who desires to be kind and honest reflects true integrity and virtue. This verse emphasizes that moral character and genuine compassion surpass superficial riches or dishonest appearances, highlighting the importance of sincerity in relationships.

Verse 23:

The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Reverence and awe for God lead to true life and contentment. Those who respect and honor the Lord will find peace, safety, and satisfaction, avoiding the destructive consequences of evil. This verse underscores that spiritual reverence is the foundation for a blessed and secure life.

Verse 24:

A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

Laziness and procrastination cause a person to neglect their basic needs and responsibilities. A lazy individual is so inactive that they refuse even to feed themselves properly. It warns against complacency and encourages diligence and effort in daily life.

Verse 25:

Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

Correcting a scorner or mocker may lead to rebuke or conflict, but it serves as a warning to others to avoid foolishness. When wise individuals are reprovved, they accept correction and grow in knowledge. This highlights the value of discipline and wise counsel for personal growth.

Verse 26:

He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

Disrespect and rebellion against parents bring shame and dishonor to the family. Such behavior reflects poorly on the individual and damages their reputation. The verse underscores the importance of honoring and obeying parents as part of righteous living.

Verse 27:

Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

Ignoring wise instruction leads one astray. This verse encourages listening carefully to sound teaching and avoiding false or harmful advice that can mislead us from the path of truth. It promotes attentiveness to genuine wisdom.

Verse 28:

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Dishonest witnesses and liars face divine judgment and inevitable punishment. Truth and honesty are crucial, and those who deceive will ultimately face consequences. This verse reinforces the importance of integrity and truthfulness.

Verse 29:

Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

Fools and scoffers will face punishment and correction for their arrogance and disrespect. Justice and discipline are set aside for those who mock authority or live foolishly. The verse serves as a warning that folly and disrespect lead to suffering and correction.

CHAPTER 20:

Verse 1:

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

This verse warns about the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption. Wine and strong drink can lead to mockery and rage, impairing judgment and causing individuals to act foolishly or violently. Those who are deceived by the allure of alcohol lack wisdom, risking their reputation, relationships, and safety. It emphasizes the importance of restraint and moderation, advocating for sober-mindedness to maintain wisdom and discernment.

Verse 2:

The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.

The authority of a king commands respect and fear, much like the roar of a lion. Provoking a king's anger is a serious offense that can lead to severe consequences. It teaches that disrespecting authority or acting rebelliously can harm oneself, as rulers have the power to punish or discipline those who oppose them. Respect for authority and wisdom in dealings with leaders are essential for safety and peace.

Verse 3:

It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

Avoiding conflict is a mark of wisdom and dignity, bringing honor to a person. On the other hand, fools are always eager to involve themselves in disputes, which leads to shame and trouble. This highlights the virtue of patience and humility, encouraging us to pursue peace rather than engage in unnecessary quarrels.

Verse 4:

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

Lazy individuals, especially during challenging circumstances like cold weather, refuse to work and prepare for harvest. Their procrastination results in lack of provision and poverty. The verse

underscores the importance of diligence and perseverance, warning that laziness leads to hardship and unmet needs.

Verse 5:

Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Inner thoughts and intentions are deep and hard to uncover, much like deep waters. A wise person seeks to understand others' true motives and feelings, drawing out this hidden counsel with patience and insight. It highlights the value of wisdom and discernment in understanding human nature.

Verse 6:

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

People often boast about their virtues and accomplishments, but genuine faithfulness and integrity are rare and valuable qualities. The verse encourages us to look beyond superficial self-praise and seek truly trustworthy and faithful individuals, emphasizing the importance of sincerity.

Verse 7:

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

A person who lives righteously and maintains integrity sets a positive example, resulting in blessings for their family. Such a person's honesty and uprightness influence future generations, demonstrating that righteousness benefits not only the individual but also their descendants.

Verse 8:

A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

A wise ruler exercises discernment and justice, quickly recognizing and eliminating evil. The king's authority and insight serve to maintain order and righteousness in the land. It emphasizes the importance of wise leadership and vigilance in justice.

Verse 9:

Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

This rhetorical question acknowledges human imperfection and the difficulty of achieving complete purity or moral perfection. It points to the need for humility and reliance on God's mercy, recognizing that only divine grace can cleanse and purify the heart.

Verse 10:

Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike an abomination to the Lord.

Dishonest scales and measures—used to cheat and gain unfair profits—are detestable to God. Integrity in business and dealings is crucial, and dishonesty is morally wrong. This verse underscores the importance of honesty and fairness in all aspects of commerce.

Verse 11:

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

This verse emphasizes that a child's character and behavior are evident from their actions, regardless of age. Their deeds reflect their inner moral state—whether pure and upright or dishonest and wrongful. It highlights the importance of nurturing good conduct early in life, as outward actions reveal true integrity and character.

Verse 12:

The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.

God is the creator of both our ability to see and hear, emphasizing His sovereignty over our senses and perception. This verse reminds us that our faculties are gifts from God, and we should use them wisely to seek understanding, wisdom, and knowledge, acknowledging His divine sovereignty in all our abilities.

Verse 13:

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

Laziness and excessive sleep lead to poverty and lack. To enjoy sustenance and prosperity, one must be diligent and attentive. This verse advocates for hard work and alertness, warning that neglect and complacency can result in hardship and deprivation.

Verse 14:

It is not good, it is not pleasant, to accept the person: and yet, for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

Favoritism or accepting someone based on superficial qualities is unwise and unpleasant. Despite this, people often compromise their integrity for material gain, like a piece of bread. The verse warns against unjust partiality and urges fairness and integrity in judgments and dealings.

Verse 15:

There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

While wealth and riches are valuable, the true treasure lies in wise and knowledgeable speech. Words of understanding and insight are compared to precious jewels, emphasizing their priceless worth. The verse encourages valuing wisdom and good communication above material riches.

Verse 16:

Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

This verse advises caution in guaranteeing the debts of strangers or those with questionable motives. Securing oneself with collateral or pledges protects against potential loss. It warns against reckless guarantees that can lead to financial trouble, advocating prudence in financial dealings.

Verse 17:

Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Deceptive or dishonest gains may seem attractive and rewarding initially, but they result in shame and regret later. The verse warns against the allure of deceit, emphasizing that dishonesty ultimately leads to bitterness and consequences that damage one's reputation and conscience.

Verse 18:

Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Successful plans and endeavors depend on wise counsel and advice. Proper consultation strengthens resolve and increases the likelihood of success. It underscores the importance of seeking guidance and wisdom before undertaking significant actions.

Verse 19:

He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with

his lips.

Gossip and talebearing harm relationships by revealing secrets and spreading rumors. Such individuals are untrustworthy and cause division. The verse warns to avoid those who flatter and deceive, encouraging discretion and trustworthiness in friendships.

Verse 20:

Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Disrespect and curses directed at parents bring severe spiritual and moral consequences. Such attitude results in darkness and ruin in life, symbolizing divine disfavor. The verse emphasizes the importance of honoring parents and the serious nature of disrespect.

Verse 21:

An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

This verse warns that acquiring wealth or inheritance quickly or through reckless means may seem advantageous initially, but it often leads to regret and lack of blessing in the long run. Hasty gains are typically unstable and lack divine favor. True blessing comes from patience, integrity, and diligent effort, rather than rushing to amass wealth through shortcuts.

Verse 22:

Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.

Instead of seeking revenge or repaying evil with evil, this verse encourages trusting in God's justice and timing. Patience and faith in the Lord's sovereignty will lead to true vindication and salvation. It emphasizes that human vengeance is futile, and divine intervention is the proper response.

Verse 23:

Divers weights are an abomination unto the Lord; and a false balance is not good.

Dishonest scales and weights—symbols of cheating and unfair business practices—are detestable to God. Integrity in commerce and dealings with others is essential. This verse condemns dishonesty and underscores God's call for fairness and honesty in all transactions.

Verse 24:

Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?

Humans often plan their lives, but ultimately, it is God who directs their steps. Recognizing God's sovereignty should lead to humility and dependence on Him. The verse reminds us that true understanding of our path comes from trusting God's guidance rather than relying solely on our own plans.

Verse 25:

It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make inquiry.

Making rash vows or dedicating something holy without careful thought can trap a person. Once committed, it becomes difficult to fulfill such vows, and delaying or questioning them afterward can lead to shame or curse. Wisdom advises careful consideration before making promises or dedicating sacred things.

Verse 26:

A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.

A righteous and wise ruler actively removes evil from society, bringing justice by punishing wickedness. The imagery of scattering and bringing the wheel over them emphasizes swift and decisive judgment, maintaining order and righteousness in the land.

Verse 27:

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Human life and consciousness are divine gifts, and the human spirit serves as a light that God uses to examine and reveal our innermost thoughts and motives. This verse highlights God's omniscience and the importance of self-awareness and purity of heart.

Verse 28:

Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

A king's reign depends on justice, mercy, and truth. Mercy and faithfulness guard the throne and promote stability, while cruelty or dishonesty lead to downfall. The verse underscores that divine virtues sustain leadership and authority.

Verse 29:

The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

Youth is characterized by physical strength and vitality, which is a source of honor and pride. Conversely, older men are valued for wisdom and experience, symbolized by gray hair. Both stages of life have their own glory and dignity.

Verse 30:

The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

Discipline and correction, even if painful like wounds or stripes, serve to purify and remove moral or spiritual evil. The metaphor shows that hardship and correction are sometimes necessary to cleanse and restore righteousness within us, leading to spiritual health.

CHAPTER 21:

Verse 1:

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

This verse emphasizes God's sovereignty over even the most powerful rulers. The heart of a king is like water in God's hand, easily directed according to divine will. It reassures believers that God's control extends over worldly authority, and He can influence rulers' decisions to accomplish His purposes for justice and righteousness.

Verse 2:

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Humans tend to justify their actions as correct, even when they are wrong. However, God examines the motives and hearts behind every deed. This verse teaches humility and the importance of seeking divine judgment over self-assessment, recognizing that God's understanding surpasses human perspective.

Verse 3:

To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

God values justice and righteous judgment more than mere religious rituals or sacrifices. True worship involves living justly and doing what is right. This verse highlights that ethical conduct and fairness are vital in God's sight and are the true expressions of devotion.

Verse 4:

An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Arrogance and pride, along with the wicked's scheming, are considered sinful. A proud attitude and malicious plans offend God, emphasizing humility and righteousness as essential virtues. The verse warns against pride and wickedness, which lead away from God's favor.

Verse 5:

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

Diligent planning and hard work lead to abundance and prosperity, whereas haste and impatience result in lack and failure. This underscores the value of careful, consistent effort and patience in achieving success, according to God's principles.

Verse 6:

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Acquiring wealth through deception and lies is futile and ultimately destructive. Such dishonest pursuits are empty and unstable, leading to spiritual death. The verse condemns deceit and highlights the importance of honesty in obtaining lasting blessings.

Verse 7:

The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

Wicked individuals who engage in theft or injustice will ultimately face destruction, as their refusal to pursue righteousness leads to ruin. Justice and integrity are fundamental, and rejecting them invites divine judgment.

Verse 8:

The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.

Human nature is often crooked and unpredictable, but those who are pure in heart and conduct find their paths straight. Purity and integrity lead to righteous actions and clear direction, contrasting with the waywardness of the unrighteous.

Verse 9:

It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

Living in peace and quiet is preferable to being in a large, comfortable home filled with conflict. The verse highlights the value of harmony and the distress caused by strife in relationships, especially within the family.

Verse 10:

The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes.

The wicked heart longs for harm and is unkind even to neighbors, showing a lack of compassion and neighborly love. Such individuals are self-centered and untrustworthy, and their attitudes lead to social discord and divine disfavor.

Verse 11:

When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

This verse highlights that correction serves a dual purpose: it can teach the naive and humble, making them wiser, and it can also deepen the understanding of the wise. When those who mock or scorn are disciplined, it can lead to humility and learning for others observing. Likewise, wise individuals are receptive to instruction, growing in knowledge. Both correction and teachability are vital for spiritual and moral growth.

Verse 12:

The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.

The righteous are discerning and cautious about associating with or even considering the ways of wicked individuals. They recognize the danger and eventual downfall that awaits the wicked, who are ultimately judged and overthrown by God. This verse underscores divine justice and the importance of choosing righteousness over wickedness.

Verse 13:

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Ignoring the pleas of the needy leads to personal neglect and spiritual blindness. Those who refuse to listen or help the poor will themselves face hardship and lack attention when they are in need. Compassion and charity are vital virtues, and neglecting them can have serious repercussions.

Verse 14:

A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

Secret gifts and acts of kindness can calm anger and resolve conflicts, demonstrating the power of discreet generosity. Conversely, bribes or rewards given openly with the wrong motives may escalate wrath. The verse emphasizes humility and wisdom in offering reconciliation.

Verse 15:

It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Living righteously and acting justly brings genuine joy and fulfillment. Justice aligns with the character of the righteous, while those who commit iniquity face inevitable destruction. The verse underscores that righteousness leads to peace, whereas wickedness results in ruin.

Verse 16:

The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

A person who departs from wisdom and understanding risks spiritual death and separation from life and community. Staying on the path of righteousness is essential for life and fellowship with God, while straying leads to destruction.

Verse 17:

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

An excessive love for pleasure, alcohol, and luxury often leads to poverty and lack. Pursuing worldly pleasures at the expense of diligence and responsibility results in financial and spiritual impoverishment. Moderation and discipline are keys to lasting prosperity.

Verse 18:

The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

Sometimes, wicked individuals face consequences that serve as a ransom or sacrifice to preserve the integrity of the righteous. This highlights divine justice, where the wicked suffer for their sins, and the righteous are protected or rewarded.

Verse 19:

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.

Peace and harmony are more valuable than comfort or material possessions when surrounded by strife and anger. The verse underscores the importance of peaceful relationships and warns against the destructive nature of contentiousness within the family.

Verse 20:

There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

Wisdom and prudence lead to the accumulation of valuable resources like treasure and oil, symbolizing prosperity and blessing. Conversely, a foolish person squanders what they have, leading to poverty and loss. The verse teaches the importance of wise management of resources.

Verse 21:

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

This verse emphasizes that pursuing a life characterized by righteousness and mercy leads to true life, honor, and divine approval. Those who actively seek to live morally upright and compassionate lives will experience blessings both in this world and the next. It underscores that genuine fulfillment and respect are the rewards of a righteous and merciful heart.

Verse 22:

A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

Wisdom grants strength and strategic insight, allowing a wise individual to overcome even strong and fortified enemies. This verse illustrates that spiritual and moral wisdom can dismantle arrogance and fortified pride, bringing down the confidence of the wicked through divine guidance and cleverness. It highlights the power of wisdom over brute force.

Verse 23:

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Controlling one's speech is crucial to maintaining peace and avoiding conflicts. A wise person guards their words to prevent unnecessary trouble, recognizing that reckless speech can lead to harm and regret. This verse underscores the value of self-restraint and wisdom in communication.

Verse 24:

Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

A scorner is characterized by arrogance and a quick temper, leading to destructive behavior. Such pride and anger mark a person who is difficult to correct and who invites trouble. The verse warns against the dangers of prideful and wrathful attitudes, which ultimately bring shame and social rejection.

Verse 25:

The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

Laziness and complacency result in self-destruction, as the lazy person refuses to work and therefore suffers poverty and want. The verse teaches that diligent effort is essential for survival and success, and neglecting work leads to ruin.

Verse 26:

He coveteth greedily all the day: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

The wicked are consumed by greed, constantly desiring more, which leads to unrest and dissatisfaction. In contrast, the righteous are generous and willing to give, sharing their blessings without greed. This highlights that true contentment comes from generosity and trust in God's provision.

Verse 27:

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind!

Wicked individuals may perform religious acts or offerings, but God considers such sacrifices detestable if performed with wicked motives. True worship requires sincerity and purity of heart, not hypocrisy or wickedness disguised as piety.

Verse 28:

A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

Dishonest witnesses and liars will face divine judgment and perish, while those who speak truth consistently will endure. The verse emphasizes the importance of integrity in testimony and the eventual triumph of truth over falsehood.

Verse 29:

A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way.

Wicked individuals often show defiance and stubbornness, refusing correction or guidance. Conversely, upright persons seek to follow God's ways, adjusting their paths as they receive divine direction. The verse highlights the importance of humility and receptiveness to correction.

Verse 30:

There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.

Nothing can stand against God's wisdom and plans. Human schemes and strategies are powerless when opposed to divine authority. This verse reminds us of God's supreme sovereignty and the futility of opposing His will, encouraging humility and trust in divine guidance.

Verse 31:

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

While humans prepare diligently for challenges and conflicts, ultimate safety and victory depend on God's protection and favor. The verse teaches that human effort alone is insufficient; reliance on God's sovereignty is essential for true security and success.

CHAPTER 22:

Verse 1:

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

This verse emphasizes the immense value of reputation and integrity over material wealth. A good

name—built through honesty, kindness, and righteousness—brings lasting honor and influence. While riches are fleeting, a reputation for virtue yields respect and favor that can open doors and foster meaningful relationships. It teaches that moral character is more precious than possessions.

Verse 2:

The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all.

Regardless of social status, all people ultimately come to the same level before God, who is the Creator of everyone. This verse reminds us that wealth and poverty are temporary and that divine creation unites all humanity. It calls for humility and compassion, encouraging us to treat others with kindness regardless of their economic position.

Verse 3:

A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Wisdom involves foresight and caution—recognizing danger and taking protective measures. The prudent person avoids harm by being cautious, while the naive or simple-minded ignore warning signs and suffer the consequences. This verse underscores the importance of discernment and wise planning to avoid trouble.

Verse 4:

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.

Humility and reverence for God open the way to true riches—spiritual blessings, honor, and long life. Material wealth alone is fleeting, but humility before God leads to enduring blessings. This verse highlights that reverence and humility are foundational virtues for a blessed life.

Verse 5:

Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

The path of the rebellious and stubborn is filled with dangers—thorns and snares—that threaten to trap and harm. Those who are vigilant and committed to guarding their souls will avoid these pitfalls. It emphasizes the importance of self-control and cautious living to stay on the right path.

Verse 6:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

This well-known proverb stresses the importance of early training and guiding children in righteousness. Proper upbringing rooted in moral and spiritual principles will influence their lifelong conduct. It underscores the lasting impact of nurturing discipline and faithfulness in childhood.

Verse 7:

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Wealth creates power dynamics—those with riches often dominate or influence those who are less fortunate. Borrowing money places one in a position of servitude to the lender, highlighting the importance of financial prudence and avoiding debt that can lead to loss of freedom or independence.

Verse 8:

He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

Sowing wickedness or injustice results in emptiness and futility, as one reaps what they have sown.

Wrath and anger, if expressed unjustly, will ultimately lead to failure and disappointment. The verse warns that wicked actions have destructive consequences.

Verse 9:

He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

Generosity and kindness attract divine blessing. Those who see with a generous heart and share their resources with the needy will be rewarded. This verse highlights the virtue of charity and the spiritual blessing that accompanies a compassionate spirit.

Verse 10:

Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

Removing a contentious or disrespectful person from a community or relationship leads to peace and harmony. Quarrels and reproach diminish when troublemakers are dealt with decisively. The verse teaches the importance of righteousness and discipline in maintaining peace.

Verse 11:

He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips, the king shall be his friend.

This verse highlights that genuine purity of heart and sincere speech foster favor and friendship, even with those in authority. A person who speaks kindly and lives with integrity will earn the respect and friendship of influential leaders, including kings. It underscores the importance of inner virtue and honest communication in gaining favor and building meaningful relationships.

Verse 12:

The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

God's watchful eyes uphold truth and knowledge, protecting those who seek righteousness. Simultaneously, He opposes and destroys the deceptive words of sinners. This verse reminds us that divine justice is active—God preserves the righteous and brings down falsehood and wickedness, emphasizing the importance of truthfulness and integrity.

Verse 13:

The sluggard saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

The lazy person makes excuses to avoid work, imagining dangerous scenarios like encountering a lion outside, to justify their inactivity. This exaggerated fear reveals their unwillingness to face responsibility. It illustrates how laziness leads to avoidance and missed opportunities, emphasizing the need for diligence despite fears or obstacles.

Verse 14:

The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall therein.

Deceptive or seductive speech, especially from unfaithful or immoral women, is likened to a deep pit—a trap that can lead to ruin. Those who are detested by God for their wickedness are vulnerable to falling into this trap. The verse warns against the dangers of temptation and immoral speech, highlighting divine disapproval of unfaithfulness.

Verse 15:

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Children are naturally inclined toward foolishness, but proper discipline and correction can steer them

away from destructive behaviors. The rod symbolizes discipline that, when applied wisely, helps instill wisdom and proper conduct. It underscores the importance of parental guidance and correction in shaping character.

Verse 16:

He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

Exploiting the poor for personal gain or giving primarily to the wealthy with selfish motives leads to future scarcity and hardship. Generosity should be sincere and just, and greed should be avoided. This verse emphasizes that unfair treatment and selfishness ultimately result in loss and deprivation.

Verse 17:

Thine eyes see my words; and let my heart consider what I hear:

This verse reflects a desire for wisdom and understanding, urging the listener to pay close attention to words and to contemplate what is heard. It underscores the importance of mindfulness and reflection in gaining wisdom and making sound decisions.

Verse 18:

Behold, that I have found by homework; I have turned it over, and my heart is involved in it.

The speaker expresses that they have diligently sought out understanding and insight, and now their heart is invested in the knowledge gained. It highlights the value of careful study and reflection in discovering truth and wisdom, which become deeply rooted in one's heart.

Verse 19:

That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.

The purpose of sharing wisdom and understanding is to strengthen one's trust in God. The speaker emphasizes that knowledge and insight are given so that believers may rely fully on the Lord, fostering faith and dependence on divine guidance.

Verse 20:

Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

This verse reassures the listener that the speaker has provided valuable counsel and wisdom, crafted with care and insight. It emphasizes that divine and wise counsel is meant to guide and edify, encouraging trust in the knowledge shared as beneficial for righteous living.

Verse 21:

That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee.

This verse underscores the importance of knowing and understanding the words of truth so that one can confidently respond to those who seek guidance. The goal is to be well-grounded in truth, enabling us to give honest and wise answers. It highlights the value of wisdom and preparation in communication, ensuring that our responses are trustworthy and helpful to others seeking knowledge.

Verse 22:

Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

This verse condemns the injustice of exploiting the vulnerable because of their poverty. It warns against

taking advantage of the poor or oppressing those who are already suffering. Justice is fundamental, and God calls His people to show mercy and fairness, especially toward those in difficult circumstances, ensuring that integrity prevails in all dealings.

Verse 23:

For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

God defends the cause of the oppressed and the poor. Those who oppress others will face divine judgment and retribution. This verse reassures the vulnerable that God is their protector and avenger, emphasizing divine justice and the importance of compassion and righteousness.

Verse 24:

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Associating closely with those who are quick-tempered and furious can lead to trouble and conflict. The wise advice is to avoid such relationships, as they can influence us negatively and lead to strife. Maintaining careful boundaries helps preserve peace and personal integrity.

Verse 25:

Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

Getting involved with hot-tempered or aggressive individuals risks adopting their harmful behaviors and falling into traps that threaten our spiritual well-being. This verse warns that negative associations can entrap us, urging discernment and caution in choosing our friends and companions.

Verse 26:

Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

This verse advises against making rash agreements or becoming guarantors for others' debts. Such commitments can entangle us in financial trouble and legal disputes. Wisdom calls for prudence and careful judgment before entering into binding obligations.

Verse 27:

If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

This rhetorical question emphasizes the injustice of creditors seizing possessions when debtors lack the means to pay. It underscores the importance of fairness and mercy in financial dealings, warning against harsh or excessive collection practices that can ruin a person's livelihood.

Verse 28:

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

Respect for tradition and ancestral boundaries is vital. Removing or disrespecting longstanding markers—whether literal or metaphorical—can lead to disputes and chaos. The verse advocates honoring the foundations laid by previous generations and maintaining integrity in property and tradition.

Verse 29:

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Diligence and excellence in one's work lead to recognition, honor, and opportunities for greatness. Hard work and skill set a person apart, opening doors to influence and high positions, including standing before kings. It promotes the virtue of diligence as a pathway to success.

CHAPTER 23:

Verse 1:

When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:

This verse advises mindfulness and discernment when dining with someone in authority, such as a ruler. It emphasizes the importance of being cautious about one's conduct, speech, and actions in the presence of authority figures. Such situations are opportunities to demonstrate wisdom, humility, and propriety, recognizing that words and behavior can influence perceptions and future relationships.

Verse 2:

And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

Here, the verse underscores the importance of self-control, especially regarding appetite and indulgence. Using the metaphor of a knife to the throat, it warns against excessive desire or gluttony, which can lead to loss of judgment and discipline. It encourages personal restraint to maintain integrity and wisdom in all dealings.

Verse 3:

Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

This verse cautions against being seduced by tempting offerings or luxurious foods that may appear attractive but are ultimately deceptive. Such temptations can distract or lead one astray, symbolizing superficial pleasures that do not bring true satisfaction or benefit.

Verse 4:

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

This verse advises against relentless pursuit of wealth through your own limited understanding. It suggests that overexertion in the quest for riches can be futile or even harmful. Instead, trust in divine guidance and wisdom, recognizing that true prosperity comes from God's blessing rather than solely human effort.

Verse 5:

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

The fleeting nature of wealth is highlighted here. Material riches can disappear suddenly, like wings that enable an eagle to soar away. This warns against greed and attachment to possessions, emphasizing that worldly riches are temporary and unreliable.

Verse 6:

Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

This verse warns against trusting or accepting gifts from those with malicious or covetous hearts, as their motives may be corrupt. It teaches caution in relationships where greed or envy is present, as such associations can lead to trouble or moral compromise.

Verse 7:

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

This verse reveals that outward expressions of kindness may mask inner motives. A person's true

character is reflected in their thoughts and intentions. It warns us to be discerning and not to trust words that are not backed by genuine feelings or sincerity.

Verse 8:

The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

Engaging in false flattery or insincere praise can backfire, leading to regret and loss of credibility. It highlights the danger of manipulative speech and encourages honesty and integrity in dealings with others.

Verse 9:

Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Sharing wise counsel with someone who is unteachable or foolish is often futile and can result in mockery or disdain. This verse advises discretion and discernment about when and with whom to share advice, recognizing that not everyone is receptive.

Verse 10:

Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

Respect for boundaries, property, and tradition is emphasized here. Removing ancient landmarks or encroaching on others' inheritance is wrong and leads to disputes. It advocates maintaining integrity and fairness, especially in matters of land and inheritance, and respecting the rights of the vulnerable, such as orphans.

Verse 11:

For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

This verse assures us that God, as the mighty Redeemer, is capable of advocating on behalf of the oppressed and vulnerable. No matter the injustice they face, divine justice will ultimately prevail, and God will plead their cause. It encourages believers to trust in God's power to defend the weak and to seek justice, knowing that divine intervention is assured for those who are wronged.

Verse 12:

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

This verse emphasizes the importance of actively seeking wisdom and understanding. It urges us to open our hearts to instruction and to listen carefully to the words of knowledge. Diligence in learning and humility in receiving guidance are essential for growth in righteousness and wisdom.

Verse 13:

Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Discipline is portrayed here as necessary for proper upbringing. The verse advocates for correction, including physical discipline when appropriate, to teach children right from wrong. It reassures that such discipline, when done rightly, aims to prevent future harm and instill moral values, not to cause lasting injury.

Verse 14:

Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

Continuing the theme of discipline, this verse underscores that correcting children is vital for their

spiritual well-being. Proper discipline can save their soul from eternal destruction, emphasizing the importance of guiding children with firmness and love to ensure their moral and spiritual safety.

Verse 15:

My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

A father's joy is tied to his child's wisdom and good judgment. When a child acts wisely and makes righteous decisions, it brings deep satisfaction and pride to the parent. This verse celebrates the bond between parental joy and a child's virtue.

Verse 16:

Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right.

This poetic expression shows that a parent's innermost feelings—symbolized as reins—are delighted when their child speaks truthfully and wisely. Honest speech and righteous conduct are a source of joy for both parent and community.

Verse 17:

Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day.

This verse warns against envy of sinners who prosper temporarily through wickedness. Instead, it encourages a constant reverence for God, which provides true security and peace. Maintaining the fear of the Lord keeps us aligned with righteousness, regardless of worldly gains.

Verse 18:

Surely there is a reward for the righteous: surely he is a rewarder of them that seek him.

This verse reassures believers that righteousness is not in vain. God is a faithful rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. It encourages perseverance in faith and good deeds, trusting in divine recompense.

Verse 19:

Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

A wise person actively seeks to listen, learn, and direct their heart towards righteous paths. This verse emphasizes the importance of inner guidance and wisdom in living a life that pleases God, urging consistent effort in self-control and moral direction.

Verse 20:

Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

This admonition warns against excessive indulgence in alcohol and gluttony, which can lead to moral and spiritual decline. It encourages moderation and self-discipline, promoting a lifestyle of temperance and righteousness rather than overindulgence and excess.

Verse 21:

For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

This verse warns that overindulgence in alcohol and food leads to poverty and hardship. Drunkenness impairs judgment and productivity, often resulting in financial ruin, while laziness associated with drowsiness can cause neglect of responsibilities, leading to shame and poverty. It highlights the destructive nature of excess and the importance of moderation and discipline.

Verse 22:

Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

Respect and honor toward parents are emphasized here. Listening to a father's guidance and valuing a mother's care, especially in their old age, demonstrate humility and filial piety. Such respect preserves family bonds and aligns with divine commandments.

Verse 23:

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

This verse advocates valuing truth and wisdom as priceless treasures. Acquiring and holding onto these virtues is essential for a righteous life. Selling truth or wisdom for temporary gain is foolish, as these qualities bring lasting benefits and divine favor.

Verse 24:

The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

A righteous and wise child is a source of great joy for a parent. This verse underscores the importance of raising children in righteousness, as their virtue reflects well on their parents and brings fulfillment and happiness.

Verse 25:

Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

Honoring and obeying parents results in their happiness and pride. Respecting parents is not only a moral duty but also a source of joy for them, reinforcing the value of filial piety.

Verse 26:

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

A father pleads for his son's sincere devotion and attention to his teachings. It emphasizes the importance of heartfelt commitment and attentiveness in learning wisdom and following righteous paths.

Verse 27:

For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

This verse warns of the dangers of immoral relationships, depicting them as traps—deep ditches and narrow pits—that can lead to destruction. It stresses the importance of avoiding temptation and staying faithful in moral conduct.

Verse 28:

She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

Immoral women are likened to predators lying in wait to trap men, leading them into sin and increasing wickedness in society. This verse highlights the destructive influence of temptation and the need for vigilance.

Verse 29:

Who hath wo? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

This rhetorical question describes the consequences of excessive drinking and indulgence—sorrow, conflict, injury, and exhaustion. It vividly portrays the physical and social toll of drunkenness.

Verse 30:

They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Those who linger over wine, seeking more and more, are warned of the dangers of overindulgence. The verse underscores the peril of excessive drinking and the importance of self-control to avoid ruin.

Verse 31:

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

This verse warns against the allure of wine when it appears most tempting—its attractive color and lively movement. The visual appeal of wine can deceive, promising pleasure but masking its dangerous effects. It cautions us to avoid being enticed by appearances that may lead to drunkenness and downfall, emphasizing the importance of self-control and awareness of potential temptation.

Verse 32:

At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Here, the destructive consequences of excessive drinking are vividly described. What seems harmless or pleasurable initially can turn into a painful and deadly trap—biting like a serpent and stinging like a venomous snake. This warns us that indulgence in wine can cause lasting harm, both physically and spiritually, when its true nature is revealed.

Verse 33:

Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thy heart shall utter perverse things.

This verse indicates that drunkenness can impair judgment, leading to immoral thoughts and behaviors, including lust and indecency. It highlights how alcohol clouds perception and encourages morally wrong actions, which can damage reputation, relationships, and spiritual integrity.

Verse 34:

Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

This simile describes a state of instability and unsteadiness, as if one were swaying on a turbulent sea or perched precariously on a mast. It portrays the disorientation and loss of control that come with drunkenness, emphasizing its power to destabilize a person's body and mind.

Verse 35:

They have stricken me, thou shalt say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

This closing verse reflects the addictive nature of alcohol. Despite the harm and pain caused, the person longs to return to drunkenness, seeking the temporary escape it provides. It illustrates how addiction can blind individuals to the damage they suffer, compelling them to repeat destructive behaviors regardless of the consequences.

CHAPTER 24:**Verse 1:**

Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

This verse warns against harboring envy towards wicked or unrighteous individuals. Such envy can

lead to a desire to imitate or associate with them, which is spiritually dangerous. Instead, believers are called to seek righteousness and avoid the temptation to covet the wicked's ways, recognizing that their paths ultimately lead away from God's favor.

Verse 2:

For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

Evil people are motivated by destructive intentions, and their words often promote harm and chaos. This verse highlights that their speech is filled with schemes of mischief, which can influence others negatively. It urges us to be cautious and discerning about whom we listen to and associate with, avoiding those whose hearts are set on causing trouble.

Verse 3:

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

True stability and strength in life and family come through wisdom and understanding. Building a household requires more than material wealth; it demands insight, discernment, and sound judgment. This verse underscores that spiritual and practical wisdom are fundamental to creating a secure and flourishing home.

Verse 4:

And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Knowledge enriches a home with valuable and delightful treasures—wisdom, virtue, and virtue's fruits. It emphasizes that true riches are found in understanding and learning, which fill life with beauty, contentment, and purpose beyond material possessions.

Verse 5:

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

Wisdom and knowledge empower individuals, making them stronger in character and ability. The more one learns and applies understanding, the more resilient and capable they become. This verse celebrates the strength that comes from divine and worldly wisdom.

Verse 6:

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Strategic success and safety are achieved through wise counsel and teamwork. Consulting others and seeking advice helps formulate effective plans and avoid costly mistakes. This verse highlights the importance of humility and collaboration in overcoming challenges.

Verse 7:

Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

Fools lack the humility and insight to participate meaningfully in communal or judicial decisions, symbolized by the city gate where leaders gathered. Wisdom is beyond their reach, and they remain silent or uninformed because they do not value or seek understanding.

Verse 8:

He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

Planning wickedness marks someone as mischievous and morally corrupt. Such individuals are

identified by their malicious intentions, which ultimately lead to shame and divine judgment. This warns against deliberate evil schemes.

Verse 9:

The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

Foolish thoughts are sinful in themselves, and mockers or scorners are especially detestable. Their attitudes and behaviors offend both God and people, leading to social rejection and divine displeasure. This verse underscores the importance of humility and wisdom.

Verse 10:

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

During difficult times, perseverance and strength are tested. Failing to stand firm in adversity indicates a lack of inner resilience and faith. This verse encourages believers to develop spiritual strength and courage to withstand hardships, knowing that endurance is vital for victory.

Verse 11:

Deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain: if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth he not know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

This verse emphasizes the moral responsibility believers have to intervene and help those in danger or on the brink of destruction. Ignoring the plight of others, claiming ignorance, does not excuse us before God, who examines the heart and judges righteously. It calls for compassionate action and warns that God will hold each person accountable for their neglect or indifference toward others in peril.

Verse 12:

My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

This verse presents honey as a symbol of sweetness and goodness, encouraging enjoyment of life's blessings. It also subtly highlights the importance of discernment—recognizing what is wholesome and beneficial, and appreciating the pleasures God provides in moderation. The verse reminds believers to value and enjoy the good gifts of God's creation.

Verse 13:

So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Gaining wisdom and understanding is compared to finding something sweet like honey or honeycomb. Such knowledge is nourishing to the soul, bringing reward and fulfilling the hope of those seeking truth and righteousness. It encourages persistent pursuit of wisdom, promising divine blessing and fulfillment.

Verse 14:

Lay up for thyself treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

This verse teaches the importance of investing in eternal treasures—spiritual virtues and righteous deeds—rather than worldly possessions. Unlike earthly riches, heavenly treasures are secure and everlasting. It emphasizes the eternal value of living righteously and storing up rewards with God.

Verse 15:

Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

This warns against plotting harm or robbery against the righteous. Such actions are unjust and will bring divine judgment. Respecting others' property and peace is essential, and those who seek to oppress or attack the righteous will face consequences from God.

Verse 16:

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

This verse highlights the resilience of the righteous, who may stumble but will rise again through repentance and perseverance. The wicked, however, will ultimately fall into ruin due to their persistent evil. It encourages perseverance and hope in God's grace even after failures.

Verse 17:

Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth; and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

This verse teaches humility and restraint, warning against rejoicing over the misfortune of enemies. Such feelings are unworthy of a righteous heart and can lead to spiritual pride. Instead, believers are called to maintain humility and compassion, trusting in God's justice.

Verse 18:

Lest the Lord see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

Rejoicing at an enemy's fall can offend God, who expects His followers to show mercy and humility. Such attitudes can hinder divine favor. The verse urges believers to avoid malice, knowing that God's displeasure can result in divine discipline or withholding of blessings.

Verse 19:

Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked:

This verse advises patience and trust in God's justice, discouraging envy or anger towards the wicked. Evil may seem to prosper temporarily, but righteous believers are called to remain calm and faithful, trusting that God's justice will prevail in His perfect timing.

Verse 20:

For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

This final verse affirms that wickedness ultimately leads to nothing—no lasting reward or prosperity. Their influence and life are temporary, like a candle that will be extinguished. It reassures believers that evil will not prevail forever and that divine justice will bring an end to the wicked's reign.

Verse 21:

My son, fear thou the Lord and the king, and meddle not with them that are given to change:

This verse emphasizes the importance of respecting divine authority and earthly rulers, recognizing God's sovereignty over all. It also warns against associating with those who are unstable or rebellious, as their influence can lead one astray from righteousness. Reverence for God and proper respect for authority are foundational virtues for wise living.

Verse 22:

For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

This warns that those who oppose divine authority or live recklessly will face sudden judgment or

disaster. The unpredictable nature of their downfall serves as a reminder that divine justice can strike unexpectedly, and no one is beyond its reach. It urges caution and humility in one's conduct.

Verse 23:

These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

Fairness and impartiality are essential virtues for wise individuals. Showing favoritism undermines justice and righteousness. The verse advocates for unbiased judgment, emphasizing that true wisdom involves treating everyone equally, regardless of status or personal connections.

Verse 24:

He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

Endorsing or excusing wickedness is condemned here. When someone falsely declares the wicked to be righteous, they become cursed and despised by society. This verse warns against compromising truth and integrity in the pursuit of favor or false peace.

Verse 25:

But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

Conversely, those who rebuke wickedness and uphold righteousness will be blessed. Correction is necessary for moral integrity, and those who stand for truth will find favor and divine blessing. It highlights the value of courageous correction in promoting justice.

Verse 26:

Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

Speaking truth and giving wise, honest responses earn respect and admiration. The act of a sincere answer is likened to a kiss—an expression of approval and goodwill. It encourages integrity and wisdom in speech.

Verse 27:

Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

This verse advocates diligent preparation and responsible planning before undertaking major projects. It emphasizes working hard and laying a strong foundation before enjoying the benefits of one's labor, reflecting prudence and foresight.

Verse 28:

Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

Honesty and integrity in testimony are vital. Giving false witness or speaking deceitfully harms others and corrupts justice. The verse encourages truthful and fair speech, avoiding unjust accusations.

Verse 29:

Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.

This warns against revenge and personal retaliation. Instead of retaliating, believers are called to leave justice to God and maintain righteousness. It promotes patience and trust in divine justice rather than human vengeance.

Verse 30:

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding:

This verse introduces a reflection on observing the consequences of laziness and neglect. The condition

of the fields serves as a visual lesson about the results of lack of diligence and wisdom, urging us to be diligent stewards of our responsibilities.

Verse 31:

And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

The neglected field is overrun with weeds and damage, symbolizing the consequences of laziness or lack of oversight. It warns that neglect leads to decay and ruin, emphasizing the importance of diligent care and stewardship.

Verse 32:

Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

The observer reflects on the scene of neglect and learns a lesson from it. This introspection encourages us to analyze our own lives and responsibilities, seeking wisdom from the consequences of neglect.

Verse 33:

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

This verse warns against laziness and procrastination, illustrating how small indulgences in rest can lead to significant consequences over time. It advocates for diligent effort rather than complacency.

Verse 34:

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Neglect and laziness ultimately lead to poverty and hardship, arriving suddenly and fiercely like an armed attacker. The verse underscores the importance of hard work and diligence to avoid such hardship.

These verses collectively teach wisdom about respect for authority, justice, integrity, diligence, and the dangers of laziness and revenge, urging us to live responsibly and righteously before God and others.

CHAPTER 25:

Verse 1:

These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

This verse sets the context, indicating that the collection of proverbs that follow were authored by Solomon and preserved through the efforts of the men of King Hezekiah's reign. It highlights the historical and spiritual value placed on these wise sayings, which serve as moral and practical guidance for righteous living. Recognizing their divine inspiration invites us to consider their importance and enduring relevance.

Verse 2:

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

This verse contrasts divine mystery with human pursuit of understanding. God, in His sovereignty, may hide certain truths, but rulers and wise individuals are honored when they diligently seek and uncover knowledge. It emphasizes the virtue of curiosity and wisdom in leadership and the pursuit of truth, acknowledging that seeking understanding aligns with divine purpose.

Verse 3:

The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

The vastness of the heavens and depths of the earth symbolize the infinite mysteries of creation, which even kings and rulers cannot fully comprehend. It reminds us of human limitations and the greatness of God's wisdom, urging humility in our pursuits of knowledge and power, recognizing that divine sovereignty surpasses all human understanding.

Verse 4:

Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer:

This verse uses the metaphor of refining silver to illustrate the process of purification. Removing impurities (dross) from silver results in a purer, more valuable vessel. It teaches that trials and discipline are necessary to refine character, making one more suitable for honorable service in God's kingdom.

Verse 5:

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

Removing wickedness from positions of authority stabilizes and strengthens rulership. Justice and integrity are foundational for a stable and righteous reign. This verse underscores the importance of righteousness in leadership to ensure lasting stability and divine favor.

Verse 6:

Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:

Humility is emphasized here—avoiding self-promotion or seeking prominence before rulers. Respectfulness and modesty are virtues that honor both God and authorities. It encourages believers to act with humility, trusting that true honor comes from God, not self-exaltation.

Verse 7:

For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom thy eyes have seen.

This verse promotes humility by suggesting that it is better to be honored and invited upward than to be humiliated by being brought down in front of others. It encourages modesty and patience, trusting God's timing for elevation rather than seeking immediate recognition.

Verse 8:

Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

Patience and careful judgment are vital before engaging in disputes. Acting impulsively can lead to shame or regret, especially if the situation is misunderstood. This verse advocates for wisdom and restraint to avoid unnecessary conflict and embarrassment.

Verse 9:

Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:

Resolving conflicts directly and privately is preferable to gossip or exposing secrets. Honest, face-to-face communication fosters understanding and prevents damaging relationships. It encourages integrity and discretion in handling disputes.

Verse 10:

Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

This warns that revealing others' secrets or engaging in unjust accusations can lead to shame and damage one's reputation. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining trust and integrity in relationships to preserve personal honor and avoid public disgrace.

Verse 11:

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

This verse emphasizes the value of well-chosen words. When words are spoken at the right time and in the right manner, they are as precious and beautiful as apples of gold set in silver. Such speech can bring encouragement, wisdom, and harmony, highlighting the importance of thoughtful communication that edifies others and reflects divine wisdom.

Verse 12:

As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

A wise rebuke, when given properly, is as valuable and attractive as fine jewelry. It signifies that correction, when offered with wisdom and love, is appreciated and beneficial to those who are receptive. This encourages believers to accept constructive criticism graciously, recognizing its worth in shaping character.

Verse 13:

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

A faithful messenger brings timely and refreshing help, much like snow cooling the harvest season. Such loyalty and reliability uplift and rejuvenate those who send them, emphasizing the importance of trustworthy and dependable service in relationships and leadership.

Verse 14:

As clouds and wind without rain, so is he that boasteth himself of a false gift.

Boasting about false promises or superficial achievements is empty and insubstantial, like clouds and wind that bring no rain. Such arrogance or deception ultimately disappoints and misleads others, warning against pride and false appearances.

Verse 15:

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

Patience and gentle speech have great influence, even over powerful figures like princes. A soft, patient attitude can persuade and bring about change more effectively than force or harshness, illustrating the power of humility and kindness.

Verse 16:

Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.

Moderation is key in enjoying blessings. Just as overindulgence in honey leads to sickness, excess in pleasures or riches can cause harm. This verse advocates for contentment and self-control to avoid negative consequences from overindulgence.

Verse 17:

Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

Maintaining appropriate boundaries in relationships is important to prevent annoyance or resentment. Visiting too often or imposing on others can lead to fatigue and discord. Respecting personal space and timing fosters mutual respect and goodwill.

Verse 18:

A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Lying or bearing false witness is destructive, causing injury like a weapon—maul, sword, or arrow. Such dishonesty damages reputations, breaks trust, and leads to conflict. The verse warns against deceit and emphasizes honesty as essential for peace and justice.

Verse 19:

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

Relying on someone unreliable during difficult times results in pain and instability. Just as a broken tooth or dislocated foot causes discomfort and impairs function, misplaced trust in unfaithful individuals leads to disappointment and hardship. It underscores the importance of discernment in relationships.

Verse 20:

As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

Trying to cheer someone who is grieving or suffering with superficial comfort—like taking away a garment in cold weather or pouring vinegar on nitre—can be harmful or ineffective. This verse warns that insensitivity or inappropriate cheer can worsen a person's sorrow, emphasizing the need for compassion and understanding in times of distress.

Verse 21:

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

This verse teaches the radical principle of kindness and generosity even toward one's enemies. Instead of seeking revenge or harboring resentment, it encourages us to show love through practical acts of compassion. By feeding and providing for our enemies' needs, we demonstrate God's love and break the cycle of hostility, fostering reconciliation and reflecting Christ's teachings on mercy.

Verse 22:

For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.

The act of doing good to an enemy is likened to piling coals of fire on their head—an ancient metaphor symbolizing shame or conviction leading to repentance. Ultimately, this kindness is rewarded by God, who honors those who respond to evil with good. It underscores that divine justice and reward come to those who exhibit forgiveness and compassion.

Verse 23:

The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

An angry or stern face can disperse gossip and slander, much like a cold north wind scatters rain. This verse highlights the power of demeanor and attitude in preventing conflict and discord. A controlled, composed expression can deter harmful speech and promote peace.

Verse 24:

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a browbeating woman in a wide house.

This proverb emphasizes the value of peace and harmony in relationships. Living in the corner of a rooftop—an uncomfortable and isolated place—is preferable to enduring constant conflict or oppression from a harsh partner in a spacious home. It underscores the importance of a peaceful, respectful environment.

Verse 25:

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Just as cold water refreshes a parched person, good news from afar provides refreshment and encouragement. It reminds us of the power of uplifting words and news, especially when we are weary or longing for hope, illustrating the importance of sharing positivity and hope across distances.

Verse 26:

A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

A righteous person who succumbs to pressure or compromise appears unstable and contaminated, like a fountain or spring that is troubled or corrupted. Such a fall diminishes integrity and trust, highlighting the importance of steadfastness and moral strength in the face of temptation.

Verse 27:

It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

Excessive pursuit of personal praise or self-glory is unwise, just as overeating honey can lead to sickness. This warns against vanity and self-centeredness, encouraging humility and the recognition that true honor comes from God, not self-promotion.

Verse 28:

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Lacking self-control and discipline makes a person vulnerable, like a city with broken walls that cannot defend itself. It stresses the importance of mastering one's emotions and desires to maintain moral integrity and protect oneself from harm and destructive influences.

CHAPTER 26:**Verse 1:**

As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

This verse illustrates that just as snow in summer and rain during harvest are out of place and unsuitable, so is giving honor to a fool. It emphasizes that recognizing or rewarding foolishness is inappropriate and unwise, as it undermines justice and wisdom. Honor should be reserved for those who deserve it through righteousness and integrity, not for the unworthy.

Verse 2:

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

This verse assures that curses or misfortunes without cause are unlikely to happen, much like a bird wandering aimlessly or a swallow flying without purpose. It teaches that divine justice is deliberate, and unnecessary curses or punishments are not inflicted without reason. It encourages trust in God's justice and order.

Verse 3:

A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

Discipline is necessary to correct foolishness. Just as a horse needs a whip, and a donkey a bridle, a fool requires correction and guidance to prevent destructive behavior. This verse underscores the importance of discipline in shaping character and maintaining order.

Verse 4:

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Avoid engaging in foolish arguments or responding to foolishness with folly yourself. Responding in kind may escalate the conflict and make one like the fool. Wisdom involves knowing when to remain silent to preserve dignity and peace.

Verse 5:

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Conversely, there are times when it is necessary to correct a fool to prevent him from becoming arrogant in his foolishness. Wisdom requires discernment in knowing when to speak and when silence is better, balancing humility with truth.

Verse 6:

He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off his own feet, and drinketh damage.

Entrusting important messages to fools can lead to miscommunication, harm, and loss. It warns against careless reliance on unreliable or unwise persons, as it can result in personal damage and failure.

Verse 7:

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

This vivid metaphor describes the stubbornness of fools who repeat their mistakes, despite knowing the harm. It highlights the difficulty of changing foolish patterns and the importance of wisdom to avoid self-destructive cycles.

Verse 8:

As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.

Honoring a fool is as futile and dangerous as binding a stone in a sling—ineffective and potentially harmful. It reminds us to be discerning about whom we honor, emphasizing that misplaced respect can lead to trouble.

Verse 9:

As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

Fools, like drunks handling thorns, are likely to cause harm with their words and foolish sayings. Proverbs or wise sayings are wasted on those who lack understanding, underscoring the importance of wisdom when sharing truths.

Verse 10:

The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

This verse affirms that God, the Creator of all, judges justly and rewards both fools and transgressors according to their deeds. It reminds us that divine justice is certain and that God's rewards are given in accordance with righteousness or folly.

These verses collectively teach about the importance of wisdom in speech, discipline, and discernment, highlighting the dangers of foolishness and misplaced honor.

Verse 11:

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

This vivid metaphor illustrates the stubbornness and foolishness of those who repeatedly fall into the same errors. Just as a dog instinctively returns to its vomit, a fool revisits his mistakes despite knowing their harmful nature. It emphasizes the difficulty of true repentance and the tendency of some to refuse correction, highlighting the importance of humility and learning from one's errors to avoid self-destructive cycles.

Verse 12:

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

This verse points out that arrogance and self-confidence in one's own wisdom can be more dangerous than foolishness itself. A person who thinks highly of their own judgment is often blind to their shortcomings and less receptive to correction. In contrast, even a fool shows some humility, making them more teachable than a proud, self-assured person.

Verse 13:

The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

This verse depicts laziness and avoidance through exaggerated excuses. The sluggard claims that danger—symbolized by a lion—prevents them from working or taking action. It warns against using fear and false justifications to shirk responsibilities instead of confronting and overcoming obstacles.

Verse 14:

As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

Laziness is compared to a door swinging on its hinges—constant and unproductive. The sluggard remains in bed, wasting time and avoiding effort, much like a door that swings back and forth aimlessly. It emphasizes the lethargy that keeps people from fulfilling their duties.

Verse 15:

The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

This verse humorously illustrates extreme laziness: the sluggard is so unwilling to work that even bringing food to the mouth is a burden. It underscores the destructive nature of laziness, which hampers basic needs and responsibilities, leading to neglect and dependence.

Verse 16:

The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men that can answer sensibly.

Laziness and self-deception make the sluggard overly confident in his own wisdom, even when others offer sensible advice. This arrogance prevents him from listening to counsel, illustrating how pride and laziness hinder growth and correction.

Verse 17:

He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

Interfering in disputes that are not one's concern is dangerous, much like grabbing a dog by the ears—

liable to be bitten. The verse warns against unnecessary involvement in conflicts that can lead to harm or trouble.

Verse 18:

As he that casteth fire-brands, arrows, and death,

This verse describes someone who maliciously or recklessly causes harm, akin to throwing fire, arrows, or death. It highlights the destructive nature of those who stir up trouble or spread harm intentionally.

Verse 19:

So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

Deceiving others under the guise of playfulness or joking is condemned here. Such behavior is reckless and unkind, as it causes harm and distrust. It warns against insincerity and the importance of honesty in relationships.

Verse 20:

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

This verse teaches that gossip and malicious talk fuel conflict. Without the "wood" of gossip, disputes die down. It underscores the power of silence and restraint in preventing and ending quarrels, emphasizing the importance of controlling one's speech to promote peace.

These verses collectively highlight themes of foolishness, laziness, pride, interference, and the destructive power of gossip, urging wisdom, humility, and restraint in our conduct.

Verse 21:

As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

This verse compares a quarrelsome person to burning coals and wood, which fuel a fire and cause it to grow. A contentious individual stirs up conflict and discord, much like how fire spreads when fed with fuel. It underscores the destructive nature of constant arguing and the importance of promoting peace rather than allowing disputes to escalate.

Verse 22:

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Gossip and malicious speech are likened to wounds that deeply penetrate and cause harm internally. Such words can devastate relationships, destroy trust, and cause emotional pain that festers beneath the surface. It emphasizes the destructive power of gossip and the need for restraint in speech.

Verse 23:

Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.

This metaphor describes insincere or malicious words coming from a corrupt heart as being like a broken pot coated with worthless dross—shiny on the outside but internally worthless. It warns against superficial appearances that hide inner corruption and evil intentions.

Verse 24:

He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;

This verse condemns hypocrites who pretend to love or be sincere outwardly while harboring deceit and hatred internally. Such duplicity is destructive, as it fosters distrust and moral corruption, revealing the importance of genuine integrity.

Verse 25:

When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

Smooth talk can be deceiving because it often masks evil intentions. The phrase "seven abominations" signifies complete depravity in the heart. The verse warns us to be cautious of flattering speech from those who harbor wickedness inside.

Verse 26:

Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.

Hidden hatred and deception may be concealed temporarily, but ultimately, the true wickedness of such a person will be exposed publicly. It reminds us that hypocrisy and duplicity cannot remain hidden forever and that divine justice will reveal the truth.

Verse 27:

Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

This verse warns that malicious actions, like digging a trap, will ultimately backfire on the perpetrator. Similarly, trying to harm others with evil schemes will lead to personal suffering or downfall, emphasizing the principle of reaping what one sows.

Verse 28:

A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Deceitful speech is rooted in hatred and causes harm to others. Flattery, although often appearing harmless, ultimately leads to destruction. This verse highlights the destructive power of lies and insincere words, urging honesty and integrity in communication.

These verses collectively emphasize the dangers of contention, gossip, hypocrisy, deception, and malicious schemes, encouraging honesty, humility, and the pursuit of peace and integrity in relationships.

CHAPTER 27:**Verse 1:**

Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

This verse warns against arrogance and complacency regarding the future. It reminds us that life is unpredictable, and we should not boast about what we will do tomorrow, as circumstances beyond our control can change suddenly. It encourages humility and dependence on God's sovereignty, urging us to focus on living wisely and righteously in the present.

Verse 2:

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Self-praise is discouraged here; instead, it promotes humility by letting others commend us rather than boasting about ourselves. Genuine recognition from others carries more weight and integrity, helping us avoid pride and fostering humility and true reputation.

Verse 3:

A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

This verse emphasizes that the burden of a fool's anger is even greater than physical weights like stones

or sand. Foolish anger can be destructive, burdensome, and burdens the soul more than tangible objects. It highlights the importance of temperance and patience.

Verse 4:

Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

While wrath and anger are intense and destructive, envy is depicted as even more formidable and insidious. This verse underscores the destructive nature of envy, which can lead to bitterness and harm that is difficult to withstand, warning us to guard our hearts against jealousy.

Verse 5:

Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Honest correction, even if it's uncomfortable, is preferable to superficial or secret affection. Genuine love involves truthfulness and accountability, and open rebuke can lead to growth and improvement, whereas hidden love may overlook necessary discipline.

Verse 6:

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

True friends may cause pain through honest correction, which ultimately benefits us, whereas enemies may flatter us with insincere words that deceive and harm. The verse emphasizes the value of truthful, constructive criticism from friends.

Verse 7:

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

When someone's needs are met, they may reject even sweet things like honey; but a person in need perceives even bitter things as valuable. This highlights how our perspective depends on our circumstances, and it encourages gratitude and humility regardless of our situation.

Verse 8:

As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.

A person who strays from their proper place or responsibilities is likened to a bird wandering from its nest. Such wandering leads to instability and vulnerability, emphasizing the importance of staying committed to one's duties and path.

Verse 9:

Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Good counsel from a true friend is like fragrant ointment or perfume—refreshing and uplifting to the heart. It underscores the value of wise and heartfelt advice in strengthening relationships and encouraging growth.

Verse 10:

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

Loyalty and maintaining good relationships with friends and neighbors are important, especially in times of trouble. A close neighbor can be more dependable than distant relatives, emphasizing the value of community, loyalty, and dependable companionship.

These verses collectively teach humility, prudence, honesty, loyalty, and the importance of wise counsel, encouraging us to live thoughtfully and righteously in our relationships and conduct.

Verse 11:

My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.

This verse is a father's heartfelt plea for wisdom, which brings joy and pride to the parent and provides a strong response to critics. Wisdom here is portrayed as a vital virtue that not only benefits the individual but also reflects well on family and community. When one lives wisely, it silences reproach and garners respect, demonstrating the importance of cultivating wisdom for personal integrity and for the honor of one's family.

Verse 12:

A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

This verse underscores the value of foresight and discernment. A wise person anticipates dangers and takes precautions to avoid harm, while the naive or simple-minded ignore warning signs and suffer the consequences. It highlights the importance of wisdom in navigating life's risks and encourages vigilance and prudence.

Verse 13:

Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

This verse warns against unwisely guaranteeing the debts or obligations of strangers, especially in uncertain situations. It advises caution in financial dealings and commitments, emphasizing the importance of prudence and avoiding unnecessary risks, particularly with unknown or untrustworthy individuals.

Verse 14:

He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

Overzealous or insincere expressions of blessing, especially when done loudly or early, can be perceived as hypocritical or annoying. This verse encourages genuine, moderate expressions of goodwill rather than ostentatious or disruptive displays, promoting sincerity and humility in relationships.

Verse 15:

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Persistent nagging or constant disputes, like a continuous drip during heavy rain, create discomfort and exhaustion. This verse highlights the draining effect of ongoing conflict, especially in relationships, encouraging patience and peace-building to avoid constant strife.

Verse 16:

And whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bebearth itself.

Trying to control or conceal a contentious or quarrelsome person is as futile as hiding the wind or holding onto slippery ointment. It suggests that avoiding conflict often leads to frustration and that it's better to address issues directly than to futilely try to suppress them.

Verse 17:

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

This well-known proverb emphasizes the value of true friendship, where mutual correction and encouragement lead to growth. Just as iron is sharpened by contact with iron, friends help refine and strengthen one another through honest counsel and support.

Verse 18:

Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

Diligence and patience in caring for what is entrusted to us—like tending a fig tree—yield fruit and reward. Likewise, faithful service to a master or employer is recognized and honored, emphasizing the rewards of loyalty and diligent work.

Verse 19:

As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.

This verse illustrates that just as one's reflection appears in water, the true nature of a person's heart is revealed through their words and actions. It underscores the importance of inner character and integrity, which are ultimately reflected in how one conducts oneself.

Verse 20:

Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

The insatiable nature of human desire is likened to the endless appetite of hell and destruction. No matter how much we acquire or achieve, a longing remains. This verse warns against greed and urges contentment, reminding us that true fulfillment is found in spiritual, not worldly, riches.

These verses highlight themes of wisdom, foresight, sincerity, patience, friendship, diligence, integrity, and contentment, guiding us toward a life of prudence and righteousness.

Verse 21:

As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

This verse compares a man's worthiness of praise to the refining process of silver and gold, which are purified through fire and testing. Just as precious metals are refined by heat to remove impurities, a person's true value is revealed and strengthened through acknowledgment and praise. However, it also implies that such praise should be earned and genuine, serving as a refining fire that enhances character rather than superficial flattery.

Verse 22:

Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

This vivid metaphor illustrates that no matter how much effort is put into trying to change or correct a fool—like crushing him in a mortar—his foolishness remains unaltered. It teaches that some traits are deeply rooted, and patience or repeated correction may not transform someone lacking wisdom, underscoring the importance of discernment in relationships.

Verse 23:

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds:

This verse emphasizes the importance of diligence and careful management, especially in stewardship. Just as a shepherd must attentively monitor the health and condition of his flocks and herds, so must individuals diligently oversee their responsibilities and resources. It promotes vigilance and responsibility in every aspect of life.

Verse 24:

For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

This verse reminds us of the transient nature of wealth and worldly status. Material riches and crowns are temporary, and future generations may not inherit them. It encourages us to focus on eternal values rather than fleeting possessions, urging humility and wise stewardship of what we do possess.

Verse 25:

The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered.

This verse describes the changing seasons and the growth of grass and herbs, symbolizing the cycles of nature and life. It reflects on the importance of timely labor and the natural order, reminding us that life's blessings and opportunities appear at the right seasons and should be appreciated and utilized accordingly.

Verse 26:

The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

This verse highlights the practical aspects of stewardship, where livestock such as lambs and goats serve as resources—clothing and financial gain. It underscores the value of diligent care of possessions and the importance of managing resources wisely for both immediate needs and future prosperity.

Verse 27:

And thou shalt have enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance of thy maidens.

This concluding verse emphasizes the importance of diligent labor and wise management to ensure provision for oneself, family, and household workers. It reassures that faithful stewardship results in sufficiency, allowing a person to care for their loved ones and maintain a stable, prosperous household.

These verses collectively stress the importance of integrity in praise, patience with folly, diligent management, humility regarding wealth, appreciation of natural cycles, resourcefulness, and responsible stewardship—all guiding us toward a balanced and wise life.

CHAPTER 28:

Verse 1:

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

This verse contrasts the fearfulness of the wicked with the confidence of the righteous. The wicked often live in paranoia and anxiety, fleeing even when no danger threatens them, revealing their guilty conscience or lack of security. In contrast, the righteous stand firm and fearless, like a lion, because they trust in God's justice and protection. It encourages believers to live uprightly, which grants confidence and boldness in the face of challenges.

Verse 2:

For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged.

This verse highlights that when a nation sins, it often suffers from instability, leading to many rulers or princes vying for power. However, wise leadership—rooted in understanding and knowledge—can sustain a nation and prolong its prosperity. It underscores the importance of wise governance based on wisdom and insight for stability and longevity.

Verse 3:

A poor man that oppresseth the poor is as a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

Oppressing the poor is compared to a destructive rainstorm that destroys crops and leaves no sustenance. Such injustice harms society by aggravating poverty and suffering, illustrating that exploitation and greed ultimately lead to ruin and barren consequences. It condemns the cruelty of oppressing the vulnerable.

Verse 4:

They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

Those who abandon righteousness and ignore God's law tend to praise or support wickedness, perhaps because it benefits their selfish interests. Conversely, those who uphold the law and righteousness oppose evil, standing firm against corruption. The verse emphasizes the moral divide between good and evil and the importance of steadfastness.

Verse 5:

Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things.

This verse contrasts the ignorance of evil men with the understanding of those who seek God. Without divine guidance, evil people lack true insight into justice and morality. In contrast, those who seek the Lord gain wisdom and understanding, enabling them to discern right from wrong.

Verse 6:

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

This verse affirms that integrity and righteousness are more valuable than wealth. A poor person who lives honestly and uprightly is morally superior and more blessed than a rich person who compromises morality. It emphasizes that true wealth lies in virtue, not material riches.

Verse 7:

Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

Obedience to God's law is a mark of wisdom and righteousness, likened to wise parenting. Conversely, associating with unruly or rebellious companions dishonors one's family and reflects poorly on one's character. It underscores the importance of choosing wise associations.

Verse 8:

He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

Those who seek to increase wealth through unfair means—such as usury or exploitation—ultimately amass wealth destined for the compassionate and righteous. This verse warns that greed and injustice lead to emptiness, and wealth gained unjustly often benefits others who show mercy and kindness.

Verse 9:

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Ignoring God's law and refusing to listen to His Word makes one's prayers unacceptable to God. This verse stresses that true worship and prayer must be accompanied by obedience and humility.

Disregarding divine instruction nullifies the sincerity of prayer.

Verse 10:

Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall inherit good.

Leading others astray through wicked influence will ultimately lead to one's own downfall. Conversely, those who remain upright and honest will inherit blessings and goodness. It highlights the principle of reaping what one sows and the importance of integrity in guiding others.

These verses collectively teach about the virtues of righteousness, wisdom, integrity, and justice, contrasting them with the destructive nature of wickedness, greed, and unrighteousness.

Verse 11:

The rich man is wise in his own conceit: but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

This verse highlights the arrogance that can accompany wealth, where the rich often overestimate their wisdom and self-sufficiency. Conversely, the poor who possess understanding can see through this arrogance and recognize true wisdom and humility. It emphasizes that material wealth does not equate to true wisdom, and humility and insight are valuable qualities that reveal the true character of individuals, regardless of their economic status.

Verse 12:

When the righteous triumph, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

This verse contrasts the public celebration of righteousness with the secretive or hidden nature of wickedness. When the righteous succeed, it brings honor and glory to the community, while the wicked often operate in secrecy to avoid exposure. It underscores the visibility of virtue versus the concealment often associated with evil deeds.

Verse 13:

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confeseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Honesty and repentance are vital for divine blessing. Covering sins only leads to spiritual stagnation and failure, but confessing and turning away from sin opens the way for God's mercy and forgiveness. This verse underscores the importance of humility and repentance for spiritual growth and prosperity.

Verse 14:

Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

A reverence for God, characterized by humility and awe, leads to happiness and stability. Conversely, a hardened heart—resistant to God and correction—destroys a person and leads to trouble. The verse emphasizes the blessing of humility and reverence toward God as a safeguard against downfall.

Verse 15:

As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over much people.

A wicked ruler, like a fierce lion or a dangerous bear, is a destructive force that terrorizes and oppresses

many. Such leadership breeds fear, chaos, and suffering among the people, illustrating the importance of righteous and compassionate leadership for societal peace.

Verse 16:

The prince that lacketh understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.

A ruler without understanding becomes an oppressor, abusing authority for personal gain. In contrast, a leader who hates greed and injustice will govern wisely and live longer, suggesting that integrity and fairness lead to stability and longevity.

Verse 17:

A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

This verse condemns acts of violence, especially murder, which lead to exile or death for the perpetrator. It emphasizes the severity of violence and the justice that follows such wicked deeds, warning all to avoid bloodshed and uphold righteousness.

Verse 18:

Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

Living a righteous and upright life ensures safety and stability, while those who are perverse and dishonest will inevitably face downfall. This verse underscores the importance of integrity and moral consistency as a foundation for security.

Verse 19:

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

Diligent work and honest labor bring abundance, whereas chasing after frivolous pursuits or bad influences lead to poverty. It emphasizes the value of perseverance and focus on productive endeavors for prosperity.

Verse 20:

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Faithfulness and integrity attract God's blessings, but greed and hurried pursuit of wealth lead to moral compromise and guilt. This verse advocates patience, trust in God's provision, and faithfulness as keys to true blessing and righteousness.

These verses collectively teach the importance of humility, integrity, righteous leadership, diligent work, and reverence for God, contrasting them with arrogance, greed, violence, and unrighteousness.

Verse 21:

To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

This verse warns against favoritism and bias, which are considered unjust and harmful. Showing partiality, especially for personal gain, is condemned because it can lead others to commit wrongful acts simply for a reward, such as a piece of bread. It underscores the importance of fairness and equality in justice, promoting integrity over selfish favoritism.

Verse 22:

He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

This verse condemns greed and impatience in the pursuit of wealth. The "evil eye" symbolizes envy and covetousness, which drive people to rush into riches dishonestly or recklessly. It warns that hasty pursuit of wealth often leads to downfall and poverty, emphasizing the importance of patience, integrity, and trusting God's timing.

Verse 23:

He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

This verse highlights the value of honest correction over flattery. While flattery may gain temporary approval, sincere rebuke, though difficult, ultimately earns greater respect and favor because it demonstrates genuine concern and integrity. It encourages speaking truth lovingly and courageously.

Verse 24:

Whoso robbeth his father, or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression, the same is the companion of a destroyer.

Disrespecting or stealing from one's parents is condemned as a grievous sin, equated with associating with destructive forces. Just as a destroyer brings ruin, such rebellion against authority and family dishonors God and leads to moral and societal decay.

Verse 25:

He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

Pride fuels quarrels and conflicts, leading to unrest and division. Conversely, humility and trusting in God bring blessing, stability, and growth—"being made fat" signifies prosperity and well-being. It advocates reliance on divine provision rather than prideful self-sufficiency.

Verse 26:

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Self-confidence rooted solely in one's own judgment is dangerous, equated with foolishness. Wisdom involves trusting in God and seeking guidance beyond one's own understanding. True deliverance and safety come from walking wisely in obedience and reliance on divine wisdom.

Verse 27:

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Generosity toward the needy results in God's provision and blessing, ensuring that one will not be in want. Conversely, selfishness and refusal to help others attract curses and divine disfavor. The verse emphasizes the importance of compassion and charity as part of a righteous life.

Verse 28:

When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

This verse shows how the rise of wickedness causes fear and concealment among the righteous, but ultimately, the downfall of the wicked leads to growth and prosperity for the righteous. It underscores the transient nature of evil and the enduring blessing of righteousness.

These verses collectively emphasize justice, humility, integrity, charity, and reliance on God, contrasting the destructive tendencies of pride, greed, and wickedness with the blessings of righteousness, wisdom, and compassion.

CHAPTER 29:

Verse 1:

He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

This verse warns that persistent correction and rebuke are necessary for growth and humility. When a person repeatedly refuses to listen and stubbornly resists discipline, they become hardened like a neck that refuses to turn, making them vulnerable to sudden downfall or destruction. Such destruction comes unexpectedly and leaves no remedy, emphasizing the importance of humility and receptiveness to correction to avoid irreversible ruin.

Verse 2:

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Leadership greatly impacts the well-being of society. Righteous leaders promote justice, peace, and prosperity, which leads to happiness among the people. Conversely, wicked rulers foster injustice, oppression, and chaos, causing the populace to mourn and suffer. The verse highlights the vital importance of moral integrity and righteousness in governance for societal harmony.

Verse 3:

A man that loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spoyleth his substance.

Living a life of wisdom and virtue brings pride and joy to parents and communities. Loving wisdom leads to prosperity and respect. However, associating with immoral influences, such as harlots, results in the loss of resources and reputation. This contrast underscores how wise choices and integrity preserve one's wealth and honor.

Verse 4:

The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

Justice and fair judgment are the foundations of a stable and prosperous nation. A ruler who governs with righteousness secures peace and order. In contrast, accepting bribes and engaging in corruption undermine justice, leading to societal upheaval. The verse stresses the importance of integrity in leadership for the stability of the land.

Verse 5:

A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

Flattery, though seemingly kind, is often insincere and can be a trap for both the flatterer and the recipient. It creates false impressions and may lead to betrayal or downfall. Genuine honesty and integrity are more beneficial than superficial flattery that masks true motives.

Verse 6:

In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

Evil deeds trap and ensnare those who commit them, ultimately leading to their downfall. The righteous, however, walk in integrity and joy, free from the snares of sin. This contrast encourages living uprightly to avoid the destructive consequences of evil.

Verse 7:

The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

True righteousness involves compassion and justice for the vulnerable and oppressed. The righteous seek to understand and advocate for the poor, while the wicked ignore their needs, demonstrating greed and selfishness. This verse underscores the importance of empathy and moral responsibility.

Verse 8:

Scorners reign in derision: but under wise men, the city is quiet.

Mockers and scoffers stir up trouble and unrest through their ridicule and rebellious attitude. Wise and humble leaders, however, maintain peace and order. This highlights the value of wisdom, humility, and restraint in leadership to foster societal stability.

Verse 9:

If a wise man contendeth with a fool, whether he rage or laugh, he is wise.

Engaging in disputes with fools can be unproductive, but a wise person remains calm, discerning whether to confront or ignore. Whether the fool responds with rage or mockery, the wise person maintains composure, demonstrating wisdom in choosing when and how to engage.

Verse 10:

The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

Violent and greedy individuals despise those who are righteous and upright, viewing them as obstacles. Conversely, the righteous seek to preserve life and integrity, caring for their own souls and others'. This verse highlights the ongoing conflict between evil and goodness, emphasizing the importance of steadfast righteousness.

These verses collectively emphasize virtues such as humility, justice, integrity, compassion, wisdom, and righteousness, contrasting them with pride, corruption, flattery, and evil influences that threaten societal and personal well-being.

Verse 11:

A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

This verse highlights the danger of reckless speech. A fool is characterized by their tendency to speak without restraint, revealing their thoughts impulsively and often foolishly. In contrast, a wise person exercises self-control, withholding words until they have carefully considered their message. This restraint preserves relationships and maintains dignity, emphasizing the importance of wisdom in speech.

Verse 12:

If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

This verse underscores the critical responsibility of leadership to seek truth and justice. When a ruler listens to falsehoods or false witnesses, it corrupts the entire administration and leads to widespread wickedness among their servants. Honest judgment and integrity in leadership are essential for a righteous society.

Verse 13:

The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the Lord lighteneth both their eyes.

Both the vulnerable poor and the deceitful are in need of God's light and guidance. Despite their different circumstances—one in poverty, the other in dishonesty—God's grace and understanding illuminate their paths. It reminds us of God's compassion and the universal need for divine guidance.

Verse 14:

The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

A ruler who consistently judges the poor with fairness and justice secures stability and longevity for their throne. Justice for the vulnerable demonstrates righteousness and builds a lasting legacy, emphasizing that true kingship is rooted in integrity and compassion.

Verse 15:

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Discipline combined with correction fosters wisdom in a child. Without guidance and reproof, a child may grow unruly and bring shame to their parents. Proper discipline is essential for moral development and social harmony.

Verse 16:

When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

The proliferation of wickedness leads to increased sin and chaos. However, the righteous can trust that justice will ultimately prevail, and evil-doers will face downfall. It reassures believers that righteousness is ultimately victorious over wickedness.

Verse 17:

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Parenting with discipline and correction leads to peace and joy. A well-guided child can bring comfort and pride to their parents, highlighting the importance of loving correction in raising upright individuals.

Verse 18:

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Vision and divine guidance are vital for societal stability and personal happiness. Without direction, people falter and fail. Those who adhere to God's law find true happiness and purpose, emphasizing the importance of spiritual and moral vision.

Verse 19:

A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand, he will not answer.

Words alone are insufficient to discipline a servant who lacks respect or obedience. Even if they understand instructions, their attitude prevents change. Effective discipline requires more than words; it involves attitude and obedience.

Verse 20:

Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Hasty speech reveals impulsiveness and lack of self-control. Such a person is more hopeless than a fool because their reckless words can cause harm and demonstrate poor judgment. Patience and thoughtfulness are virtues that prevent unnecessary trouble.

These verses collectively emphasize the importance of wisdom in speech, justice in leadership, proper discipline, divine guidance, and patience. They contrast foolishness and impulsiveness with wisdom, righteousness, and temperance, showing how these virtues lead to stability and happiness.

Verse 21:

He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the last.

This verse suggests that gentle, patient, and considerate upbringing can transform a servant into a trusted family member, akin to a son. It highlights the value of kindness, proper guidance, and nurturing in relationships, emphasizing that respectful treatment can foster loyalty and respect from those who serve us, ultimately leading to deep bonds of trust and affection.

Verse 22:

A furious man stirreth up strife, and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Anger and malicious schemes incite conflict and discord. A person quick to anger or involved in wicked plans is universally disliked because their actions threaten peace and harmony. This verse warns against allowing anger and wickedness to control one's behavior, as such traits lead to social rejection and turmoil.

Verse 23:

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Pride is destructive, often resulting in downfall or shame. In contrast, humility earns respect and dignity. The verse teaches that humility is a virtue that sustains a person and elevates their reputation, whereas pride leads to downfall, emphasizing the importance of modesty and meekness.

Verse 24:

Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth himself.

Associating with thieves corrupts one's integrity and reputation. Such partnership exposes a person to shame and cursing, ultimately revealing their own guilt and foolishness. The verse advocates avoiding wicked associations to preserve personal honor and spiritual health.

Verse 25:

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Fearing people and their opinions leads to entrapment and insecurity. Trusting in God provides true safety and stability. This verse underscores the importance of faith and reliance on divine protection rather than human approval.

Verse 26:

Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the Lord.

People often seek favor from authorities or leaders, but ultimately, every person's justice and judgment are determined by God. It emphasizes that divine oversight is supreme and that humans should seek to please God rather than worldly powers.

Verse 27:

An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

There is mutual contempt between the wicked and the righteous; unjust individuals despise those who

are upright, and vice versa. This verse highlights the moral divide and natural enmity that exist between good and evil, urging believers to remain steadfast despite opposition.

These verses collectively emphasize the importance of humility, integrity, trust in God, avoiding wicked associations, and remaining faithful to righteousness despite opposition. They warn against pride, anger, and wicked partnerships, encouraging trust in divine justice and maintaining moral uprightness.

CHAPTER 30:

Verse 1:

The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy, the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal:

This opening verse introduces Agur, a wise man and prophet, emphasizing that his words are inspired and carry divine authority. It sets the tone for the collection of wise sayings that follow, highlighting the importance of seeking divine insight and understanding through prophetic and inspired speech. Agur's words are meant to instruct and guide, emphasizing humility and reliance on God's wisdom.

Verse 2:

Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

Agur humbly acknowledges his own limitations, recognizing that despite his wisdom, he is still flawed and lacks full understanding like a brute beast. This humility reminds us that true wisdom begins with recognizing our dependence on God's guidance and our own fallibility.

Verse 3:

I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

Agur admits that he does not possess innate wisdom nor complete knowledge of divine matters. This humility underscores the truth that wisdom and understanding come from God, and humans must seek divine revelation rather than rely solely on their own strength.

Verse 4:

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Agur poses rhetorical questions emphasizing the greatness and sovereignty of God. These questions highlight God's supreme power in creation—ascending to heaven, controlling the wind, gathering waters, and establishing the earth. They challenge us to acknowledge God's unmatched authority and mystery, prompting humility and reverence.

Verse 5:

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

This verse affirms that God's words are completely pure and trustworthy. Believers can rely on God's promises as a shield against life's dangers and uncertainties. It emphasizes the importance of trusting in divine truth for protection and guidance.

Verse 6:

Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

A warning against adding to God's words, as doing so can lead to reproof and shame. It underscores the importance of respecting the integrity of Scripture, acknowledging that divine revelation is complete and perfect without human alterations.

Verse 7:

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

Agur humbly requests two specific things from God—these are not specified here but are detailed in the following verses. This prayer reflects a desire for humility and the acknowledgment that true fulfillment comes from divine provision and guidance, not worldly possessions.

Verse 8:

Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Agur seeks balance, asking God to keep him away from vanity, lies, poverty, and excess riches. His prayer reflects a desire for contentment and provision that meets his needs without temptation or hardship, emphasizing reliance on God's perfect provision and contentment in modest living.

Verse 9:

Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Agur fears that abundance might lead to arrogance and neglect of God, while poverty might lead to desperation and sin. Both extremes threaten spiritual integrity. His prayer seeks moderation that keeps him humble and faithful, highlighting the importance of dependence on God's provision.

Verse 10:

Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

This verse advises against unjustly accusing or criticizing a servant before their master, as it can backfire, leading to curses or repercussions. It emphasizes the virtue of patience, fairness, and avoiding unnecessary accusations that could harm relationships and lead to guilt.

These verses from Proverbs 30 reveal a deep humility, reverence for God's sovereignty, a desire for contentment, and wisdom in moderation and justice. Agur's prayer and reflections serve as a guide to living humbly before God, trusting His provision, and maintaining integrity.

Verse 11:

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

This verse describes a troubling generation characterized by disrespect and rebellion within family relationships. It highlights the severity of dishonoring parental figures, which was considered a grave sin in biblical times. Such a generation neglects the foundation of respect and filial duty, leading to societal decay. It serves as a warning about the destructive consequences of rejecting authority and moral responsibility within the family structure.

Verse 12:

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

This verse condemns those who are self-righteous, believing themselves to be pure and morally upright while ignoring their own faults and sins. Such individuals deceive themselves, remaining unclean

spiritually. It warns against arrogance and self-deception, emphasizing that true purity and righteousness come from humility and acknowledgment of one's need for God's cleansing.

Verse 13:

There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

This verse describes a proud and haughty generation that looks down on others with arrogance. Their pride is evident in their lifted eyelids and lofty attitude, symbolizing disdain and superiority. Such pride fosters contempt and disconnect from humility and compassion, often leading to social divisions and spiritual blindness.

Verse 14:

There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

This verse depicts a brutal and violent group that exploits and oppresses the vulnerable. Their teeth and jaws symbolize their destructive and predatory nature, seeking to consume the weak and needy. It underscores the evil of greed and cruelty, warning against injustice and the exploitation of the powerless.

Verse 15:

The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give.

The verse uses the metaphor of a bloodsucking leech, which is insatiable, symbolized by its "two daughters" demanding more. It represents greed and insatiable desire that constantly seeks more without satisfaction. It warns against covetousness that can drain and ruin a person or society.

Verse 16:

The grave, and the barren womb, and the earth that is not filled with water, and the fire, that saith, Not enough.

This verse lists four insatiable entities: the grave, the barren womb, the dry earth, and fire. Each symbolizes an endless desire or hunger—death, infertility, thirst, and destruction—that can never be fully satisfied. It illustrates the destructive nature of greed and excessive longing.

Verse 17:

The eye that mocketh his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

This verse condemns disrespect and mockery toward parents. Such behavior is likened to a rebellious eye that faces divine judgment, resulting in shame and shameful consequences symbolized by ravens and eagles devouring it. It underscores the importance of honoring and obeying parental authority.

Verse 18:

There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:

This verse introduces a list of mysterious and awe-inspiring things that the writer cannot fully comprehend. It sets the tone for the following verses, which describe phenomena that evoke wonder and humility, reminding us of the limits of human understanding and the greatness of God's creation.

Verse 19:

The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the

sea; and the way of a man with a maiden.

These four examples illustrate ways that are elusive or mysterious: the flight of an eagle, the movement of a serpent on a rock, a ship at sea, and a man's relationship with a maiden. Each is characterized by subtlety and unpredictability, symbolizing the complex and wondrous aspects of nature and human relationships that are beyond full human comprehension.

Verse 20:

Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

This verse depicts the deceptive and morally corrupt nature of adultery. The adulteress's act of eating and wiping her mouth symbolizes satisfaction and denial, as she dismisses her wrongdoing. It highlights the insincerity and blindness to guilt that often accompany sin, serving as a warning about the dangers of moral compromise.

These verses collectively explore themes of respect, humility, pride, greed, insatiable desires, divine justice, human wonder, and moral warning. They serve as a reflection on societal behaviors, human limitations, and the importance of humility and righteousness in the face of life's mysteries and temptations.

Verse 21:

For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:

This verse introduces a list of four things that cause upheaval and unrest in the world. It underscores the idea that certain attitudes or behaviors disturb the harmony of creation, highlighting the importance of humility, harmony, and moral conduct to maintain peace and stability in society and the natural order.

Verse 22:

For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

These two examples illustrate situations where individuals are elevated beyond their worth or capacity, leading to disorder. A servant ruling symbolizes a lack of proper leadership or authority, while a fool being full of meat signifies overindulgence and foolishness. Both scenarios result in chaos, emphasizing the importance of wisdom and appropriateness in authority and behavior.

Verse 23:

And an odious woman when she is married; and a handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

This verse points to relationships that bring discord. An odious (hateful or quarrelsome) woman in marriage and a servant girl who inherits her mistress's position create instability and conflict within families and households. It highlights how discord and envy can disrupt harmony in domestic life.

Verse 24:

There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

This verse shifts to commend the wisdom found in small or seemingly insignificant creatures or traits, emphasizing that true wisdom can be found in humility and modesty. It invites reflection on the lessons that small things can teach about life and prudence.

Verse 25:

The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer:

Ants symbolize industriousness and foresight. Despite their weakness, they work diligently during summer to gather food for the future. This teaches the virtue of hard work, planning ahead, and diligence, regardless of one's strength or status.

Verse 26:

The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks:

Conies (or hyraxes) are small, powerless animals that build their homes in the safety of rocky crevices. This highlights wisdom in choosing secure and strategic places for safety, emphasizing that small or weak creatures can demonstrate intelligence through prudent choices.

Verse 27:

The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands:

Locusts, lacking leadership, still move in coordinated groups. This demonstrates that even without authority, natural or social groups can organize effectively. It speaks to the power of collective effort and instinct.

Verse 28:

The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Spiders, small and seemingly insignificant, are able to infiltrate even royal palaces, symbolizing resourcefulness and tenacity. It teaches that even the smallest or weakest can attain access and influence through perseverance and cleverness.

Verse 29:

There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in their going:

This verse introduces a list of things that are admirable or graceful in their movement or conduct, emphasizing beauty and harmony in natural or social behaviors, inspiring appreciation for order and elegance.

Verse 30:

A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any:

The lion symbolizes strength, courage, and leadership. Its unwavering resolve and dominance exemplify qualities of true power and fearlessness, serving as a model for noble strength and authority.

Verse 31:

A greyhound; an he goat; and a king, against whom there is no rising up.

This verse continues the list of admirable qualities, highlighting speed, agility, and leadership that command respect and authority. These qualities signify vigor, confidence, and unchallenged dominance.

Verse 32:

If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth.

This verse warns against pride and evil thoughts. It advises humility and self-control by urging one to silence oneself after foolish or wicked actions, promoting repentance and restraint.

Verse 33:

For as the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood, so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

This simile illustrates that provoking anger or violence inevitably leads to conflict and chaos, just as churning produces butter and squeezing produces blood. It emphasizes the destructive consequences of forcing or inciting wrath.

These verses collectively explore themes of wisdom in small things, strength, leadership, humility, and the destructive nature of anger and pride. They serve as lessons on prudence, resourcefulness, and self-control in personal and societal conduct.

CHAPTER 31:**Verse 1:**

The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

This opening verse introduces King Lemuel and highlights the importance of wise counsel from a mother. It underscores that true wisdom and guidance often come from those who love and understand us deeply, especially mothers who teach moral values and prudent living. It sets the tone for the subsequent teachings, emphasizing that leadership and life are best guided by divine wisdom passed through trusted relationships.

Verse 2:

What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

Lemuel's mother questions him lovingly, encouraging reflection and reminding him of his responsibilities. Her words reflect concern for his well-being and the importance of moral integrity. This verse emphasizes the role of parental guidance and the importance of nurturing virtuous character in leadership and life.

Verse 3:

Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.

This verse warns against the dangers of indulgence in pleasures or pursuits that can lead to downfall. It particularly cautions against allowing passions or distractions—symbolized by women—that can weaken a ruler's judgment and authority. Wisdom entails self-control and prioritizing responsibilities over fleeting desires.

Verse 4:

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

Here, Lemuel's mother advises that rulers should abstain from excessive alcohol, as intoxication impairs judgment and decision-making. Leadership demands clarity, sobriety, and discipline, and the verse emphasizes the importance of self-restraint for those in positions of authority.

Verse 5:

Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

This verse explains why kings and leaders should avoid drunkenness: it can cause them to forget justice and pervert judgment, harming the vulnerable and neglecting their duty to uphold righteousness. Sobriety is essential for fair and compassionate governance.

Verse 6:

Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

This verse acknowledges that alcohol can provide comfort in times of suffering or grief. It reflects a compassionate approach, suggesting that weary or dying individuals may find relief in moderation. It underscores the importance of discernment in using substances for comfort.

Verse 7:

Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

The focus is on providing relief from despair. Alcohol is presented here as a temporary escape for those overwhelmed by poverty or suffering, emphasizing compassion and understanding for those in distress while acknowledging its temporary alleviating effect.

Verse 8:

Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

This verse calls for advocacy on behalf of the voiceless and oppressed. Leaders and individuals are reminded to speak up for those who cannot defend themselves, promoting justice and mercy for the vulnerable and marginalized.

Verse 9:

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Continuing the theme of justice, this verse emphasizes the importance of righteous judgment and active advocacy for the poor and needy. It underscores that true leadership involves fairness, compassion, and standing up for those who are vulnerable.

Verse 10:

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

This verse introduces the qualities of a virtuous woman, describing her as rare and priceless. It highlights her value in the family and society, emphasizing virtues such as strength, integrity, kindness, and diligence. Her worth exceeds material riches, making her an ideal standard of noble character.

These verses from Proverbs 31 depict wise leadership, moral integrity, compassion, justice, and the high value of virtuous qualities. They serve as guidance for rulers, women, and individuals striving to live righteously and responsibly.

Verse 11:

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

This verse highlights the deep trust a husband places in his wife, emphasizing her integrity and faithfulness. Her reliability and virtue provide him security, allowing him to rest assured that she will act honorably and diligently. It underscores the importance of trust and fidelity within marriage, portraying the virtuous woman as a dependable partner who upholds her family's well-being.

Verse 12:

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

This verse underscores the consistent kindness and goodness of a virtuous woman. Her actions are motivated by love and a desire to serve her family, ensuring that her husband and children are always

benefited by her care and virtue. It emphasizes that her loyalty and goodness are unwavering throughout her life, making her a blessing to her household.

Verse 13:

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

Here, the virtuous woman is depicted as industrious and resourceful. She actively engages in domestic work, such as spinning and preparing cloth, demonstrating her diligence and initiative. Her willingness to work hard reflects her commitment to providing for her family and managing her household responsibly.

Verse 14:

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

This verse compares her to merchant ships that travel great distances to bring back valuable goods, symbolizing her resourcefulness and ability to acquire necessary provisions. It suggests that she is proactive, seeking out resources and ensuring her family's needs are met, even if it requires effort and travel.

Verse 15:

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

This highlights her diligence and dedication, as she wakes early to prepare food for her family and servants. Her proactive attitude ensures that her household begins the day well, demonstrating her commitment, hard work, and leadership within the home.

Verse 16:

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

This verse portrays her as a wise and shrewd businesswoman who invests her resources wisely. Her initiative in purchasing land and planting vineyards shows her foresight, industriousness, and ability to contribute to her family's economic stability and prosperity.

Verse 17:

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

This emphasizes her physical strength, resilience, and readiness to work. She is not weak or passive but actively capable of managing the demands of her household and her responsibilities, showing her inner strength and determination.

Verse 18:

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

Her awareness of her own efforts and success is evident here. She is diligent in her work, and her vigilance ensures that her household's needs are met even during the night. Her confidence and continuous labor reflect her dedication and competence.

Verse 19:

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

This verse depicts her as engaged in spinning and textile work, symbolizing her industriousness and skill in domestic crafts. Her involvement in such tasks demonstrates her resourcefulness and commitment to providing for her family.

Verse 20:

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

This highlights her compassion and generosity, as she actively seeks to help those in need. Her kindness extends beyond her immediate family, showing her charity, social responsibility, and desire to make a positive impact in her community.

These verses collectively paint a picture of a virtuous woman as industrious, resourceful, strong, perceptive, and compassionate—an ideal model of noble character and diligent service within her family and community.

Verse 21:

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

This verse highlights the foresight and diligence of the virtuous woman. She prepares her household for adverse weather, ensuring that everyone is warmly clothed, symbolized here by scarlet, a rich and durable fabric. Her concern extends beyond her own comfort to the safety and well-being of her family, demonstrating her wisdom and proactive nature in caring for their needs regardless of external hardships.

Verse 22:

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

This verse illustrates her resourcefulness and sense of dignity. She invests effort into making herself beautiful and elegant, using fine fabrics like silk and purple, which were symbols of wealth and nobility. Her attire reflects her self-respect and the pride she takes in her appearance, symbolizing inner virtue expressed outwardly.

Verse 23:

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

This verse emphasizes that her virtues and diligence contribute to her husband's reputation. Her household's prosperity and her own character enhance his standing in the community. Her support and virtue help her husband gain respect and influence in civic and social spheres.

Verse 24:

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Here, her industriousness is shown through her involvement in commerce. She produces fine linen and sells it, demonstrating her entrepreneurial spirit and ability to contribute economically. Her business acumen provides income and stability for her family.

Verse 25:

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

This verse celebrates her inner qualities—strength and dignity—symbolized as her clothing. Her moral strength and honorable character give her confidence and joy about the future. It reflects the idea that true beauty and security come from virtue and integrity.

Verse 26:

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Her words are wise and full of kindness, influencing and guiding her household and community

positively. Her speech reflects her wisdom and compassion, promoting harmony and moral goodness through her communication.

Verse 27:

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

This verse highlights her diligent management of her household. She is attentive to their needs and works hard, avoiding laziness. Her proactive approach ensures her family's well-being and stability.

Verse 28:

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Her children and husband recognize her virtues and bless her for her hard work and kindness. Their praise affirms her role as a loving and diligent mother and wife, highlighting the respect and gratitude she earns from her family.

Verse 29:

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

This verse extols her exceptional virtue, surpassing others who are also virtuous. It emphasizes her unique qualities and the high regard in which she is held, setting her as an exemplary model of noble womanhood.

Verse 30:

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

This verse stresses that external appearances and superficial charm are fleeting and deceptive. True worth lies in fearing God and living righteously. Such a woman will be genuinely honored and praised for her inner virtues and faithfulness.

Verse 31:

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

The concluding verse encourages recognition of her labor and virtues, suggesting that her achievements and good deeds should be rewarded and celebrated publicly. Her reputation is built on her diligent work, and her character is honored within the community.

These verses collectively portray the virtuous woman as strong, wise, industrious, compassionate, and God-fearing—an admirable model of noble character whose actions and virtues bring praise and stability to her family and society.

CONCLUSION:

Proverbs 1 – Conclusion:

True wisdom begins with reverent fear of the Lord. Ignoring His instruction leads to destruction, but those who listen will dwell in safety and peace.

Proverbs 2 – Conclusion:

Godly wisdom is both protection and direction. Seeking it diligently keeps one from wicked paths and anchors the soul in righteousness.

Proverbs 3 – Conclusion:

Trusting God leads to a blessed life. Honor, humility, and obedience open the door to divine favor, while pride and rebellion bring ruin.

Proverbs 4 – Conclusion:

Guard your heart above all, for it determines your path. Pursue wisdom, avoid evil, and stay on the course of righteousness.

Proverbs 5 – Conclusion:

Immorality destroys lives. Honor marriage, flee temptation, and remember that God sees every path we take.

Proverbs 6 – Conclusion:

God detests pride, deceit, and division. Avoid laziness, guard your heart, and do not fall into the trap of adultery or foolish decisions.

Proverbs 7 – Conclusion:

The seductive voice of sin leads to death. Wisdom keeps you alert and guarded, turning your steps away from the house of destruction.

Proverbs 8 – Conclusion:

Wisdom calls out with life and favor. Those who seek her find blessing, for wisdom was with God before creation and brings eternal reward.

Proverbs 9 – Conclusion:

Both wisdom and folly call for your attention. Choose wisely, for one leads to life and understanding, the other to death and regret.

Proverbs 10 – Conclusion:

The wise live with integrity and receive lasting reward, while the wicked reap sorrow. Righteousness preserves life; wickedness is short-lived.

Proverbs 11 – Conclusion:

Upright living blesses communities and individuals. Integrity, generosity, and humility bring life, but deceit and greed lead to ruin.

Proverbs 12 – Conclusion:

Wisdom loves correction and truth. A righteous person builds a lasting legacy, but the foolish walk in lies and perish.

Proverbs 13 – Conclusion:

Discipline, diligence, and wise counsel lead to prosperity and peace, while ignoring instruction leads to poverty and shame.

Proverbs 14 – Conclusion:

There is a way that seems right but ends in death. Fear the Lord, walk in wisdom, and you'll build a life of honor and stability.

Proverbs 15 – Conclusion:

Gentle words and wise hearts bring healing and life. The Lord sees all; those who seek Him find favor, but the wicked face His wrath.

Proverbs 16 – Conclusion:

God directs our steps even when we make plans. Humility, justice, and righteousness secure His blessing; pride goes before a fall.

Proverbs 17 – Conclusion:

Peace, wisdom, and restraint are greater than riches. The heart reveals character, and the Lord tests the spirit of every person.

Proverbs 18 – Conclusion:

Words hold power—life or death. Seek understanding, speak with care, and find safety in the name of the Lord.

Proverbs 19 – Conclusion:

Many plans fill a man's heart, but God's purpose prevails. Obedience, kindness to the poor, and reverence for God lead to life.

Proverbs 20 – Conclusion:

Character is proven over time. Honesty, patience, and self-control mark the wise; the Lord weighs every heart.

Proverbs 21 – Conclusion:

The Lord sees all and values justice over sacrifice. Righteousness is better than riches, and humility over pride brings victory.

Proverbs 22 – Conclusion:

A good name is priceless. Train up the next generation in truth, deal with others fairly, and live under the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 23 – Conclusion:

Do not envy sinners or chase pleasures. Pursue wisdom, discipline, and the fear of the Lord for a future filled with hope.

Proverbs 24 – Conclusion:

Don't grow weary in doing good. The righteous may fall, but they rise again. Do not rejoice in evil, and always fear the Lord.

Proverbs 25 – Conclusion:

Wisdom refines relationships and exalts humility. Restraint in speech and patience in conflict honor both God and man.

Proverbs 26 – Conclusion:

Fools repeat folly, and lazy people bring shame. Avoid gossip, deceit, and pride—they lead only to strife and ruin.

Proverbs 27 – Conclusion:

True friends sharpen one another. Hard work, faithful counsel, and careful stewardship bring long-term security.

Proverbs 28 – Conclusion:

The wicked flee from guilt, but the righteous stand firm. Obedience brings blessing; dishonesty and greed bring collapse.

Proverbs 29 – Conclusion:

A hardened heart leads to ruin. Wisdom in leadership, discipline in the home, and trust in the Lord bring peace and justice.

Proverbs 30 – Conclusion:

God's Word is flawless, and humility is key. We must guard against arrogance, lies, and excess, living with reverence and balance.

Proverbs 31 – Conclusion:

A virtuous woman is priceless. She fears the Lord, walks in wisdom, and her life blesses her family and brings honor to God.

Dr. Paul Crawford is more than just a Christian Author; His books are a source of inspiration and guidance on your spiritual journey. His books are created with a deep sense of faith and a desire to uplift and inspire all who read.