

Proverbs in a Month

International Standard Version

Day 1

Proverbs 1

- 1 The proverbs of David's son Solomon, king of Israel.
- 2 These proverbs are for gaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;
- 3 for acquiring the discipline that produces wise behaviour, righteousness, justice, and upright living;
- 4 for giving prudence to the naïve, and knowledge and discretion to the young.
- 5 Let the wise listen and increase their learning; let the person of understanding receive guidance
- 6 in understanding proverbs, clever sayings, words of the wise, and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
- 8 My son, listen to your father's instruction, and do not let go of your mother's teaching.
- 9 They will be a graceful wreath for your head and a chain for your neck.
- 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.
- 11 If they say, "Come with us! Let's lie in wait for blood; let's ambush some innocent person for no reason at all.
- 12 Let's swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole like those who go down into the Pit,
- 13 We'll find all kinds of valuable wealth, and we'll fill our houses with spoil.
- 14 Throw your lot in with us, and all of us will have one purse."
- 15 My son, do not go along with them, and keep your feet away from their paths!
- 16 For they run toward evil; these enticers shed blood without hesitation.
- 17 Look, it is useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds,
- 18 but these people lie in wait for their own blood. They ambush only themselves.
- 19 Such is the way of all those who seek illicit gain — it takes away the lives of those who possess it.
- 20 Wisdom cries out in the street; she raises her voice in the public squares.
- 21 She calls out at the busiest part of the noisy streets, and at the entrance to the gates of the city she utters her words:
- 22 "You naïve ones, how long will you love naiveté? And how long will scoffers delight in scoffing or fools hate knowledge?"
- 23 Return to my correction! Look, I will pour out my spirit on you, and I will make my words known to you.
- 24 "Because I called out to you and you refused to respond — I appealed, but no one paid attention —
- 25 because you neglected all my advice and did not want my correction,
- 26 I will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when what you fear comes,
- 27 when what you dread comes like a storm, and your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.
- 28 "Then they will call out to me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

29 "Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD;
30 they did not want my advice, and they rejected all my correction.

31 They will eat the fruit of their way, and they will be filled with their own
devices.

32 Indeed, the waywardness of the naïve will kill them, and the complacency of
fools will destroy them.

33 "But the person who listens to me will live safely and will be secure from the
fear of evil."

Day 2

Proverbs 2

- 1 My son, if you accept my words, and treasure my instructions —
- 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom, and turning your heart to understanding —
- 3 if, indeed, you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,
- 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure,
- 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and learn to know God.
- 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright and is a shield to those who walk in integrity —
- 8 guarding the paths of the just and protecting the way of his faithful ones.
- 9 Then you will understand what is right, just, and upright — every good path.
- 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
- 11 Discretion will protect you; understanding will watch over you,
- 12 delivering you from the way of evil, from men who speak perverse things,
- 13 and from those who abandon the right path to travel along the ways of darkness;
- 14 who delight in doing evil, and rejoice in the perverseness of evil;
- 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways,
- 16 delivering you from the adulteress, from the immoral woman with her seductive words,
- 17 someone who abandoned the companion of her youth and forgot the covenant of her God.
- 18 For her house leads down to death, and her paths down to the realm of the dead.
- 19 None who go to her return, nor do they reach the paths of life.
- 20 This is how you will walk in the way of good men and will keep to the paths of the righteous.
- 21 For the upright will live in the land, and people of integrity will remain in it.
- 22 But the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

Day 3

Proverbs 3

- 1 My son, don't forget my instruction, and keep my commandments carefully in mind.
- 2 For they will add length to your days, years to your life, and abundant peace to you.
- 3 Do not let gracious love and truth leave you. Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,
- 4 and find favour and a good reputation with God and men.
- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding.
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
- 7 Do not be wise in your own opinion. Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
- 8 This will bring healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.
- 9 Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first of all your produce.
- 10 So your barns will be filled with abundance, and your vats will burst open with new wine.
- 11 My son, do not reject the LORD's discipline, and do not despise his correction,
- 12 because the LORD corrects the person he loves, just as a father corrects the son he delights in.
- 13 How joyful is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding,
- 14 because her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her yield than fine gold.
- 15 She is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire compares with her.
- 16 Long life is in her right hand, and in her left are riches and honour.
- 17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peaceful.
- 18 She is a tree of life for those who embrace her, and whoever clutches her tightly will be joyful.
- 19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, and by understanding he set the heavens in place.
- 20 By his knowledge the depths broke open, and the clouds drip with dew.
- 21 My son, do not let wisdom leave your sight. Carefully observe sound judgement and discernment,
- 22 and they will be life to you and a graceful ornament for your neck.
- 23 Then you will travel safely on your way, and your foot will not stumble.
- 24 When you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.
- 25 Do not be afraid of sudden disaster, or the devastation that comes to the wicked.
- 26 Indeed, the LORD will be your confidence, and he will keep your foot from being caught.
- 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.
- 28 Do not say to your neighbour, "Go, and come back. I will pay you tomorrow," when you have cash with you.
- 29 Do not plan to harm your neighbour, when he is living peacefully beside you.

30 Do not bring a lawsuit against a person for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

31 Do not envy a violent man, and do not emulate his lifestyle.

32 Indeed, a perverse man is utterly disgusting to the LORD, but he takes the upright into his confidence.

33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

34 Though God scoffs at scoffers, he gives grace to the humble.

35 The wise will inherit honour, but he holds fools up for ridicule.

Day 4

Proverbs 4

- 1 Listen, children, to your father's instruction, and pay attention in order to gain understanding.
- 2 I give you sound teaching, so do not abandon my instruction.
- 3 When I was a son to my father, not yet strong and an only son to my mother,
- 4 he taught me and told me, "Let your heart fully embrace what I have to say; keep my commandments and live!
- 5 "Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget or turn aside from the words of my mouth!
- 6 "Do not abandon her, and she will protect you. Love her, and she will watch over you.
- 7 "Wisdom is of utmost importance, therefore get wisdom, and with all your effort work to acquire understanding.
- 8 "Prize her and she will exalt you. Indeed, if you embrace her, she will honour you.
- 9 "She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will present to you a crown of beauty."
- 10 Listen, my son: accept my words, and you'll live a long, long time.
- 11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom, and I have led you along straight paths.
- 12 When you walk, your step will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.
- 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go! Guard wisdom, because she is your life!
- 14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, or go along the way of evil men.
- 15 Avoid it! Don't travel on it! Turn away from it, and pass on by.
- 16 For they cannot sleep unless they are doing evil, and they are robbed of their sleep unless they cause someone to stumble.
- 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and they drink the wine of violence.
- 18 The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that grows brighter until the full light of day.
- 19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness, and they do not know what they are stumbling over.
- 20 My son, pay attention to my words, and listen closely to what I say.
- 21 Do not let them out of your sight; keep them within your heart.
- 22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.
- 23 Above everything else guard your heart, because from it flow the springs of life.
- 24 Never talk deceptively and don't keep company with people whose speech is corrupt.
- 25 Let your eyes look directly ahead; fix your gaze straight in front of you.
- 26 Carefully measure the paths for your feet, and all your ways will be established.
- 27 Do not turn to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

Day 5

Proverbs 5

- 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, and listen closely to my insight,
- 2 so you may carefully practise discretion and your lips preserve knowledge.
- 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.
- 4 But in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a double-edged sword.
- 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead to Sheol.
- 6 You aren't thinking about where her life is headed; her steps wander, but you do not realize it.
- 7 Now, children, listen to me. Don't turn away from what I am saying.
- 8 Keep far away from her, and don't go near the entrance to her house,
- 9 so that you don't give your honour to others, and waste your best years,
- 10 so that strangers don't enrich themselves at your expense, and your work won't end up the possession of foreigners.
- 11 You will cry out in anguish when your end comes, when your flesh and body are consumed.
- 12 And you will say, "How I hated instruction, and my heart rejected correction.
- 13 I did not obey my teachers and did not listen to my instructors.
- 14 Now I am at the point of utter disaster in the assembly and in the congregation."
- 15 Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well.
- 16 Should your springs flow outside, or streams of water in the street?
- 17 They should be for you alone and not for strangers who are with you.
- 18 Let your fountain be blessed and enjoy the wife of your youth.
- 19 Like a loving deer, a beautiful doe, let her breasts satisfy you all the time. Be constantly intoxicated by her love.
- 20 Why should you be intoxicated by an adulteress, my son, and embrace the bosom of a foreign woman?
- 21 Indeed, what a man does is always in the LORD's presence, and he weighs all his paths.
- 22 The wicked person's iniquities will capture him, and he will be held with the cords of his sin.
- 23 He will die for lack of discipline, and he goes astray because of his great folly.

Day 6

Proverbs 6

- 1 My son, if you guarantee a loan for your neighbour, if you have agreed to a deal with a stranger,
- 2 trapped by your own words, and caught by your own words,
- 3 then do this, my son and deliver yourself, because you have come under your neighbour's control. Go, humble yourself! Plead passionately with your neighbour!
- 4 Don't allow yourself to sleep or even to close your eyes.
- 5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from a hunter's hand, or like a bird from a fowler's hand.
- 6 Go to the ant, you lazy man! Observe its ways and become wise.
- 7 It has no commander, officer, or ruler
- 8 but prepares its provisions in the summer and gathers its food in the harvest.
- 9 How long will you lie down, lazy man? When will you get up from your sleep?
- 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,
- 11 and your poverty will come on you like a bandit and your desperation like an armed man.
- 12 A worthless man, a wicked man, goes around with devious speech,
- 13 winking with his eyes, making signs with his feet, pointing with his fingers,
- 14 planning evil with a perverse mind, continually stirring up discord.
- 15 Therefore, disaster will overtake him suddenly. He will be broken in an instant, and he will never recover.
- 16 Here are six things that the LORD hates — seven, in fact, are detestable to him:
- 17 Arrogant eyes, a lying tongue and hands shedding innocent blood;
- 18 a heart crafting evil plans, feet running swiftly to wickedness,
- 19 a false witness snorting lies, and someone sowing quarrels between brothers.
- 20 Keep your father's commands, my son, and never forsake your mother's rules,
- 21 by binding them to your heart continually, fastening them around your neck.
- 22 During your travels wisdom will lead you; she will watch over you while you rest; and when you are startled from your sleep she will commune with you.
- 23 Because the command is a lamp and the Law a light, rebukes that discipline are a way of life —
- 24 to protect you from the evil woman, from the words of the seductive woman.
- 25 Do not focus on her beauty in your mind, nor allow her to take you prisoner with her flirting eyes,
- 26 because the price of a whore is a loaf of bread, and an adulterous woman stalks a man's precious life.
- 27 Can a man scoop fire into his bosom without burning his clothes?
- 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without scorching his feet?
- 29 So also is it with someone who has sex with his neighbour's wife; anyone touching her will not remain unpunished.
- 30 A thief isn't despised if he steals to meet his needs when he is hungry,

31 but when he is discovered, he must restore seven-fold, forfeiting the entire value of his house.

32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman is out of his mind; by doing so he corrupts his own soul.

33 He will receive a beating and dishonour, and his shame won't disappear,

34 because jealousy incites a strong man's rage, and he will show no mercy when it's time for revenge.

35 He will not consider any payment, nor will he be willing to accept it, no matter how large the bribe.

Day 7

Proverbs 7

- 1 My son, guard what I say and treasure my commands.
- 2 Keep my commands and you'll live. Guard my teaching as you do your eyesight.
- 3 Strap them to your fingers, and engrave them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 Say to wisdom, "You're my sister!" and call understanding your close relative,
- 5 so they can keep you from an adulterous woman, from the immoral woman with her seductive words.
- 6 For from a window in my house I peered through the lattice work,
- 7 and I noticed among the naïve — that is, I discerned among the youths — a senseless young man.
- 8 Proceeding down the street near her corner, he makes his way toward her house
- 9 at twilight, during the evening, even during the darkest part of the night.
- 10 Look! A woman makes her way to meet him, dressed as a prostitute and intending to entrap him.
- 11 She is brazen and defiant — her feet don't remain at home.
- 12 Now she is in the street, now in the plazas, she lurks near every corner.
- 13 So she grabs hold of him and kisses him, with a brazen face she speaks to him,
- 14 "I have given my peace offerings, and today I fulfilled my vows.
- 15 Therefore I've come out to meet you, I've looked just for you, and I found you!
- 16 I've decorated my bed with new coverings — embroidered linen from Egypt.
- 17 I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
- 18 Come, let's make love until dawn; let's comfort ourselves with love,
- 19 because my husband isn't home. He left on a long trip.
- 20 He took a fist full of cash and he'll return home in a month."
- 21 She leads him astray with great persuasion; with flattering lips she seduces him.
- 22 All of a sudden he follows her like an ox fit for slaughter or like a fool fit for a trap
- 23 until an arrow pierces his liver. As a bird darts into a snare, he doesn't realize his fatal decision.
- 24 So listen to me, my sons, and pay attention to what I have to say.
- 25 Don't be led astray by her lifestyle, and don't imitate her behaviour.
- 26 For many are the victims whom she has conquered, and many are her slain.
- 27 Her house leads to Sheol, descending to death's catacombs.

Day 8

Proverbs 8

- 1 Isn't wisdom calling out; isn't understanding raising her voice?
- 2 On top of the highest places along the road she stands where the roads meet.
- 3 Beside the gates, at the city entrance — at the entrance to the portals she cries aloud:
- 4 "I'm calling to you, men! What I have to say pertains to all mankind!
- 5 Understand prudence, you naïve people; and gain an understanding heart, you foolish ones.
- 6 Listen, because I have noble things to say, and what I have to say will reveal what is right.
- 7 For my mouth speaks the truth — wickedness is detestable to me.
- 8 Everything I have to say is just; there isn't anything corrupt or perverse in my speech.
- 9 Everything I say is sensible to someone who understands, and correct to those who have acquired knowledge.
- 10 Grab hold of my instruction in lieu of money and knowledge instead of the finest gold,
- 11 because wisdom is better than precious gems and nothing you desire can compare to it."
- 12 "I, wisdom, am related to prudence. I know how to be discreet.
- 13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil. Pride, arrogance, an evil lifestyle, and perverted speech I despise.
- 14 Counsel belongs to me, along with sound judgement. I am understanding. Power belongs to me.
- 15 Kings reign by me, and rulers dispense justice through me.
- 16 By me leaders rule, as do noble officials and all who govern justly.
- 17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me will find me.
- 18 Wealth and honour accompany me, as do enduring wealth and righteousness.
- 19 My fruit is better than gold, better than even refined gold, and my benefit surpasses the purest silver.
- 20 I walk on the way of righteousness, along paths that are just,
- 21 I bequeath wealth to those who love me, and I will fill their treasuries."
- 22 "The LORD made me as he began his planning, before his ancient activity commenced.
- 23 From eternity I was appointed, from the beginning, from before there was land.
- 24 When there were no ocean depths, I brought them to birth at a time when there were no springs.
- 25 Before the mountains were shaped, before there were hills, I was bringing them to birth.
- 26 Even though he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the world's first grains of dust,
- 27 when he crafted the heavens, I was there — when he marked out a circle on the face of the deep,

28 when he made the clouds from above, when the springs of the depths were established,
29 when he set a boundary for the sea so the waters would not exceed his limits, when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
30 Then I was with him, his master craftsman — I was his delight daily, continuously rejoicing in his presence,
31 rejoicing in his inhabitable world and taking delight in mankind.”
32 "So listen to me, children! Blessed are those who obey me.
33 Listen to instruction and be wise. Don't ignore it.
34 Blessed is the person who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorways —
35 because those who find me find life and gain favour from the LORD.
36 But whoever sins against me destroys himself; everyone who hates me loves death.”

Day 9

Proverbs 9

- 1 Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars.
- 2 She has prepared her food, she has spiced her wine, and she also has set her dining table.
- 3 She has sent out her young women, while calling out from the heights of the city,
- 4 "Let whoever is naïve, turn in here." To anyone lacking sense, she says,
- 5 "Come! Eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed.
- 6 Leave your naïve ways, and live. Walk in the path of understanding."
- 7 Whoever corrects a mocker invites only insult, and whoever rebukes the wicked will himself become stained.
- 8 Don't rebuke a mocker or he will hate you. Rebuke a wise person, and he will love you.
- 9 Counsel a wise man, and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man, and he will add to his learning.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is where wisdom begins, and knowing holiness demonstrates understanding.
- 11 For because of me you will live a long life, and years will be added to your life.
- 12 If you are wise, your wisdom will assist you. If you mock, you alone will be held responsible.
- 13 The foolish woman is loud, undisciplined, and without knowledge.
- 14 She sits at the entrance of her house, on a seat high above the city.
- 15 She calls out to those passing by on the road, who are minding their own business,
- 16 "Whoever is naïve, turn in here!" And to anyone lacking sense, she says,
- 17 "Stolen waters are sweet, and food eaten in secret is delicious."
- 18 But he does not realize that the dead lurk there, and her invited guests wind up in the depths of Sheol.

Day 10

Proverbs 10

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grieves his mother.
- 2 Nothing good comes from ill-gotten wealth, but righteousness delivers from death.
- 3 The LORD won't cause the righteous to hunger, but he will reject what the wicked crave.
- 4 Lazy hands bring poverty, but hard-working hands lead to wealth.
- 5 Whoever harvests during summer acts wisely, but the son who sleeps during harvest is disgraceful.
- 6 Blessings come upon the head of the righteous, but the words of the wicked conceal violence.
- 7 The reputation of the righteous leads to blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.
- 8 The wise person accepts commands, but the chattering fool will be brought down.
- 9 Whoever walks in integrity lives prudently, but whoever perverts his way of life will be exposed.
- 10 Those who wink their eyes are trouble makers, and the mocking fool will be brought down.
- 11 What the righteous say is a flowing fountain, but what the wicked say conceals violence.
- 12 Hatred awakens contention, but love covers all transgressions.
- 13 Wisdom characterizes the speech of the discerning, but the rod is for the backs of those lacking discernment.
- 14 Those who are wise store up knowledge, but when the fool speaks, destruction is near.
- 15 The rich hide within the fortress that is their wealth, but the poor are dismayed due to their poverty.
- 16 Honourable wages lead to life; the salaries of the wicked, to retribution.
- 17 Whoever heeds correction is on the pathway to life, but someone who ignores exhortation goes astray.
- 18 Whoever conceals hatred is a deceitful liar, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.
- 19 Transgression is at work where people talk too much, but anyone who holds his tongue is prudent.
- 20 What the righteous person says is like precious silver; the thoughts of the wicked are compared to small things.
- 21 What the righteous person says nourishes many, but fools die because they lack discerning hearts.
- 22 The blessing of the LORD establishes wealth, and difficulty does not accompany it.
- 23 Just as the fool considers wickedness his joy, so is wisdom to the discerning man.
- 24 What the wicked fears will come about, but the longing of the righteous will be granted.

25 When the storm ends, the wicked vanish, but the righteous person is forever firm.

26 As vinegar is to the mouth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy person to those who send him.

27 Fearing the LORD prolongs life, but the wicked will not live long.

28 What the righteous hope for brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked dies.

29 To the upright, the way of the LORD is a place of safety but it's a place of ruin to those who practise evil.

30 The righteous will never be overthrown, but the wicked will never inhabit the land.

31 The words of the righteous overflow with wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out.

32 Righteous lips know what is prudent, but the words of the wicked are perverse.

Day 11

Proverbs 11

- 1 The LORD hates false scales, but he delights in accurate weights.
- 2 When pride appears, disgrace accompanies it, but humility is present with wisdom.
- 3 The integrity of the righteous guides them, but the hypocrisy of the treacherous destroys them.
- 4 Wealth won't help in the time of judgement, but righteousness will deliver from death.
- 5 The righteousness of the innocent creates a level path, but the wicked fall by their wickedness.
- 6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are trapped by their evil desires.
- 7 When a wicked person dies, his hope vanishes; and what he expected from his scheming comes to nothing.
- 8 The righteous person is delivered from trouble; it comes upon the wicked instead.
- 9 By what he says, the godless person can destroy his neighbour, but through knowledge the righteous escape.
- 10 The city rejoices when the righteous prosper, and when the wicked perish there is jubilation.
- 11 Through the blessing of the righteous a city is built up, but what the wicked say tears it down.
- 12 Whoever belittles his neighbour lacks sense, but the discerning man controls his comments.
- 13 Whoever spreads gossip betrays secrets, but the trustworthy person keeps a confidence.
- 14 A nation falls through a lack of guidance, but victory comes through the counsel of many.
- 15 Securing a loan for a stranger will bring suffering, but by refusing to do so, one remains safe.
- 16 A gracious woman attains honour, but ruthless men attain wealth.
- 17 A gracious man benefits himself, but the cruel person damages himself.
- 18 Evil people earn deceptive wages, but those who plant righteousness are truly rewarded.
- 19 Genuine righteousness leads to life, but whoever pursues evil will die.
- 20 Devious minds are abhorrent to the LORD, but those whose ways are innocent are his delight.
- 21 Be sure of this: the wicked will not go unpunished, but the descendants of the righteous will go free.
- 22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.
- 23 The desire of the righteous is to seek good, but the hope of the wicked results in wrath.
- 24 Those who give freely gain even more; others hold back what they owe, becoming even poorer.
- 25 A generous person will prosper, and anyone who gives water will receive a flood in return.

26 People will curse whoever withholds grain, but blessing will come to whoever is selling.

27 The person seeking good will find favour, but anyone who searches for evil — it will find him!

28 The person who trusts in his wealth will fall, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

29 Whoever troubles his household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be a servant to the wise.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who wins people is wise.

31 If the righteous receive what they are due here on earth, how much more will the wicked and the sinner.

Day 12

Proverbs 12

- 1 The person who loves correction loves knowledge, but anyone who hates a rebuke is stupid.
- 2 The good person will gain favour from the LORD, but the man who plots evil will be condemned by him.
- 3 A person doesn't gain security by wickedness, but the righteous won't be uprooted.
- 4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but a wife who puts him to shame is like bone cancer.
- 5 The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.
- 6 The words of the wicked lead to bloodshed, but the speech of the upright delivers them.
- 7 After they're overthrown, the wicked won't be found, but the house of the righteous stands firm.
- 8 A man is praised because of his wise words, but the perverted mind will be despised.
- 9 It's better to be unimportant, yet have a servant, than to pretend to be important, but lack food.
- 10 The righteous person looks out for the welfare of his livestock, but even the compassion of the wicked is cruel.
- 11 Whoever tills his soil will have a lot to eat, but anyone who pursues fantasies lacks sense.
- 12 The wicked desires what evil people gain, but the foundation of the righteous is productive.
- 13 An evil man's sinful speech ensnares him, but the righteous person escapes from trouble.
- 14 By his fruitful speech a man can remain satisfied, and a man's handiwork will reward him.
- 15 The lifestyle of the fool is right in his own opinion, but wise is the man who listens to advice.
- 16 The anger of a fool becomes readily apparent, but the prudent person overlooks an insult.
- 17 The truth teller speaks what is right, but the false witness speaks what is deceitful.
- 18 Some speak rashly like the cutting of a sword, but what the wise say promotes healing.
- 19 A truthful saying is trusted forever, but the liar only for a moment.
- 20 Deceit is at home in the heart of those who plan evil, but those who promote peace rejoice.
- 21 No harm overwhelms the righteous, but the wicked overflow with trouble.
- 22 Deceitful speech is reprehensible to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.
- 23 A prudent man keeps what he knows to himself, but the hearts of fools shout forth their foolishness.
- 24 The diligent will take control, but the lazy will be put to forced labour.

- 25 A person's anxiety weighs down his heart, but an appropriate word is encouraging.
- 26 The righteous person is cautious with respect to his neighbour, but the lifestyle of the wicked leads them astray.
- 27 The lazy person does not roast what he has hunted, but diligence is one's most important possession.
- 28 In the pathway to righteousness there is life, and in that lifestyle there is no death.

Day 13

Proverbs 13

- 1 A wise son heeds a father's correction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.
- 2 From the fruit of his words a man receives benefit, but the treacherous crave violence.
- 3 Anyone who guards his words protects his life; anyone who talks too much is ruined.
- 4 The lazy person craves, yet receives nothing, but the desires of the diligent are satisfied.
- 5 A righteous person hates deceit, but the wicked person is shameful and disgraceful.
- 6 Righteousness protects the blameless, but wickedness brings down the sinner.
- 7 One person pretends to be wealthy, but has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet is rich.
- 8 The life of a wealthy man may be held for ransom, but whoever is poor receives no threats.
- 9 The light of the righteous shines, but the lamp of the wicked is extinguished.
- 10 Arrogance only brings quarrelling, but those receiving advice are wise.
- 11 Wealth gained dishonestly dwindles away, but whoever works diligently increases his prosperity.
- 12 Delayed hope makes the heart ill, but fulfilled longing is a tree of life.
- 13 Anyone who despises a word of advice will pay for it, but whoever heeds a command will be rewarded.
- 14 What the wise have to teach is a fountain of life and causes someone to avoid the snares of death.
- 15 Good understanding produces grace, but the lifestyle of the treacherous never changes.
- 16 Every sensible person acts from knowledge, but a fool demonstrates folly.
- 17 An evil messenger stumbles into trouble, but a faithful envoy brings healing.
- 18 Poverty and shame are for those who ignore correction, but whoever listens to instruction gains honour.
- 19 Fulfilled longing is sweet to the soul, but avoiding evil is detestable to the fool.
- 20 Whoever keeps company with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.
- 21 Disaster pursues the sinful, but good will reward the righteous.
- 22 A good person leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren, but the wealth of the wicked is reserved for the righteous.
- 23 The field of the poor may produce much food, but it can be swept away through injustice.
- 24 Whoever does not discipline his son hates him, but whoever loves him is diligent to correct him.
- 25 A righteous person eats to his heart's content, but the stomach of the wicked remains hungry.

Day 14

Proverbs 14

- 1 Every wise woman builds up her household, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands.
- 2 Someone whose conduct is upright fears the LORD, but whoever is devious in his ways despises him.
- 3 What a fool says brings a rod to his back, but the words of the wise protect them.
- 4 Where there are no oxen, the feeding trough is clean, but profits come through the strength of the ox.
- 5 A trustworthy witness does not deceive, but a false witness spews lies.
- 6 A mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but learning comes easily to someone who understands.
- 7 Stay away from a foolish man, for you will not find competent advice.
- 8 The wisdom of the prudent helps him know how to live, but a fool's stupidity deceives him.
- 9 Fools make fun of guilt, but among the upright there are good intentions.
- 10 The heart knows its own bitterness — an outsider cannot share in its joy.
- 11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.
- 12 There is a pathway that seems right to a man, but in the end it's a road to death.
- 13 Even in laughter there may be heartache, and at the end of joy there may be grief.
- 14 The faithless one will pay for his behaviour, but a good man will be rewarded for his.
- 15 An unthinking person believes everything, but the prudent one thinks before acting.
- 16 The wise person fears and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and overconfident.
- 17 A quick tempered person does foolish things, and a devious man is hated.
- 18 The naïve inherit folly, but the careful are crowned with knowledge.
- 19 Evil men will bow down in the presence of good men and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
- 20 The poor person is shunned by his neighbour, but many are the friends of the wealthy.
- 21 Whoever despises his neighbour sins, but whoever shows kindness to the poor will be happy.
- 22 Won't those who continually plot evil go astray? But gracious love and truth are for those who plan what is good.
- 23 In hard work there is always profit, but too much chattering leads to poverty.
- 24 The crown of the wise is their wealth, but the stupidity of fools is just that — stupidity!
- 25 A truthful witness saves lives, but the person who lies is deceitful.
- 26 Rock-solid security is found in the fear of the LORD, and within it one's children find refuge.

- 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, enabling anyone to escape the snares of death.
- 28 A large population is a king's glory, but a shortage of people is a ruler's ruin.
- 29 Being slow to get angry compares to great understanding as being quick-tempered compares to stupidity.
- 30 A tranquil mind brings life to one's body, but jealousy causes one's bones to rot.
- 31 Whoever oppresses the poor defies their Creator, but whoever is kind to the needy honours them.
- 32 The wicked person is thrown down by his own wrongdoing, but the righteous person has a place of safety in death.
- 33 Wisdom is at rest in the mind of the discerning — even fools know this.
- 34 Righteousness makes a nation great, but sin diminishes any people.
- 35 The king approves the wise servant, but he is angry at anyone who acts shamefully.

Day 15

Proverbs 15

- 1 A gentle response diverts anger, but a harsh statement incites fury.
- 2 The wise speak, presenting knowledge appropriately, but fools spout foolishness.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, observing both the evil and the good.
- 4 A gentle statement is a tree of life, but perverted speech shatters the spirit.
- 5 A fool rejects his father's instructions, but anyone who respects reproof acts sensibly.
- 6 The righteous house is itself a great treasure, but within the revenue of the wicked calamity is at work.
- 7 What the wise have to say disseminates knowledge, but it's not in the heart of fools to do so.
- 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
- 9 The lifestyle of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but he loves those who ardently pursue righteousness.
- 10 Severe punishment awaits anyone who wanders off the path — anyone who despises reproof will die.
- 11 Since Sheol and Abaddon lie open in the LORD's presence, how much more the hearts of human beings!
- 12 The arrogant mocker never loves the one who corrects him; he will not inquire of the wise.
- 13 A happy heart enlightens the face, but a sad heart reflects a broken spirit.
- 14 A discerning mind seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on stupidity.
- 15 The entire life of the afflicted seems disastrous, but a good heart feasts continually.
- 16 Better is a little accompanied by fear of the LORD than abundant wealth with turmoil.
- 17 A vegetarian meal served with love is better than a big, thick steak with a plateful of animosity.
- 18 The quickly angered man stirs up contention, but anyone who controls his temper calms a dispute.
- 19 The lifestyle of the lazy is like a thorny hedge, but the path taken by the upright is an open highway.
- 20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.
- 21 Stupidity is the delight of the senseless, but an understanding man walks uprightly.
- 22 Plans fail without advice, but with many counsellors they are confirmed.
- 23 An appropriate answer brings joy to a person, and a well-timed word is a good thing.
- 24 The way of life leads upward for the wise so he may avoid Sheol below.
- 25 The house of the proud the LORD will demolish, but he will protect the widow's boundary line.
- 26 To the LORD evil plans are detestable, but pleasant words are pure.

27 Those who are greedy for unjust gain bring trouble into their homes, but the person who hates bribes will live.

28 The mind of the righteous thinks before speaking, but the wicked person spews out evil.

29 The LORD is far away from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous.

30 Bright eyes encourage the heart; good news nourishes the body.

31 Whoever listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

32 Whoever ignores instruction hates himself, but anyone who heeds reproof gains understanding.

33 The fear of the LORD teaches wisdom, and humility precedes honour.

Day 16

Proverbs 16

- 1 People do the planning, but the end result is from the LORD.
- 2 Everything a person does seems pure in his own opinion, but the LORD weighs intentions.
- 3 Entrust your work to the LORD, and your planning will succeed.
- 4 The LORD made everything answerable to him, including the wicked at the time of trouble.
- 5 The LORD detests those who are proud; truly they will not go unpunished.
- 6 Iniquity is atoned for by gracious love and truth, and through fear of the LORD people turn from evil.
- 7 When a person's ways please the LORD, even his enemies will be at peace with him.
- 8 A little gain with righteousness is better than great income without justice.
- 9 A person plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.
- 10 When a king is ready to speak officially, what he says should not err with respect to justice.
- 11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; he made all the weights in the bag.
- 12 Kings detest wrong-doing, for through righteousness the throne is established.
- 13 Kings take pleasure in righteous speech; they treasure a person who speaks what is upright.
- 14 The king's wrath results in a death sentence, but whoever is wise will appease him.
- 15 When a king is pleased, there is life, and his favour is like a cloud that brings spring rain.
- 16 How much better than gaining gold is the acquisition of wisdom, the attainment of wisdom better than silver!
- 17 The road of the upright circumvents evil, and whoever watches how he lives preserves his life.
- 18 Pride precedes destruction; an arrogant spirit appears before a fall.
- 19 Better to be humble among the poor, than to share what is stolen with the proud.
- 20 Whoever listens to a word of instruction prospers, and anyone who trusts in the LORD is blessed.
- 21 The wise-hearted person is told to be discerning, and pleasant speech promotes instruction.
- 22 Anyone who has understanding is a fountain of life, but foolishness brings punishment to fools.
- 23 A wise person's thoughts control his words, and his speech promotes instruction.
- 24 Pleasant words are honey from a honeycomb — sweet to the soul and healing for the body.
- 25 There is a road that seems right for a man to travel, but in the end it's the road to death.

26 The appetite of the labourer motivates him; indeed, his hunger drives him on.

27 A worthless person concocts evil gossip — his lips are like a burning fire.

28 A deceitful man stirs dissension, and anyone who gossips separates friends.

29 A violent man entices his companion and leads him on a path that is not good.

30 Whoever winks knowingly is plotting deceit; anyone who purses his lips is bent towards evil.

31 Grey hair is a crown of glory; it is obtained by following a righteous path.

32 Whoever controls his temper is better than a warrior, and anyone who has control of his spirit is better than someone who captures a city.

33 The die is cast into someone's lap, but the outcome is from the LORD.

Day 17

Proverbs 17

- 1 Dry crumbs in peace are better than a full meal with strife.
- 2 A prudent servant will rule in place of a disgraceful son and will share in the inheritance among brothers.
- 3 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold — but the LORD assays hearts.
- 4 Whoever practises evil pays attention to wicked speech, and the liar listens to malicious talk.
- 5 Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt for their maker, and whoever is happy about disaster will not go unpunished.
- 6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the pride of children is their parents.
- 7 Appropriate speech is inconsistent with the fool; how much more are deceitful statements with a prince!
- 8 A bribe works wonders in the eyes of its giver; wherever he turns he prospers.
- 9 Anyone who overlooks an offence promotes love, but someone who gossips separates close friends.
- 10 A rebuke is more effective with a man of understanding than a hundred lashes to a fool.
- 11 A rebellious person seeks evil; a cruel emissary will be sent to oppose him.
- 12 It's better to meet a mother bear who has lost her cubs than a fool in his stupidity.
- 13 The person who repays good with evil will never see evil leave his home.
- 14 Starting a quarrel is like spilling water — so drop the dispute before it escalates.
- 15 Exonerating the wicked and condemning the righteous are both detestable to the LORD.
- 16 What is this? A fool has enough money to buy wisdom, but is senseless?
- 17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is there for times of trouble.
- 18 A man who lacks sense co-signs a loan, becoming a guarantor for his neighbour.
- 19 The person who loves transgression loves strife; the person who builds a high gate invites destruction.
- 20 The person whose mind is perverse does not find good, and anyone with perverted speech falls into trouble.
- 21 The man who fathers a fool does so to his sorrow — the father of a fool has no joy.
- 22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit drains one's strength.
- 23 The wicked man takes a bribe in secret in order to pervert the course of justice.
- 24 A person with understanding has wisdom as his objective, but a fool looks only to earthly goals.

25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to his mother.

26 Furthermore, it isn't good to fine the righteous, or to beat an official because of his uprightness.

27 Whoever controls what he says is knowledgeable; anyone who has a calm spirit is a man of understanding.

28 Even a fool is thought to be wise when he remains silent; he is thought to be prudent when he keeps his mouth shut.

Day 18

Proverbs 18

- 1 Whoever isolates himself pursues selfish ends; he resists all sound advice.
- 2 A fool finds no satisfaction in trying to understand, for he would rather express his own opinion.
- 3 When an evil person comes, contempt also comes, along with dishonour and disgrace.
- 4 The words a man says are as deep waters — a fountain of wisdom is an overflowing stream.
- 5 It's not good to be partial towards an evil person, thereby depriving the righteous of justice.
- 6 A fool's words brings strife, and his mouth invites fighting.
- 7 A fool's mouth is his unravelling, and his lips entrap himself.
- 8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels as they descend to the innermost parts of the body.
- 9 Whoever is lazy regarding his work is also a brother to the master of destruction.
- 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; a righteous person rushes to it and is lifted up above the danger.
- 11 The wealth of a rich person is his fortified city; in his own imagination, it is like a high wall.
- 12 Before a man's downfall, his mind is arrogant, but humility precedes honour.
- 13 Whoever answers before listening is both foolish and shameful.
- 14 A man's spirit can sustain him during his illness, but who can bear a crushed spirit?
- 15 The mind of a discerning person gains knowledge, while the ears of wise people seek out knowledge.
- 16 A person's gift opens doors for him, bringing him access to important people.
- 17 The first to put forth his case seems right, until someone else steps forward and cross-examines him.
- 18 Casting dice settles a dispute, deciding between strong contenders.
- 19 An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and his disputes are like the bars of a fortress.
- 20 The positive words that a man speaks fill his stomach; he will be satisfied with what his lips produce.
- 21 The power of the tongue is life and death — those who love to talk will eat what it produces.
- 22 Whoever finds a wife finds what is good, and receives favour from the LORD.
- 23 The poor person pleads for mercy, but the wealthy man responds harshly.
- 24 A man with many friends can still be ruined, but a true friend sticks closer than a brother.

Day 19

Proverbs 19

- 1 A poor man who walks blamelessly is better than a fool who speaks perversely.
- 2 Furthermore, it isn't good to be ignorant, and whoever rushes into things misses the mark.
- 3 A man's foolishness ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.
- 4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.
- 5 A witness to lies will not go unpunished; the teller of falsehoods will not escape.
- 6 Many curry favour of an official; everyone is a friend of the gift giver.
- 7 All the relatives of a poor person shun him — how much more do his friends avoid him! Though he runs after them pleading, they aren't around.
- 8 Whoever obtains wisdom loves himself, and whoever treasures understanding will prosper.
- 9 A witness to lies will not go unpunished; the teller of falsehoods will perish.
- 10 It's not fitting for a fool to live in luxury; neither is it for a servant to rule over princes.
- 11 A person's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is to his credit that he ignores an offence.
- 12 The king's anger is like the roaring of a lion, but his goodwill is like dew on the grass.
- 13 A father's ruin is a foolish son, and a wife's quarrelling is like dripping water that never stops.
- 14 A house and self-sufficiency are a father's inheritance, but from the LORD comes an insightful wife.
- 15 Laziness puts one to sleep, and an idle person will go hungry.
- 16 Whoever obeys a commandment keeps himself safe, but someone who is contemptuous in conduct will die.
- 17 Whoever is kind to the poor is lending to the LORD — the benefit of his gift will return to him in abundance.
- 18 Discipline your son while there is still hope — but don't set your heart on his destruction.
- 19 The person who has great anger must pay the consequences, because if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
- 20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and you'll be wise for the rest of your life.
- 21 Many plans occupy the mind of a man, but the LORD's purposes will prevail.
- 22 Human beings long for grace, and it's better to be poor than a man of deceit.
- 23 The fear of the LORD leads to life; whoever is satisfied with it will rest, untouched by evil.
- 24 The lazy person buries his hand in his dish and doesn't bother to bring it back to his mouth.
- 25 If you scourge a scoffer, the simple person may learn to be discreet; rebuke a discerning man and he will gain understanding.

26 Whoever mistreats his father and alienates his mother is a son who brings both shame and disrespect.

27 My son, if you stop listening to instruction, you will stray from the principles of knowledge.

28 A corrupt witness mocks justice, and the wicked person feeds on iniquity.

29 Condemnation is appropriate for mockers, just as beatings are for the backs of fools.

Day 20

Proverbs 20

- 1 Wine causes mocking, and beer causes fights; everyone led astray by them lacks wisdom.
- 2 A king's anger is like a lion's roar; anyone who angers him forfeits his life.
- 3 Avoiding strife brings a man honour, but every fool is quarrelsome.
- 4 A lazy person doesn't plough in the proper season; he looks for a harvest, but there is nothing.
- 5 The intentions of a person's heart are deep waters, but a discerning person reveals them.
- 6 Many claim "I'm a loyal person!" but who can find someone who truly is?
- 7 The righteous person lives a life of integrity; happy are his children who follow him!
- 8 A king sits on a throne of justice, sifting out all sorts of evil with his glance.
- 9 Who can say, "My intentions are pure; I am clean from any sin?"
- 10 False weights and measures — the LORD surely detests both of them.
- 11 Even a child is known by his actions, whether his deeds are pure and right.
- 12 The ear that hears and the eye that sees — the LORD surely made them both.
- 13 Do not love sleep or you'll become poor, keep your eyes open and you'll have plenty of food.
- 14 "This is bad, bad," says whoever is buying — but then he brags as he walks away after the sale.
- 15 There is an abundance of gold and precious stones, but lips of knowledge are a rare jewel.
- 16 Take the garment of anyone who puts up collateral for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he does it for an unfamiliar woman.
- 17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but later his mouth will be full of gravel.
- 18 Make plans by seeking advice; make war by obtaining guidance.
- 19 Whoever spreads gossip betrays confidences; so don't get involved with someone who talks too much.
- 20 Whoever curses his father or mother, his lamp will be extinguished in the deepest darkness.
- 21 An inheritance quickly obtained at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.
- 22 Don't say "I'll avenge that wrong!" Wait on the LORD and he will deliver you.
- 23 The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales are not good.
- 24 A man's steps are directed by the LORD; how then can anyone understand his own way?
- 25 It is a trap for a person to declare quickly, "This is sacred," and only later to have second thoughts about the vows.
- 26 A wise king sifts the wicked, crushing them with the threshing wheel.

27 A person's spirit is the lamp of the LORD; it searches throughout one's innermost being.

28 Gracious love and truth preserve a king; through love his throne is made secure.

29 The glory of young men is their strength; and the splendour of elders is their grey hair.

30 Blows that wound clean away evil; such beatings cleanse the innermost being.

Day 21

Proverbs 21

- 1 A king's heart is a water stream that the LORD controls; he directs it wherever he pleases.
- 2 Every man's lifestyle is proper in his own view, but the LORD weighs the heart.
- 3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
- 4 A proud heart and a haughty look is sin; they reveal wicked people.
- 5 Plans of the persistent surely lead to productivity, but all who are hasty will surely become poor.
- 6 A fortune gained by deceit is a fleeting vapour and a deadly snare.
- 7 Devastation caused by the wicked will drag them away because they refuse to do what is just.
- 8 The conduct of a guilty man is perverse, but the behaviour of the pure is upright.
- 9 It's better to live in a corner on the roof than to share a house with a contentious woman.
- 10 The soul of the wicked craves evil; he extends no mercy to his neighbour.
- 11 When a mocker is punished, the fool gains wisdom; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.
- 12 The righteous God considers the house of the wicked, bringing the wicked to ruin.
- 13 Whoever refuses to hear the cry of the poor will also cry himself, but he won't be answered.
- 14 Privately given gifts pacify wrath, and payments made secretly appease great anger.
- 15 Administering justice brings joy to the righteous, but terror to those who practise iniquity.
- 16 Whoever wanders from the path of understanding will end up where the dead are gathered.
- 17 Pleasure lovers become poor; loving wine and oil doesn't bring riches.
- 18 The wicked are ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.
- 19 It's better to live in the wilderness than to live with a contentious and irritable woman.
- 20 Precious treasures and oil are found where the wise live, but a foolish man devours them.
- 21 Whoever pursues righteousness and gracious love finds life, righteousness, and honour.
- 22 A wise man attacks the city of the mighty, bringing down the fortress in which they trust.
- 23 Whoever watches his mouth and tongue keeps himself from trouble.
- 24 The names "Proud," "Arrogant," and "Mocker" fit whoever acts with presumptuous conceit.
- 25 What the lazy person craves will kill him, because his hands refuse to work.
- 26 All day long he continues to crave, while the righteous person gives without holding back.
- 27 What the wicked person sacrifices is detestable — how much more when he offers it with vile motives!

- 28 A false witness will perish, but whoever listens will testify successfully.
- 29 The wicked man puts up a bold appearance, but the upright thinks about what he is doing.
- 30 No wisdom, insight, or counsel can prevail against the LORD.
- 31 The horse may be prepared for the day of battle, but to the LORD gives the victory.

Day 22

Proverbs 22

- 1 A good reputation is more desirable than great wealth, and favourable acceptance more than silver and gold.
- 2 The rich and the poor have this in common — the LORD created both of them.
- 3 The prudent person sees trouble ahead and hides, but the naive continue on and suffer the consequences.
- 4 The reward of humility is the fear of the LORD, along with wealth, honour, and life.
- 5 Thorns and snares lie in the path of the perverse person, but whoever is cautious stays far away from them.
- 6 Train a child in the way appropriate for him, and when he becomes older, he will not turn from it.
- 7 The wealthy rule over the poor, and anyone who borrows is a slave to the lender.
- 8 Whoever sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the anger he uses for a weapon will be destroyed.
- 9 Whoever is generous will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.
- 10 Throw out the mocker and strife departs, too; furthermore, quarrels and discord will end.
- 11 Whoever loves purity and gracious speech will gain the king as his friend.
- 12 The LORD watches over anyone with knowledge, but he ruins the plans of the unfaithful.
- 13 The lazy person says, "There is a lion outside! I will be killed in the street!"
- 14 The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; a man experiencing the LORD's wrath will fall into it.
- 15 A child's heart has a tendency to do wrong, but the rod of discipline removes it far away from him.
- 16 Whoever oppresses the poor to enrich himself and whoever gives gifts to the wealthy will yield only loss.
- 17 Pay attention and listen to the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my teaching,
- 18 for it is pleasant when you treasure them within you and have them ready on your lips.
- 19 As a result, your trust will be in the LORD, that's why I'm teaching you today, even you.
- 20 Have I not written for you 30 sayings containing counsel and knowledge,
- 21 to teach you true and reliable advice, so you can give truthful answers to those who sent you?
- 22 Don't rob the poor person because he is poor, and don't crush the helpless in court,
- 23 for the LORD will plead their case and ruin the lives of those who ruin them.
- 24 Don't make friends with a hot-tempered man, and do not associate with someone who is easily angered,
- 25 or you may learn his ways and find yourself caught in a trap.
- 26 Don't be one of those who make promises to guarantee loans for debts.

27 If you don't have the ability to pay, why should your very bed be taken from under you?

28 Don't remove an ancient boundary stone that was set up by your ancestors.

29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will work for kings, not unimportant people.

Day 23

Proverbs 23

- 1 Whenever you sit down to dine with a ruler, carefully think about what is before you.
- 2 Put a knife to your own throat, if you have a big appetite.
- 3 Don't crave his delicacies, because the meal is deceptive.
- 4 Don't exhaust yourself acquiring wealth; be smart enough to stop.
- 5 When you fix your gaze on it, it's gone, for it sprouts wings for itself and flies to the sky like an eagle.
- 6 Don't consume food provided by a miserly person, and don't desire his delicacies,
- 7 for as he thinks within himself, so he is. "Eat and drink!" he'll say to you, but his heart won't be with you.
- 8 You'll vomit up what little you've eaten, and your compliments will have been wasted.
- 9 Don't speak when a fool is listening, because he'll despise your wise words.
- 10 Don't move ancient boundaries or invade fields belonging to orphans;
- 11 for strong is their Redeemer who will take up their case against you.
- 12 Learn diligently, and listen to words of knowledge.
- 13 Don't withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with a rod, he won't die.
- 14 Punish him with a rod, and you will rescue his soul from Sheol.
- 15 My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will greatly rejoice.
- 16 My innermost being will be glad when your lips speak what is right.
- 17 Never let yourself envy sinners; instead, remain in fear of the LORD every day,
- 18 for there is surely a future life, and what you hope for will not be cut off.
- 19 Listen, my son, and be wise, commit yourself to live God's way.
- 20 Don't associate with heavy drinkers or dine with gluttons,
- 21 because drunks and gluttons tend to become poor, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags.
- 22 Listen to the one who fathered you, and don't despise your mother in her old age.
- 23 Purchase truth, but don't sell it; store up wisdom, instruction, and understanding.
- 24 The father of a righteous person will greatly rejoice; whoever fathers a wise son will be glad because of him.
- 25 Let your father and mother rejoice; make the one who gave birth to you happy.
- 26 Give me your heart, my son, and keep your eyes fixed on my ways,
- 27 because a prostitute is a deep pit, and the adulterous woman a narrow well.
- 28 Surely she lies in wait like a bandit, increasing those who are faithless among mankind.
- 29 Who has woe? Who has grief? Who has contention? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has bloodshot eyes?
- 30 Those who linger over their wine, who consume mixed drinks.

31 Don't stare into red wine, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly.

32 Eventually it will bite like a snake and sting like a serpent.

33 Your eyes will see strange things, and with slurred words you'll speak what you really believe.

34 You will be like someone who lies down in the sea, or like someone who sleeps on top of a mast.

35 "They struck me," you will say, "but I never felt it. They beat me, but I never knew it. When will I wake up? I want another drink."

Day 24

Proverbs 24

- 1 Don't be envious of wicked men or wish you were with them,
- 2 because they plan violence, and they are always talking about trouble.
- 3 By wisdom a house is built; it is made secure through understanding.
- 4 By knowledge its rooms are furnished with all sorts of expensive and beautiful goods.
- 5 A wise man is strong, and a knowledgeable man grows in strength.
- 6 For through wise counsel you will wage your war, and victory lies in an abundance of advisors.
- 7 Wisdom lies beyond reach of the fool; he has nothing to say in court.
- 8 The person who plans on doing evil will be called a schemer.
- 9 To devise folly is sin, and people detest a scoffer.
- 10 If you grow weary when times are troubled, your strength is limited.
- 11 Rescue those who are being led away to death, and save those who stumble toward slaughter.
- 12 If you say, "Look here, we didn't know about this," doesn't God, who examines motives, discern it? Doesn't the one who guards your soul know about it? Won't he repay each person according to what he has done?
- 13 My son, eat honey, because it's good for you; indeed, drippings from the honeycomb are sweet to your taste;
- 14 Keep in mind that wisdom is like that for your soul; if you find it, there will be a future for you, and what you hope for won't be cut short.
- 15 Don't lie in wait like an outlaw to attack where the righteous live;
- 16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again, but the wicked stumble into calamity.
- 17 Don't rejoice when your enemy falls; don't let yourself be glad when he stumbles.
- 18 Otherwise the LORD will observe and disapprove, and he will turn his anger away from him.
- 19 Don't be anxious about those who practise evil, and don't be envious of the wicked.
- 20 For the wicked man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be extinguished.
- 21 My son, fear both the LORD and the king, and don't keep company with rebels.
- 22 They will be destroyed suddenly, and who knows what kind of punishment will come from these two?
- 23 Here are some more proverbs from wise people: It isn't good to show partiality in judgement.
- 24 Whoever says to the wicked, "You're in the right," will be cursed by people and hated by nations.
- 25 But as for people who rebuke the wicked; a good blessing will fall upon them.
- 26 A kiss on the lips — that's what someone who gives an honest answer deserves.

27 First do your outside work, preparing your land for yourself. After that, build your house.

28 Don't testify against your neighbour without a cause, and don't lie when you speak.

29 Don't say, "I'll do to him like he did to me, I'll be sure to pay him back for what he did."

30 I went by the field belonging to a lazy man, by a vineyard belonging to a senseless person.

31 There it was, overgrown with thistles, the ground covered with thorns, its stone wall collapsed.

32 As I observed, I thought about it; I watched, and learned a lesson:

33 "A little sleep! A little slumber! A little folding of my hands to rest!"

34 Then your poverty will come upon you like a robber, your need like an armed bandit.

Day 25

Proverbs 25

- 1 Here are some more proverbs by Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, transcribed.
- 2 It is the glory of God to conceal something, but the glory of kings to ask about it.
- 3 Just as the heavens are high and earth is deep, so the heart of a king is unfathomable.
- 4 Purge the dross from the silver, and material for a vessel comes forth for the silversmith.
- 5 Purge the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- 6 Don't magnify yourself in the presence of a king, and don't pretend to be in the company of famous men,
- 7 for it is better that it be told you, "Come up here," than for you to be placed lower in the presence of an official. What you've seen with your own eyes,
- 8 don't be in a hurry to argue in court. Otherwise, what will you do later on when your neighbour humiliates you?
- 9 Instead, take up the matter with your neighbour, and don't betray another person's confidence.
- 10 Otherwise, anyone who hears will make you ashamed, and your bad reputation will never leave you.
- 11 Like golden apples set in silver is a word spoken at the right time.
- 12 Like a gold earring and a necklace of pure gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
- 13 Like cold snow during harvest time is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes his masters.
- 14 Like clouds and winds without rain is the man who brags about gifts he never gave.
- 15 Through patience a ruler may be persuaded; a gentle word can break a bone.
- 16 If you find some honey, eat only what you need. Take too much, and you'll vomit.
- 17 Seldom set foot in your neighbour's home; otherwise, he'll grow weary and hate you.
- 18 A club, a sword, and a sharp arrow — that's what a man is who lies about his neighbour.
- 19 A bad tooth and an unsteady foot — that's what confidence in an unreliable man is like in a time of trouble.
- 20 Taking your coat off when it's cold or pouring vinegar on soda — that's what singing songs does to a heavy heart.
- 21 If your enemy hungers, give him food to eat; and if he thirsts, give him water to drink.
- 22 For you'll be piling burning coals of shame on his head and the LORD will reward you.
- 23 The north wind brings rain, and a backbiting tongue an angry look.

24 It's better to live in a corner on the roof than in a house with a contentious woman.

25 Cold water to someone who is thirsty — that's what good news from a distant land is.

26 A muddied spring or a polluted well — that's what a righteous person is who compromises with the wicked.

27 To eat too much honey isn't good; and neither is it honourable to seek one's own glory.

28 Like a city with breached walls is a man without self-control.

Day 26

Proverbs 26

- 1 Like snowfall in summer or rain at harvest time, so honour is inappropriate for a fool.
- 2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a swallow in flight, a curse without cause will not alight.
- 3 A whip is for the horses, a bridle is for the donkey, a rod is for the back of fools.
- 4 Don't answer a fool according to his foolishness, or you will be just like him.
- 5 Answer a fool according to his foolishness, or he will think himself to be wise.
- 6 Whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.
- 7 Useless legs to the lame — that's what a proverb quoted by a fool is.
- 8 Tying a stone to a sling — that's what giving honour to a fool is.
- 9 A thorn in the hand of a drunkard — that's what a proverb quoted by a fool is.
- 10 An archer who shoots at anyone — is like someone who hires a fool or anyone who passes by.
- 11 A dog that returns to its vomit is like a fool who reverts to his folly.
- 12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own opinion? There's more hope for a fool than for him.
- 13 The lazy person claims, "There is a lion in the road! There's a lion in the streets!"
- 14 The door turns on its hinges — as does the lazy person on his bed.
- 15 The lazy person buries his hand in the dish, but he's too tired to bring it to his mouth again.
- 16 The lazy person is wiser in his own opinion than seven men who can give an appropriate response.
- 17 Picking up a dog by the ears — that's what someone is like who meddles in another's fight.
- 18 Like the maniac who shoots fiery darts and deadly arrows —
- 19 that's what someone is like who lies to his neighbour and then says, "I was joking, wasn't I?"
- 20 Without wood, the fire goes out. Without a gossip, contention stops.
- 21 Charcoal is to hot coals as wood is to fire; so also a quarrelsome man fuels strife.
- 22 The words of a gossip are like delicate morsels; they sink down deep within.
- 23 A clay vessel plated with a thin veneer of silver — that's what smooth lips with a wicked heart are.
- 24 Someone who hates hides behind his words, harbouring deceit within himself.
- 25 Though he speaks graciously, don't believe him, for there are seven detestable things in his heart.
- 26 Though malice disguises itself with deception, its evil will be exposed publicly.
- 27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and the stone will come back on whoever starts it rolling.
- 28 A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth causes ruin.

Day 27

Proverbs 27

- 1 Never brag about the day to come, because you don't know what it might bring.
- 2 Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth; a stranger, and never your own lips.
- 3 Rocks are heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation outweighs them both.
- 4 Wrath can be fierce and anger overwhelms but who can stand up to jealousy?
- 5 An open rebuke is better than unspoken love.
- 6 Wounds from someone who loves are trustworthy, but kisses from an enemy speak volumes.
- 7 The person who is full spurns honey, but to a hungry person even the bitter seems sweet.
- 8 Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who wanders away from his home.
- 9 Ointments and perfume encourage the heart; in a similar way, a friend's advice is sweet to the soul.
- 10 Never abandon your friend nor your father's friend, and don't go to your brother's house in times of trouble. A neighbour who is near is better than a brother who lives far away.
- 11 Be wise, my son, and make me happy, so I can reply to anyone who insults me.
- 12 Those who are prudent see danger and take refuge, but the naïve continue on and suffer the consequences.
- 13 Take the coat of anyone who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he co-signs for an immoral woman.
- 14 A friend's loud blessing early in the morning will be thought of as a curse.
- 15 A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike.
- 16 Trying to keep her in check is like stopping a wind storm or grabbing oil with your right hand.
- 17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens a friend's character.
- 18 Whoever nurtures the fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever obeys his master will be honoured.
- 19 Just as water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person.
- 20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satiated, and neither are human eyes.
- 21 As the crucible tests silver, and the furnace assays gold; so praise received tests a man.
- 22 Though you crush a fool in a mortar and pestle as someone might crush grain, his stupidity still won't leave him.
- 23 Keep well informed of the condition of your flocks and pay attention to your herds,
- 24 because riches don't endure forever, and crowns don't last from one generation to the next.

- 25 When the grass disappears, and new growth appears, the mountain spices will be harvested,
- 26 the lambs will supply your clothing, and your goats the price of a field.
- 27 You will have enough goat's milk to drink and to supply your household needs, as well as sustenance for your servant girls.

Day 28

Proverbs 28

- 1 The wicked flee, though no one pursues, but the righteous are bold like a lion.
- 2 When a land transgresses, it gains a succession of leaders, but with an understanding and knowledgeable man, its stability endures.
- 3 A poor man who oppresses the weak is like a rainstorm that destroys all the crops.
- 4 Those who forsake the Law praise the wicked, but whoever keeps it fights them.
- 5 Evil men don't understand justice, but whoever seeks the LORD understands it all.
- 6 It's better to be poor and live a blameless life than to be rich but crooked in one's lifestyle.
- 7 Whoever keeps the Law is a discerning son, but whoever keeps company with gluttons brings shame to his father.
- 8 Whoever gains wealth by charging exorbitant interest collects it for someone who is kind to the poor.
- 9 If someone quits listening to the Law even his prayer is detestable.
- 10 Whoever misleads the upright along an evil way will himself fall into his own pit, but the blameless will inherit what is good.
- 11 The rich man may be wise in his own opinion; but a discerning, poor man sees through him.
- 12 When the righteous are victorious, there is great glory, but when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.
- 13 Whoever hides his transgressions will not succeed, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will find mercy.
- 14 Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into disaster.
- 15 A roaring lion and a charging bear — that's what a wicked tyrant is over poor people.
- 16 A Commander-in-Chief who is a cruel oppressor lacks understanding, but whoever hates unjust gain will live longer.
- 17 A guilty man tormented by bloodshed will be a lifelong fugitive; let no one support him.
- 18 Whoever lives blamelessly will be delivered, but whoever is perverted will fall without warning.
- 19 Whoever works his farmland will have abundant food, but whoever chases fantasies will become very poor.
- 20 The faithful man will prosper with blessings, but whoever is in a hurry to get rich will not escape punishment.
- 21 To show partiality isn't good, yet for a piece of bread the valiant will transgress.
- 22 The miser is in a hurry to get wealthy, but he isn't aware that poverty will catch up with him.
- 23 Whoever rebukes a man will later on find more favour than someone who flatters with his words.

- 24 Whoever steals from his father or mother but claims, "It's no sin," is a companion to someone who demolishes.
- 25 An arrogant man stirs up dissension, but anyone who trusts in the LORD prospers.
- 26 Whoever trusts in himself is foolish, but whoever lives wisely will be kept safe.
- 27 Whoever gives to the poor will never lack, but whoever shuts his eyes to their poverty will be cursed.
- 28 When the wicked rise to power, people hide themselves, but when the wicked perish, the righteous increase.

Day 29

Proverbs 29

- 1 After many rebukes, the stiff-necked man will be broken incurably, without any warning.
- 2 As the righteous grow powerful, people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, people groan.
- 3 The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but anyone who consorts with immoral women squanders his wealth.
- 4 A king brings stability to a land through justice, but a man who takes bribes brings it to ruin.
- 5 A strong man who flatters his neighbour is setting a trap where he walks.
- 6 An evil man is trapped by transgression, but the righteous person sings and rejoices.
- 7 The righteous person is concerned about the poor; but the wicked don't understand what they need to know.
- 8 Scornful men enflame a city, but the wise defuse anger.
- 9 When a wise man has a dispute with a fool, the fool either rages or laughs without relief.
- 10 Bloodthirsty men hate the innocent person, but the upright show concern for his life.
- 11 The fool vents all his feelings, but the wise person keeps them to himself.
- 12 When a ruler is listening to lies, all of his officials tend to become wicked.
- 13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: the LORD gave them both eyes with which to see.
- 14 When a king faithfully administers justice to the poor, his throne will be established forever.
- 15 The rod and rebuke bestow wisdom, but an undisciplined child brings shame to his mother.
- 16 As the wicked grow powerful, transgression increases, but the righteous will observe their downfall.
- 17 Correct your son and he will comfort you; he will also delight your soul.
- 18 Without prophetic vision, people abandon restraint, but those who obey the Law are happy.
- 19 By mere words a servant will not be corrected; even though he understands, there will be no response.
- 20 Do you see a man who speaks hastily? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 21 If you pamper a servant from his childhood, later on he'll become ungrateful.
- 22 An angry man stirs up arguments, and a hot-tempered man causes many transgressions.
- 23 A person's pride will bring about his downfall, but the humble in spirit will gain honour.

24 A thief's accomplice hates himself; though testifying under oath, he reveals nothing.

25 Fearing any human being is a trap, but confiding in the LORD keeps anyone safe.

26 Many seek a ruler's favour, but justice for a man comes from the LORD.

27 The unjust man is detestable to the righteous, and whoever lives blamelessly is detestable to the wicked.

Day 30

Proverbs 30

- 1 A discourse by the faithful collector. This is what this valiant man declared to the God with me, to the God with me, who then prevailed:
- 2 Surely I am beyond the senselessness of any man; I do not perceive things the way human beings do.
- 3 I never acquired wisdom, but I know what the Holy One knows.
- 4 Who has ascended to heaven, and then descended? Who has collected the wind in his hands? Who has wrapped up waters in a garment? Who has established all the farthest points of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!
- 5 Everything God says is pure; he is a shield for those who take refuge in him.
- 6 Don't add to his words, or he will rebuke you, and you will be shown to be a liar.
- 7 God, I have asked you for two things — don't refuse me before I die —
- 8 Keep deception and lies far away from me, and give me neither poverty nor wealth. Feed me with food that I need for today,
- 9 so that I don't become overfed and deny you by saying, "Who is the LORD?" or so that I don't become poor and steal, and then misuse the name of my God.
- 10 Don't lie about a servant to his master, or that servant will curse you and you will pay for it.
- 11 Some people curse their fathers and won't bless their mothers.
- 12 Some people view themselves as pure, but haven't been cleansed from their own filth.
- 13 Some people — what an arrogant look they have! — raise their eyebrows haughtily.
- 14 Some people have swords for teeth and knives for fangs to devour the afflicted from the earth and the needy from among mankind.
- 15 The leech has two daughters: "Give" and "Give". Three things will never be satisfied; four will never say "Enough" —
- 16 The afterlife, the barren womb, earth that still demands water, and fire — they never say, "Enough".
- 17 The eye that mocks a father and looks with a disobedient attitude at a mother — the valley ravens will pluck it out; and vultures will eat it.
- 18 Three things cause wonder for me; four are beyond my understanding:
- 19 The way an eagle flies in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a young woman.
- 20 This is what an immoral woman is like: she eats, wipes her mouth, then says "I've done nothing wrong."
- 21 Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot remain steady:
- 22 Under a slave when he becomes a king, a fool when he is overfed,
- 23 an unloved woman when she finds a husband, and a servant girl who inherits from her mistress.
- 24 Four things on earth are small, but they are very, very wise:
- 25 Ants aren't a strong species, yet they prepare their food in the summer.
- 26 The rock badgers aren't a strong species either, yet they build their dens in the rocks.

- 27 Locusts have no king, but they all swarm in ranks.
- 28 Spiders can be caught by the hand, yet they're found in kings' palaces.
- 29 Three things are stately in procession, four which are stately in their gait:
- 30 The lion, mighty among the beasts, retreats before nothing.
- 31 The strutting rooster, as well as the goat, and a king with his army.
- 32 If you've foolishly exalted yourself or if you've plotted evil, put your hand over your mouth.
- 33 Just as whipping milk produces butter, and twisting the nose causes bleeding, so also stirring up anger produces contention.

Day 31

Proverbs 31

- 1 The words of King Lemuel — a pronouncement with which his mother encouraged him.
- 2 No, my son! No, my son whom I conceived! No, my son to whom I gave birth!
- 3 Never devote all your energy to sex, or dedicate your life to destroying kings.
- 4 It is not for kings, Lemuel — Not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to desire liquor.
- 5 Otherwise, they may drink and forget what has been ordained, perverting justice for all the oppressed.
- 6 Give liquor to someone who is perishing, and wine to someone who is deeply depressed.
- 7 Let him drink, forget his poverty, and remember his troubles no more.
- 8 Speak for those who cannot speak; seek justice for all those on the verge of destruction.
- 9 Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and oppressed.
- 10 Who can find a capable wife? Her value far exceeds the finest jewels.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her; as a result, he lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She will bring good to him — never evil — every day of her life.
- 13 She seeks out wool and flax, working with eager hands.
- 14 She is like a seagoing ship that brings her food from far away.
- 15 She rises while it is still night, preparing meals for her family and providing for her women servants.
- 16 She evaluates a field and purchases it; from the proceeds she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She clothes herself with fortitude, and fortifies her arms with strength.
- 18 She is confident that her profits are sufficient. Her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 She works with her own hands on her clothes — her hands work the sewing spindle.
- 20 She reaches out to the poor, opening her hands to those in need.
- 21 She is unafraid of winter's effect on her household, because all of them are warmly clothed.
- 22 She creates her own bedding, using fine linen and violet cloth.
- 23 Her husband is well known; he sits among the leaders of the land.
- 24 She designs and sells linen garments, supplying accessories to clothiers.
- 25 Strength and dignity are her garments; she smiles about the future.
- 26 She speaks wisely, teaching with gracious love.
- 27 She looks discretely to the affairs of her household, and she is never lazy.
- 28 Her children stand up and encourage her, as does her husband, who praises her:

29 "Many women have done wonderful things," he says, "but you surpass all of them!"

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty fades; but a woman who fears the LORD will be praised.

31 Reward her for her work — let her actions result in public praise.