

Key to long life, riches, honor, & enduring prosperity.

Prov 8 18
A collection of selected
proverbs from different
versions of the Bible

Unless otherwise stated, the
verses are in the NIV. The
words in *Italics* are supplied
for better clarity. E & O E

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downloaded from our website:
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Hidden Character button to
view the entire text of Proverbs

Preface

2 Chronicles 12:1-2 After
Rehoboam's position as king
was established and he had
become strong, he and all
Israel with him abandoned
the *Word* of the LORD. 2
Because they had been
unfaithful to the LORD,
king of Egypt attacked
Jerusalem.

One of the first signs that we
are abandoning the Lord is
when we abandon His Word.
When this happens, we deprive
ourselves of an intimate
relationship with Him.

John 14:15 If ye love me,
keep my commandments.
KJV

2 Chron 12:14 And he
did evil because he did not
set his heart to seek (inquire,
and yearn for) the Lord with
all his desire. AMP

The purpose of this special
reading on selected verses
from Proverbs is to help people
in the market place and in the
ministry to constantly seek the
Lord and listen to His Word.

Wisdom, understanding,
insight, discernment,
foresight, purpose, guidance,
knowledge of God, victory,
protection, good name,
overflowing abundance, joy,
fearlessness in sudden
disaster, peace, confidence,
counsel, health, long life,
favor, honor, enduring
wealth, fruitful years,
profitable days, added years,
... these are some of the
blessings for being attentive
to the Word.

Prov 1

1 The proverbs of Solomon
son of David, king of Israel:
2 for attaining wisdom and
discipline; for understanding
words of insight;

4 for giving prudence to the
simple, knowledge and
discretion, *foresight*,
discernment, *purpose* to the
young-- 5 let the wise listen
and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get
guidance—

10 My son, if sinners entice
you, do not give in to them.

15 my son, do not go along
with them, do not set foot on
their paths;

18 These men lie in wait
for their own blood; they
ensnare only themselves!

19 Such is the end of all
who go after ill-gotten gain;
it takes away the lives of
those who get it.

29 Since they hated
knowledge and did not
choose to fear the LORD, 30
since they would not accept
my advice and spurned my
rebuke, 31 they will eat the
fruit of their ways and be
filled with the fruit of their
schemes.

32 For the turning away *and*
going astray of the simple
shall slay them, and the
prosperity of fools shall
destroy them. KJV

33 but whoever listens to
me will live in safety and be
at ease, without fear of
harm.

Prov 2

3 and if you call out for
insight and cry aloud for
understanding, 4 and if you
look for it as for silver and
search for it as for hidden
treasure, 5 then you will
understand the fear of the
LORD and find the
knowledge of God.

11 Discretion will protect
you, and understanding will
guard you.

16 It will save you also
from the adulteress, from the
wayward wife with her
seductive words,

17 who has left the partner
of her youth and ignored the
covenant she made before
God.

Prov 3

1 My son, do not forget my
teaching, but keep my
commands in your heart, 2
for they will prolong your

life many years and bring
you prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness
never leave you; bind them
around your neck, write
them on the tablet of your
heart. 4 Then you will win
favor and a good name in
the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with
all your heart and lean not
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 eyes; fear the LORD
and shun evil. 8 This will
bring health to your body
and nourishment to your
bones.

9 Honor the LORD with
your wealth, with the
firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be
filled to overflowing, and
your vats will brim over
with new wine.

11 My son, do not despise
the LORD's discipline and
do not resent his rebuke, 12
because the LORD
disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he
delights in.

13 Blessed is the man
who finds wisdom, the
man who gains
understanding, 14 for she
is more profitable than
silver and yields better
returns than gold.

16 Long life is in her right
hand; in her left hand are
riches and honor.

27 Do not withhold good
from those who deserve it,
when it is in your power to
act. 28 Do not say to your
neighbor, "Come back
later; I'll give it
tomorrow"-- when you
now have it with you.

29 Do not plot harm
against your neighbor, who
lives trustfully near you. 30
Do not accuse a man for no
reason--when he has done
you no harm.

31 Do not envy a violent
man or choose any of his
ways,

32 For the perverse are an
abomination to the Lord;
but His confidential
communion and secret
counsel are with the
righteous. AMP

Prov 4

7 Wisdom is supreme;
therefore get wisdom.

Though it cost all you
have, get understanding.

*And with all your
acquiring, get
understanding*

20 My son, pay attention
to what I say; listen closely
to my words. 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
health to a man's whole
body.

23 Above all else, guard
your heart, for it is the
wellspring of life. 24 Put
away perversity from your
mouth; keep corrupt talk
far from your lips.

Prov 5

3 ... the lips of an
adulteress drip honey, and
her speech is smoother
than oil; 4 but in the end
she is bitter as gall, sharp
as a double-edged sword.

8 Keep to a path far from
her, do not go near the
door of her house, 9 lest
you give your best strength
to others and your years to
one who is cruel, 10 lest
strangers feast on your
wealth and your toil enrich
another man's house.

11 At the end of your life
you will groan,
when your flesh and body
are spent.

14 I have come to the
brink of utter ruin ...

15 Drink water from your
own cistern,
running water from your
own well.

16 Should your springs
overflow in the streets,
your streams of water in
the public squares?

17 Let them be yours
alone,

never to be shared with
strangers.

18 May your fountain be
blessed, and may you
rejoice in the wife of your
youth.

19 A loving doe, a
graceful deer— may her
breasts satisfy you always,
may you ever be captivated
by her love. 20 Why be
captivated, my son, by an
adulteress? Why embrace

the bosom of another man's wife?

Prov 6

9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? 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 poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

14 *He* who plots evil with deceit in his heart-- he always stirs up dissension.

15 ... disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.

16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,

20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck.

22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you;

when you awake, they will speak to you.

24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the

wayward wife. 25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, 26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. 27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?

28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?

Prov 7

1 My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.

3 Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

5 they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.

6 At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. 7 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. 8 He was

going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house

21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. 22 All at once he followed her like an ox

going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose 23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into

smooth tongue of the

a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. 27 Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

Prov 8

13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.

15 By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;

18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.

34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

35 For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. 36 But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

Prov 9

7 "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. 8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

10 For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding. 11 "I,

Wisdom, will make the hours of your day more profitable and the years of your life more fruitful." TLB

Prov 10

3 The Lord will not let a good man starve to death, nor will he let the wicked man's riches continue forever. TLB

4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. 5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

9 The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

12 Hatred stirs old quarrels, but love overlooks insults. TLB

14 A wise man holds his tongue. Only a fool blurts out everything he knows; that only leads to sorrow and trouble. TLB

17 Anyone willing to be corrected is on the pathway to life. Anyone refusing to be corrected has lost his chance *and will lead others astray*. TLB

18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

22 The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

24 What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted.

25 When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.

26 A lazy fellow is a pain to his employers--like smoke in their eyes or vinegar that sets the teeth on edge. TLB

27 Reverence for God adds hours to each day; so how can the wicked expect a long, good life? TLB

30 The righteous will never be uprooted, but the wicked *and unfaithful* will not remain in the land.

Prov 11

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

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. 3 A good man is guided by his honesty; the evil man is destroyed by his dishonesty. TLB

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

9 With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor,

but through knowledge the righteous escape.

11 Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth

of the wicked it is destroyed.

12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety. NKJV

15 He who is guarantor for a stranger will surely suffer for it, but he who hates being a guarantor is secure. NASU

22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. 25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

28 Trust in your money and down you go! Trust in God and flourish as a tree! TLB

29 Those who bring trouble on their families inherit only the wind. The fool will be a servant to the wise.

30 Godly men are growing a tree that bears life-giving fruit, and all who win souls are wise. TLB

31 If the righteous are rewarded here on earth,

how much more true that the wicked and the sinner will get what they deserve!

Prov 12

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

3 A man cannot be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted.

9 Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.

11 He who tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he who follows

worthless pursuits *and chases fantasies* is lacking in sense and is without understanding. AMP

13 Lies will get any man into trouble, but honesty is its own defense.

15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

18 Thoughtless words *and cutting remarks* can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal. TEV

19 Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed. TLB

22 God delights in those who keep their promises and abhors those who don't. TLB

23 Smart people keep quiet about what they know, but stupid people advertise their ignorance. TEV

24 Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed.

25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.

26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions (... *and* makes good use of everything he finds. TLB)

Prov 13

1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

2 The good man wins his case by careful argument; the evil-minded only wants to fight. TLB

3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

8 A man's riches may ransom his life, but a poor man hears no threat.

10 Pride only breeds quarrels *and arguments*, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

11 Wealth won in haste or unjustly or from the production of things for vain use will dwindle away, but

he who gathers little by little will increase. AMP

13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.

14 The advice of a wise man refreshes like water from a mountain spring. Those accepting it become aware of the pitfalls on ahead. TLB

15 Good sense wins favor, but the way of the faithless is their ruin RSV

17 An unreliable messenger can cause a lot of trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing. SP

18 He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame,

but whoever heeds correction is honored.

20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

22 A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

25 The good man eats to live, while the evil man lives to eat. TLB

Prov 14

3 A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

8 The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts. TLB

14 The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good man rewarded for his.

15 The simpleton believes every word he hears, but the prudent man looks and considers well where he is going. AMP

16 Sensible people are careful to stay out of trouble, but stupid people are careless, *reckless* and act too quickly. TEV

17 A short-tempered man is a fool. He hates the man who is patient. TLB

19 Evil men will bow down in the presence of the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

29 If you stay calm *and patient*, you are wise, but if you have a hot temper, you only show how stupid you are. TEV

30 A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life; jealousy rots *the bones*. TLB

34 Righteousness makes a nation great; sin is a disgrace to any nation. TEV

Prov 15

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,

but a harsh word stirs up anger.

4 Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit. TEV

5 Only a fool despises his father's advice; a wise son considers each suggestion. TLB

10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.

14 A wise man is hungry for truth, while the mocker feeds on trash. LB

15 When a man is gloomy, everything seems to go wrong; when he is cheerful, everything seems right! LB

17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.

18 A quick-tempered man starts fights; a cool-tempered man tries to stop them. TLB

22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

23 Everyone enjoys giving good advice, and how wonderful it is to be able to say the right thing at the right time! TLB

27 Try to make a profit dishonestly, and you get your family in trouble. Don't take bribes and you will live longer. TEV

30 A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good *positive* news gives health to the bones.

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

32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

33 Humility and reverence for the Lord will make you both wise and honored. TLB

Prov 16

1 We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God's hands. LB

2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

3 Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed. LB

4 The Lord has made everything for his own purposes—even the wicked, for punishment. TLB

7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

21 A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is. TEV

23 Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive. TEV

24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

31 Long life is the reward of the righteous; gray hair is a glorious crown. TEV

32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

Prov 17

1 Better a dry crust of bread with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

2 A wise servant will rule over a disgraceful son, and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

3 Gold and silver are tested by fire, and a person's heart is tested by the LORD. TEV

4 A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.

5 Mocking the poor is mocking the God who made them. He will punish those who rejoice at others' misfortunes. TLB

9 He who covers over an offense promotes love,

but whoever repeats *and nags* the matter separates close friends.

11 An evil man is bent only on rebellion; a merciless official will be sent against him.

13 If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.

14 The start of an argument is like the first break in a dam; stop it before it goes any further. TEV

15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent-- the LORD detests them both.

16 It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a rebel who has no heart for truth. TLB

17 A true friend is always loyal and loves at all times, and a brother is born to help in time of need. TLB

18 Only a man with no sense would promise to be responsible for someone else's debts. TEV

22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

24 An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions. TEV

27 Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time. People who stay calm have real insight. 28 After all, even fools may be thought to be wise and intelligent if they stay quiet

and keep their mouths shut. TEV

Prov 18

1 People who do not get along with others are interested only in themselves and demanding *his own way*; they will disagree with what everyone else knows is right. TEV

2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

7 A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

8 The words of a gossip are *tasty* like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.

9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

10 The name of the LORD is a strong *fortress*; the righteous run to it and are safe.

11 The rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. What a dreamer!

12 Pride ends in destruction; humility ends in honor. TLB

13 Listen before you answer. If you don't, you are being stupid and insulting. TEV

13 What a shame--yes, how stupid!--to decide before knowing the facts! TLB

14A man's courage can sustain his broken body, but when courage dies, what hope is left? TLB

14 Your will to live can sustain you when you are sick, but if you lose it, your last hope is gone. TEV

14 The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, But {as for} a broken spirit who can bear it? NASB

17 The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.

19 It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than to capture a fortified city. His anger shuts you out like iron bars. TLB

20 You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. TEV

21 What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words. TEV

Prov 19

2 Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good; impatience and *hastiness* will get you into trouble. TEV

3 Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the LORD. TEV

9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish.

11 A man's wisdom gives him patience;

it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

16 *He who obeys instructions guards his life*, but he who despises His ways shall die. AMP

17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

19 If someone has a hot temper, let him take the consequences. If you get him out of trouble once, you will have to do it again. TEV

20 If you listen to advice and are willing to learn, one day you will be wise. TEV

21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

22 What a man desires is unailing *unconditional* love and *kindness*;...

24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!

25 Punish a mocker and others will learn from his example. Reprove a wise man, and he will be the wiser. TLB

26 Only a shameful, disgraceful person would mistreat his father or turn his mother away from his home. TEV

29Mockers and rebels shall be severely punished. TLB

Prov 20

1 Drinking too much makes you loud and foolish. It's stupid to get drunk. TEV

3 It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

4 A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

10 Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good. KJV

13 Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.

17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

20 If you curse your parents, your life will end like a lamp that goes out in the dark. TEV

21 An inheritance hastily gotten by greedy and unjust means at the beginning, in the end it will not be blessed. AMP

22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

24 Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way? TLB

25 It is foolish and rash to make a promise to the Lord before counting the cost. TLB

27 A man's conscience is the Lord's searchlight exposing his hidden motives. TLB

29 The glory of young men is their strength; of old men, their experience. TLB

30 Punishment that hurts chases evil from the heart. TLB

Prov 21

2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

14 A gift given in secret soothes anger, and a bribe concealed in the cloak pacifies great wrath.

17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

20 Wise people live in wealth and luxury, but

stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it.

21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

22 A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.

23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

25 The lazy man longs for many things, but his hands refuse to work. 26 He is greedy to get, while the godly love to give! TLB

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable—how much more so when brought with evil intent!

30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.

Prov 22

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

3 A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them *and takes refuge*; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. TLB

4 Humility and the fear of the LORD

bring wealth and honor and life.

6 Teach *and train* a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain upon it. TLB

7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

11 He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

13 The lazy man is full of excuses. "I can't go to work!" he says. "If I go outside, I might meet a lion in the street and be killed!" TLB

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,

25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.

Prov 23

4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.

6 Do not eat the food of a stingy man, do not crave his delicacies;

7 for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

10 Don't steal the land of defenseless orphans by moving their ancient boundary marks, for their Redeemer is strong; he himself will accuse you. TLB

12 Don't refuse to accept criticism; get all the help you can. TLB

13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.

18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

20-21 Don't associate with people who drink too much wine or stuff themselves with food. Drunkards and gluttons will be reduced to poverty. If all you do is eat and

sleep, you will soon be wearing rags. TEV

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!

32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things.

Prov 24

3 Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. TLB

3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

5 A wise man is mightier than a strong man. Wisdom is mightier than strength. 6 Don't go to war without

wise guidance; there is safety in many counselors. TLB

11 Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. 12 If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?

16 ... though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.

17 Do not be glad when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice,

18 or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from him.

19 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of the wicked,

20 for the evil man has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.

21 Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious,

26 An honest answer is a sign of true friendship.

27 Don't build your house and establish a home until your fields are ready, and you are sure that you can earn a living.

27 Develop your business first before building your house. NLT

Prov 25

4 Remove the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith; 5 remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness.

What you have seen with your eyes 8-10 Don't be hot-headed and rush to court! You may start something you can't finish and go down before your neighbor in shameful defeat. So discuss the matter with him privately. Don't tell anyone else, lest he accuse you of slander and you can't withdraw what you said.

TLB

13 Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters.

14 Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give.

15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

16 If you find honey, eat just enough--too much of it, and you will vomit.

17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house--too much of you, and he will hate you.

19 Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.

27 It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.

28 Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit. NAS

Prov 26

2 Curses cannot hurt you unless you deserve them. They are like birds that fly by and never light. TEV

6 If you let a fool deliver a message, you might as well cut off your own feet; you are asking for trouble. TEV

8 Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool.

10 Like an archer who wounds at random is he who hires a fool or any passer-by.

11 As a dog returns to its vomit,

so a fool repeats his folly.

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.

13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road,

a fierce lion roaming the streets!" 14 As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed. 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.

16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly.

17 Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

18 Someone who tricks and misled, betray, deceive someone else and then claims that he was only joking is like a crazy person playing with a deadly weapon. TEV

24 A hypocrite and malicious man hides hate behind flattering words. TEV

25 Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations fill his heart.

27 The man who sets a trap for others will get caught in it himself. Roll a boulder down on someone, and it will roll back and crush you.

28 Flattery is a form of hatred and wounds cruelly. TLB

Prov 27

1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;

someone else, and not your own lips.

4 Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

5 Better to correct someone openly than to let him think you don't care for him at all. TEV

6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

14 If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning,

it will be taken as a curse. 15 A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day;

16 restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.

17 People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron. TEV

18 Take care of a fig tree and you will have figs to eat. A servant who faithfully guards and takes care of his master will be honored. TEV

19 A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses. TLB

21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.

23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;

26 the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field.

Prov 28

1 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

2 When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.

9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law and does not listen to the Word, even his prayers are detestable.

11 A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.

13 A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance. TLB

19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

20 A faithful man will be richly blessed,

but one eager to get rich quick will not go unpunished.

21 To show partiality is not good--yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.

23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

24 A man who robs his parents and says, "What's wrong with that?" is no better than a murderer.

TLB

26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Prov 29

1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.

9 There's no use arguing with a fool. He only rages and scoffs, and tempers flare. TLB

11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he. KJV

19 A servant cannot be corrected by mere words; though he understands, he will not respond.

20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.

21 If a man pampers his servant from youth, he will bring grief in the end.

22 An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Prov 30

5 "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

10 "Do not slander a servant to his master, or he will curse you, and you will pay for it.

11 "There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers;

17 "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

24 "Four things on earth are small, yet they are

extremely wise: 25 Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;

They survive because of their foresight

26 Coneys are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags;

They are ineffective at defending themselves, but they wisely live in crags

27 locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks;

Prov 31

3 Do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings.

6 Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish;

8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family

16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

THE END