

Proverbs 10
The Wise Son & His Words

1 The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death.

3 The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, But **violence covers the mouth of the wicked.**

7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.

8 The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall.

9 He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

10 He who winks with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall.

11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, But **violence covers the mouth of the wicked.**

12 **Hatred** stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

14 Wise people store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

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

16 The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.

17 He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.

18 Whoever hides **hatred** has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

19 In the multitude of **words** sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his **lips** is wise.

20 The **tongue** of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little.

21 The **lips** of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.

22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

23 To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom.

24 The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted.

25 When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man to those who send him.

27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

28 The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.

29 The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

30 The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the earth.

31 The **mouth** of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse **tongue** will be cut out.

32 The **lips** of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the **mouth** of the wicked what is perverse.

A. Wise Son vs. Foolish Son

a *wise son* (vs.) **foolish son**

b **false profit** (vs.) *true deliverance*

c *Lord's provision* (vs.) **wicked's emptiness**

b' **poverty** (vs.) *diligent wealth*

a' *wise son* (vs.) **foolish son**

B Good Memory & Walk vs. Bad Memory & Violence

a *righteous head* (vs.) **violent mouth**

b *good memory* (vs.) **no memory of wicked**

c *wise heart* (vs.) **fool prates**

b' *security* (vs.) **well-known of wicked**

c' **evil eye** (and) **fool prates**

a' *righteous mouth* (vs.) **violent mouth**

B' Hatred & Poverty vs. Love & Correction

a **hatred** (vs.) *love*

b *wisdom* (vs.) **discipline**

c *knowledge* (vs.) **destruction**

d *wealth* (vs.) **poverty**

c' *life* (vs.) **sin**

b' *instruction* (vs.) **correction**

a' **hatred** (and) **slander**

A' Wise Words & Desires vs. Foolish Words & Fears

a **many words** (vs.) *wise lips*

b *righteous blessed* (and) *no sorrow*

c **wicked fun** (vs.) *understanding man*

d **wicked fears** (vs.) *righteous desires*

e **wicked ends** (vs.) *righteous everlasting*

f ***Lazy Man***

e' *prolonged days* (vs.) **wicked short days**

d' *righteous hope* (vs.) **wicked's hope perishes**

c' *righteous strength* (vs.) **wicked destroyed**

b' *righteous unmovable* (vs.) **wicked removed**

a' *righteous mouth & lips* (vs.) **wicked tongue cut**

Proverbs 11

Civil Duties & Relations

1 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.

7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.

8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.

9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys **his neighbor**, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.

11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

12 He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace.

13 A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

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

15 He who is surety for a **stranger** will suffer, But one who hates being surety is secure.

16 A **gracious woman** retains honor, But ruthless men retain riches.

17 The merciful man does good for his own soul, But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

18 The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.

19 As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

20 Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in their ways are His delight.

21 Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; But the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.

22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely **woman who lacks discretion**.

23 The **desire of the righteous** is only good, But the **expectation of the wicked** is wrath.

24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.

25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

26 The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

27 He who **earnestly seeks good** finds favor, But trouble will come to **him who seeks evil**.

28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will **flourish like foliage**.

29 He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

30 The fruit of the **righteous is a tree of life**, And he who wins souls is wise.

31 If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.

A Balance of Scales

B Deliverance of the Righteous

a shame vs. *wisdom*

b *guidance* vs. destruction

c wrath vs. *deliverance*

d *direction* vs. falling

c' *deliverance* vs. being caught

b' expectations perish (and) hopes perish

a' *deliverance from trouble* vs. suffering trouble

C Citizens' Relations & Words

a hypocrite destroys neighbor vs. *deliverance*

b *city rejoices over righteous* vs. wicked

c *city is blessed* vs. cursed

d bad neighbors vs. *good neighbors*

c' talkative neighbor vs. *trustworthy neighbor*

b' citizens fall vs. *citizen secure*

a' surety of stranger suffers vs. *security*

D Lady Wisdom & Lady Folly

a *gracious lady* vs. ruthless man

b *mercy* vs. cruelty

c deceptive work vs. *righteous work*

d *life* vs. death

c' abomination of God vs. *delight of God*

b' justice vs. *deliverance*

a' pig's nose ring (and) foolish lady

C' Citizens' Desires & Commerce

a *good desires* vs. wicked expectations

b scattering vs. *hoarding*

c *generosity and prosperity*

b' *hoarding* vs. providing

a' *seeking good* vs. seeking evil

B' Fruit of the Righteous

a riches fail vs. *flourishing plants*

b inheriting wind (vs.) *ruling over fools*

a' *fruit of righteousness* (and) *wisdom*

A' Balance of Justice

Proverbs 12

Finding Instruction in the Way of Righteousness

1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

- a 2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.
- b 3 A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.
- a 4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

- a 5 The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.
- b 6 The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood," But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.
- c 7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.
- d 8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.
- e 9 Better is the one who is slighted but has a servant, Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.
- f 10 A righteous man regards the life of his animal, But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- e' 11 He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.
- d' 12 The wicked covet the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.
- c' 13 The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will come through trouble.
- b' 14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.
- a' 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

- a 16 A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent man covers shame.
- b 17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.
- c 18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.
- d 19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.
- d 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.
- c' 21 No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil.
- b' 22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.
- a' 23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

- a 24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.
- b 25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.
- b 26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- a 27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.

28 In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.

A. Responses to Instruction

lover of instruction (vs.) hater of correction

B. Sources of Instruction: Stable & Unstable Man

- a God's favor (vs.) God's condemnation
- b wicked unstable (vs.) righteous unmovable
- a God's gift: good wife (vs.) bad wife (Pr.18:22 wife: God's favor)

C. Substance of Righteous & Wicked Counselors

- a right thoughts (vs.) deceitful counsel
- b wicked words (vs.) mouth of deliverance
- c wicked overthrown (vs.) righteous stand
- d commendation received (vs.) perverse heart
- e man with helper (vs.) man without bread
- f compassion (vs.) cruelty
- e' worker with bread (vs.) empty of understanding
- d' wicked desires (vs.) righteous fruit
- c' wicked ensared (vs.) righteous persevere
- b' fruit of mouth (and) recompense of hands
- a' "right" in fool's eyes (vs.) heeding counsel

C' Substance of Righteous & Wicked Counsel

- a fool's anger is produced (vs.) wise man covers shame
- b truth declares righteousness (vs.) falsehood declares deceit
- c foolish speech: painful (vs.) wise tongue: healthy
- d truthful lips (vs.) lying tongue fade away
- d deceitful heart (vs.) joyful counsel
- c' righteous not overthrown (vs.) wicked filled with evil
- b' lying: abomination of Lord (vs.) truth: delight of Lord
- a' wise man conceals knowledge (vs.) fool proclaims folly

B' Sources of Instruction: Lazy & Diligent Man

- a diligent hand (vs.) lazy man
- b worry & depression (vs.) word of gladness
- b' righteous friends (vs.) wicked ways
- a' lazy man (vs.) diligent man

A' Result of Good Instruction

life in righteousness (and) no death

Highlights of Lady Wisdom's Words Proverbs 13

A Summary and Substance of Chapters 10 – 12

Stubbornness & Laziness

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| <p>a 1 A <u>wise son heeds</u> his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.</p> <p>b 2 A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.</p> <p>3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.</p> <p>c 4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.</p> <p>b' 5 A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.</p> <p>6 Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.</p> <p>a' 7 There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.</p> <p>8 The ransom of a man's life is <u>his riches</u>, But the poor does not hear rebuke.</p> | <p>10:1-5 <i>heed instruction</i> (vs.) doesn't listen</p> <p>10:6-11 <i>fruit of words</i> (vs.) violence</p> <p>10:19-32 <i>guards mouth</i> (vs.) destruction</p> <p>10:12-18 has nothing (vs.) <i>riches</i></p> <p>10:12-18 <i>hate lying</i> (vs.) shame</p> <p>11:2-8 <i>guards way</i> (vs.) wickedness</p> <p>11:23-27 has nothing (vs.) <i>riches</i> (final section includes</p> <p>11:23-27 <i>riches</i> (vs.) doesn't listen beg. & mid. theme)</p> |
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Light & Honesty

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| <p>a 9 The <u>light of the righteous rejoices</u>, But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.</p> <p>b 10 By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.</p> <p>a' 11 Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers <u>by labor will increase</u> goods</p> | <p>11:2-8 <i>rejoicing</i> (vs.) wicked put out</p> <p>11:2-8 strife (vs.) <i>wisdom</i></p> <p>11:23-27 dishonesty diminished (vs.) <i>increase of</i></p> |
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Life & Reward

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| <p>a 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a <u>tree of life</u>.</p> <p>b 13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.</p> <p>a 14 The law of the wise is a <u>fountain of life</u>, To turn one away from the snare of death.</p> | <p>12:24-27 sick (vs.) <i>life</i></p> <p>12:1,28 destruction (vs.) <i>rewards</i></p> <p>12:28 <i>life</i> (vs.) death</p> |
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Honor & Health

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| <p>a 15 Good understanding <u>gains favor</u>, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.</p> <p>b 16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.</p> <p>b' 17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador brings health.</p> <p>a' 18 Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke <u>will be honored</u>.</p> | <p>12:5-15 favor gained (vs.) <i>hard life</i></p> <p>12:16-23 good actions (vs.) <i>open folly</i></p> <p>12:16-23 <i>fall into trouble</i> (vs.) good health</p> <p>12:2-4 <i>shameful life</i> (vs.) honor received</p> |
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Discipline & Wealth

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| <p>a 19 A desire accomplished is <u>sweet to the soul</u>, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.</p> <p>b 20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.</p> <p>c 21 Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.</p> <p>d 22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.</p> <p>c' 23 Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, And for lack of justice there is waste.</p> <p>b' 24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.</p> <p>a' 25 The righteous eats to the <u>satisfying of his soul</u>, But the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.</p> | <p><i>sweet to the soul</i> (vs.) fools cling to evil</p> <p><i>wise friends</i> (vs.) foolish friends</p> <p>justice on sinners (vs.) <i>justice to righteous</i></p> <p><i>inheritance</i> (and) wealth</p> <p>lack of food (and) lack of justice</p> <p>no discipline (vs.) <i>loving discipline</i></p> <p><i>satisfying to the soul</i> (vs.) wicked in want</p> |
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I. 9th Commandment: House Construction & Destruction

Proverbs 14

1 The wise woman builds **her house**, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

2 He who walks in his *uprightness* fears the LORD, But he who is **perverse in his ways** despises Him.

3 In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But *the lips of the wise will preserve them*.

4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much *increase comes by the strength of an ox*.

5 A faithful witness *does not lie*, But a false witness **will utter lies**.

A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, But knowledge is **easy to him who understands**.

7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you **do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge**.

8 The wisdom of the prudent is to *understand his way*, But the folly of fools is **deceit**.

9th commandment

II. Mockery & Favor: Ending of Results

9 Fools **mock** at sin, But among the *upright there is favor*.

10 The heart *knows its own bitterness*, And a stranger does not share its joy.

11 The **house of the wicked** will be overthrown, But the tent of the upright will flourish.

12 There is **a way that seems right** to a man, But **its end** is the way of **death**.

13 Even **in laughter the heart may sorrow**, And **the end** of mirth may be **grief**.

Intentions & Endings

grieving end transitions to one's "own ways"

14 The backslider in heart will be **filled with his own ways**, But a good man *will be satisfied from above*.

15 The **simple believes every word**, But the prudent *considers well his steps*.

16 A wise man fears and *departs from evil*, But a **fool rages** and is **self-confident**.

Steps of Confidence

fool's rage transitions to "quick-tempered man"

17 A *quick-tempered* man acts foolishly, And a man of **wicked intentions is hated**.

18 The **simple inherit folly**, But the prudent are *crowned with knowledge*.

19 The evil will **bow before the good**, And the **wicked at the gates** of the righteous.

20 The **poor man is hated** even by his own neighbor, But the rich has many friends.

Rewards & Humiliation

neighbor who hates poor transitions to *sinful neighbor*

21 He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has *mercy on the poor*, happy is he.

22 Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to *those who devise good*.

23 In all labor there is profit, But **idle chatter** leads only to **poverty**.

Helping Poor & Becoming Poor

the profit of labor transitions to the "riches" of the wise

24 The crown of the wise is *their riches*, But the foolishness of fools is folly.

25 A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies.

26 In the *fear of the LORD* there is strong confidence, And *His children* will have a place of *refuge*.

27 The *fear of the LORD* is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

Favor & Mockery

9th commandment

God's favor is manifested, Fools crowned w/ folly (mocked)

III. A King's Honor & Favor: Summarizing Points

28 In a multitude of people is a **king's honor**, But in the lack of people is the downfall of a prince.

29 He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is **impulsive exalts folly**.

30 **A sound heart** is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.

31 He who **oppresses the poor** reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

32 The **wicked is banished** in his wickedness, But the righteous has **a refuge in his death**.

33 *Wisdom rests in the heart* of him who has understanding, But what is in the **heart of fools** is made known.

34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is **a reproach** to any people.

35 The **king's favor** is toward a wise servant, But his wrath is against him who causes shame.

Summarizing Passages:

v. 16,17

v. 13,14

v. 20,21

v. 24,26

v. 10a,14a,17a,21a,24b

{*Structure for chapter 15 yet to be found*}

	<u>Themes:</u>
1 A soft answer turns away wrath , but a harsh word stirs up anger.	words
2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.	
3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.	eyes of Lord
4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.	words
5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.	correction
6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.	
7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.	tongue
8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD , but the prayer of the upright is His delight.	eyes of Lord
9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD , but He loves him who follows righteousness.	
10 Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.	correction
11 Hell and Destruction are before the LORD ; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men.	eyes of Lord
12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.	correction
13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.	merry heart
14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.	words
15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.	merry heart
16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD , than great treasure with trouble.	Better
17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.	
18 A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.	words
19 The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.	lazy
20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.	correction
21 Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, but a man of understanding walks uprightly.	
22 Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.	words
23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!	
24 The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.	hell
25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.	house
26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD , but the words of the pure are pleasant.	eyes of the Lord
27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.	house

Proverbs 16

God's Providence

¹ The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

man's responsibility & God's providence

God's Judgment

a ² All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.

a ways of men

b ³ Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

b works unto the Lord

c ⁴ The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

c end of evil

d ⁵ Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.

d judgment upon evil

d' ⁶ In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

d' avoidance of evil

c' ⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

c' peace with evil men

b' ⁸ Better is a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice.

b' revenues with righteousness

a' ⁹ A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

a' plans of men

King's Judgment

a ¹⁰ Divination is on the lips of the king; His mouth must not transgress in judgment.

a wicked judgment

b ¹¹ Honest weights and scales are the LORD's; All the weights in the bag are His work.

b good judgment

a' ¹² It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness.

a' wicked judgment

b' ¹³ Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And they love him who speaks what is right.

b' good judgment

a'' ¹⁴ As messengers of death is the king's wrath, But a wise man will appease it.

a'' judgment of death

b'' ¹⁵ In the light of the king's face is life, And his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain.

b'' judgment of life

The Theme of Wisdom

¹⁶ How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

getting wisdom & understanding

A. The Way of Pride vs. Humility

a ¹⁷ The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who keeps his way preserves his soul.

a departing from **evil**

b ¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

b judgment upon pride

b' ¹⁹ Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

b' advantage of humility

a' ²⁰ He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

a' finding **good**

B. The Wise in Heart & Lips

a' ²¹ The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

a' **heart and lips** of prudence

b ²² Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly.

b understanding vs. folly

a' ²³ The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.

a' **heart and lips** of learning

²⁴ Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

pleasant **words** give health

C. The Way of Death

²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a man, But **its end is the way of death.**

right way vs. death way

D. The Diligence of Laboring for Yourself

²⁶ The person who labors, labors for himself, For his hungry mouth drives him on.

labor for self

C' The Way that is Not Good

²⁷ An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire.

digging for evil (lips)

²⁸ A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

spreading strife

²⁹ A violent man entices his neighbor, And **leads him in a way that is not good.**

leading in an evil way

³⁰ He winks his eye to devise perverse things; He purses his lips and brings about evil.

eyes & lips lead to evil (lips)

B' The Glory of the Elderly

³¹ The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.

age with wisdom

A' The Way of Anger vs. Self-control

³² He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

the strength of self-control

God's Providence

³³ The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

man's responsibility & God's providence

Riddles of Wisdom

Proverbs 17

- ¹ Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.
² A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, and will share an inheritance among the brothers.
- ³ The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts.
⁴ An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.
- ⁵ He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
⁶ Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.
- ⁷ Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince.
⁸ A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers.
- ⁹ He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.
¹⁰ Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.
- ¹¹ An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
¹² Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.
- ¹³ Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.
¹⁴ The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.
- ¹⁵ He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.
¹⁶ Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it?
- ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
¹⁸ A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend.
- ¹⁹ He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.
²⁰ He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.
- ²¹ He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.
²² A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.
- ²³ A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.
²⁴ Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.
- ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.
²⁶ Also, to punish the righteous is not good, nor to strike princes for their uprightness.
- ²⁷ He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.
²⁸ Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.
- house
family within (how do servants obtain an inheritance?)
purifying the heart
evil lips need purifying (what will God do to our lips?)
reproaching Father God / Creator
fathers: glory of children (who is the glorious father?)
speech of a prince
precious stone & prosperity (how do princes prosper?)
keeping quiet
rebuking a wise man (who should you rebuke, or not?)
attack of a cruel messenger
meeting an anger bear (who is the cruel messenger?)
house full of evil
overflow of strife & quarreling (how do you stop quarrels?)
injustice
injustice: no desire of wisdom (which is worse?)
true friendship
friendship in jeopardy (how do you maintain a friendship?)
destruction upon transgressors
evil upon deceitful (how did he transgress?)
sorrowful father
happy heart (is the medicine a good son?)
perverted justice
good sight (is justice really blind?)
sorrow of parental injustice
civil injustice (is it good to discipline?)
a quiet wise man
a quiet fool (is he really a fool?)

Proverbs 18

A. The Wicked Man's Desire: Selfishness, Isolation

¹ A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.

wicked man's own desire

² A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.

wicked man's own heart

B. Results of the Wicked & the Wise: Offenses & Wisdom Produced

³ When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; and with dishonor comes reproach.

the results of the wicked

⁴ The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.

the results of the righteous

C. Fool's Destruction – Using His Mouth

⁵ It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

Mr. Injustice or Destroyer

⁶ A fool's *lips* enter into contention, and his *mouth* calls for blows.

lips of contention

⁷ A fool's *mouth* is his destruction, and his *lips* are the snare of his soul.

lips of the wicked are self-destruction

⁸ The *words* of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.

words of gossip

⁹ He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

Mr. Slothfulness is brother to Mr. Destroyer

D. God's Tower vs. Rich Man's City

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

safety of the righteous – a tower (*notice the irony here*)

¹¹ The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own esteem.

fragility of the wicked – a city

C' Fool's Destruction – No Use of His Ears, Only Mouth

¹² Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.

fool is haughty

¹³ He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

fool is shamed for not listening

¹⁴ The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?

fool's spirit is broken / destroyed

¹⁵ The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

wise man listens, gaining knowledge

¹⁶ A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

man with gifts is honored, brought before great men

B' Offenses to Overcome – Wisdom Needed (i.e. casting of lots)

¹⁷ The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

offended person pleads his case

¹⁸ Casting lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart.

casting lots assists a judgment

¹⁹ A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

offended brother is estranged

A' The Righteous Man's Desire: Friendship, Marriage

²⁰ A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

fullness from fruit of mouth and lips

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

power of the tongue

²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

the good wife & Lady Wisdom (ch.31)

²³ The poor man uses entreaties, but the rich answers roughly.

entreaty and request made by the poor

²⁴ A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

fruit of friendship and the Lord's presence

A World Of All Extremes – In Need Of All Wisdom

Proverbs 19

A. Liars, Sinners, and Fools in a World of the Rich and Poor

- ¹ Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
² Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.
³ The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.
⁴ Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

- A. Poor Man better than Perverse Lips
B. Soul without knowledge / sinner hastens with feet
B' Foolish twist his way / heart strives with God
A' Poor Man loses friends, Wealth makes friends

B. Curses & Blessings: The Liar and The Poor versus Gifts and Friends

- ⁵ A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.
⁶ Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and every man is **a friend to one who gives gifts**.
⁷ All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him!
He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.
⁸ He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he **who keeps understanding will find good**.
⁹ A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.

- A. False witness will be punished
B. Mr. Giver of Gifts has friends
C. Poor Man is hated; has no friends
C' Poor Man is abandoned by friends
B' Wise man finds good (i.e. he should give gifts)
A' False witness will be punished

C. The King: Approach Him With Discretion - As You Should With All of Life: Yourself, Children, Wife, and Riches

- ¹⁰ Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes.
¹¹ The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to **overlook a transgression**.
¹² The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.
¹³ A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the **contentions of a wife** are a continual dripping.
¹⁴ Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

- A. Inappropriateness: Luxury for fools & Servant over princes
B. Glorious Discretion: Slow to anger; Overlooking offenses
C. King's anger & King's favor
B' Destructive Indiscretion: Foolish son; Contentious wife
A' Blessedness: Riches from family & Prudent wife/helper

B' Judgments & Blessings: The Lazy, The Careless, The Wrathful versus The Listener and The Merciful

- ¹⁵ Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.
¹⁶ He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways **will die**.
¹⁷ He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.
¹⁸ Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set *your heart* on his destruction.
¹⁹ A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
²⁰ Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.
²¹ There are many plans in a *man's heart*, nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.
²² What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.
²³ The fear of the LORD **leads to life**, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.
²⁴ A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

- A. Lazy man will hunger
B. Death to the careless man
C. Lend to the poor, God will pay you back
D. Heart desires destruction - without discipline
E. Judgment on the wrathful (repeat offender)
E' Blessings on the listener (mature wisdom)
D' Heart of man has plans vs. God's counsel
C' Better to be poor, than a liar
B' Life to man who fears the LORD
A' Lazy man will not feed himself

A' Scoffers, Punishment, and Shamefulness in a World of Justice and Injustice

- ²⁵ Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.
²⁶ He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is **a son who causes shame and brings reproach**.
²⁷ Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.
²⁸ A disreputable witness **scorns justice**, and the mouth of the wicked **devours iniquity**.
²⁹ Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

- A. Scoffer is beaten to warn the simple
B. Shame & reproach, by wicked son
C. Ceasing listening – become foolish
B' Injustice & iniquity, by wicked mouth
A' Scoffers are judged & Fools are beaten

Of Kings and Men
Proverbs 20

- 1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
 2 The wrath of a **king** is like the roaring of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life.
 3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.
 4 The **lazy man** will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.
 5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a **man of understanding** will draw it out.
 6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a **faithful man**?
 7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.
 8 A **king** who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes.
 9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?
- a. Drunkard is mocked / consequences of sin
 b. King's wrath
 c. Honorable restraint / fools start fights
 d. Lazy Man will starve
 e. Understanding Man digs deep
 d' Faithful Man hard to find
 c' Righteous walk in integrity
 b' King sees all evil /scatters it
 a' All hearts need cleansing from sin

- a. **10 Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the LORD.** a. Diverse weights: Abomination
- b. ¹¹ Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right. b. Man's deeds are known
- c. ¹² The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both. Work for your bread
¹³ Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.
- d. ¹⁴ "It is good for nothing," cries the buyer; but when he has gone his way, then he boasts. Bargain hard for knowledge
¹⁵ There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.
- e. ¹⁶ Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, and hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress. Stupidity of Sureties & "Sweet deals"
¹⁷ Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.
- d' ¹⁸ Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war. Wise counsel/associates are needed
¹⁹ He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.
- c' ²⁰ Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness. Easy Money – be careful
²¹ An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.
- b' ²² Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you. b' God repays evil deeds
- a' **23 Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and dishonest scales are not good.** a' Diverse weights: Abomination

- a.i. ²⁴ A man's steps are of the LORD; how then can a man understand his own way? Man's steps are mysterious; of the Lord
 ii. ²⁵ It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows. Man's snare of dishonoring his vows
- b. ²⁶ A wise **king** sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them. King's justice is wise
 a' ²⁷ The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart. Man's spirit is Lord's searching light
 b. ²⁸ Mercy and truth preserve the **king**, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. King's mercy is preservation
- a"i. ²⁹ The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head. Man's glorious strength & splendid gray head
 ii. ³⁰ Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart. Cleansing from evil from "inner depths" (see v.9,27)