

PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

CHAPTER 1

Proverbs of Solomon, son of David, who reigned in Israel, ²to know wisdom and instruction, and to perceive words of understanding: ³to receive also subtilty of words, and to understand true righteousness, and to direct judgment: ⁴that he might give subtilty unto the simple, and to a young man perception and understanding. ⁵For by the hearing of these a wise man will be wiser, and the man of understanding will gain direction; ⁶and he will understand a parable and a dark saying; sayings of the wise also, and dark sayings.

⁷Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and there is a good understanding unto all them that do it: and godliness toward God is the beginning of perception; but the ungodly will set at nought wisdom and instruction. ⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and reject not the laws of thy mother. ⁹For thou shalt receive a crown of graces unto thy head, and a golden chain about thy neck. ¹⁰My son, let not the ungodly lead thee astray, neither consent thou unto them ¹¹if they extort thee, saying, Come with us, partake thou in blood, and let us unjustly hide a just man in the earth, ¹²and let us swallow him alive as Hades, and take away the memorial of him from the earth. ¹³And let us lay hold upon his precious substance; let us fill our houses with spoils; ¹⁴but cast in thy lot with us, and let us all have one purse, and let there to us one wallet. ¹⁵Go not thou in the way with them, but turn aside thy feet from their paths; ¹⁶for their feet run into iniquity, and are swift to shed blood. ¹⁷For not without cause are nets spread for winged creatures. ¹⁸For they partake in murder, and store up evils for themselves; and the overthrow of transgressors is evil. ¹⁹These are the ways of all them that do evil deeds; for by ungodliness they destroy their own soul.

²⁰Wisdom singeth aloud in the streets, and in the squares she leadeth boldly. ²¹And she preacheth on the top of the walls; she taketh her seat in the gates of the mighty; at the gates of the city she speaketh boldly, ²²While the simple cleave unto righteousness, they shall not be ashamed: but the foolish, that are lovers of haughtiness, who are become ungodly, have hated perception, ²³and are become liable to reproofs. Behold, I will bring forth for you the utterance of my breath, and I shall teach you in my word. ²⁴Since I called, and ye hearkened not; and I spake at length, and ye gave no heed: ²⁵but ye have set at nought my counsels, and gave no heed unto my reproofs; ²⁶therefore I also will laugh at your destruction; I will rejoice when ruin cometh upon you: ²⁷yea, when disturbance cometh suddenly upon you, and your overthrow shall come as a tempest: and when trouble and siege cometh unto us; or when ruin cometh upon thee. ²⁸For it shall be that when ye call upon me, I will not hearken unto you; the wicked shall seek me, and shall not find me, ²⁹for that they hated wisdom, and did not choose the word of the Lord; ³⁰neither would they give heed unto my counsels; but despised my

reproofs. ³¹Therefore they eat the fruits of their own way, and shall be filled with their own ungodliness. ³²For since they have wronged the simple, they shall be slain; and inquisition shall ruin the ungodly. ³³But he that hearkeneth unto me shall dwell in hope, and shall be still, without fear of evil.

CHAPTER 2

My son, if thou wilt receive the words of my commandment, and hide it with thee, ²thine ear shall obey wisdom, and thou shalt apply thine heart to understanding; thou shall apply it unto the instruction of thy son. ³For if thou criest unto wisdom, and givest thy voice for understanding; ⁴and if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest diligently for her as for treasures; ⁵then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God: ⁶for the Lord giveth wisdom, and out of His countenance cometh knowledge and understanding. ⁷And He layeth up salvation unto the upright: He will protect their journey; ⁸that He may guard the ways of righteousness, and protect the way of them that fear Him. ⁹Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and shalt make straight all right courses. ¹⁰For if wisdom entereth into thine understanding, and perception seemeth pleasant unto thy soul, ¹¹good counsel shall guard thee, and holy understanding shall keep thee: ¹²to deliver thee from the way of evil, and from the man that speaketh nothing faithfully. ¹³Alas for them that forsake right paths, to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴who rejoice in evils, and delight in wicked frowardness; ¹⁵whose ways are crooked, and their tracks winding: ¹⁶to remove thee far from the straight way, and to estrange thee from a righteous purpose. ¹⁷My son, let not evil counsel overtake thee, which hath forsaken the instruction of her youth, and forgotten the covenant of God. ¹⁸For she hath set her house near death, and her door posts nigh unto Hades, with them that are born of earth. ¹⁹All they that go by her shall not return, neither shall they take hold of right paths; for they are not taken by the years of life. ²⁰For had they gone in good paths, they would have found smooth paths of righteousness. ²¹They will be good builders of the land; but they that are innocent shall be left behind therein. ²²For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the holy shall be left behind therein. ²³The ways of the ungodly shall perish out of the land; and the transgressors shall rooted out of it.

CHAPTER 3

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my words: ²for length of days, and years of life, and peace, shall they add to thee. ³Let not mercy and faith forsake thee: bind them about thy neck, write them upon the tables of thine heart; so shalt thou find grace, ⁴and take thought for that which is noble in the sight of the Lord and men. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and be not thou exalted in thine own wisdom. ⁶In all thy ways

acquaint thyself with her, that thou mayest rightly direct thy paths, and that thy feet stumble not. ⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear God, and keep thyself from every wickedness. ⁸Then shall there be healing to thy body, and care unto thy bones. ⁹Honour the Lord with thy just labours, and give Him of the firstfruits of thy righteousness: ¹⁰that thy stores may be filled to abundance with grain, and thy presses burst out with wine.

¹¹My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord; nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. ¹²For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and chastiseth every son whom He receiveth. ¹³Blessed is the man that hath found wisdom, and the man that knoweth discernment. ¹⁴For it is better to traffick for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵She is more precious than valuable stones; no evil thing shall withstand her: she is well known unto all them that draw nigh unto her; no precious thing is worthy of her. ¹⁶For length of days, and years of life, are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory: out of her mouth proceedeth righteousness; and she carrieth law and mercy on her tongue. ¹⁷Her ways are good ways, and all her paths are peaceful. ¹⁸She is a tree of life to all them that lay hold upon her; and she is secure to them that stay themselves upon her, as upon the Lord. ¹⁹God by wisdom hath founded the earth; by prudence hath He prepared the heavens. ²⁰By understanding the depths were broken up, and the clouds dropped waters.

²¹My son, let not this pass thee by: keep my counsel and understanding, ²²that thy soul may live, and grace be upon thy neck; and it shall be health unto thy flesh, and safety to thy bones: ²³that thou mayest go confidently in peace in all thy ways, and that thy foot may not stumble. ²⁴For if thou sit down, thou shalt not be dismayed; and if thou sleep, thou shalt slumber sweetly. ²⁵And thou shalt not be afraid for terror that cometh upon thee; neither of assaults of the ungodly men that come at thee. ²⁶For the Lord shall be over all thy ways, and shall establish thy foot, that thou be not moved. ²⁷Forbear not to do good unto the needy, whensoever thine hand have power to help. ²⁸Say not, Come back another time; to morrow will I give; for thou knowest not what the day that cometh will bring forth. ²⁹Devise not evils against thy friend that dwelleth near thee, and trusteth thee. ³⁰Strive not with a man without a cause, lest he do thee some evil. ³¹Procure not the reproaches of wicked men, neither do thou imitate his ways. ³²For every transgressor is unclean in the sight of the Lord; neither doth he sit among the righteous. ³³The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly; but the habitations of the just are blessed. ³⁴The Lord resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ³⁵The wise shall inherit glory; but the ungodly have exalted dishonour.

CHAPTER 4

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father; and attend to know understanding. ²For I give you a good gift; forsake ye not my law. ³For I also

was a son obedient unto my father, and beloved in the sight of my mother,
4who taught me, and said, Let our word be fixed in thine heart; keep our
commandments, forget them not: 5neglect not the speech of my mouth.
6Forsake her not, and she shall cleave unto thee; love her, and she shall
watch over thee. (no verse 7) 8Dig thou a trench round about her, and she
shall exalt thee; honour her, that she may embrace thee; 9that she may give
unto thine head a crown of graces, and shield thee with a crown of delight.

10Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of thy life
shall be multiplied unto thee; that the ways of thy life may be many. 11For I
teach thee the ways of wisdom; I cause thee to go up in right paths. 12For if
thou goest, thy steps shall be not be straitened; and if thou run, thou shalt
not travail. 13Take hold of my instruction; let it not go, but keep it for thee for
thy life. 14Go not in the paths of the ungodly, neither imitate the ways of the
transgressors. 15In whatsoever place they pitch their camp, enter not thither;
turn away from them, and pass them by. 16For they sleep not, except they
have done evil; their sleep is taken away, and they slumber not. 17For their
bread is the bread of ungodliness, and they are drunken with the wine of
transgression. 18But the paths of the just shine as the light; they go on, and
shine, until the day be fully come. 19But the ways of the ungodly are dark;
they know not how they stumble.

20My son, attend to my word, and apply thine ear unto my sayings:
21that thy fountains may not fail thee; keep them in thine heart. 22For they
are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23Keep thy
heart with the utmost diligence; for out of these are the issues of life. 24Put
away from thee a froward mouth, and unjust lips put far from thee. 25Let
thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids assent to justice. 26Make
straight paths for thy feet, and order thy ways aright. 27Turn not to the right
hand, nor to the left; but turn thy foot away from an evil way: for God
knoweth the ways upon the right hand; but those upon the left are crooked:
and He will make thy ways straight, and guide thy steps in peace.

CHAPTER 5

My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear unto my words:
2that thou mayest keep good understanding; and I give thee a charge with the
perception of my lips. Give no heed unto a worthless woman; 3for honey
droppeth from the lips of an harlot, which for a season pleaseth thy taste:
4but afterward shalt thou find her more bitter than gall, and sharper than a
twoedged sword. 5For the feet of folly lead those that deal with her down to
Hades with death; and her steps are not established. 6For she goeth not upon
the paths of life; but her ways are slippery, and not easily known. 7Now then,
my son, hear me, and make not my words of none effect. 8Remove thy way far
from her; come not nigh the doors of her house: 9lest thou give away thy life
unto others, and thy living unto the merciless: 10lest strangers be filled with
thy strength, and thy labours come into the houses of strangers; 11and thou

repent at the last, when the flesh of thy body is consumed, ¹²and thou shalt say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart avoided reproofs! ¹³I hearkened not unto the voice of him that instructed me and taught me, neither did I incline mine ear. ¹⁴I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly. ¹⁵Drink waters out of thine own vessels, and from the cisterns of thine own well. ¹⁶Let not the waters out of thy well be spilt by thee, but let thy waters go into thine own streets. ¹⁷Let them be only thine own, and let no stranger partake with thee. ¹⁸Let thy fountain of water be thine own; and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. ¹⁹Let thy loving hart and thy graceful colt keep company with thee; and let her be considered thine own, and be with thee at all times; for being ravished with her love, thou shalt be greatly increased. ²⁰Be not thou intimate with a strange woman, neither fold thee in the arms of a woman not thine own. ²¹For the ways of a man are before the eyes of God, and He looketh upon all his paths. ²²Iniquities do snare a man, and every one is bound in the chains of his own sins. ²³Such a man dieth with the uninstructed; and he is cast forth from the abundance of his own substance, and hath perished through folly.

CHAPTER 6

My son, if thou become surety for thy friend, thou shalt deliver thine hand unto an enemy. ²For a man's own lips become a snare unto him, and he is caught by the lips of his own mouth. ³*My* son, do that which I command thee, and deliver thyself; for on thy friend's account thou art come into the power of evil: faint not, but stir up even thy friend for whom thou art become surety. ⁴Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids; ⁵that thou mayest deliver thyself as a roe out of the toils, and as a bird out of a snare.

⁶Go to the ant, thou sluggard; and see, and be zealous to observe his ways, and be wiser than he. ⁷For seeing he hath no husbandry, nor any to compel him, and is under no master, ⁸he prepareth meat for himself in the summer, and maketh his provision abundant in the winter. ^{8a}Or go to the bee, and learn how diligent she is, and how earnestly she doeth her work; ^{8b}whose labours kings and private men use for health; she also is desired by all, and honoured: ^{8c}though she be weak in strength, she is advanced by honouring wisdom. ⁹How long wilt thou lie, O sluggard? and when wilt thou arise out of sleep? ¹⁰Thou sleepest a little, and thou retest a little, and thou slumberest a short *time*, and thou foldest thine arms over thy breast a little. ¹¹Then poverty cometh upon thee as an evil traveller, and want as a swift runner: ^{11a}but if thou be diligent, thine harvest shall arrive as a fountain; and poverty, as a bad runner, shall flee away.

¹²A foolish man and transgressor goeth in ways that are not good. ¹³And he winketh with the eye, and maketh a sign with his foot, and teacheth with the movement of his fingers. ¹⁴And with a froward heart he deviseth evils continually: such an one causeth troubles in a city. ¹⁵Therefore his destruction cometh suddenly, overthrow and irretrievable ruin. ¹⁶For he

rejoiceth in all things which God hateth, and is ruined by reason of his soul's uncleanness. ¹⁷The eye of the haughty, a tongue unjust, hands that shed the blood of the just, ¹⁸and an heart that deviseth evil thoughts, and feet that hasten to do evil. ¹⁹An unjust witness kindleth falsehoods, and sendeth forth judgments between brethren.

²⁰My son, keep thy father's laws, and reject not the precepts of thy mother: ²¹but bind them continually upon thy soul, and hang them as a chain about thy neck. ²²Whensoever thou walkest, bring it along, and let it be with thee; and when thou sleepest, let it keep thee; that it may walk with thee when thou wakest. ²³For the commandment of the law is a lamp and a light; a way of life; reproof also and correction: ²⁴to keep thee from a married woman, and from the calumny of a strange tongue. ²⁵Let not the lust of beauty overcome thee, neither be thou caught by thine eyes, nor captivated with her eyelids. ²⁶For the value of an harlot is as much as of one loaf; and a woman hunteth for the precious souls of men. ²⁷Shall any one bind fire in his bosom, and not burn his clothes? ²⁸or shall any one go on coals of fire, and not burn his feet? ²⁹So is he that goeth in to a married woman; he shall not be held guiltless, neither any one that toucheth her. ³⁰It is not to be marvelled at if one be taken stealing; for he stealeth that when *he is* hungry he may satisfy his soul: ³¹but if he be taken, he shall repay sevenfold, and deliver himself by giving all his substance. ³²But the adulterer through want of sense procureth destruction to his own soul. ³³He endureth both pain and disgrace, and his reproach shall never be wiped away. ³⁴For the soul of her husband is full of jealousy: he will not spare in the day of vengeance. ³⁵He will not forego enmity for any reason, neither will he be reconciled for many gifts.

CHAPTER 7

My son, keep my words, and hide my commandments with thee. ²My son, honour the Lord, and thou shalt be strong; and fear none but Him: keep my commandment, and thou shalt live; and keep my words as the apples of thine eyes. ³And bind them upon thy fingers, and write them upon the table of thine heart. ⁴Say that wisdom is thy sister; and get understanding as an acquaintance for thee; ⁵that she may keep thee from the strange and wicked woman, if she assail thee with flattering words. ⁶For she looketh from a window out of her house into the streets, at one whom she may see of the simple ones, a young man void of understanding, ⁷passing by the corner in the passages near her house, ⁸and speaking, in the dark of the evening, ⁹when there chanceth to be the stillness of night and of darkness: ¹⁰and the woman meeteth him having the appearance of an harlot, that causeth the hearts of young men to flutter. ¹¹And she is fickle, and debauched, and her feet abide not at home. ¹²For at one time she wandereth without, and at another time she lieth in wait in the streets, at every corner. ¹³Then she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, ¹⁴I

have a peace offering; today I pay my vows: ¹⁵therefore came I forth to meet thee, desiring thy face; and I have found thee. ¹⁶I have spread my beds with sheets, and covered it with double tapestry of Egypt. ¹⁷I have sprinkled my couch with saffron, and mine house with cinnamon. ¹⁸Come, and let us enjoy love until the morning; come, and let us embrace in love. ¹⁹For my husband is not at home, but is gone a long journey, ²⁰having taken in his hand a bag of money: after many days will he return unto his house. ²¹So with much converse she prevailed on him to go astray, and with the snares of her lips she forced him. ²²And he followed her, being gently led on; and like an ox is led to the slaughter, and as a dog unto bonds, or as an hart that is shot in the liver with an arrow: ²³and he hasteneth as a bird into a snare, not knowing that he runneth for his life. ²⁴Now then, my son, hearken unto me, and attend to the words of my mouth. ²⁵Let not thine heart turn aside unto her ways: ²⁶for she hath wounded and cast down many, and them that she hath slain are without number. ²⁷Her house is the house of Hades, leading down to the chambers of death.

CHAPTER 8

Thou shalt preach wisdom, that understanding may be obedient unto thee. ²For she is on lofty eminences, and standeth in the midst of the ways. ³For she sitteth by gates of princes, and singeth at the entries, saying, ⁴You, O men, do I exhort; and lift up my voice to the sons of men. ⁵O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, take heart. ⁶Hearken unto me; for I will speak solemn things, and bring forth that which is right out of my lips. ⁷For my throat shall speak truth; and false lips are an abomination in my sight. ⁸All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. ⁹They are all plain to them that understand, and right to them that find knowledge. ¹⁰Receive instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than tried gold. ¹¹For wisdom is better than precious stones; and nothing valuable is worthy of her. ¹²I wisdom have dwelt with counsel and knowledge, and have called upon understanding. ¹³The fear of the Lord hateth unrighteousness, and insolence, and pride, and the ways of the wicked; and I hate the froward ways of evil men. ¹⁴Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. ¹⁵By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. ¹⁶By me nobles are magnified, and by me monarchs rule over all the earth. ¹⁷I love them that love me; and those that seek me shall find me. ¹⁸Riches and glory belong to me; yea, abundant possessions and righteousness. ¹⁹To have my fruit is better than gold and precious stones; and my fruit is better than choice silver. ²⁰I walk in ways of righteousness, and know the paths of judgment; ²¹that I may divide substance unto them that love me, and fill their treasures with good things. If I declare unto you the things that daily happen, I will remember also to tell of the things of old. ²²The Lord made me the beginning of His ways for His works. ²³He established me before the age in the beginning, before He made

the earth, ²⁴even before He made the deeps; before the fountains of water came forth: ²⁵before the mountains were settled, and before all hills, He begetteth me. ²⁶The Lord made countries and uninhabited places, and the highest inhabited parts of the world. ²⁷When He prepared the heaven, I was present with Him: and when He prepared His throne upon the winds: ²⁸and when He strengthened the clouds above; and when He secured the fountains of the earth; ²⁹and when He strengthened the foundations of the earth: ³⁰I was by Him, arranging all things, I was that wherein He took delight; and daily I rejoiced in His presence continually. ³¹For He rejoiced when He had finished the world, and rejoiced among the children of men. ³²Now then, hearken unto me, O my son; for blessed are they that keep my ways: ³³hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. ³⁴Blessed is the man that shall hear me, and the mortal that shall keep my ways; watching daily at my doors, waiting at the posts of my enterings in. ³⁵For mine outgoings are the outgoings of life, and *in them* is prepared favour of the Lord. ³⁶But they that sin against me do wickedly against their own souls: and they that hate me love death.

CHAPTER 9

Wisdom hath builded her an house, and hath set up seven pillars. ²She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine in a bowl; she hath also furnished her table. ³She hath sent forth her servants, calling with a loud proclamation unto the feast, saying, ⁴Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me; and unto them that want understanding, she saith, ⁵Come, eat of my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you. ⁶Leave folly, that ye may reign for ever; and seek wisdom, and keep straight your understanding by knowledge.

⁷He that reproveth evil *men* shall get dishonour to himself: and he that rebuketh an ungodly *man* shall shame himself. ⁸Rebuke not evil *men*, lest they hate thee: rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love thee. ⁹Give opportunity to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will receive more. ¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the counsel of the holy is understanding: for to know the law is the token of a sound mind. ¹¹For in this way thou shalt live long, and years of thy life shall be added unto thee. ¹²O son, if thou be wise for thyself, thou shalt be wise also for thy neighbours; and if thou prove wicked, thou alone shalt bear the evil. He that stayeth himself upon falsehoods, attempteth to rule the winds, and the same will pursue fowls in their flight: for he hath forsaken the ways of his own vineyard, and hath caused the axles of his own husbandry to go astray; and he goeth through a dry desert, and a land appointed to be drought, and he gathereth barrenness with his hands.

¹³A foolish and bold woman, that knoweth not modesty, cometh to want a morsel. ¹⁴She sitteth at the doors of her house, on a seat openly in the streets, ¹⁵calling to them that pass by, and to them that go right on their

ways; ¹⁶saying, Whoso is most senseless of you, let him turn aside to me: and I exhort them that want prudence, saying, ¹⁷Take and enjoy secret bread, and the sweet water of theft. ¹⁸But he knoweth that mighty men die by her, and he falleth in with a snare of Hades. ^{18a}But haste thee away, delay not in the place, neither fix thine eye upon her: ^{18b}for thus shalt thou go through a strange water, and pass through a strange river: ^{18c}but do thou refrain from strange water, and drink not of a strange fountain, ^{18d}that thou mayest live long, and years of life may be added unto thee.

CHAPTER 10

A wise son maketh his father glad: but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. ²Treasures shall not profit the lawless: but righteousness shall deliver from death. ³The Lord will not suffer a righteous soul to famish: but He will overthrow the life of the ungodly. ⁴Poverty bringeth a man low: but the hands of the vigorous make rich. ^{4a}A son that is instructed shall be wise, and shall use the fool for a servant. ⁵A wise son is saved from heat: but a lawless son is blighted of the winds in harvest. ⁶The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the just: but the mouth of the ungodly shall cover untimely sorrow. ⁷The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the ungodly is extinguished. ⁸A man that is wise in heart will receive commandments: but he that in his crookedness is unguarded in his lips shall be overthrown. ⁹He that walketh in integrity, walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. ¹⁰He that winketh with his eyes deceitfully procureth sorrows for men: but he that reproveth boldy is a peacemaker. ¹¹A fountain of life is in the hand of a righteous man: but destruction shall cover the mouth of the ungodly. ¹²Hatred stirreth up strife: but affection covereth all that love not strife. ¹³He that bringeth forth wisdom from his lips smiteth the heartless man with a rod. ¹⁴The wise shall hide discretion: but the mouth of the hasty draweth near to ruin. ¹⁵The rich men's wealth is a strong city: but the ruin of the ungodly is poverty. ¹⁶The works of the righteous produce life: but the fruits of the ungodly sins. ¹⁷Instruction keepeth the ways of a righteous life; but instruction unchastened goeth astray. ¹⁸Righteous lips cover enmity: but they that utter railings are most foolish. ¹⁹In a multitude of words thou shalt not escape sin: but if thou refrain thy lips thou shalt be prudent. ²⁰The tongue of the just is as tried silver: but the heart of the ungodly shall fail. ²¹The lips of the righteous know *things that are* sublime: but the foolish die in want. ²²The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the righteous, it maketh rich: and sorrow of heart shall not be added to it. ²³A fool doeth mischief in laughter: but wisdom bringeth forth prudence for a man. ²⁴The ungodly is engulfed in destruction: but the desire of the righteous is acceptable. ²⁵When the storm passeth, the ungodly vanisheth away: but the righteous turneth aside, and escapeth for ever. ²⁶As a sour grape is hurtful to the teeth, and smoke unto the eyes, so iniquity hurteth them that practise it. ²⁷The fear of the Lord increaseth length of days: but the years of the ungodly shall be

shortened. ²⁸Joy resteth long with the righteous: but the hope of the ungodly shall perish. ²⁹The fear of the Lord is a strong hold of the holy: but ruin cometh upon them that work wickedness. ³⁰The righteous shall never fail: but the ungodly shall not dwell in the earth. ³¹The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom: but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. ³²The lips of just men drop grace: but the mouth of the ungodly is froward.

CHAPTER 11

False balances are an abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is acceptable to Him. ²Wheresoever pride entereth, there will be also disgrace: but the mouth meditateth wisdom. ³When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret: but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy, and causeth joy. ⁵Righteousness rightly divideth blameless paths: but ungodliness is beset with unjust dealing. ⁶The righteousness of upright men delivereth them: but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. ⁷At the death of a just man his hope perisheth not: but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. ⁸A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. ⁹In the mouth of the ungodly there is a snare unto citizens: but the understanding of the righteous man is prosperous. ¹⁰In the prosperity of the righteous a city goeth well: ¹¹but it is overthrown by the mouth of the ungodly. ¹²A man that is void of understanding scorneth citizens: but a man of understanding is quiet. ¹³A man that is double tongued revealeth the counsels of an assembly: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth matters. ¹⁴They that have no guidance fall like leaves: but in much counsel there is safety. ¹⁵A wicked man doeth harm wheresoever he meeteth a just man: and he hateth the sound of safety. ¹⁶A gracious wife raiseth glory to her husband: but a woman that hateth righteousness is a seat of dishonour. The slothful come to want: but the diligent support themselves with riches. ¹⁷A merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but the merciless destroyeth his own body. ¹⁸An ungodly man performeth unrighteous works: but the seed of the righteous is a reward of truth. ¹⁹A righteous son is born for life: but the persecution of the ungodly *endeth* in death. ²⁰Froward ways are an abomination to the Lord: but all such as are blameless in their ways are acceptable to Him. ²¹He that unjustly striketh hands shall not be unpunished: but he that soweth righteousness shall receive a faithful reward. ²²As an ornament in a swine's snout, so is beauty to a woman that is ill minded. ²³All the desire of the righteous is good: but the hope of the ungodly shall perish. ²⁴There are that scatter their own, and increase it: and there are also that gather, yet are minished. ²⁵Every true soul is blessed: but a passionate man is not graceful. ²⁶Let him that hoardeth grain leave it unto the people: but blessing be upon the head of him that giveth it. ²⁷He that deviseth good seeketh good favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall overtake him. ²⁸He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but he that helpeth the righteous shall arise. ²⁹He that dealeth not graciously with his own house

shall inherit the wind; and the fool shall be servant to the wise. ³⁰Out of the tree of righteousness groweth a tree of life: but the souls of transgressors are cut off before their time. ³¹If the righteous scarce be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

CHAPTER 12

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproofs is a fool. ²Better is he that hath found favour with the Lord; but a transgressor shall be passed over in silence. ³A man shall not prosper by wickedness: but the roots of the righteous shall not be taken up. ⁴A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but as a worm in the wood, even so a bad woman destroyeth her husband. ⁵The thoughts of the righteous are *true* judgments: but ungodly men devise deceits. ⁶The words of the ungodly are crafty: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. ⁷When the ungodly is overthrown, he vanisheth away: but the house of the just remain. ⁸The mouth of an understanding man is commended by men: but he that is dull of heart is had in derision. ⁹A man in dishonour that serveth himself is better than one that honoureth himself, and wanteth bread. ¹⁰A righteous man hath pity for the lives of his cattle: but the bowels of the ungodly are unmerciful. ¹¹He that tilleth his own land shall be satisfied with bread: but they that pursue vanities are void of understanding. He that enjoyeth himself in banquets of wine shall leave dishonour in his own strong holds. ¹²The desires of the ungodly are evil: but the roots of the godly are firmly set. ¹³For the sin of his lips doth a sinner fall into snares: but a righteous man escapeth from them. He whose looks are gentle shall be pitied: but he that contendeth in the gates shall afflict souls. ¹⁴The soul of a man shall be filled from the fruits of his mouth; and the recompense of his lips shall be given him. ¹⁵The ways of fools are right in their own eyes: but a wise man hearkeneth unto counsels. ¹⁶A fool declareth his wrath the same day: but a prudent man hideth his own disgrace. ¹⁷A righteous man sheweth forth the open truth: but an unjust witness is deceitful. ¹⁸There be some that wound like swords as they speak: but the tongues of the wise do heal. ¹⁹True lips establish testimony: but an hasty witness hath an unjust tongue. ²⁰Deceit is in the heart of him that imagineth evil: but they that loveth peace shall rejoice. ²¹There shall no injustice please a just man: but the ungodly shall be filled with mischief. ²²Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but he that dealeth faithfully is accepted with Him. ²³An understanding man is a throne of wisdom: but the heart of fools shall meet with curses. ²⁴The hand of the chosen shall easily obtain rule: but the deceitful shall be for a prey. ²⁵A terrible word troubleth the heart of a righteous man: but a good message rejoiceth him. ²⁶A just arbitrator shall be his own friend; but mischief shall pursue the sinful; and the way of the ungodly shall lead them astray. ²⁷A deceitful man shall catch no game: but a pure man is a precious possession. ²⁸In the ways of righteousness is life: but the ways of them that remember injuries are death.

CHAPTER 13

A wise son is obedient to his father: but a disobedient son will be destroyed. ²A good man shall eat of the fruits of righteousness: but the souls of transgressors shall perish before their time. ³He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that is hasty with his lips shall bring terror upon him. ⁴Every sluggard man desireth: but the hands of the active are diligent. ⁵A righteous man hateth an unjust word: but an ungodly man is ashamed, and shall have no confidence. ⁷There are that have nothing, yet make them rich: and there are that bring themselves down in the midst of great riches. ⁸A man's own riches are the ransom of his life: but the poor endureth not threatening. ⁹The righteous have light always: but the light of the ungodly is put out. Crafty souls go astray in sins: but just men pity, and are merciful. ¹⁰A wicked man doeth evil with insolence: but they that are judges of themselves are wise. ¹¹Wealth gotten hastily with iniquity is diminished: but he that gathereth for himself with godliness shall be increased. The righteous is merciful, and lendeth. ¹²Better is he that beginneth to help heartily, than he that promiseth and leadeth to hope: for a good desire is a tree of life. ¹³He that slighteth a matter shall be slighted of it: but he that feareth the commandment hath health *of soul*. To a crafty son there shall be nothing good: but a wise servant shall have prosperous doings, and his way shall be directed aright. ¹⁴The law of the wise is a fountain of life: but the man that is void of understanding shall die by a snare. ¹⁵Sound discretion giveth favour, and to know the law is the part of a sound understanding: but the ways of the scornful tend to destruction. ¹⁶Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but the fool layeth open his mischief. ¹⁷A rash king shall fall into mischief: but a wise instructor shall deliver him. ¹⁸Instruction removeth poverty and disgrace: but he that attendeth to reproofs shall be honoured. ¹⁹The desires of the godly make glad the soul: but the works of the ungodly are far from knowledge. ²⁰If thou walkest with wise men thou shalt be wise: but he that walketh with fools shall be known. ²¹Evil shall pursue sinners: but good shall overtake the righteous. ²²A good man shall inherit children's children: and the wealth of ungodly men is laid up for the just. ²³The righteous shall spend many years in riches: but the unrighteous shall perish suddenly. ²⁴He that spareth the rod hateth his son: but he that loveth carefully chasteneth him. ²⁵A just man eateth, and satisfieth his soul: but the souls of the ungodly are in want.

CHAPTER 14

Wise women build them houses: but the foolish diggeth it down with her hands. ²He that walketh uprightly feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways shall be dishonoured. ³Out of the mouth of fools is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise preserve them. ⁴Where no oxen are, the cribs

are clean: but where there is much increase the strength of the ox is clear. ⁵A faithful witness doth not lie: but an unjust witness kindleth falsehood. ⁶Thou shalt seek wisdom with evil men, and shalt not find it: but discretion is easy to the prudent. ⁷All things are adverse to a foolish man: but wise lips are the weapon of discretion. ⁸The wisdom of the prudent will understand their ways: but the folly of fools leadeth astray. ⁹The houses of transgressors shall need cleansing: but the houses of the just are acceptable. ¹⁰A man's mind is intelligent, his soul is sorrowful; and when he rejoiceth, he hath no fellowship with pride. ¹¹The houses of ungodly men shall be utterly destroyed: but the tabernacle of them that walk uprightly shall stand. ¹²There is a way which seemeth right with men: but the ends thereof cometh to the depth of Hades. ¹³Sorrow mingleth not with mirth: and joy in the end cometh to sorrow. ¹⁴A stouthearted man shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man with his own thoughts. ¹⁵The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man cometh to another mind. ¹⁶A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool trusteth in himself, and joineth with the transgressor. ¹⁷A passionate man dealeth without consideration: but a sensible man beareth up under many things. ¹⁸Fools shall have mischief for their portion: but the prudent shall take fast hold of understanding. ¹⁹The evil shall fall down before the good; and the ungodly shall attend at the gates of the righteous. ²⁰Friends will hate poor friends: but the friends of the rich are many. ²¹He that dishonoureth the needy sinneth: but he that hath pity upon the poor is most blessed. ²²They that go astray devise evils: but the good devise mercy and truth. Them that frame evil understand not mercy and truth: but compassion and faithfulness are with them that frame good. ²³With every careful one there is abundance: but them that take pleasure and the slothful shall be in want. ²⁴A prudent man is the crown of the wise: but the occupation of fools is evil. ²⁵A faithful witness shall deliver a soul from evil: but a deceitful man kindleth falsehood. ²⁶In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence; and he leaveth his children a support. ²⁷The commandment of the Lord is a fountain of life; and it causeth men to turn aside from the snares of death. ²⁸In a populous nation is the king's glory: but in the failure of people is the ruin of a prince. ²⁹A man that is slow to wrath aboundeth in wisdom: but a man that is hasty of spirit is very foolish. ³⁰A man of meek spirit is an healer of the heart: but a sensitive heart is a corruption of the bones. ³¹He that oppresseth the needy provoketh his Maker: but he that honoureth Him hath pity upon the poor. ³²The ungodly is driven away in his wickedness: but he that is secure in his own holiness is just. ³³There is wisdom in the good heart of a man: but in the heart of fools it is not discerned. ³⁴Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sins diminish tribes. ³⁵An understanding servant is acceptable to a king; and by his good behaviour he taketh away disgrace.

CHAPTER 15

Anger destroyeth even the prudent; yet a submissive answer turneth away wrath: but a grievous word stirreth up anger. ²The tongue of the wise knoweth that which is good: but the mouth of the foolish poureth out evil. ³The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. ⁴The healing of the tongue is a tree of life; and he that keepeth it shall be filled with spirit. ⁵A fool scorneth his father's instruction: but he that keepeth his commandments is more prudent. ⁶In abounding righteousness is great strength: but the ungodly shall be removed root and branch out of the earth. In the houses of the righteous is much strength: but the fruits of the ungodly shall perish. ⁷The lips of the wise are bound by discretion: but the hearts of the foolish are not steadfast. ⁸The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord: but the prayers of them that walk honestly are acceptable with Him. ⁹The ways of an ungodly man are an abomination to the Lord: but He loveth them that follow after righteousness. ¹⁰The instruction of the simple is known by passers by: but they that hate reproofs die in disgrace. ¹¹Hades and destruction are manifest to the Lord: how also are not the hearts of men? ¹²An uninstructed person will not love those that reprove him; neither will he go in with the wise. ¹³When the heart rejoiceth, the countenance is cheerful: but when it is in sorrow, it is sad. ¹⁴An upright heart seeketh discretion: but the mouth of the uninstructed will experience evils. ¹⁵The eyes of the wicked are ever looking unto evil things; but the good are ever quiet. ¹⁶Better is a little portion with the fear of the Lord, than great treasures without fear. ¹⁷Better is an entertainment of herbs with friendliness and kindness, than a feast of calves with enmity. ¹⁸A passionate man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth even future *strife*. A man slow to anger will extinguish quarrels: but an ungodly man stirreth them up. ¹⁹The ways of sluggards are strewn with thorns: but those of the diligent are made smooth. ²⁰A wise son gladdeneth his father: but a foolish son sneereth at his mother. ²¹The ways of a foolish man are void of sense: but a wise man proceedeth rightly. ²²They that honour not councils put off deliberation: but counsel abideth in the hearts of counsellors. ²³A wicked man will by no means obey counsel: neither will he say any thing that is seasonable or good for the common weal. ²⁴The thoughts of the wise are ways of life, that he may turn aside, and escape from Hades. ²⁵The Lord pulleth down the houses of the scornful: but He establisheth the border of the widow. ²⁶An unrighteous thought is an abomination to the Lord: but the sayings of the pure are held in honour. ²⁷He that is a receiver of bribes destroyeth himself: but he that hateth the receiving of bribes is safe. **(Mas. 1:6)**. ^{27a}By alms and by faithful dealings sins are purged away: but by the fear of the Lord every one departeth from evil. ²⁸The hearts of the righteous meditate righteousness: but the mouth of the ungodly answereth evil things. **(Mas. 1:7)** ^{28a}The ways of righteous men are acceptable with the Lord; and through them even enemies become friends. ²⁹God is far from the ungodly: but He hearkeneth unto the prayers of the righteous. **(Mas. 1:8)**. ^{29a}Better are small receipts with righteousness, than abundant fruits with unrighteousness. ^{29b}Let the heart of a man think justly, that his steps may be rightly ordered by God. ³⁰The eye

that seeth rightly rejoiceth the heart; and a good report fatteneth the bones. (no verse 31) ³²He that rejecteth instruction hateth himself: but he that mindeth reproofs loveth his own soul. ³³The fear of the Lord is instruction and wisdom; and the highest honour will answer it.

CHAPTER 16

All the works of the humble are manifest with God: but the ungodly shall perish in an evil day. ⁵Every one that is proud in his heart is unclean before God; and he that unjustly striketh hands with hand shall not be held guiltless. The beginning of a good way is to do justly; and it is more acceptable to God than to offer sacrifices. ⁸He that seeketh the Lord shall find knowledge with righteousness: and they that rightly seek Him shall find peace. (**Mas. 4**). ⁹All the works of the Lord are done in righteousness; and the ungodly is kept for the evil day. ¹⁰There is an oracle upon the lips of a king; and his mouth shall not err in judgment. ¹¹The tipping of the balance is righteousness with the Lord; and his works are righteous measures. ¹²An evil doer is an abomination to a king; for the throne of rule is established by righteousness. ¹³Righteous lips are acceptable to a king; and he loveth right words. ¹⁴The wrath of a king is a messenger of death: but a wise man will pacify him. ¹⁵The son of a king is in the light of life; and they that are in favour with him are as a cloud of latter rain. ¹⁶The brood of wisdom is more to be chosen than gold, and the brood of prudence more to be chosen than silver. ¹⁷The paths of life turn aside from evil; and the ways of life are length of life. He that receiveth instruction shall be in prosperity; and he that regardeth reproofs shall be made wise. He that keepeth his ways preserveth his own soul; and he that loveth his life will spare his mouth. ¹⁸Pride goeth before destruction, and foolishness before a fall. ¹⁹Better is a man that is meek of spirit with lowliness, than one that divideth spoils with the proud. ²⁰He that is skilful in business findeth good: but he that trusteth in God is most blessed. ²¹Some call the wise and understanding evil: but they that are pleasing in their speech shall be heard more. ²²Understanding is a wellspring to them that have it: but the instruction of fools is evil. ²³The heart of the wise will discern *the things which proceed* from his own mouth; and he shall wear knowledge on his lips. ²⁴Good words are honeycombs; and the sweetness thereof is a healing of the soul. ²⁵There are ways that seem to be right unto a man: but the end of them looketh to the depth of Hades. ²⁶A man that laboureth, laboureth for himself, and driveth his own ruin from him. ²⁷But the froward beareth destruction upon his own mouth, and treasureth fire upon his lips. ²⁸A froward man spreadeth mischief, and shall kindle a torch of deceit with mischiefs; and he separateth friends. ²⁹A transgressor trieth friends, and leads them in ways that are not good. ³⁰The man also that fixeth his eyes deviseth froward things, and marketh out all evils with his lips: he is a furnace of iniquity. ³¹Old age is a crown of honour: but it is found in the ways of righteousness. ³²A man that is slow to anger is better than a

strong man; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. ³³All *evils* come upon the ungodly into their bosoms: but all righteous things *are* of the Lord.

CHAPTER 17

Better is a morsel with pleasure in peace, than an house of many good things and unjust sacrifices with strife. ²A wise servant shall have rule over foolish masters, and shall divide portions among brethren. ³As silver and gold are tried in a furnace, even so are choice hearts with the Lord. ⁴An evil man giveth heed to the tongue of transgressors: but a righteous man attendeth not to false lips. ⁵He that laugheth at the poor provoketh him that made him; and he that rejoiceth at the destruction of another shall not be held guiltless: but he that hath compassion shall find mercy. ⁶Children's children are the crown of old men; and their fathers are the glory of children. The faithful hath the whole full of riches: but the faithless not even a farthing. ⁷Faithful lips will not suit a fool, nor lying lips a just man. ⁸Instruction is a gracious reward unto them that use it; and whithersoever it turneth, it shall prosper. ⁹He that concealeth injuries seeketh love: but he that hateth to hide him them separateth very friends and kindred. ¹⁰A threat breaketh down the heart of a wise man: but a fool, though he be scourged, understandeth not. ¹¹Every evil man stirreth up strifes: but the Lord will send out an unmerciful messenger against him. ¹²Care may befall a man of understanding: but fools will meditate evils. ¹³Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not be removed from his house. ¹⁴Rightful rule giveth power to words: but sedition and strife prevent poverty. ¹⁵He that pronounceth the unjust to be just, and the just unjust, is unclean and abominable with God. ¹⁶Why hath the fool riches? for a senseless man will not be able to purchase wisdom. ¹⁷Have thou a friend for every time, and let brethren be useful in distress: for on this account are they born. ¹⁸A foolish man applaudeth and rejoiceth over himself, as he also that becometh surety would make himself responsible for his friends. ¹⁹A lover of sin rejoiceth in strifes; ²⁰and the man that is hard of heart cometh not in for good. A man of a changeful tongue shall fall into mischiefs; ²¹and the heart of a fool is sorrow to the possessor thereof. A father rejoiceth not over an uninstructed son: but a wise son gladdeneth his mother. ²²A glad heart promoteth health: but the bones of a sorrowful man shall dry up. ²³The ways of a man that unjustly receiveth gifts in his bosom prosper not; and an ungodly man perverteth the ways of righteousness. ²⁴The countenance of a wise man is sensible: but the eyes of a fool go to the ends of the earth. ²⁵A foolish son is anger to his father, and sorrow to her that bare him. ²⁶It is not right to punish a righteous man, nor holy to plot against righteous princes. ²⁷He that forbeareth to utter an hard word is discreet, and a patient man is wise. ²⁸Wisdom shall be imputed to a fool who asketh after wisdom: and he that holdeth his peace shall seem to be sensible.

CHAPTER 18

A man that would separate himself from friends seeketh excuses: but at all times he shall be liable to reproach. ²A senseless man feeleth not the need of wisdom, for he is rather led by folly. ³When an ungodly man cometh into a deep of evils, he despiseth: but dishonour and reproach come upon him. ⁴A word in a man's heart is deep water, and a river and fountain of life springeth forth. ⁵It is not good to accept the person of the ungodly, neither is it holy to pervert justice in judgment. ⁶The lips of a fool bring him into troubles, and his bold mouth calleth upon death. ⁷A fool's mouth is ruin unto him, and his lips are a snare to his soul. ⁸Fear casteth down the slothful; and the souls of the effeminate shall hunger. ⁹A man that helpeth not himself by his labour is brother of him that ruineth himself. ¹⁰The name of the Lord is of great strength; and the righteous that run to it are exalted. ¹¹A rich man's wealth is a strong city, and the glory thereof casteth a broad shadow. ¹²Before ruin the heart of man is exalted, and before honour it is humble. ¹³Whoso answereth a word before he heareth it, it is folly and reproach to him. ¹⁴A wise servant calmeth a man's anger: but a fainthearted man who can bear? ¹⁵The heart of the sensible purchaseth discretion; and the ears of the wise seek understanding. ¹⁶A man's gift maketh room for him, and seateth him among princes. ¹⁷A righteous man accuseth himself at the beginning of his speech: but when he hath entered upon the attack, the adversary is reproved. ¹⁸A silent man quelleth strifes, and determineth between great powers. ¹⁹A brother that is holpen by a brother is as a strong and high city; and is strong as a well founded house. ²⁰A man filleth his belly with the fruits of his mouth; and he shall be satisfied with the fruits of his lips. ²¹Life and death are in the power of the tongue; and they that rule it shall eat the fruits thereof. ²²He that hath found a good wife hath found favours, and hath received gladness from God. ^{22a}He that putteth away a good wife, putteth away good things, and he that keepeth an adulteress is foolish and ungodly.

CHAPTER 19

³The foolishness of man perverteth his way, and he blameth God in his heart. ⁴Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is forsaken even of the friend that he hath. ⁵A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that accuseth unjustly shall not escape. ⁶Many intreat the favour of kings: but every evil man becometh a reproach to man. ⁷Every one that hateth a poor brother shall also be far from friendship. A good understanding will draw near to them that know it, and a sensible man shall find it. He that doeth much harm perfecteth mischief; and he that useth provoking words shall not escape. ⁸He that getteth wisdom loveth himself; and he that keepeth understanding shall find good. ⁹A false witness shall not be unpunished; and

whosoever shall kindle mischief shall perish thereby. ¹⁰Delight is not seemly for a fool, nor if a servant begin to rule with pride. ¹¹A merciful man is longsuffering; and his boast cometh upon the transgressors. ¹²A king's threat is as the roaring of a lion: but his favour is even as dew upon the grass. ¹³A foolish son is a disgrace unto his father: and vows of the hire of an harlot are not pure. ¹⁴Fathers divide house and substance to their children: but a woman is joined unto a man by the Lord. ¹⁵Cowardice restraineth the effeminate; and the soul of the idle shall hunger. ¹⁶He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul: but he that despiseth his ways shall perish. ¹⁷He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and He will recompense him according to his gift. ¹⁸Chasten thy son, for so shall he be hopeful; and be not exalted in thy soul to haughtiness. ¹⁹A malicious man shall be punished with severity; and if he commit injury, he shall also lose his soul. ²⁰Hear, O son, the instruction of thy father; that thou mayest be wise at the latter end. ²¹There are many devices in a man's heart: but the counsel of the Lord abideth for ever. ²²Mercy is fruit unto a man; and a poor man is better than a rich liar. ²³The fear of the Lord is life to a man: but he that is without fear shall lodge in places where knowledge is not seen. ²⁴He that unjustly hideth his hands in his bosom shall never bring them up unto his mouth. ²⁵When a pestilent man is scourged, a simple man is made wiser; and if thou reprove a wise man, he will understand discretion. ²⁶He that dishonoureth his father, and driveth away his mother, shall be disgraced, and exposed to reproach. ²⁷A son that ceaseth to heed the instruction of a father will cherish evil designs. ²⁸He that becometh surety for a foolish child will despise the ordinance; and the mouth of the ungodly shall drink down judgments. ²⁹Scourges are prepared for the intemperate, and punishments likewise for fools.

CHAPTER 20

Wine is an intemperate thing, and strong drink full of violence: but every fool is entangled with them. ²The threat of a king differeth not from the rage of a lion; and he that provoketh him sinneth against his own soul. ³It is a glory to a man to turn aside from railing; but every fool is entangled in such matters. ⁴A sluggard when he is reproached is not ashamed; so also is he that borroweth corn in harvest. ⁵Counsel in the heart of a man is a deep water: but a man of understanding will draw it out. ⁶A man is valuable, and a merciful man is precious: but it is hard to find a faithful man. ⁷He that walketh blamelessly in justice shall leave his children blessed. ⁸Whosoever a righteous king sitteth upon the throne, no evil can stand before his presence. ⁹Who shall boast that he hath a clean heart? or who shall boldly say that he is clean of sins? ²⁰The lamp of him that revileth father or mother shall be put out, and his eyeballs shall see darkness. ²¹A portion hastily gotten at the first shall not be blessed at the end. ²²Say not, I will avenge myself upon mine enemy: but wait upon the Lord, that He may help thee. ¹⁰A

large and small weight, and double measures, are even both of them unclean before the Lord; and so is he that maketh them. ¹¹A youth with a godly man will be restrained in his devices, and his way will be straight. ¹²The ear heareth, and the eye seeth: even both of them are the work of the Lord. ¹³Love not to speak ill, lest thou be cut off: open thine eyes, and be satisfied with bread. ²³A double weight is an abomination unto the Lord; and a deceitful balance is not good in his sight. ²⁴A man's goings are directed of the Lord: how shall a mortal understand His ways? ²⁵It is a snare to a man hastily to consecrate of his own property: for repentance coming after vowing. ²⁶A wise king utterly crusheth the ungodly, and shall bring a wheel upon them. ²⁷The spirit of man is a light of the Lord, Who searcheth the innermost parts of the belly. ²⁸Mercy and truth are a guard unto a king, and will surround his throne with righteousness. ²⁹Wisdom is an ornament unto young men; and gray hairs are the glory of old men. ³⁰Bruises and contusions shall befall evil men; and plagues shall come into the inward parts of their belly.

CHAPTER 21

As a stream of water, even so is the king's heart in the hand of God: whithersoever He may desire to turn it, thither He inclineth it. ²Every man seemeth righteous to himself: but the Lord directeth the hearts. ³To do justly and to speak truth are more pleasing unto God than the blood of sacrifices. ⁴A man that is of high looks is bold hearted in his pride; and the lamp of the wicked is sin. ⁶He that gathereth treasures with a lying tongue pursueth vanity to the snares of death. ⁷Destruction shall lodge with the ungodly; for they refuse to do justly. ⁸Unto the froward the Lord sendeth froward ways; for His works are pure and right. ⁹It is better to dwell in a corner in the open air, than in plastered rooms, and in a shared house with unrighteousness. ¹⁰The soul of the ungodly shall not be pitied by any man. ¹¹When an intemperate man is punished the simple is made more wise; and a wise man understanding will receive knowledge. ¹²A righteous man understandeth the hearts of the ungodly, and despiseth the ungodly for their wickedness. ¹³He that stoppeth his ears from hearing the poor, he also shall cry; and there shall be none to hear. ¹⁴A secret gift pacifieth anger: but he that forbearth to give stirreth up strong wrath. ¹⁵It is the joy of the righteous to do judgment: but an holy man is abominable with evil doers. ¹⁶A man that wandereth out of the way of righteousness shall rest in the congregation of giants. ¹⁷A poor man loveth mirth, and loveth wine and oil in abundance; ¹⁸and a transgressor is the offscouring of a righteous man. ¹⁹It is better to dwell in a wilderness than with a quarrelsome, talkative and passionate woman. ²⁰A desirable treasure will rest upon the mouth of the wise: but foolish men will swallow it up. ²¹The way of righteousness and mercy shall find life and glory. ²²A wise man assaulteth strong cities, and casteth down the strong holds wherein the ungodly trusted. ²³He that keepeth his mouth and tongue keepeth his soul

from trouble. ²⁴A bold and selfwilled and insolent man is called a pest; and he that remembereth injuries is a transgressor. ²⁵Desires kill the sluggard: for his hands choose not to do any thing. ²⁶An ungodly man entertaineth evil desires all the day long: but the righteous is merciful and compassionate unsparingly. ²⁷The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination unto the Lord; for they offer them wickedly. ²⁸A false witness shall perish: but an obedient man will speak cautiously. ²⁹An ungodly man impudently withstandeth with his face: but the upright man himself understandeth his own ways. ³⁰There is no wisdom, there is no courage, there is no counsel against the ungodly. ³¹An horse is prepared for the day of battle: but help is of the Lord.

CHAPTER 22

A fair name is better than much riches, and good favour above silver and gold. ²The rich and the poor meet together: but the Lord made both of them. ³A wise man seeing an evil man sore punished is himself instructed: but fools pass by, and are punished. ⁴The fear of the Lord is the offspring of wisdom, and riches, and glory, and life. ⁵Thistles and snares are in perverse ways: but he that keepeth his soul shall refrain from them. ⁷The rich shall rule over the poor, and servants shall lend to their own masters. ⁸He that soweth wickedness shall reap troubles, and receive in full the punishment of his deeds. ^{8a}God loveth a cheerful and liberal man: but He shall bring to an end the vanity of his doings. ⁹He that hath pity upon the poor shall himself be maintained; for he hath given of his bread to the poor. ^{9a}He that giveth bountifully secureth victory and honour: but He taketh away the life of them that have possessions. ¹⁰Cast out a pestilent man from the council, and strifes shall go out with him; for when he sitteth in the council, he dishonoureth all. ¹¹The Lord loveth holy hearts; and all that are blameless are acceptable with him: a king ruleth with his lips. ¹²But the eyes of the Lord preserve discretion: but the transgressor despiseth words. ¹³The slothful man maketh excuses, and saith, There is a lion in the ways, and murderers in the streets. ¹⁴The mouth of a transgressor is a deep pit; and he that is hated of the Lord shall fall therein. ^{14a}Evil ways are before a man, and he liketh not to turn from them: but it is needful to turn aside from a perverse and evil way. ¹⁵Foolishness clingeth to the heart of a child: but the rod and instruction are then far from him. ¹⁶He that oppreseth the poor increaseth his own substance, yet giveth to the rich, to make it less.

¹⁷Incline thine ear unto the words of the wise: hear also my word, and apply thine heart, ¹⁸that thou mayest know that they are good: and if thou lay them to thine heart, they shall also gladden thee upon thy lips; ¹⁹that thy hope may be in the Lord, and He may make thy way known unto thee. ²⁰And do thou thrice record them for thyself upon the table of thine heart, for counsel and knowledge. ²¹I therefore teach thee truth, and knowledge good to hear; that thou mayest answer words of truth to them that question thee.

²²Do no violence unto the poor, because he is needy: neither dishonour thou the helpless in the gates. ²³For the Lord will plead his cause, and thou shalt deliver thy soul in safety. ²⁴Be not companion to a furious man, neither lodge thou with a passionate man: ²⁵lest thou learn of his ways, and get snares unto thy soul. ²⁶Be not thou surety out of respect of a man's person. ²⁷For if those have not whence to give compensation, they will take the bed that is under thee. ²⁸Remove not the ancient landmarks, which thy fathers set. ²⁹It is fitting that a man *that is* observant and diligent in his business should attend on kings, and not on slothful men.

CHAPTER 23

If thou sit to sup at the table of a prince, consider diligently the things that are set before thee: ²and put thine hand, knowing that it behoveth thee to prepare such things: but if thou art insatiate, ³desire not his provisions; for these pertain unto a false life. ⁴If thou be needy, measure not thyself with a rich man; but refrain thyself in thy wisdom. ⁵If thou fix thine eye upon him, he will disappear; for wings like an eagle's are prepared for him, and he returneth unto the house of his master. ⁶Sup not with an envious man, neither desire thou his meats: ⁷so he eateth and drinketh as if should swallow an hair; and bring not him in to thee, neither eat thy meat with him: ⁸for he will vomit it up, and spoil thy fair words. ⁹Say nought in the ears of a fool, lest at any time he sneer at thy wise words. ¹⁰Remove not the ancient landmarks; and enter not upon the possession of the fatherless: ¹¹for the Lord is their Redeemer; He is mighty, and will plead their cause with thee. ¹²Apply thine heart unto instruction, and prepare thine ears for words of discretion. ¹³Refrain not from chastening a child: for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die. ¹⁴For thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from death. ¹⁵Son, if thine heart be wise, thou shalt also rejoice my heart; ¹⁶and thy lips shall converse with my lips, if they be right. ¹⁷Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. ¹⁸For if thou keep all these things, thou shalt have posterity; and thine hope shall not be removed. ¹⁹Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and rightly direct the thoughts of thine heart. ²⁰Be not a winebibber, neither continue long at feasts, and purchases of flesh: ²¹for every whoremonger and drunkard shall be poor; and every sluggard shall clothe himself with rags and tattered garments. ²²Hearken, my son, unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother because she is grown old. ²⁴A righteous father shall bringeth up his children well; and his soul rejoiceth over a wise son. ²⁵Let thy father and thy mother rejoice over thee, and let he that bare thee be glad. ²⁶*My* son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. ²⁷For a strange house is a vessel full of holes; and a strange well is narrow. ²⁸For such an one shall perish suddenly; and every transgressor shall be cut off. ²⁹Who hath woe? who trouble? who hath quarrels? and who vexations and disputes? who hath bruises without a cause? whose eyes are livid? ³⁰Are not

those of them that tarry long at wine? are not those of them that haunt where banquets are? Be not thou drunk with wine; but converse with just men, and converse openly. ³¹For if thou set thine eyes upon bowls and cups, thou shalt afterward go more naked than a pestle. ³²But at the last such an one stretcheth out himself as one that is smitten by a serpent, and poison is dispersed through him as by an horned serpent. ³³Whensoever thine eyes shall behold a strange woman, then shall thy mouth utter perverse things. ³⁴And thou shalt lie down as in the midst of the sea, and as a pilot in a great storm. ³⁵And thou shalt say, They have stricken me, and I was not pained; and they mocked me, and I knew it not: when will it be morning, that I may go and seek those with whom I may go in company?

CHAPTER 24

My son, be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them. ²For their heart meditateth falsehoods, and their lips talk of mischief. ³Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding is it established. ⁴By discretion are the chambers filled with all precious and excellent riches. ⁵A wise man is better than a strong man; and a man that hath prudence is better than a large estate. ⁶War is made with generalship, and help is supplied unto the heart of a counsellor. ⁷Wisdom and good understanding are in the gates of the wise: the wise turn not aside from the mouth of the Lord, but deliberate in council. *(no verse 8)* ⁹Death befalleth them that are uninstructed. The fool also dieth in sins; and uncleanness cleaveth to a pestilent man. ¹⁰He shall be defiled in the evil day, and in the day of affliction, until he be utterly consumed. ¹¹Deliver them that are led away to death, and redeem them that are appointed to be slain; spare not *thine help*. ¹²But if thou say, I know not this man; know that the Lord knoweth the hearts of all; and He that made breath for all, He knoweth all things, Who rendereth to every man according to his works. ¹³*My* son, eat thou honey, because the honeycomb is good, that thy throat may be sweetened. ¹⁴So shalt thou perceive wisdom in thy soul: for if thou find it, thine end shall be good, and hope shall not fail thee. ¹⁵Bring not an ungodly man into the dwelling of the righteous: neither be thou deceived by the feeding of the belly. ¹⁶For a righteous man will fall seven times, and rise *again*: but the ungodly shall be without strength in troubles. ¹⁷If thine enemy fall, rejoice not over him, neither be thou joyful at his overthrow. ¹⁸For the Lord will see it, and it will not please Him, and He will turn away His wrath from him. ¹⁹Rejoice not in evil doers, neither be thou envious of the sinful. ²⁰For the evil man shall have no posterity, and the light of the wicked shall be put out. ²¹*My* son, fear thou God and the king; and disobey not either of them. ²²For they shall suddenly punish the ungodly; and who can know the vengeance of them both? ***(Mas. 29:27)***. ^{22a}A son that keepeth the commandment shall be outside of destruction; for such an one hath fully

received it. ^{22b}Let no falsehood be spoken by the king from the tongue; yea, let no falsehood proceed from his tongue. ^{22c}The king's tongue is a sword, and not one of flesh; and whosoever shall be given up to it shall be destroyed: ^{22d}for if his wrath be provoked, he destroyeth men with cords, and devoureth men's bones, and burneth them up as a flame, that they are not fit to be eaten by young eagles.

(Mas. 30:1). ^{22e}My son, reverence thou my words, and receive them, and do thou repent: these things saith the man unto them that trust in God; and I cease. ²For I am the most simple of all men, and there is not in me the wisdom of men. ³God hath taught me wisdom, and I know the knowledge of the holy. ⁴Who hath gone up to heaven, and come down? who hath gathered the winds in his bosom? who hath wrapped up the waters in a garment? who hath dominion of all the ends of the earth? what is His name? or what is the name of His children? ⁵For all the words of God are tried in the fire, and He defendeth those that reverence Him. ⁶Do not thou add unto His words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be made a liar. ⁷Two things I ask of Thee; take not Thou favour from me before I die. ⁸Remove far from me vanity and falsehood: and give me not riches or poverty; but appoint me what is needful and sufficient: ⁹lest I be filled, and become false, and say, Who seeth me? or be poor, and steal, and swear by the name of God. ¹⁰Deliver not a servant into the hands of his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be utterly destroyed. ¹¹A wicked generation curse their father, and bless not their mother. ¹²A wicked generation judge themselves to be just; but cleanse not their way. ¹³A wicked generation have lofty eyes, and exalt themselves with their eyelids. ¹⁴A wicked generation have swords for teeth, and jaw teeth as knives; to destroy and devour the lowly out of the earth, and the poor of them from among men.

(Mas 24:23) And this thing I say unto you that are wise to learn: it is not good to have respect of persons in judgment. ²⁴He that sayeth of the ungodly, He is righteous, shall be cursed by peoples, and hateful among the nations. ²⁵But they that reprove him shall appear more excellent; and blessing shall come upon them; ²⁶and men will kiss lips that answer well. ²⁷Prepare thy works for thy going forth, and prepare thyself for the field; and come after me, and thou shalt rebuild the house. ²⁸Be not a false witness against thy fellow citizen, neither exaggerate with thy lips. ²⁹Say not, As he hath treated me, so will I also treat him, and avenge me upon him for that wherein he hath injured me. ³⁰A foolish man is like a farm, and a senseless man is like a vineyard. ³¹If thou let him alone, he will altogether remain barren and covered with grass; and he becometh destitute, and his stone walls are broken down. ³²Afterward I reflected, I looked that I received instruction. ³³I slumber a little, and sleep a little, and for a little while I fold my hands across my breast. ³⁴But if thou do this, thy poverty will come speedily, and thy want as a swift courier.

(Mas. 30:15) The horse leech had three dearly beloved daughters: and these three satisfied her not; and the fourth was not contented so as to say, Enough. ¹⁶The grave, and the love of a woman, and the earth not filled with water; water also and fire will not say, It is enough. ¹⁷The eye that

laugheth a father to scorn, and dishonoureth the old age of a mother, let the ravens of the valleys pluck it out, and let the young eagles devour it. ¹⁸Moreover there are three things that are impossible for me to comprehend, and the fourth I know not: ¹⁹the track of an eagle that flieth; and the ways of a serpent upon a rock; and the paths of a ship that passeth through the sea; and the ways of a man in youth. ²⁰Such is the way of an adulterous woman, who having washed herself of what she hath done, sayeth that she hath done nothing amiss. ²¹By three things is the earth troubled, and the fourth it cannot bear: ²²if a servant reign; or a fool be filled with food; ²³or if a maidservant cast out her own mistress; and if a hateful woman marry a good man. ²⁴And there are four very little things upon the earth, but these are wiser than the wise: ²⁵the ants which are weak, and yet prepare their meat in summer; ²⁶the rabbits also, a feeble race, which make their houses in the rocks. ²⁷The locusts have no king, and yet they march orderly at one command. ²⁸And the eft, which supporteth himself by his hands, and is easily taken, dwelleth in the fortresses of kings. ²⁹There are three things also that go well, and a fourth which passeth finely: ³⁰a lion's whelp, stronger than all beasts, which turneth not away, neither feareth any beast; ³¹and a cock that walketh boldly among the hens; and a goat that leadeth the herds; and a king that speaketh publickly before a nation. ³²If thou abandon thyself to mirth, and stretch forth thine hand in a quarrel, thou shalt be disgraced. ³³Milk out milk, and there shall be butter; and if thou wring out the nostrils, there shall come out blood: so if thou extort words, there will come out quarrellings and strifes.

(Mas. 31:1) My words are spoken by God, the oracle of an answer of a king, whom his mother instructed. ²What wilt thou keep, my son, what? the words of God. My firstborn son, I speak unto thee: what? son of my womb? what? son of my vows? ³Give not thy riches to women, nor thy mind and living unto remorse. ⁴Do all things with counsel: drink wine with counsel: princes are prone to anger; let them then not drink wine; ⁵lest they drink, and forget wisdom, and be not able to judge the needy rightly. ⁶Give strong drink unto them that are in sorrow, and the wine to drink unto them that are in pain: ⁷that they may forget their poverty, and remember not their trouble any longer. ⁸Open thy mouth with the word of God, and judge all fairly. ⁹Open thy mouth, and judge justly; and plead thou the cause of the needy and weak.

CHAPTER 25

¹These are the various instructions of Solomon, which the friends of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

²The glory of God concealeth a thing: but the glory of a king honoureth business. ³Heaven is high, and the earth is deep, and the heart of a king is unsearchable. ⁴Beat the drossy silver, and it shall be made wholly pure. ⁵Slay the ungodly from before the king, and his throne shall prosper in

righteousness. ⁶Be not thou boastful in the presence of the king, and remain not in the places of princes; ⁷for better it is for thee that it be said, Come up to me, than that one humble thee in the presence of the prince; speak of that which thine eyes have seen. ⁸Get not suddenly into a quarrel; lest thou repent at the last. ⁹Whensoever thy friend shall reproach thee, get thee backward, despise him not; ¹⁰lest thy friend continue to reproach thee, so thy quarrel and enmity shall not depart, but shall be unto thee like death. Favour and friendship set free, which do thou keep for thyself, lest thou be made liable to reproach; but take heed unto thy ways peaceably. ¹¹As a golden apple in a necklace of sardius, so is it to speak a wise word. ¹²In an earring of gold a precious sardius is also set; even so is a wise word to an obedient ear. ¹³As a fall of snow in the time of harvest is good against heat, so a faithful messenger refresheth those that send him; for he helpeth the soul of his employers. ¹⁴As winds and clouds and rains are most evident, so is he that boasteth of a false gift. ¹⁵In longsuffering is prosperity to kings, and a soft tongue breaketh the bones. ¹⁶Having found honey, eat only what is enough, lest haply thou be filled, and vomit it up. ¹⁷Enter sparingly into thy friend's house; lest he be satiated with thy company, and hate thee. ¹⁸As a club, and a dagger, and a pointed arrow, so also is a man that beareth false witness against his friend. ¹⁹The way of the wicked, and the foot of the transgressor, shall perish in an evil day. ²⁰As vinegar is bad for a sore, so trouble befalling the body afflicteth the heart. ²¹If thine enemy hunger, feed thou him; if he thirst, give him drink; ²²for so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee good. ²³The north wind raiseth clouds; so an impudent face provoketh the tongue. ²⁴Better *it is* to dwell upon a corner of the roof, than with a railing woman in an open house. ²⁵As cold water is agreeable to a thirsting soul, so is a good message from a land that is afar off. ²⁶As if one should stop a well, and corrupt a spring of water, so is it unseemly for a righteous man to fall before an ungodly man. ²⁷*It is* not good to each much honey; but it is right to honour venerable sayings. ²⁸As a city whose walls are broken down, and which is unfortified, even so is a man that doeth any thing without counsel.

CHAPTER 26

As dew in harvest, and as rain in summer, so honour is not *seemly* for a fool. ²As birds and sparrows fly, so shall a curse come not upon any one without a cause. ³As a whip for an horse, and as a goad for an ass, even so is a rod for a simple nation. ⁴Answer not a fool according to his foolishness, lest thou become like him. ⁵Yet answer thou a fool in his foolishness, lest he seem wise in his own eyes. ⁶He that sendeth a message by a foolish messenger procureth for himself reproach from his own ways. ⁷As *well* take away the motion of the legs, as transgression from the mouth of fools. ⁸He that bindeth up a stone in a sling is as one that giveth glory unto a fool.

⁹Thorns do grow in the hand of a drunkard, and servitude in the hand of fools. ¹⁰All the flesh of fools endureth much hardship; for their fury is brought to nought. ¹¹As when a dog returneth to his vomit, and becometh abominable, even so is a fool that returneth in his wickedness to his own sin. ^{11a}There is a shame that bringeth sin; and there is a shame that is glory and grace. ¹²I have seen a man that seemed to himself to be wise; but a fool had more hope than he. ¹³A sluggard when he is sent upon a journey saith, There is a lion in the ways, and murderers in the streets. ¹⁴As a door turneth on the hinge, so doth a sluggard on his bed. ¹⁵A sluggard which hath hid his hand in his own bosom, will not be able to bring it up to his mouth. ¹⁶A sluggard seemeth to himself to be wiser than one that most satisfactorily bringeth back a message. ¹⁷As he that layeth hold upon a dog's tail, even so is he that maketh himself the champion of another's cause. ¹⁸As them that need correction put forth fair words unto men; and he that first falleth in with the proposal shall be overthrown: ¹⁹so are all they that lay wait for their own friends, and when they are discovered, say, I did it in jest. ²⁰With much wood fire increaseth: but where there is no double minded man, strife ceaseth. ²¹An hearth for coals, and wood for fire, and a railing man for the tumult of strife. ²²The words of cunning knaves are soft: but they smite even to the innermost parts of the bowels. ²³Silver dishonestly given is to be considered as a potsherd: smooth lips cover a grievous heart. ²⁴A weeping enemy promiseth all things with his lips: but in his heart he contriveth deceit. ²⁵Though thine enemy intreat thee with a loud voice, consent not: for there are seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶He that hideth enmity frameth deceit: but being easily discerned, he exposeth his own sins in the public assemblies. ²⁷He that diggeth a pit for his neighbour shall fall into it; and he that rolleth a stone, rolleth it upon himself. ²⁸A lying tongue hateth the truth; and an unguarded mouth causeth tumults.

CHAPTER 27

Boast not of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what the next day shall bring forth. ²Let thy neighbour praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. ³A stone is heavy, and sand cumbersome: but a fool's wrath is heavier than both. ⁴Wrath is merciless, and anger sharp: but envy can bear nothing. ⁵Open reproofs are better than secret love. ⁶The wounds of a friend are more to be trusted than the spontaneous kisses of an enemy. ⁷A full soul scorneth honeycombs: but to a sweet soul even bitter things seem sweet. ⁸As when a bird flieth down from her own nest, even so a man is brought into bondage whensoever he estrangeth himself from his own place. ⁹The heart delighteth in ointments, and wines, and perfumes: but the soul broken by calamities. ¹⁰Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; and when thou art in distress, go not into thy brother's house: better is a friend that is near than a brother that liveth afar off. ¹¹Son, be wise, that thine heart may rejoice; and remove thou from thyself reproachful words. ¹²A

wise man, when evil approacheth, hideth himself: but fools pass on, and shall be punished. ¹³Take away the man's garment, (for a scorner hath passed by,) whosever layeth waste another's goods. ¹⁴Whosoever shall bless a man in the morning with a loud voice, shall seem to differ nothing from one that curseth him. ¹⁵On a stormy day drops of rain drive a man out of his house; so also doth a railing woman *drive a man* out of his own house. ¹⁶The north wind is sharp, but it is called by name propitious. ¹⁷Iron sharpeneth iron; and a man sharpeneth his friend's countenance. ¹⁸He that planteth a fig tree shall eat the fruits thereof: so that waiteth upon his own master shall be honoured. ¹⁹As faces are not like *other* faces, so neither are the thoughts of men. ²⁰Hades are destruction are not filled: so also are the eyes of men insatiate. ^{20a}He that fixeth his eye is an abomination unto the Lord; and they that are uninstructed restrain not their tongue. ²¹Fire is the trial for silver and gold; and a man is tried by the mouth of them that praise him. ^{21a}The heart of the transgressor seeketh after mischiefs: but an upright heart seeketh knowledge. ²²Though thou scourge a fool, disgracing him in the midst of the council, thou shalt in no wise remove his folly from him. ²³Do thou thoroughly know the number of thy flock, and look well to thy herds. ²⁴For a man hath not strength and power for ever; neither doth he pass it on from generation to generation. ²⁵Take care of the herbage in the field, and thou shalt cut grass, and gather the mountain hay; ²⁶that thou mayest have wool of sheep for clothing: look well to the land, that thou mayest have lambs. ²⁷*My* son, thou hast words from me that are exceeding useful for thy life, and for the life of thy servants.

CHAPTER 28

The ungodly fleeth when no man pursueth: but the righteous is confident as a lion. ²For the sins of the ungodly quarrels arise: but a wise man shall quench them. ³A bold man oppresseth the poor by ungodly deeds. As an impetuous and unprofitable rain, ⁴so they that forsake the law praise ungodliness: but such as love the law fortify themselves with a wall. ⁵Evil men shall not understand judgment: but they that seek the Lord shall understand every thing. ⁶A poor man that walketh in truth is better than a rich liar. ⁷A wise son keepeth the law: but he that keepeth up debauchery dishonoureth his father. ⁸He that increaseth his riches by usuries and *unjust* gains gathereth it for him that pitieth the poor. ⁹He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even he hath made his prayer abominable. ¹⁰Whoso causeth the upright to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into destruction: transgressors shall pass by prosperity, but shall not enter into it. ¹¹A rich man is wise in his own conceit: but a man poor man that hath understanding shall condemn him. ¹²By reason of the help of the righteous great glory ariseth: but men are caught in the places of the ungodly. ¹³Whoso covereth his own ungodliness shall not prosper: but he that blameth himself

shall be loved. ¹⁴Blessed is the man that feareth religiously all things: but they that are hard of heart shall fall into mischiefs. ¹⁵An hungry lion and a thirsty wolf is he, that, being poor, ruleth over a poor nation. ¹⁶A king that wanteth revenues is a great oppressor: but he that hateth injustice shall prolong his days. ¹⁷He that is surety for a man that is accused of murder shall be an exile, and not in safety. ^{17a}Chasten thy son, and he shall love thee, and give honour unto thy soul: he shall not obey a sinful nation. ¹⁸Whoso walketh justly is holpen: but he that walketh in crooked ways shall be caught *therein*. ¹⁹He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth idleness shall have poverty enough. ²⁰A man that is worthy of credit shall be much blessed: but the wicked shall not be unpunished. ²¹He that reverenceth not the persons of the just is not good: such an one will sell a man for a morsel of bread. ²²An envious man hasteth to be rich, and knoweth not that the merciful shall have dominion of him. ²³He that rebuketh a man's ways shall have more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue. ²⁴Whoso casteth off father or mother, and thinketh that he sinneth not, the same is partaker with an ungodly man. ²⁵An unbelieving man judgeth rashly: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall act carefully. ²⁶He that trusteth to a bold heart, such an one is a fool: but whoso walketh in wisdom shall be safe. ²⁷He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that turneth away his eye shall be in great distress. ²⁸In the places of the ungodly the righteous groan: but in their destruction the righteous shall be multiplied.

CHAPTER 29

He that reproveth is better than a stiffnecked man: for when the latter is suddenly set on fire, there shall be no remedy. ²When the righteous are praised, the people will rejoice: but when the ungodly rule, men mourn. ³When a man loveth wisdom, his father rejoiceth: but he that keepeth harlots shall waste riches. ⁴A righteous king establisheth a land: but a transgressor destroyeth it. ⁵He that prepareth a net in the way of his friend, snareth his own feet therein. ⁶A great snare *is spread* for the sinner: but the righteous shall be in joy and gladness. ⁷A righteous man knoweth how to judge for the poor: but the ungodly understandeth not knowledge; and the poor hath not an understanding mind. ⁸Lawless men burn down a city: but wise men turn away wrath. ⁹A wise man shall judge nations: but a worthless man being angry laugheth and feareth not. ¹⁰Bloody men hate an holy man: but the upright shall seek his soul. ¹¹A fool uttereth all his mind: but the wise reserveth his in part. ¹²When a king hearkeneth to unjust words, all his subjects are transgressors. ¹³When the creditor and debtor meet together, the Lord overseeth them both. ¹⁴When a king judgeth the poor in truth, his throne shall established for a testimony. ¹⁵Stripes and reproofs give wisdom: but an erring child disgraceth his parents. ¹⁶When the ungodly abound, sins abound: but when they fall, the righteous are warned. ¹⁷Chasten thy son,

and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give honour to thy soul. ¹⁸There shall be none to interpret to a sinful nation: but he that keepeth the law is blessed. ¹⁹A stubborn servant will not be reprov'd by words: for thou he understand, still will he not obey. ²⁰If thou see the man hasty in his words, know that the fool hath hope more than he. ²¹He that liveth wantonly from a child, shall be a servant, and at the last shall sorrow over himself. ²²A furious man stirreth up strife, and a passionate man diggeth up sin. ²³Pride bringeth a man low: but the Lord upholdeth the humble in spirit with honour. ²⁴He that shareth with a thief hateth his own soul; and if any that have heard an oath uttered tell not of it, ²⁵they fearing and reverencing men have been overthrown: but he that trusteth in the Lord shall rejoice. Ungodliness causeth a man to stumble: but he that putteth his trust in his master shall be safe. ²⁶Many wait upon the favour of rulers: but justice cometh unto a man from the Lord. ²⁷A righteous man is an abomination to an unrighteous man; and the direct way is an abomination to the sinner.

(Mas. 31:10) Who shall find a virtuous woman? for such an one is more valuable than precious stones. ¹¹The heart of her husband doth trust in her: such an one shall stand in no need of fine spoils. ¹²For she employeth all her living for her husband's good. ¹³She gathereth wool and flax, and maketh it serviceable with her hands. ¹⁴She is as a ship that tradeth from a distance: so she procureth her livelihood. ¹⁵She riseth also by night, and giveth meat to her household, and tasks unto her maidens. ¹⁶She vieweth a farm, and buyeth it; and with the fruit of her hands she planteth a possession. ¹⁷She strongly girdeth up her loins, and strengtheneth her arms for work. ¹⁸And she findeth by experience that working is good; and her candles goeth not out all night. ¹⁹She reacheth for her arms for needful work, and applieth her hands unto the spindle. ²⁰And she openeth her hands unto the needy, and reacheth out fruit unto the poor. ²¹Her husband is not anxious about them that are at home when he tarrieth any where abroad; for all those that are with her are clothed. ²²She maketh for her husband clothes of double texture, and garments for herself of linen and scarlet. ²³And her husband becometh a distinguished person in the gates, when he sitteth in council with the ancients of the land. ²⁴She maketh fine linens, and selleth girdles unto the Canaanites: ²⁵she openeth her mouth heedfully and with propriety, and ordereth her tongue. ²⁶She putteth on strength and honour, and rejoiceth in the latter days. ²⁷The ways of her household are careful, and she eateth not the bread of idleness. ²⁸But she openeth her mouth wisely, and according to law.

²⁹Many daughters have obtained riches, many have wrought valiantly; but thou hast exceeded, thou hast surpassed all. ³⁰Charms are false, and woman's beauty is vain: for it is a wise woman that is blessed, and let her praise the fear of the Lord. ³¹Give her of the fruit of her lips; and let her husband be praised in the gates.