

# Proverbs and Wisdom Literature

Study notes prepared by Steve Gregg

## I. Wisdom of the ancient Israelites

### A. *Early eastern wits*

1. The wise woman of Tekoa (2 Sam.14)
2. The city of Abel (2 Sam. 20:18)
3. Ethan, Heman, Calco & Darda (1 Kings 4:31)
4. Samples of Jewish witticisms (1 Sam.24:13/ 1 King 20:11/Jer. 31:29/ Luke 4:23)

### B. *Court counsellors*

1. Ahithophel & Hushai (2 Sam.17)
2. Prov.20:18/Jer.18:18

### C. *Solomon, the sage*

1. His unique calling and gifting (1 Kings 3:10-13)
2. Factors of his youth that formed his disposition toward wisdom (his father's exhortations-Prov.4:3-9; family problems-1 Kg 1:6, etc.)
3. His reputation (1 Kings 3:28/4:29-34/ 10:6-9)
4. His lapse (1 Kings 11)
5. His last words (Eccl.12:1, 13-14)

### D. *Forms of distilled wisdom*

1. Parables/fables (Judges 9:8-15/2 Sam 12:1-4)
2. Riddles (1:6/ Judges 14:14)
3. Number sayings (30:15-31)
4. Poems/songs (31:10ff)
5. Proverbs (1:1) Pithy aphorisms or similes summarizing general, observable truths
  - a. Single-line proverbs
    - "Wickedness proceeds from the wicked" (1 Sam.24:13)
    - "Like mother, like daughter" (Ezek.16:44)

- "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird" (Prov.1:17)
- "Wisdom is justified by her children" (Matt.11:19)
- "Where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered" (Job.39:30; Matt.24:28; Luke 17:37)
- "One sows and another reaps" (John 4:37)

### b. Couplets

#### I. Amplifications

- "Stolen water is sweet; And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." (Pr.9:17)
- "A slothful man buries his hand in the bowl; And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again." (Pr.19:24)
- "The rich rules over the poor; And the borrower is servant to the lender" (Pr.22:7)

#### II. Contrasts

- "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband; But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones." (Pr.12:4)
- "There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword; But the tongue of the wise promotes health." (Pr.12:18)
- "In all labor there is profit; But idle chatter leads only to poverty" (Pr.14:23)
- "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Pr.27:6)

### c. Clusters (Prov.10:19-21; 16:12-15; 26:13-16; 26:18-22)

### d. Extended proverbs (Prov.25:21-22; 26:24-26; 27:15-16; 23-27)

### E. *Biblical Books of the "wisdom" genre*

1. Job — an enquiry into the mysterious ways of God
2. Proverbs — reflections on a well-ordered life
3. Ecclesiastes — concluding reflections from a life of mixed wisdom and vanity

4. Fragments in other canonical books (John 4:35, 37/ 1 Cor.15:33)
5. Apocryphal wisdom Books: *Ecclesiasticus*; *The Wisdom of Solomon*

## II. The role of Wisdom in the spiritual life

- A. *The rational God made man to be rational* (8:22, 14-17)
- B. *True wisdom is moral and spiritual in nature* (9:10/8:7-8/21:30)
- C. *Wisdom is a legitimate means of Divine guidance* (8:32-35)
- D. *Wisdom is to be desired above many other things of value* (3:13-15/16:16)
- E. *The Wisdom of God obtains its highest expression in Jesus Christ* (1 Cor.1:30/Matt.7:24ff)

## III. Proverbial Patterns of life (not to be confused with “laws” nor “guarantees”)

- A, *Things you missed while you were “sleeping”*: lessons learned by observation
1. Observations from nature (1 Kings 4:33/ Pr.6:6-11/24:30-34/30:24-28)
  2. Observations of human nature (12:25/13:12/18:1/23:6-7/20:14/29:5)
  3. Observations of characteristic providence (12:2/14:34/22:9/23:10-11)
  4. Observations of causes and effects (12:24/13:18/14:4/29:15, 17)
- B. *Generalities, not universalities: not always true, but usually* (e.g., *a soft answer, 15:1; diligent will be rich, 10:4; fear God, live long, 10:22*)
- C. *Generalizations in tension: though valid, depends on other variables* (e.g., *answer a fool? 26:4-5; predictable success? 15:22 with 19:21*)

D. *Pregnant specifics: statement may apply more broadly in principle*

(e.g., *too much honey, 25:16; dig pit, fall in, 26:27; loud blessings, 27:14*)

E. *Striking similes: did you ever notice the resemblance?* (e.g., *10:26/11:22/25:13, 19, 20, 25/26:9, 17, 18-19, 21, 22...etc., etc.*)

F. *Enlightened values*

1. Choosing the best: “X is better than Y” (e.g. 15:16/16:16, 19, 32/17:1/ 25:24)
2. The long-term view of things: “...but in the end...” (5:4, 11/14:12-13/19:20/ 20:21/23:18, 32/24:14, 20/25:8/29:21)

## IV. Survey of the book of Proverbs

- A. *A father’s attempt to impart a love for wisdom in his son* (Ch.1-9)
1. Introduction (1:1-7)
  2. Warning against youthful neglect of wisdom (1:8-19)
  3. Wisdom’s sermon to the simple-minded (1:20-33)
  4. Exhortation to observe parental instructions and commands (ch.2-7)
  5. Another song of wisdom (ch.8)
  6. Wisdom’s hospitality contrasted with that of the foolish woman (ch.9)
- B. *Solomon’s notebook* (ch.10—22:16)
- C. *Exhortations of the wise men transmitted to a son* (22:17—ch.24)
1. First sermon (22:17-24:22)
  2. Second sermon (24:23-34)
- D. *A collection of Solomon’s sayings compiled by Hezekiah’s men* (ch.25-29)
- E. *An unpretentious man’s observations* (ch.30)
1. Disclaimer (vv.1-6)

2. A prayer for mediocrity (vv. 7-9)
3. Various observations about life (vv.10-33)

*F. Womanly wisdom (ch.31)*

1. A queen mother's advice to her son, the king (vv 1-9)
2. Marks of the quintessential wise wife (vv 10-31)

**V. Primary Themes of the Proverbs**

*A. Wisdom (see separate sheet #1)*

*B. God-conscious living*

1. The fear of God (1:7/8:13/14:26/16:6/23:17/28:14)
2. The knowledge of God (2:1-5/9:10)
3. The sovereignty of God (16:1, 4, 7, 9, 33/19:21/20:24/21:1, 31)
4. The omniscience of God (5:21/15:3, 11)
5. The sympathies of God
  - a. delights in the righteous/detests the wicked (11:20/15:8-9, 29/21:3, 27/28:9)
  - b. delights in truthful people/detests liars (6:16-17, 19/12:22)
  - c. delights in righteous words/detests wicked thoughts (6:18/15:26)
  - d. detests the proud heart (and look) (6:16-17/16:5/21:4)
  - e. detests those who justify the wicked and condemn the just (17:15)
  - f. sympathizes with the poor (19:17/22:22-23)
  - g. detests corrupt business practices (20:10, 23)
  - h. detests violent crime (6:16-18)
  - i. detests those who sow discord among brethren (6:19)
6. The justice of God (21:12/24:11-12/29:26)
7. Security in God (18:10/20:22/21:31/29:25/30:5)

*C. Attitude and mood management*

1. The all-important "heart" (4:23)
  - a. Not Freud's "unconscious mind" (14:10)
  - b. The real "you" (23:7/24:12/26:23-25/27:19)

- c. The need to keep and correct (14:14/22:15/20:9/23:19)

2. Moods and 'tudes

- a. Pride (21:24; 22:4; 25:27)
- b. Depression (12:25/14:10/15:13, 15/17:22/18:14)
- c. Envy & Jealousy (3:31/14:30/23:17/6:34/27:4)
- d. Resentment (13:12/18:19)
- e. Anger (14:29/15:18/16:32/19:11/29:22/30:33)
- f. Self-composure (17:27/20:3/25:28/29:11)
- g. Self-confidence (28:26)

*D. Human relationships*

1. Parent-child

- a. children & blessing (13:22/17:6/20:7/31:28)
- b. training (13:24/19:18/22:6, 15/23:13-14/29:15, 17)
- c. counsel to children (6:20/13:1/15:5/17:6/27:10)

2. Husband-wife (see separate sheet #2)

3. Servant-master (12:9/17:2/29:19/29:21/30:10)

4. Ruler-subject

- a. obtaining a king's favor (23:1ff/25:15/14:35/16:14/22:11/25:6)
- b. what's good about kings? (20:8, 26, 28/21:1/25:5/29:14)
- c. bad rulers are bad news (28:15-16, 28/29:2, 4, 12)

5. Friends & brothers

- a. what friends are for? (17:17/18:24/27:6, 9, 17)
- b. false friends (12:26/14:20/19:4, 6-7)
- c. endangering friendships (6:1-3/16:28/17:9, 18/27:10, 14)

6. Enemies

- a. don't fear enemies, fear God (16:7)
- b. don't trust an enemy (27:6)
- c. don't despise an enemy (24:17-18/25:21-22)

7. Neighbors

- a. the value of neighbors (18:17/27:10)
- b. don't cheat you neighbor (3:27-29/6:29/24:28/26:19)
- c. don't tax a neighbor's hospitality ~or~ don't mistake a neighbor for a friend! (25:17)

- d. bad neighbors (11:9, 12/14:20-21/16:29/21:10/29:5)
- e. settling neighborly disputes (25:8-9)

*E. Avoiding the world's traps*

1. The lusts of the flesh
  - a. Food obsession (21:17/23:1-3/25:16, 27/30:22)
  - b. Drug (alcohol) abuse (20:1/21:17/23:29-35/31:4-6)
  - c. The sluggard: love of sleep (12:24/6:4, 9-11/19:15/20:13)
  - d. Sexual temptation (see separate sheet #3)
2. The lust of the eyes—[greed] (see separate sheet #4)
3. The pride of life
  - a. Self-importance exposed (3:7/12:15/16:2/18:2/18:11/20:6/21:2/25:27/26:12, 16/27:2/28:11, 26/30:12)
  - b. What proud people do (21:24/28:25)
  - c. What the proud can look forward to (8:13/11:2/13:10/15:25/16:5, 18/29:23)
  - d. Social climbing (16:19/23:1-8/24:1/28:23)
  - e. Peer pressure/choice of companions (1:10-18/13:20/22:24-25/23:20/24:21/28:7/29:3, 24)
  - f. Speech defects (see separate sheet #5)

## Themes in Proverbs: *Wealth*

### I. Attitudes toward money

#### A. Sense of security and social standing

**14:20**

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

**19:4**

*Wealth makes many friends,  
But the poor is separated from his friend.*

**10:15**

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

**18:11**

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

#### B. Unpredictable

**13:7**

*There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing;  
And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.*

**23:4-5**

*Do not overwork to be rich;  
Because of your own understanding, cease!  
<sup>5</sup><sup>[a]</sup>Will you set your eyes on that which is not?  
For riches certainly make themselves wings;  
They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.*

**Eccl.5:11**

*When goods increase,  
They increase who eat them;  
So what profit have the owners  
Except to see them with their eyes?*

**27:1**

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

**28:22**

*A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,  
And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.*

*James 4:13-15*

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow <sup>[a]</sup>we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; <sup>14</sup> whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."*

#### C. Many things are better

**15:16-17**

*Better is a little with the fear of the Lord,  
Than great treasure with trouble.  
Better is a dinner of herbs where love is,  
Than a fatted calf with hatred.*

**16:8**

*Better is a little with righteousness,  
Than vast revenues without justice.*

**17:1**

*Better is a dry morsel with quietness,  
Than a house full of <sup>[a]</sup>feasting with strife.*

**19:22**

*What is desired in a man is kindness,  
And a poor man is better than a liar.*

**28:6**

*Better is the poor who walks in his integrity  
Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.*

**28:11**

*The rich man is wise in his own eyes,  
But the poor who has understanding searches him out.*

## II. Obtaining Money: Business Ethics and Practices

#### A. Foundational understanding

**11:4**

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

**11:28**

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

**22:2**  
*The rich and the poor have this in common,  
The Lord is the maker of them all.*

**B. Hard work, not easy money**

**13:11**  
*Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished,  
But he who gathers by labor will increase.*

**14:4**  
*Where no oxen are, the trough is clean;  
But much increase comes by the strength of an ox*

**14:23**  
*In all labor there is profit,  
But idle chatter leads only to poverty.*

**15:27**  
*He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house,  
But he who hates bribes will live.*

**21:5**  
*The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,  
But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.*

**21:17**  
*He who loves pleasure will be a poor man;  
He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.*

**28:8**  
*One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion  
Gathers it for him who will pity the poor.*

**28:19-20**  
*He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,  
But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!  
A faithful man will abound with blessings,  
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.*

**C. Sluggard and Diligent contrasted**

**10:4**

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

**12:11**  
*He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread,  
But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.*

**13:4**  
*The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;  
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

**18:9**  
*He who is slothful in his work  
Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.*

**20:4**  
*The lazy man will not plow because of winter;  
He will beg during harvest and have nothing.*

**20:13**  
*Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty;  
Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.*

**26:14-16**  
*As a door turns on its hinges,  
So does the lazy man on his bed.  
<sup>15</sup> The lazy man buries his hand in the <sup>l</sup> bowl;  
It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.  
<sup>16</sup> The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes  
Than seven men who can answer sensibly.*

**D. Self-employment good**

**12:9—**

*“Better is the one who is slighted but has a servant,  
Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.” (NKJV)*

*“Better is a man of humble standing who works for himself  
Than one who plays the great man but lacks bread.” (LXX)*

*“It is better to be an ordinary person working for a living  
than to play the part of someone great but go hungry” (ESV)*

*“Better to be dishonored, yet have a servant,  
than to act important but have no food.” (HCSV)*

*“It is better to be an ordinary person working for a living*

*than to play the part of someone great but go hungry.” (GNB)*

*“It is better to be lowly and a servant to someone than self-glorifying and lacking food.” (LEX)*

**12:24**

*The hand of the diligent will rule,  
But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*

**27:23-27**

*Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,  
And attend to your herds;  
<sup>24</sup>For riches are not forever,  
Nor does a crown endure to all generations.  
<sup>25</sup>When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself,  
And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,  
<sup>26</sup>The lambs will provide your clothing,  
And the goats the price of a field;  
<sup>27</sup>You shall have enough goats' milk for your food,  
For the food of your household,  
And the nourishment of your maidservants.*

#### D. Top priority: a good name

**22:1**

*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
Loving favor rather than silver and gold.*

**27:21**

*The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,  
And a man is valued by what others say of him.*

#### 1. Integrity

**10:9**

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

**19:1**

*Better is the poor who walks in his integrity  
Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.*

**21:6**

*Getting treasures by a lying tongue  
Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death*

**20:7**

*The righteous man walks in his integrity;  
His children are blessed after him.*

**20:10**

*Diverse weights and diverse measures,  
They are both alike, an abomination to the Lord. (20:23)*

**20:14**

*“It is good for nothing,” cries the buyer;  
But when he has gone his way, then he boasts.*

#### 2. Strive for excellence

**22:29 (Jeroam-1 Kg.11:28)**

*Do you see a man who excels in his work?  
He will stand before kings;  
He will not stand before unknown men.*

#### E. Avoid debt

**22:7**

*The rich rules over the poor,  
And the borrower is servant to the lender.*

#### F. Treatment of employees

**3:27-28**

*Do not withhold good from <sup>to</sup>those to whom it is due,  
When it is in the power of your hand to do so.  
Do not say to your neighbor,  
“Go, and come back,  
And tomorrow I will give it,”  
When you have it with you.*

**14:31**

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

**22:16**

*He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches,  
And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.*

## **G. Planning and Foresight**

**6:6-11**

*Go to the ant, you sluggard!*

*Consider her ways and be wise,*

*Which, having no captain,*

*Overseer or ruler,*

*<sup>8</sup>Provides her supplies in the summer,*

*And gathers her food in the harvest.*

*<sup>9</sup>How long will you slumber, O sluggard?*

*When will you rise from your sleep?*

*<sup>10</sup>A little sleep, a little slumber,*

*A little folding of the hands to sleep—*

*<sup>11</sup>So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,*

*And your need like an armed man.27:23-27*

## **I. Receive advice 13:18**

*Poverty and shame will come to him who <sup>1a</sup>disdains correction,  
But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.*

## **III. Using Money**

### **A. Honor God**

**3:9**

*Honor the Lord with your possessions,*

*And with the firstfruits of all your increase*

### **B. Give to the poor**

**11:24-25**

*There is one who scatters, yet increases more;*

*And there is one who withholds more than is right,*

*But it leads to poverty.*

*<sup>25</sup>The generous soul will be made rich,*

*And he who waters will also be watered himself.*

**19:17**

*He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,  
And He will pay back what he has given.*

**21:13**

*Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor  
Will also cry himself and not be heard.*

**22:9**

*He who has a generous eye will be blessed,  
For he gives of his bread to the poor.*

**28:27**

*He who gives to the poor will not lack,*

*But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.*



## Wisdom Literature: Part Five: Enlightened values

### I. Choosing the best: "X is better than Y"

#### A. Things worth more than Money:

##### 1. Wisdom

###### Proverbs 3:14

For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver,  
And her gain than fine gold.

###### Proverbs 8:11

For wisdom is better than rubies,  
And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

###### Proverbs 16:16

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

##### 2. A loving and peaceful home

###### Proverbs 15:17

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is,  
Than a fattened calf with hatred.

###### Proverbs 17:1

Better is a dry morsel with quietness,  
Than a house full of feasting with strife.

###### Ecc1.4:6

Better a handful with quietness  
Than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind.

###### Proverbs 21:9 (25:24)

Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop,  
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

###### Proverbs 21:19

Better to dwell in the wilderness,  
Than with a contentious and angry woman.

##### 3. Good Character

#### a. The Fear of the Lord

###### Proverbs 15:16

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord,  
Than great treasure with trouble.

#### b. Righteousness and Justice

###### Proverbs 16:8

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

#### c. Integrity

###### Proverbs 19:1

Better is the poor who walks in his integrity  
Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

###### Proverbs 28:6

Better is the poor who walks in his integrity  
Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

#### d. A good name (reputation)

###### Proverbs 22:1

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

###### Ecc1.7:1

A good name is better than precious ointment

###### Ecc1.10:1

Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment,  
And cause it to give off a foul odor;  
So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor.

#### e. Humility and sobriety

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

###### Ecc1.7:2-5

Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise Than for a man to hear the song of fools.

#### f. Rule over one's own spirit

###### Proverbs 16:32

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

(See also: 19:11; 25:28; 29:11)

**God-conscious living**

1. The fear of God (1:7/8:13/14:26/16:6/23:17/28:14)
2. The knowledge of God (2:1-5/9:10)
3. The providence of God (16:1, 4, 7, 9, 33/19:21/20:24/21:1, 31)
4. The omniscience of God (5:21/15:3, 11)
5. The sympathies of God
  - a. delights in the righteous/detests the wicked (11:20/15:8-9, 29/21:3, 27/28:9)
  - b. delights in truthful people/detests liars (6:16-17, 19/12:22)
  - c. delights in righteous words/detests wicked thoughts (6:18/15:26)
  - d. detests the proud heart (and look) (6:16-17/16:5/21:4)
  - e. detests those who justify the wicked and condemn the just (17:15)
  - f. sympathizes with the poor (19:17/22:22-23)
  - g. detests corrupt business practices (20:10, 23)
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**God-conscious living**

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  - d. detests the proud heart (and look) (6:16-17/16:5/21:4)
  - e. detests those who justify the wicked and condemn the just (17:15)
  - f. sympathizes with the poor (19:17/22:22-23)
  - g. detests corrupt business practices (20:10, 23)
  - h. detests violent crime (6:16-18)
  - i. detests those who sow discord among brethren (6:19)
6. The justice of God (21:12/24:11-12/29:26)
7. Security in God (18:10/20:22/21:31/29:25/30:5)

## Wisdom Literature #6

### God-conscious living

#### 1. The fear of God

1:7  
The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8:13  
The fear of the Lord *is* to hate evil;  
Pride and arrogance and the evil way  
And the perverse mouth I hate.

14:26  
In the fear of the Lord *there is* strong confidence,  
And His children will have a place of refuge.

16:6  
In mercy and truth  
Atonement is provided for iniquity;  
And by the fear of the Lord *one* departs from evil.

23:17  
Do not let your heart envy sinners,  
But *be zealous* for the fear of the Lord all the day

#### 2. The knowledge of God

2:1-5  
My son, if you receive my words,  
And treasure my commands within you,  
<sup>2</sup>So that you incline your ear to wisdom,  
And apply your heart to understanding;  
<sup>3</sup>Yes, if you cry out for discernment,  
And lift up your voice for understanding,  
<sup>4</sup>If you seek her as silver,  
And search for her as *for* hidden treasures;

<sup>5</sup>Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,  
And find the knowledge of God.

9:10  
“The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

#### 3. The providence of God

16:1  
The preparations of the heart belong to man,  
But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

16:4  
The Lord has made all for Himself,  
Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

16:7  
When a man’s ways please the Lord,  
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

16:9  
A man’s heart plans his way,  
But the Lord directs his steps.

16:33  
The lot is cast into the lap,  
But its every decision is from the Lord.

19:21  
There are many plans in a man’s heart,  
Nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.

20:24  
A man’s steps are of the Lord;  
How then can a man understand his own way?

21:1  
The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord,  
Like the <sup>le</sup>rivers of water;  
He turns it wherever He wishes.

21:31  
The horse is prepared for the day of battle,  
But deliverance is of the Lord.

#### 4. The omniscience of God

5:21  
For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the Lord,  
And He ponders all his paths.

15:3

The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place,  
Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

## 5. *The sympathies of God*

### a. delights in the righteous/detests the wicked

11:20

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

15:8-9

The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the Lord,  
But the prayer of the upright *is* His delight.  
The way of the wicked *is* an abomination to the Lord,  
But He loves him who follows righteousness.

21:3

To do righteousness and justice  
*is* more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

21:27

The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination;  
How much more *when* he brings it with wicked intent!

28:9

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,  
Even his prayer *is* an abomination.

### b. delights in truthful people/detests liars

6:16-17, 19

These six *things* the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:  
...A lying tongue, A false witness *who* speaks lies...

12:22

Lying lips *are* an abomination to the Lord,  
But those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.

### c. delights in righteous words/detests wicked thoughts

6:18

A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that are swift in running to evil

15:26

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord,  
But the words of the pure are pleasant.

### d. detests the proud heart (and look)

6:16-17

These six things the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:  
A proud look...

16:5

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

21:4

A haughty look, a proud heart,  
And the plowing of the wicked are sin.

### e. detests those who justify the wicked and condemn the just

17:15

He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just,  
Both of them alike *are* an abomination to the Lord.

### f. sympathizes with the poor

g. 19:17

He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,  
And He will pay back what he has given.

22:22-23

Do not rob the poor because he *is* poor,  
Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate;  
For the Lord will plead their cause,  
And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

### h. detests corrupt business practices

20:10

Diverse weights *and* diverse measures,  
They *are* both alike, an abomination to the Lord.

20:23

Diverse weights *are* an abomination to the Lord,  
And dishonest scales *are* not good.

### i. detests violent crime

6:16-18

These six things the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him...  
Hands that shed innocent blood,  
<sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that are swift in running to evil

### j. detests those who sow discord among brethren

6:19

These six things the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him...  
one who sows discord among brethren.

## 6. *The justice of God*

21:12

The righteous *God* wisely considers the house of the wicked,  
Overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

24:11-12

Deliver those who are drawn toward death,  
And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.  
<sup>12</sup> If you say, "Surely we did not know this,"  
Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it?  
He who keeps your soul, does He not know it?  
And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

29:26

Many seek the ruler's favor,  
But justice for man *comes* from the Lord.

## 7. *Security in God*

18:10

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

20:22

Do not say, "I will recompense evil";  
Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

21:31

The horse *is* prepared for the day of battle,  
But deliverance *is* of the Lord.

29:25

The fear of man brings a snare,  
But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

30:5

Every word of God *is* pure;  
He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.