**Proverbs 25-28**

More Proverbs of Solomon

**25**These are more proverbs of Solomon, compiled by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:

**2**It is the glory of God to conceal a matter;
    to search out a matter is the glory of kings.
**3**As the heavens are high and the earth is deep,
    so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.

**4**Remove the dross from the silver,
    and a silversmith can produce a vessel;
**5**remove wicked officials from the king’s presence,
    and his throne will be established through righteousness.

**6**Do not exalt yourself in the king’s presence,
    and do not claim a place among his great men;
**7**it is better for him to say to you, “Come up here,”
    than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

What you have seen with your eyes
**8**    do not bring hastily to court,
for what will you do in the end
    if your neighbor puts you to shame?

**9**If you take your neighbor to court,
    do not betray another’s confidence,
**10**or the one who hears it may shame you
    and the charge against you will stand.

**11**Like apples[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+25-28&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17125b)] of gold in settings of silver
    is a ruling rightly given.
**12**Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold
    is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear.

**13**Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time
    is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him;
    he refreshes the spirit of his master.
**14**Like clouds and wind without rain
    is one who boasts of gifts never given.

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

**16**If you find honey, eat just enough -
    too much of it, and you will vomit.
**17**Seldom set foot in your neighbor’s house -
    too much of you, and they will hate you.

**18**Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow
    is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor.
**19**Like a broken tooth or a lame foot
    is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.
**20**Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,
    or like vinegar poured on a wound,
    is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

**21**If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
    if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.
**22**In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head,
    and the Lord will reward you.

**23**Like a north wind that brings unexpected rain
    is a sly tongue - which provokes a horrified look.

**24**Better to live on a corner of the roof
    than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

**25**Like cold water to a weary soul
    is good news from a distant land.
**26**Like a muddied spring or a polluted well
    are the righteous who give way to the wicked.

**27**It is not good to eat too much honey,
    nor is it honorable to search out matters that are too deep.

**28**Like a city whose walls are broken through
    is a person who lacks self-control.

**26**Like snow in summer or rain in harvest,
    honor is not fitting for a fool.
**2**Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow,
    an undeserved curse does not come to rest.
**3**A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,
    and a rod for the backs of fools!
**4**Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
    or you yourself will be just like him.
**5**Answer a fool according to his folly,
    or he will be wise in his own eyes.
**6**Sending a message by the hands of a fool
    is like cutting off one’s feet or drinking poison.
**7**Like the useless legs of one who is lame
    is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.
**8**Like tying a stone in a sling
    is the giving of honor to a fool.
**9**Like a thornbush in a drunkard’s hand
    is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.
**10**Like an archer who wounds at random
    is one who hires a fool or any passer-by.
**11**As a dog returns to its vomit,
    so fools repeat their folly.
**12**Do you see a person wise in their own eyes?
    There is more hope for a fool than for them.

**13**A sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road,
    a fierce lion roaming the streets!”
**14**As a door turns on its hinges,
    so a sluggard turns on his bed.
**15**A sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
    he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.
**16**A sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
    than seven people who answer discreetly.

**17**Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears
    is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own.

**18**Like a maniac shooting
    flaming arrows of death
**19**is one who deceives their neighbor
    and says, “I was only joking!”

**20**Without wood a fire goes out;
    without a gossip a quarrel dies down.
**21**As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire,
    so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.
**22**The words of a gossip are like choice morsels;
    they go down to the inmost parts.

**23**Like a coating of silver dross on earthenware
    are fervent[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+25-28&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17165c)] lips with an evil heart.
**24**Enemies disguise themselves with their lips,
    but in their hearts they harbor deceit.
**25**Though their speech is charming, do not believe them,
    for seven abominations fill their hearts.
**26**Their malice may be concealed by deception,
    but their wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.
**27**Whoever digs a pit will fall into it;
    if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.
**28**A lying tongue hates those it hurts,
    and a flattering mouth works ruin.

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

**2**Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth;
    an outsider, and not your own lips.

**3**Stone is heavy and sand a burden,
    but a fool’s provocation is heavier than both.

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

**5**Better is open rebuke
    than hidden love.

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

**7**One who is full loathes honey from the comb,
    but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

**8**Like a bird that flees its nest
    is anyone who flees from home.

**9**Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,
    and the pleasantness of a friend
    springs from their heartfelt advice.

**10**Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family,
    and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you—
    better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.

**11**Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart;
    then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

**12**The prudent see danger and take refuge,
    but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

**13**Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger;
    hold it in pledge if it is done for an outsider.

**14**If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning,
    it will be taken as a curse.

**15**A quarrelsome wife is like the dripping
    of a leaky roof in a rainstorm;
**16**restraining her is like restraining the wind
    or grasping oil with the hand.

**17**As iron sharpens iron,
    so one person sharpens another.

**18**The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit,
    and whoever protects their master will be honored.

**19**As water reflects the face,
    so one’s life reflects the heart.

**20**Death and Destruction are never satisfied,
    and neither are human eyes.

**21**The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,
    but people are tested by their praise.

**22**Though you grind a fool in a mortar,
    grinding them like grain with a pestle,
    you will not remove their folly from them.

**23**Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,
    give careful attention to your herds;
**24**for riches do not endure forever,
    and a crown is not secure for all generations.
**25**When the hay is removed and new growth appears
    and the grass from the hills is gathered in,
**26**the lambs will provide you with clothing,
    and the goats with the price of a field.
**27**You will have plenty of goats’ milk to feed your family
    and to nourish your female servants.

**28**The wicked flee though no one pursues,
    but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

**2**When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers,
    but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order.

**3**A ruler who oppresses the poor
    is like a driving rain that leaves no crops.

**4**Those who forsake instruction praise the wicked,
    but those who heed it resist them.

**5**Evildoers do not understand what is right,
    but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.

**6**Better the poor whose walk is blameless
    than the rich whose ways are perverse.

**7**A discerning son heeds instruction,
    but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.

**8**Whoever increases wealth by taking interest or profit from the poor
    amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.

**9**If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction,
    even their prayers are detestable.

**10**Whoever leads the upright along an evil path
    will fall into their own trap,
    but the blameless will receive a good inheritance.

**11**The rich are wise in their own eyes;
    one who is poor and discerning sees how deluded they are.

**12**When the righteous triumph, there is great elation;
    but when the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding.

**13**Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,
    but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

**14**Blessed is the one who always trembles before God,
    but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.

**15**Like a roaring lion or a charging bear
    is a wicked ruler over a helpless people.

**16**A tyrannical ruler practices extortion,
    but one who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long reign.

**17**Anyone tormented by the guilt of murder
    will seek refuge in the grave;
    let no one hold them back.

**18**The one whose walk is blameless is kept safe,
    but the one whose ways are perverse will fall into the pit.

**19**Those who work their land will have abundant food,
    but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty.

**20**A faithful person will be richly blessed,
    but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

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

**22**The stingy are eager to get rich
    and are unaware that poverty awaits them.

**23**Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor
    rather than one who has a flattering tongue.

**24**Whoever robs their father or mother
    and says, “It’s not wrong,”
    is partner to one who destroys.

**25**The greedy stir up conflict,
    but those who trust in the Lord will prosper.

**26**Those who trust in themselves are fools,
    but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.

**27**Those who give to the poor will lack nothing,
    but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.

**28**When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding;
    but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.