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The Wisdom of Yeshua the Son of Sira,

or

Ecclesiaticus

Introduction

The *Wisdom of Yeshua the son of Sira*, also known as *Sirach* or *Ecclesiasticus*, is a collection of teaching about how to live wisely. The writer identifies himself as a teacher from Yerushalem (Jerusalem). In the prologue preserved below, his grandson explains that he translated his grandfather's work from Hebrew into Greek so that more people could benefit from its instruction.

Like *Proverbs*, this book connects wisdom with respecting God and obeying his instructions. Its advice reaches into everyday life: choosing friends, caring for parents, using money, controlling what we say, bringing up children, eating and drinking, dealing with illness, and grieving for the dead. Its topics often return in different settings, so the opening forty-two chapters are best read as a collection of related teachings rather than as one continuous argument.

The later chapters praise God's wisdom in creation and remember earlier generations of Yisrael's (Israel's) leaders, priests, and prophets. This leads to a description of the high priest Shim'on (Simon) and the worship at the temple. The book ends with a prayer of thanks and a personal account of seeking wisdom, inviting readers to become learners themselves.

The Wisdom of Yeshua the Son of Sira, also called *Ecclesiasticus*, is recognised as Deuterocanonical Scripture by the Romaios Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Russian Orthodox Churches.

Main components of this collection

Wisdom, devotion to God, and everyday conduct *1:1–23:28*
Wisdom speaks about her home among God's people *24:1-34*
Further teaching about wise living *25:1–42:14*
God's wisdom and greatness in creation *42:15–43:33*

Remembering the ancestors and the temple's worship *44:1–50:29*
Thanksgiving and an invitation to seek wisdom *51:1-30*

The Prologue of the Wisdom of Yeshua the Son of Sira.

WHEREAS many and great things have been delivered to us by the law and the prophets, and by the others that have followed in their steps, for which we must give Yisrael the praise for instruction and wisdom; and since not only the readers need to become skilful themselves, but also those who love learning must be able to profit those who are outside, both by speaking and writing; my grandfather Yeshua, having much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and the other books of our fathers, and having gained great familiarity with them, was also drawn on himself to write somewhat pertaining to instruction and wisdom, in order that those who love learning, and are devoted to these things, might make progress much more by living according to the law. You are entreated therefore to read with favour and attention, and to pardon us, if in any parts of what we have laboured to interpret, we may seem to fail in some of the phrases. Because things originally spoken in Hebrew don't have the same force in them when they are translated into another language. Not only these, but the law itself, and the prophecies, and the rest of the books, have no small difference, when they are spoken in their original language. Because having come into Mitsrayim in the thirty-eighth year of Energetes the king, and having continued there some time, I found a copy giving no small instruction. I thought it therefore most necessary for me to apply some diligence and travail to translate this book, applying indeed much watchfulness and skill in that space of time to bring the book to an end and publish for them also, who in the land of their travels are desiring to learn, preparing their character in advance, so as to live according to the law.

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

All wisdom comes from God

1:1 All wisdom comes from the master,
and is with him forever.
2 Who can count the sand of the seas,
the drops of rain,
and the days of eternity?
3 Who'll search out the height of the sky,
the breadth of the earth, the deep,
and wisdom?
4 Wisdom has been created before all things,
and the understanding of prudence from eternal. **5** [1]
6 To whom has the root of wisdom been revealed?
Who's known her shrewd counsels? **7** [2]
8 There's one wise, greatly to be feared,
sitting on his throne: the master.
9 He created her.
He saw and measured her.
He poured her out on all his works.
10 She's with all flesh according to his gift.
He gave her freely to those who love him.

Honouring God is the beginning of wisdom

11 The fear of the master is glory, exultation,
gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.
12 The fear of the master will delight the heart,
and will give gladness, joy, and length of days.
13 All those who fear the master, it'll go well with him at the last.
He'll be blessed in the day of his death.
14 To fear the master is the beginning of wisdom.
It was created together with the faithful in the womb.
15 She[3] laid an eternal foundation with men.
She'll be trusted among their offspring.
16 To fear the master is the fullness of wisdom.
She inebriates men with her fruits.
17 She'll fill all her house with desirable things,
and her storehouses with her produce.
18 The fear of the master is the crown of wisdom,
making peace and[4] perfect health to flourish.[5]
19 He both saw and measured her.
He rained down skill and knowledge of understanding,
and exalted the honour of those who hold her fast.
20 To fear the master is the root of wisdom.
Her branches are length of days. **21** [6]

Patience and sincere devotion

22 Unjust anger can never be justified,
for his anger tips the scale to his downfall.
23 A man that's patient will resist for a season,
and afterward gladness will spring up to him.
24 He'll hide his words until the right moment,
and the lips of many will tell of his understanding.
25 A wise saying is in the treasures of wisdom;
but godliness is an abomination to a sinner.
26 If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments
and the master will give her to you freely;
27 for the fear of the master is wisdom and in-

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1 RV 1:5 · Note Verse 5 is omitted by the best authorities: The source of wisdom is God's word in the highest heaven, and her ways are the eternal commandments.

2 RV 1:7 · Note Verse 7 is omitted by the best authorities: To whom was the knowledge of wisdom manifested? Who has understood her abundant experience?

3 RV 1:15 · Note Grk. nested.

4 RV 1:18 · Note Grk. health of cure.

5 RV 1:18 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities: Both are gifts of God for peace; glory opens out for those who love him. He saw her and took her measure.

6 RV 1:21 · Note Verse 21 is omitted by the best authorities: The fear of the master drives away sins. Where it resides, it will turn away all anger.

Readers' Version

struction.
Faith and humility are his good pleasure.
28 Don't disobey the fear of the master.
Don't come to him with a double heart.
29 Don't be a hypocrite in men's sight.
Keep watch over your lips.
30 Don't exalt yourself,
or you might fall and bring dishonour on your soul.
The master will reveal your secrets
and will throw you down among the congregation,
because you didn't come to the fear of the master
and your heart was full of deceit.

Trust God through difficult times

2:1 My son, if you come to serve the master,
prepare your soul for temptation.
2 Set your heart aright, constantly endure,
and don't hurry in time of calamity.
3 Cling to him, and don't depart,
that you may be increased at your latter end.
4 Accept whatever is brought on you,
and be patient when you suffer humiliation.
5 Because gold is tried in the fire,
and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation.
6 Put your trust in him, and he'll help you.
Make your ways straight, and set your hope on him.
7 All you who fear the master, wait for his mercy.
Don't turn aside, or you might fall.
8 All you who fear the master, put your trust in him,
and your reward won't fail.
9 All you who fear the master, hope for good things,
and for eternal gladness and mercy.
10 Look at the generations of old, and see:
Who ever put his trust in the master, and was ashamed?
Or who remained in his fear, and was forsaken?
Or who called on him, and he neglected him?
11 Because the master is full of compassion and mercy.
He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.
12 Woe to fearful hearts, to faint hands,
and to the sinner who goes two ways!
13 Woe to the faint heart! Because it doesn't believe.
Therefore it won't be defended.
14 Woe to you who've lost your patience!
And what'll you all do when the master visits you?
15 Those who fear the master won't disobey his words.
Those who love him will keep his ways.
16 Those who fear the master will seek his good pleasure.
Those who love him will be filled with the law.
17 Those who fear the master will prepare their hearts,
and will humble their souls in his sight.
18 We'll fall into the master's hands,
and not into men's hands;
for as his majesty is,
so also is his mercy.

Honour and care for your parents

3:1 Hear me, your father, Oh my children,
and do what you hear, that you all may be safe.
2 Because the master honours the father over the children,
and has confirmed the mother's judgement over her sons.
3 He who honours his father will make atonement for sins.
4 He who gives glory to his mother is as one who lays up treasure.
5 Anyone who honours his father will have joy in his own children.
He'll be heard in the day of his prayer.
6 He who gives glory to his father will have length of days.
He who listens to the master will bring rest to his mother,

Readers' Version

7 and[7] will serve under his parents, as to masters.
8 Honour your father in deed and word,
that a blessing may come on you from him.
9 Because the blessing of the father establishes children's houses,
but the curse of the mother roots out the foundations.
10 Don't glorify yourself in the dishonour of your father,
for your father's dishonour is no glory to you.
11 Because a man's glory is from the honour of his father,
and a mother in dishonour is a reproach to her children.
12 My son, help your father in his old age,
and don't grieve him as long as he lives.
13 If he fails in understanding, have patience with him.
Don't dishonour him in your full strength.
14 Because the kindness to your father won't be forgotten.
Instead of sins it'll be added to build you up.
15 In the day of your affliction it'll be remembered for you,
as fair weather on ice,
so your sins will also melt away.
16 He who forsakes his father is as a blasphemer.
He who provokes his mother is cursed by the master.

Be humble and willing to learn

17 My son, go on with your business in humility;
so you'll be loved by an acceptable man.
18 The greater you are, humble yourself the more,
and you'll find favour before the master. 19 [8]
20 Because the master's power is great,
and he's glorified by those who are lowly.
21 Don't seek things that are too hard for you,
and don't search out things that are above your strength.
22 Think about the things that have been commanded you,
for you have no need of the things that are secret.
23 Don't be overly busy in tasks that are beyond you,
for more things are shown to you than men can understand.
24 Because the conceit of many has led them astray.
Evil opinion has caused their judgement to slip.
25 There[9] is no light without eyes.
There's no wisdom without knowledge.
26 A stubborn heart will do badly at the end.
He who loves danger will perish in it.
27 A stubborn heart will be burdened with troubles.
The sinner will heap sin on sins.
28 The calamity of the proud has no healing,
for a weed of wickedness has taken root in him.
29 The heart of the prudent will understand a proverb.
A wise man desires the ear of a listener.

Help people in need

30 Water will quench a flaming fire;
almsgiving will make atonement for sins.
31 He who repays good turns is mindful of that which comes afterward.
In the time of his falling he'll find a support.
4:1 My son, don't deprive the poor of his living.
Don't make the needy eyes wait long.
2 Don't make a hungry soul sorrowful,
or provoke a man in his distress.
3 Don't add more trouble to a heart that's provoked.
Don't put off giving to him who's in need.
4 Don't reject a suppliant in his affliction.
Don't turn your face away from a poor man.
5 Don't turn your eye away from one who

7 **RV 3:7 · Note** Some manuscripts add those who fear the master honour their father,

8 **RV 3:19 · Note** Some manuscripts add Many are lofty and renowned, but he reveals his secrets to the humble.

9 **RV 3:25 · Note** Some manuscripts omit verse 25.

Readers' Version

asks.
Give no occasion to a man to curse you.
6 Because if he curses you in the bitterness of his soul,
he who made him will hear his supplication.
7 Endear yourself to the assembly.
Bow your head to a great man.
8 Incline your ear to a poor man.
Answer him with peaceful words in humility.
9 Deliver him who's wronged from the hand of him who wrongs him;
Don't be hesitant in giving judgement.
10 Be as a father to the fatherless,
and like a husband to their mother.
So you'll be as a son of the Most High,
and he'll love you more than your mother does.

Wisdom guides those who seek her

11 Wisdom exalts her sons,
and takes hold of those who seek her.
12 He who loves her loves life.
Those who seek her early will be filled with gladness.
13 He who holds her fast will inherit glory.
Where[10] he enters, the master will bless.
14 Those who serve her minister to the Holy One.
The master loves those who love her.
15 He who listens to her will judge the nations.
He who heeds her will live securely.
16 If he trusts her, he'll inherit her,
and his generations will possess her.
17 Because at the first she'll walk with him in crooked ways,
and will bring fear and dread on him,
and torment him with her discipline,
until she may trust his soul, and try him by her judgements.
18 Then she'll return him again to the straight way,
and will gladden him, and reveal to him her secrets.
19 If he goes astray, she'll forsake him,
and hand him over to his fall.

Stand up for what's right

20 Watch for the opportunity, and beware of evil.
Don't be ashamed of your soul.
21 Because there's a shame that brings sin,
and there's a shame that's glory and grace.
22 Don't show partiality, discrediting your soul.
Don't revere any man to your falling.
23 Don't refrain from speaking when it's for safety.
Don't hide your wisdom for the sake of seeming fair.[11]
24 Because wisdom will be known by speech,
and instruction by the word of the tongue.
25 Don't speak against the truth
and be shamed for your ignorance.
26 Don't be ashamed to confess your sins.
Don't fight the river's current.
27 Don't lay yourself down for a fool to tread on.
Don't be partial to one who's mighty.
28 Strive for the truth to death,
and the master God will fight for you.
29 Don't be hasty with your tongue,
or slack and negligent in your actions.
30 Don't be like a lion in your house,
or suspicious of your servants.
31 Don't let your hand be stretched out to receive,
and closed when you should repay.

Don't rely on wealth or take forgiveness for granted

5:1 Don't set your heart on your goods.
Don't say, "They're sufficient for me."
2 Don't follow your own mind and your strength
to walk in the desires of your heart.
3 Don't say, "Who'll have dominion over me?"
for the master will surely take vengeance on you.
4 Don't say, "I sinned, and what happened to

10 **RV 4:13 · Note** Or, she
11 **RV 4:23 · Note** Some manuscripts omit this line.

Readers' Version

me?"
for the master is patient.
5 Don't be so confident of atonement
that you add sin on sins.
6 Don't say, "His compassion is great.
He'll be pacified for the multitude of my sins,"
for mercy and anger are with him,
and his indignation will rest on sinners.
7 Don't wait to turn to the master.
Don't put off from day to day;
for suddenly the master's anger will come on you,
and you'll perish in the time of vengeance.
8 Don't set your heart on unrighteous gains,
for you'll profit nothing in the day of calamity.

Careful speech and self-control

9 Don't winnow with every wind.
Don't walk in every path.
This is what the sinner who has a double tongue does.
10 Be steadfast in your understanding.
Let your speech be consistent.
11 Be swift to hear
and answer with patience.
12 If you have understanding, answer your neighbour;
but if not, put your hand over your mouth.
13 Glory and dishonour is in talk.
A man's tongue may be his downfall.
14 Don't be called a whisperer.
Don't lie in wait with your tongue;
for shame is on the thief,
and an evil condemnation is on him who has a double tongue.
15 Don't be ignorant in a great or small matter.
6:1 Don't become an enemy instead of a friend;
for an evil name will inherit shame and reproach.
So it's with the sinner who has a double tongue.
2 Don't exalt yourself in the counsel of your soul,
that your soul not be torn in pieces like a bull.
3 You'll eat up your leaves, destroy your fruit,
and leave yourself like a dry tree.
4 A wicked soul will destroy him who has it,
and will make him a laughing stock to his enemies.

Choosing faithful friends

5 Sweet words will multiply a man's friends.
A gracious tongue will multiply courtesies.
6 Let those that are at peace with you be many,
but your advisers one of a thousand.
7 If you want to gain a friend, get him in a time of testing,
and don't be in a hurry to trust him.
8 Because there's a friend just for an occasion.
He won't continue in the day of your affliction.
9 And there's a friend who turns into an enemy.
He'll discover strife to your reproach.
10 And there's a friend who's a companion at the table,
but he won't continue in the day of your affliction.
11 In your prosperity he'll be as yourself,
and will be bold over your servants.
12 If you're brought low, he'll be against you,
and will hide himself from your face.
13 Separate yourself from your enemies,
and beware of your friends.
14 A faithful friend is a strong defence.
He who's found him has found a treasure.
15 There's nothing that can be taken in exchange for a faithful friend.
His excellency is beyond price.
16 A faithful friend is a life-saving medicine.
Those who fear the master will find him.
17 He who fears the master directs his friendship properly;
for as he is, so is his neighbour also.

Work at gaining wisdom

18 My son, gather instruction from your youth up.
Even when you have grey hair you'll find wisdom.
19 Come to her as one who ploughs and sows
and wait for her good fruit;

Readers' Version

for your toil will be little in her cultivation,
and you'll soon eat of her fruit.
20 How extremely harsh she's to the unlearned!
He who's without understanding won't remain in her.
21 She'll rest on him as a mighty stone of trial.
He won't hesitate to throw her from him.
22 Because wisdom is according to her name.
She isn't manifest to many.
23 Give ear, my son, and accept my judgement.
Don't refuse my counsel.
24 Bring your feet into her fetters,
and your neck into her chain.
25 Put your shoulder under her and bear her.
Don't be grieved with her bonds.
26 Come to her with all your soul.
Keep her ways with your whole power.
27 Search and seek, and she'll be made known to you.
When you get hold of her, don't let her go.
28 Because at the last you'll find her rest;
and she'll be turned for you into gladness.
29 Her fetters will be to you for a covering of strength,
and her chains for a robe of glory.
30 Because there's a golden ornament on her,
and her bands are a purple cord.[12]
31 You'll put her on as a robe of glory,
and will put her on as a crown of rejoicing.
32 My son, if you're willing, you'll be instructed.
If you'll yield your soul, you'll be prudent.
33 If you love to hear, you'll receive.
If you incline your ear, you'll be wise.
34 Stand in the multitude of the elders.
Attach yourself to whomever is wise.
35 Be willing to listen to every godly discourse.
Don't let the proverbs of understanding escape you.
36 If you see a man of understanding, get to him early.
Let your foot wear out the steps of his doors.
37 Let your mind live on the ordinances of the master
and meditate continually on his commandments.
He'll establish your heart
and your desire for wisdom will be given to you.

Avoid wrongdoing and arrogance

7:1 Do no evil,
so no evil will overtake you.
2 Depart from wrong,
and it'll turn away from you.
3 My son, don't sow on the furrows of unrighteousness,
and you won't harvest them sevenfold.
4 Don't seek preeminence from the master,
nor the seat of honour from the king.
5 Don't justify yourself in the presence of the master,
and don't display your wisdom before the king.
6 Don't seek to be a judge,
in case you can't put an end to wrongdoing,
in case you're intimidated by a powerful person,
and lay a stumbling block in the way of your uprightness.
7 Don't sin against the multitude of the city.
Don't disgrace yourself in the crowd.
8 Don't commit a sin twice,
for even in one you won't be unpunished.
9 Don't say, "He'll look on the multitude of my gifts.
When I make an offering to the Most High God, he'll accept it."
10 Don't be faint-hearted in your prayer.
Don't neglect to give to the poor.
11 Don't laugh a man to scorn when he's in the bitterness of his soul,
for there's one who humbles and exalts.
12 Don't devise[13] a lie against your brother,
or do the same to a friend.

12 **RV 6:30 · Cross-ref.** Num 15:38.
13 **RV 7:12 · Note** Grk. Don't plough

Readers' Version

13 Refuse to utter a lie,
for that habit results in no good.
14 Don't babble in the assembly of elders.
Don't repeat your words in your prayer.
15 Don't hate hard labour
or farm work, which the Most High has created.
16 Don't number yourself among the multitude of sinners.
Remember that anger won't wait.
17 Humble your soul greatly,
for the punishment of the ungodly man is fire and the worm.

Care for your family, friends, and servants

18 Don't exchange a friend for something,
neither a true brother for the gold of Ofir.
19 Don't deprive yourself of a wise and good wife,
for her grace is worth more than gold.
20 Don't abuse a servant who works faithfully,
or a hireling who gives you his life.
21 Let your soul love a wise servant.
Don't defraud him of liberty.
22 Do you have cattle? Look after them.
If they're profitable to you, let them stay by you.
23 Do you have children? Correct them,
and make them obedient from their youth.
24 Do you have daughters? Take care of their bodies,
and don't be overly indulgent towards them.
25 Give your daughter in marriage, and you'll have accomplished a great matter.
Give her to a man of understanding.
26 Do you have a wife who pleases you? Don't throw her out.
But don't trust yourself to one who's hateful.[14]
27 Honour your father with your whole heart,
and don't forget the birth pangs of your mother.
28 Remember that you were born of them.
What'll you repay them for the things that they've done for you?

Honour God and care for others

29 Fear the master with all your soul;
and revere his priests.
30 With all your strength love him who made you.
Don't forsake his ministers.
31 Fear the master and honour the priest.
Give him his portion, even as it's commanded you:
the first fruits, the trespass offering, the gift of the shoulders,
the sacrifice of sanctification, and the first fruits of holy things.
32 Also stretch out your hand to the poor man,
that your blessing may be complete.
33 A gift has grace in the sight of every living man.
Don't withhold grace for a dead man.
34 Don't avoid those who weep,
and mourn with those who mourn.
35 Don't be slow to visit a sick man,
for by such things you'll gain love.
36 In all your words, remember eternity,
and you'll never sin.

Use good judgement in dealing with others

8:1 Don't contend with a mighty man,
or you might fall into his hands.
2 Don't strive with a rich man, or he might overpower you;
for gold has destroyed many,
and turned away the hearts of kings.
3 Don't argue with a loudmouthed man.
Don't heap wood on his fire.
4 Don't make fun of a rude man,
or your ancestors might be dishonoured.
5 Don't reproach a man when he turns from sin.
Remember that we're all worthy of punishment.
6 Don't dishonour a man in his old age,
for some of us are also growing old.
7 Don't rejoice over anyone's death.
Remember that we all die.

14 RV 7:26 · Note Many authorities omit this line

Readers' Version

8 Don't neglect the discourse of the wise.
Be conversant with their proverbs;
for from them you'll learn discipline
and how to serve great men.
9 Don't miss the discourse of the aged,
for they also learnt from their parents,
because from them you'll learn understanding,
and to give an answer in time of need.

Avoid needless risks

10 Don't kindle the coals of a sinner,
or you might be burnt with the flame of his fire.
11 Don't rise up from the presence of an insolent man,
or he might lie in wait to trap you by what you say.
12 Don't lend to a man who's stronger than you;
and if you lend, count it as a loss.
13 Don't be surety beyond your means.
If you give surety, think as one who'll have to pay.
14 Don't go to law with a judge;
for according to his honour they'll give judgement for him.
15 Don't travel with a reckless man,
or he might become a burden to you;
for he'll do as he pleases,
and you'll perish with his folly.
16 Don't fight with a wrathful man.
Don't travel with him through the desert,
for blood is as nothing in his sight.
Where there's no help, he'll overthrow you.
17 Don't consult with a fool,
for he won't be able to keep a secret.
18 Do no secret thing before a stranger,
for you don't know what it'll cause.
19 Don't open your heart to every man.
Don't let him return you a favour.

Avoid sexual temptation

9:1 Don't be jealous over the wife of your bosom,
and don't teach her an evil lesson against yourself.
2 Don't give your soul to a woman
and let her trample down your strength.
3 Don't go to meet a woman who plays the prostitute,
or you might fall into her traps.
4 Don't associate with a woman who's a singer,
or you might be caught by her tricks.
5 Don't gaze at a virgin,
or you might stumble and be punished because of her.
6 Don't give your soul to prostitutes,
that you not lose your inheritance.
7 Don't look around in the streets of the city.
Don't wander in its deserted places.
8 Turn your eye away from a beautiful woman,
and don't gaze at another's beauty.
Many have been led astray by the beauty of a woman;
and with this, passion is kindled like a fire.
9 Don't dine at all with a woman who has a husband,
or revel with her at wine,[15]
or your heart might turn towards her,
and with your spirit you slide into destruction.

Choose your friends and advisers wisely

10 Don't forsake an old friend;
for a new one isn't comparable to him.
A new friend is like new wine:
if it becomes old, you'll drink it with gladness.
11 Don't envy the success of a sinner;
for you don't know what his end will be.
12 Don't delight in the delights of the ungodly.
Remember they won't go unpunished to[16] the grave.
13 Keep yourself far from the man who has[17] power to kill,
and you won't be troubled by the fear of death.

15 **RV 9:9 · Note** The preceding line of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

16 **RV 9:12 · Note** Grk. Hades.

17 **RV 9:13 · Note** Or, authority

Readers' Version

If you come to him, commit no fault,
or he might take your life.
Know surely that you go about among traps,
and walk on the battlements of a city.
14 As well as you can, aim to know your neighbours,
and take counsel with the wise.
15 Let your conversation be with men of understanding.
Let all your discourse be in the Most High's law.
16 Let righteous people be companions at your table.
Let your glorying be in the fear of the master.
17 A work is commended because of the skill of the artisan;
so he who rules the people will be considered wise for his speech.
18 A loudmouthed man is dangerous in his city.
He who's reckless in his speech will be hated.

Good and bad rulers

10:1 A wise judge will instruct his people.
The government of a man of understanding will be well ordered.
2 As is the judge of his people, so are his officials.
As the city's ruler is, so are all those who live in it.
3 An undisciplined king will destroy his people.
A city will be established through the understanding of the powerful.
4 The government of the earth is in the master's hand.
In due time, he'll raise up over it the right person at the right time.
5 A man's prosperity is in the master's hand.
He'll lay his honour on the person of the scribe.

The downfall of pride

6 Don't be angry with your neighbour for every wrong.
Do nothing by works of violence.
7 Pride is hateful before the master and men.
Arrogance is abhorrent in the judgement of both.
8 Sovereignty is transferred from nation to nation
because of injustice, violence, and greed for money.
9 Why are dirt and ashes proud?[18]
Because in life, my body decays.
10 A long disease mocks the physician.
The king of today will die tomorrow.
11 Because when a man is dead,
he'll inherit maggots, vermin, and worms.
12 It's the beginning of pride when a man departs from the master.
His heart has departed from him who made him.
13 Because the beginning of pride is sin.
He who keeps it'll pour out abomination.
Because this cause the master brought on them strange calamities
and utterly overthrew them.
14 The master threw down the thrones of rulers
and set the lowly in their place.
15 The master plucked up the roots of nations
and planted the lowly in their place.
16 The master overthrew the lands of nations
and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.
17 He took some of them away and destroyed them,
and made their memory to cease from the earth.
18 Pride hasn't been created for men,
nor wrathful anger for the offspring of women.

What makes someone worthy of honour?

19 Whose offspring has honour?
Human offspring who fear the master.
Whose offspring has no honour?
Human offspring who break the commandments.

18 RV 10:9 · Note Two lines of this verse are here omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

20 Among relatives he who rules them has honour.
Those who fear the master have honour in his eyes. 21 [19]
22 The rich man, the honourable, and the poor
all glory in the fear of the master.
23 It isn't right to dishonour a poor man who has understanding.
It isn't fitting to glorify a man who's a sinner.
24 The prince, the judge, and the mighty man will be honoured.
There isn't one of them greater than he who fears the master.
25 Free men will minister to a wise servant.
A man who has knowledge won't complain.
26 Don't flaunt your wisdom in doing your work.
Don't boast in the time of your distress.
27 Better is he who labours and abounds in all things,
than he who boasts and lacks bread.
28 My son, glorify your soul in humility,
and ascribe to yourself honour according to your worthiness.
29 Who'll justify him who sins against his own soul?
Who'll honour him who dishonours his own life?
30 A poor man is honoured for his knowledge.
A rich man is honoured for his riches.
31 But he who's honoured in poverty, how much more in riches?
He who's dishonoured in riches, how much more in poverty?

Don't judge by appearances

11:1 The wisdom of the lowly will lift up his head,
and make him sit among great men.
2 Don't commend a man for his good looks.
Don't abhor a man for his outward appearance.
3 The bee is little among flying creatures,
but what it produces is the best of confections.
4 Don't boast about the clothes you wear,
and don't exalt yourself in the day of honour;
for the master's works are wonderful,
and his works are hidden among men.
5 Many[20] kings have sat down on the ground,
but one who was never thought of has worn a crown.
6 Many mighty men have been greatly disgraced.
Men of renown have been delivered into other men's hands.
7 Don't blame before you investigate.
Understand first, and then rebuke.
8 Don't answer before you've heard.
Don't interrupt while someone else is speaking.
9 Don't argue about a matter that doesn't concern you.
Don't sit with sinners when they judge.

Work, wealth, and trusting God

10 My son, don't be busy about many matters;
for if you meddle much, you won't be unpunished.
If you pursue, you won't overtake,
and you won't escape by fleeing.
11 There's one who toils, labours, and hurries,
and is even more behind.
12 There's one who's sluggish, and needs help,
lacking in strength, and who abounds in poverty,
but the master's eyes looked on him for good,
and he raised him up from his low condition,
13 and lifted up his head
so that many marvelled at him.
14 Good things and bad, life and death,
poverty and riches, are from the master.

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19 RV 10:21 · Note Verse 21 is omitted by the best authorities: Fear of the master is the beginning of acceptance, but obstinance and pride are the beginning of rejection.

20 RV 11:5 · Note Grk. tyrants

Readers' Version

15–16 [21]

17 The master's gift remains with the godly.
His good pleasure will prosper forever.
18 One grows rich by his diligence and self-denial,
and this is the portion of his reward:
19 when he says, "I've found rest,
and now I'll eat of my goods!"
he doesn't know how much time will pass
until he leaves them to others and dies.
20 Be steadfast in your covenant and be doing it,
and grow old in your work.
21 Don't marvel at a sinner's works,
but trust the master and stay in your labour;
for it's an easy thing in the sight of the master
to swiftly and suddenly make a poor man rich.
22 The master's blessing is in the reward of the godly.
He makes his blessing flourish in an hour that comes swiftly.
23 Don't say, "What use is there of me?
What further good things can be mine?"
24 Don't say, "I have enough.
What harm could happen to me now?"
25 In the day of good things, bad things are forgotten.
In the day of bad things, a man won't remember things that are good.
26 Because it's an easy thing in the sight of the master
to reward a man in the day of death according to his ways.
27 The affliction of an hour causes delights to be forgotten.
In the end, a person's actions are revealed.
28 Don't call anyone happy before their death.
A man will be known in his children.

Be careful whom you welcome into your home

29 Don't bring every man into your house,
for many are the tricks of a deceitful man.
30 Like a decoy partridge in a cage, so is the heart of a proud man.
Like a spy, he looks for your weakness.
31 Because he lies in wait to turn things that are good into evil,
and assigns blame in things that are praiseworthy.
32 From a spark of fire, a heap of many coals is kindled,
and a sinful man lies in wait to shed blood.
33 Take heed of an evil-doer, for he plans wicked things,
or he might ruin your reputation forever.
34 Receive a stranger into your house, and he'll distract you with arguments
and estrange you from your own family.

Be careful whom you help

12:1 If you do good,
know to whom you do it,
and your good actions will have thanks.
2 Do good to a godly man, and you'll find a reward—
if not from him, then from the Most High.
3 No good will come to him who continues to do evil,
nor to him who gives nothing to the poor.
4 Give to the godly man,
and don't help the sinner.
5 Do good to one who's lowly.
Don't give to an ungodly man.
Keep back his bread, and don't give it to him,
or he might use it to overpower you;
for you'd receive twice as much evil
for all the good you'd have done to him.
6 Because the Most High also hates sinners,
and will repay vengeance to the ungodly.[22]
7 Give to the good man,
and don't help the sinner.

Recognising false friends and hidden enemies

8 A man's friend won't be[23] fully tried in prosperity.
His enemy won't be hidden in adversity.
9 In a man's prosperity, his enemies are

21 RV 11:15-16 · Note Verses 15 and 16 are omitted by the best authorities.

22 RV 12:6 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

23 RV 12:8 · Note Or, punished

Readers' Version

grieved.
In his adversity, even his friend leaves.
10 Never trust your enemy,
for his wickedness is like corrosion in copper.
11 Though he humbles himself and walks bowed down,
still be careful and beware of him.
You'll be to him as one who's wiped a mirror,
to be sure it doesn't completely tarnish.
12 Don't set him next to you,
or he might overthrow you and take your place.
Don't let him sit on your right hand,
or he might try to take your seat,
and at the last you acknowledge my words,
and be pricked with my sayings.
13 Who'll pity a charmer that's bitten by a snake,
or any who come near wild animals?
14 Even so, who'll pity him who goes to a sinner,
and is associated with him in his sins?
15 Because a while he'll stay with you,
and if you falter, he won't stay.
16 The enemy will speak sweetly with his lips,
and in his heart plan to throw you into a pit.
The enemy may weep with his eyes,
but if he finds opportunity, he'll want more blood.
17 If adversity meets you, you'll find him there before you.
Pretending to help you, he'll trip you.
18 He'll shake his head, clap his hands,
whisper much, and change his expression.

The dangers of depending on the rich

13:1 He who touches pitch will be defiled.
He who has fellowship with a proud man will become like him.
2 Don't take up a burden above your strength.
Have no fellowship with one who's mightier and richer than yourself.
What fellowship would the earthen pot have with the kettle?
The kettle will strike, and the pot will be dashed in pieces.
3 The rich man does a wrong and threatens.
The poor is wronged and apologises.
4 If you're profitable, he'll exploit you.
If you're in need, he'll forsake you.
5 If you own something, he'll live with you.
He'll drain your resources and won't be sorry.
6 Does he need you? Then he'll deceive you,
smile at you, and give you hope.
He'll speak kindly to you and say, "What do you need?"
7 He'll shame you by his delicacies
until he's made you bare twice or thrice,
and in the end he'll laugh you to scorn.
Afterward he'll see you, will forsake you,
and shake his head at you.
8 Beware that you aren't deceived
and brought low in your enjoyment.
9 If a mighty man invites you, be reserved,
and he'll invite you more.
10 Don't press him, or you might be pushed away.
Don't stand far off, or you might be forgotten.
11 Don't try to speak with him as an equal,
and don't believe his many words;
for he'll test you with much talk,
and will examine you in a smiling manner.
12 He who doesn't keep secrets to himself is unmerciful.
He won't hesitate to harm and to bind.
13 Keep them to yourself and be careful,
for you walk[24] in danger of falling. 14 [25]

How the rich and the poor are treated

15 Every living creature loves its own kind,
and every man loves his neighbour.
16 All flesh associates with their own kind.
A man will stick to people like himself.
17 What fellowship would the wolf have with the lamb?
So is the sinner to the godly.
18 What peace is there between a hyena and a

24 **RV 13:13 · Note** Grk. along with.

25 **RV 13:14 · Note** The remainder of verse 13, and verse 14, are omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

dog?
What peace is there between a rich man and the poor?
19 Wild donkeys are the prey of lions in the wilderness;
likewise poor men are feeding grounds for the rich.
20 Lowliness is an abomination to a proud man;
likewise a poor man is an abomination to the rich.
21 When a rich man is shaken, he's supported by his friends,
but when the humble is down, he's pushed away even by his friends.
22 When a rich man falls, there are many helpers.
He speaks things not to be spoken, and men justify him.
A humble man falls, and men rebuke him.
He utters wisdom, and isn't listened to.
23 A rich man speaks, and all keep silence.
They extol what he says to the clouds.
A poor man speaks, and they say, "Who's this?"
If he stumbles, they'll help to overthrow him.
24 Riches are good if they have no sin.
Poverty is evil only in the opinion of the ungodly.
25 A man's heart changes his face,
whether it's for good or for evil.[26]
26 A cheerful face is a sign of a prosperous heart.
Devising proverbs takes strenuous thinking.

A clear conscience and generous living

14:1 Blessed is the man who hasn't slipped with his mouth,
and doesn't suffer from sorrow for sins.
2 Blessed is he whose soul doesn't condemn him,
and who hasn't given up hope.
3 Riches aren't appropriate for a stingy person.
What'd a miser do with money?
4 He who gathers by denying himself gathers for others.
Others will revel in his goods.
5 If one is mean to himself, to whom will he be good?
He won't enjoy his possessions.
6 There's none more evil than he who's grudging to himself.
This is a punishment for his wickedness.
7 Even if he does good, he does it in forgetfulness.
In the end, he reveals his wickedness.
8 A miser is evil.
He turns away and disregards souls.
9 A covetous man's eye isn't satisfied with his portion.
Wicked injustice dries up his soul.
10 A miser begrudges bread,
and it's lacking at his table.
11 My son, according to what you have, treat yourself well,
and bring worthy offerings to the master.
12 Remember that death won't wait,
and that Haidais' covenant hasn't been shown to you.
13 Do good to your friends before you die.
According to your ability, reach out and give to them.
14 Don't deprive yourself of a good day.
Don't let your share of a desired good pass you by.
15 won't you leave your labours to another,
and your toils be divided by lot?
16 Give, take, and treat yourself well,
because there's no seeking of luxury in Haidais.
17 All flesh grows old like a garment,
for the covenant from the beginning is,
"You must die!"
18 Like the leaves flourishing on a thick tree,
some it sheds, and some grow,
so also are the generations of flesh and blood:
one comes to an end and another is born.
19 Every work rots and falls away,
and its builder will depart with it.

26 RV 13:25 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

The rewards of seeking wisdom

20 Blessed is the man who meditates on wisdom,
and who reasons by his understanding.
21 He who considers her ways in his heart
will also have knowledge of her secrets.
22 Go after her like a hunter,
and lie in wait in her paths.
23 He who peers in at her windows
will also listen at her doors.
24 He who lodges close to her house
will also fasten a nail in her walls.
25 He'll pitch his tent near at hand to her,
and will lodge in a lodging where good things are.
26 He'll set his children under her shelter,
and will rest under her branches.
27 By her he'll be covered from heat,
and will lodge in her glory.
15:1 He who fears the master will do this.
He who has possession of the law will obtain her.
2 She'll meet him like a mother,
and receive him like a wife married in her virginity.
3 She'll feed him with bread of understanding
and give him water of wisdom to drink.
4 He'll be stayed on her, and won't be moved.
He'll rely on her, and won't be confounded.
5 She'll exalt him above his neighbours.
She'll open his mouth among the congregation.
6 He'll inherit joy, a crown of gladness,
and an eternal name.
7 Foolish men won't obtain her.
Sinners won't see her.
8 She's far from pride.
Liars won't remember her.
9 Praise isn't attractive in a sinner's mouth;
for it wasn't sent to him from the master.
10 Because praise will be spoken in wisdom;
The master will prosper it.

Don't blame God for your sins

11 Don't say, "It's through the master that I fell away;"
for you mustn't do the things that he hates.
12 Don't say, "It's he that caused me to err;"
for he has no need of a sinful man.
13 The master hates every abomination;
and those who fear him don't love them.
14 He himself made man from the beginning
and left him in the hand of his own counsel.
15 If you choose, you can keep the commandments.
To be faithful is a matter of your choice.
16 He's set fire and water before you.
You'll stretch forth your hand to whichever you desire.
17 Before man is life and death.
Whichever he likes, it'll be given to him.
18 Because the master's wisdom is great.
He's mighty in power, and sees all things.
19 His eyes are on those who fear him.
He knows every act of man.
20 He hasn't commanded any man to be ungodly.
He hasn't given any man license to sin.

Ungodly children and God's judgement

16:1 Don't desire a multitude of unprofitable children,
neither delight in ungodly sons.
2 If they multiply, don't delight in them
unless the fear of the master is in them.
3 Don't trust in their life.
Don't rely on their numbers;
for one can be better than a thousand,
and to die childless than to have ungodly children.
4 Because from one who has understanding, a city will be populated,
but a race of wicked men will be made desolate.
5 I've seen many such things with my eyes.
My ear has heard mightier things than these.
6 In a congregation of sinners, a fire will be kindled.
In a disobedient nation, anger is kindled.
7 He wasn't pacified towards the giants of old time,
who revolted in their strength.
8 He didn't spare Lot's neighbours,
whom he abhorred for their pride.
9 He didn't pity the people of perdition

Readers' Version

who were taken away in their sins,
10 or in the same way, the six hundred thousand footmen
who were gathered together in the hardness of their hearts.
11 Even if there's one stiff-necked person,
it's a marvel if he'll be unpunished;
for mercy and anger are both with him who's mighty to forgive,
and he pours out anger.
12 As his mercy is great, so is his correction also.
He judges a man according to his works.
13 The sinner won't escape with plunder.
The perseverance of the godly won't be frustrated.
14 He'll make room for every work of mercy.
Each man will receive according to his works. **15-16** [27]

No one can hide from God

17 Don't say, "I'll be hidden from the master,"
and "Who'll remember me from on high?"
I won't be known among so many people,
for what's my soul in a boundless creation?
18 Listen, the heaven, the heaven of heavens,
the deep, and the earth, will be moved when he visits.
19 The mountains and the foundations of the earth together
are shaken with trembling when he looks at them.
20 No heart will think about these things.
Who could comprehend his ways?
21 Like a tempest which no man can see,
so, the majority of his works are[28] hidden.
22 Who'll declare his works of righteousness?
Who'll wait for them?
Because his covenant is afar off.[29]
23 He who's lacking in[30] understanding thinks about these things.
An unwise and erring man thinks foolishly.

The order of God's creation

24 My son, listen to me, learn knowledge,
and heed my words with your heart.
25 I'll impart instruction with precision,
and declare knowledge exactly.
26 In the master's judgement are his works from the beginning.
From the making of them he determined their boundaries.
27 He arranged his works for all time,
and their beginnings to their generations.
They aren't hungry or weary,
and they don't cease from their works.
28 No one pushes aside his neighbour.
They'll never disobey his word.
29 After this also the master looked at the earth
and filled it with his blessings.
30 All manner of living things covered its surface,
and they return into it.

God's gifts and instructions to humanity

17:1 The master created mankind out of earth,[31]
and turned them back to it again.[32]
2 He gave them days by number, and a set time,
and gave them authority over the things that are on it.
3 He endowed them with strength proper to them,
and made them according to his own image.[33]
4 He put the fear of man on all flesh,
and gave him dominion over animals and

27 RV 16:15-16 · Note Verses 15 and 16 are omitted by the best authorities.
28 RV 16:21 · Note Grk. amongst hidden things.
29 RV 16:22 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
30 RV 16:23 · Note Grk. heart.
31 RV 17:1 · Cross-ref. Gen 2:7.
32 RV 17:1 · Cross-ref. Gen 3:19.
33 RV 17:3 · Cross-ref. Gen 1:26-27.

Readers' Version

birds. 5 [34]
6 He gave them counsel, tongue, eyes,
ears, and heart to have understanding.
7 He filled them with the knowledge of wisdom,
and showed them good and evil.
8 He set his eye on their hearts,
to show them the majesty of his works. 9 [35]
10 And they'll praise his holy name,
that they may declare the majesty of his works.[36]
11 He added to them knowledge,
and gave them a law of life for a heritage.
12 He made an eternal covenant with them,
and showed them his decrees.
13 Their eyes saw the majesty of his glory.
Their ears heard the glory of his voice.
14 He said to them, "Beware of all unrighteousness."
So he gave them commandment, each man about his neighbour.

God sees and judges everyone's actions

15 Their ways are ever before him.
They won't be hidden from his eyes. 16 [37]
17 Because[38] every nation he appointed a ruler,
but Yisrael (Israel) is the master's portion. 18 [39]
19 All their works are as clear as the sun before him.
His eyes are continually on their ways.
20 Their iniquities aren't hidden from him.
All their sins are before the master. 21 [40]
22 With him a person's giving to the poor is as a signet.
He'll keep a man's kindness as the pupil of the eye.[41]
23 Afterwards he'll rise up and repay them,
and render their repayment on their head.
24 However to those who repent he grants a return.
He comforts those who are losing hope.

Turn back to God while you can

25 Return to the master, and forsake sins.
Make your prayer before his face offend less.
26 Turn again to the Most High, and turn away from iniquity.[42]
Greatly hate the abominable thing.
27 Who'll give praise to the Most High in Haidais,
in place of the living who return thanks?
28 Thanksgiving perishes from the dead, as from one who doesn't exist.
He who's in life and health will praise the master.
29 How great is the master's mercy,
and his forgiveness to those who turn to him!
30 Because humans aren't capable of everything,
because the son of man isn't immortal.
31 What's brighter than the sun? Yet even this can be eclipsed.
So flesh and blood devise evil.
32 He looks on the power of the height of heaven,
while all men are earth and ashes.

God's greatness and human frailty

18:1 He who lives forever created the whole universe.
2 The master alone is just. 3 [43]

34 **RV 17:5 · Note** Verse 5 is omitted by the best authorities.
35 **RV 17:9 · Note** Verse 9 is omitted by the best authorities.
36 **RV 17:10 · Note** This line is added by the best authorities.
37 **RV 17:16 · Note** Verses 16, 18, and 21 are omitted by the best authorities.
38 **RV 17:17 · Note** The preceding part of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
39 **RV 17:18 · Note** Verses 16, 18, and 21 are omitted by the best authorities.
40 **RV 17:21 · Note** Verses 16, 18, and 21 are omitted by the best authorities.
41 **RV 17:22 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
42 **RV 17:26 · Note** A line is here omitted by the best authorities.
43 **RV 18:3 · Note** The remainder of verse 2, and verse 3, are omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

4 He's given power to declare his works to no one.
Who could trace out his mighty actions?
5 Who could measure the strength of his majesty?
Who could also proclaim his mercies?
6 As for the wondrous works of the master, it isn't possible to take from them nor add to them,
neither is it possible to explore them.
7 When a man has finished, then he's just at the beginning.
When he stops, then he'll be perplexed.
8 What's mankind, and what purpose do they serve?
What's their good, and what's their evil?
9 The number of man's days at the most are a hundred years.
10 As a drop of water from the sea, and a pebble from the sand,
so are a few years in the day of eternity.
11 Because this cause the master was patient over them,
and poured out his mercy on them.
12 He saw and perceived their end, that it's evil.
Therefore he multiplied his forgiveness.
13 A man's mercy is on his neighbour;
but the master's mercy is on all flesh:
reproving, chastening, teaching,
and bringing back, as a shepherd does his flock.
14 He has mercy on those who accept chastening,
and that diligently seek after his judgements.

Give without insulting the receiver

15 My son, don't add reproach to your good actions,
and no harsh words in any of your giving.
16 Doesn't the dew relieve the scorching heat?
So a word is better than a gift.
17 Listen, isn't a word better than a gift?
Both are with a gracious person.
18 A fool is ungracious and abusive.
The gift of an grudging person consumes the eyes.

Think ahead and prepare

19 Learn before you speak.
Take care of your health before you get sick.
20 Before judgement, examine yourself,
and in the hour of scrutiny you'll find forgiveness.
21 Humble yourself before you get sick.
In the time of sins, repent.
22 Let nothing hinder you to pay your vow in due time.
Don't wait until death to be released.
23 Before you make a vow, prepare yourself.
Don't be like a man who tests the master.
24 Think about the anger coming in the days of the end,
and the time of vengeance, when he turns away his face.
25 In the days of fullness remember the time of hunger.
Remember poverty and lack in the days of wealth.
26 From morning until evening, the time changes.
All things are speedy before the master.
27 A wise man is cautious in everything.
In days of sinning, he'll beware of offence.[44]
28 Every man of understanding knows wisdom.
He'll give thanks to him who found her.
29 They who were of understanding in sayings also became wise themselves,
and poured out apt proverbs.

Control your appetites

30 Don't go after your lusts.
Restrain your appetites.
31 If you give fully to your soul the delight of her desire,
she'll make you the laughing stock of[45] your enemies.
32 Don't make merry in much luxury,
and don't be tied to its expense.

44 **RV 18:27 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

45 **RV 18:31 · Note** Or, a rejoicing to

Readers' Version

33 Don't be made a beggar by banqueting with borrowed money
when you have nothing in your purse.[46]
19:1 A worker who's a drunkard won't become rich.
He who despises small things will fall little by little.
2 Wine and women will make men of understanding go astray.
He who joins with prostitutes is reckless.
3 Decay and worms will have him as their heritage.
A reckless soul will be taken away.

Don't spread rumours

4 He who's hasty to trust is shallow-hearted.
He who sins offends against his own soul.
5 He who rejoices in wickedness will be condemned.[47]
6 He who hates gossip has less wickedness.[48]
7 Never repeat what's told you,
and you won't lose anything.
8 Whether it's of friend or foe, don't tell it.
Unless it's a sin to you, don't reveal it.
9 Because if he's heard you and observed you,
when the time comes, he'll hate you.
10 Have you heard something? Let it die with you.
Be brave: it won't make you burst!
11 A fool will travail in pain with a word,
as a woman in labour with a child.
12 As an arrow that sticks in the flesh of the thigh,
so is gossip in a fool.

Check the facts before blaming someone

13 Question a friend; it may be he didn't do it.
If he did something, it may be that he may do it no more.
14 Question your neighbour; it may be he didn't say it.
If he's said it, it may be that he may not say it again.
15 Question a friend; for many times there's slander.
Don't trust every word.
16 There's one who slips, and not from the heart.
Who's he who hasn't sinned with his tongue?
17 Reprove your neighbour before you threaten him;
and give place to the Most High's law.
18–19 [49]

True wisdom and deceptive cleverness

20 All wisdom is the fear of the master.
In all wisdom is the doing of the law. 21 [50]
22 The knowledge of wickedness isn't wisdom.
The prudence of sinners isn't counsel.
23 There's a wickedness, and it's an abomination.
There's a fool lacking in wisdom.
24 Better is one who has little understanding, and fears God,
than one who has much intelligence and transgresses the law.
25 There's an exquisite subtlety, and it's unjust.
And there's one who perverts favour to gain a judgement.[51]
26 There's one who does wickedly, who hangs down his head with mourning;
but inwardly he's full of deceit,
27 bowing down his face, and pretending to be deaf in one ear.
Where he isn't known, he'll take advantage of you.
28 And if for lack of power he's hindered from sinning,
if he finds opportunity, he'll do mischief.
29 A man will be known by his appearance.

46 **RV 18:33 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
47 **RV 19:5 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
48 **RV 19:6 · Note** The preceding part of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
49 **RV 19:18-19 · Note** Verses 18 and 19 are omitted by the best authorities.
50 **RV 19:21 · Note** The remainder of verse 20 and verse 21 are omitted by the best authorities.
51 **RV 19:25 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

One who has understanding will be known
by his face when you meet him.
30 A man's attire, grinning laughter,
and the way he walks show what he is.
20:1 There's a reproof that isn't timely;
and there's a person who's wise enough to keep silent.

Knowing when to speak and when to be silent

2 How good is it to reprove, rather than to be angry.
He who confesses will be kept back from harm. 3 [52]
4 As is the lust of a eunuch to deflower a virgin,
so is he who executes judgements with violence.
5 There's one who keeps silent and is found wise;
and there's one who's hated for his much talk.
6 There's one who keeps silent, for he has no answer to make;
And there's one who keeps silent, knowing when to speak.
7 A wise man will be silent until his time has come,
but the braggart and fool will miss his time.
8 He who uses many words will be abhorred.
He who takes authority for himself will be hated in it.

Gifts and gains that bring trouble

9 There's a prosperity that a man finds in misfortunes;
and there's a gain that turns to loss.
10 There's a gift that won't profit you;
and there's a gift that pays back double.
11 There are losses because of glory;
and there's one who's lifted up his head from a low estate.
12 There's one who buys much for a little,
and pays for it again sevenfold.
13 He who's wise in words will make himself beloved;
but the pleasantries of fools will be wasted.
14 The gift of a fool won't profit you,[53]
for he looks for repayment many times instead of one.
15 He'll give little and insult much.
He'll open his mouth like a crier.
Today he'll lend, and tomorrow he'll ask for it back.
Such a one is a hateful man.
16 The fool will say, "I have no friend,
and I have no thanks for my good actions.
Those who eat my bread have an evil tongue."
17 How often, and of how many, will he be laughed to scorn![54]

Careless words, lies, and hidden wisdom

18 A slip on a pavement is better than a slip with the tongue.
So the fall of the wicked will come speedily.
19 A man without grace is a tale out of season.
It'll be continually in the mouth of the ignorant.
20 A parable from a fool's mouth will be rejected;
for he won't tell it at the proper time.
21 There's one who's hindered from sinning through lack.
When he rests, he won't be troubled.
22 There's one who destroys his soul through bashfulness.
By a foolish face, he'll destroy it.
23 There's one who for bashfulness makes promises to his friend;
and he makes him his enemy for nothing.
24 A lie is an ugly blot on a person.
It'll be continually in the mouth of the ignorant.
25 A thief is better than a man who's continually lying,
but they both will inherit destruction.
26 The destination of a liar is dishonour.
His shame is with him continually.
27 He who's wise in words will advance him-

52 **RV 20:3 · Note** Verse 3 is omitted by the best authorities.

53 **RV 20:14 · Note** A line of this verse is here omitted by the best authorities.

54 **RV 20:17 · Note** The latter part of verse 17 is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

self.
And one who's prudent will please great men.
28 He who tills his land will raise his harvest high.
He who pleases great men will get pardon for iniquity.
29 Favours and gifts blind the eyes of the wise,
and as a muzzle on the mouth, turn away reproofs.
30 Wisdom that's hidden, and treasure that's out of sight—
what profit is in either of them?
31 Better is a man who hides his folly
than a man who hides his wisdom. **32** [55]

Turn away from sin

21:1 My son, have you sinned?
Do it no more;
and ask forgiveness for your past sins.
2 Flee from sin as from the face of a snake;
for if you go near, it'll bite you.
Its teeth are like lion's teeth,
slaying people's souls.
3 All iniquity is as a two-edged sword.
Its stroke has no healing.
4 Terror and violence will waste away riches.
So an arrogant man's house will be laid waste.
5 Supplication from a poor man's mouth reaches to the ears of[56] God,
and his judgement comes speedily.
6 One who hates reproof is in the path of the sinner.
He who fears the master will repent in his heart.
7 He who's mighty in tongue is known far away;
but the man of understanding knows when he slips.
8 He who builds his house with other men's money
is like one who gathers stones for his own tomb.
9 The congregation of wicked men is as a bundle of tow
with a flame of fire at the end of them.
10 The way of sinners is paved with stones;
and at the end of it's the pit of Haidais.
11 He who keeps the law becomes master of its intent.

The behaviour of wise and foolish people

The fulfilment of the fear of the master is wisdom.
12 He who isn't clever won't be instructed.
There's a cleverness which makes bitterness abound.
13 The knowledge of a wise man will be made to abound as a flood,
and his counsel as a fountain of life.
14 The inward parts of a fool are like a broken vessel.
He'll hold no knowledge.
15 If a man of knowledge hears a wise word,
he'll commend it and add to it.
The wanton man hears it, and it displeases him,
so he throws it away behind his back.
16 The chatter of a fool is like a burden in the way,
but grace will be found on the lips of the wise.
17 The utterance of the prudent man will be desired by the congregation.
They'll ponder his words in their heart.
18 As a house that's destroyed, so is wisdom to a fool.
The knowledge of an unwise man is talk without sense.[57]
19 Instruction is as fetters on the feet of an unwise man,
and as manacles on the right hand.
20 A fool lifts up his voice with laughter,
but a clever man smiles quietly.
21 Instruction is to a prudent man as an ornament of gold,
and as a bracelet on his right arm.

55 **RV 20:32 · Note** Verse 32 is omitted by the best authorities.

56 **RV 21:5 · Note** Grk. him.

57 **RV 21:18 · Note** Grk. unexamined words.

Readers' Version

22 A fool's foot rushes into a house,
but a man of experience will be ashamed of entering.
23 A foolish man peers into the door of a house,
but a man who's instructed will stand outside.
24 It's rude for someone to listen at a door,
but a prudent person will be grieved with the disgrace.
25 The lips of strangers will be grieved at these things,
but the words of prudent men will be weighed in the balance.
26 The heart of fools is in their mouth,
but the mouth of wise men is their heart.
27 When the ungodly curses an adversary,
he curses his own soul.
28 A whisperer defiles his own soul,
and will be hated wherever he travels.

Laziness and undisciplined children

22:1 A slothful man is compared to a stone that's defiled.
Everyone will hiss at him in his disgrace.
2 A slothful man is compared to the filth of a dunghill.
Anyone who picks it up will shake it out of his hand.
3 An undisciplined child is a disgrace to his father,
and a foolish daughter is born to his loss.
4 A prudent daughter will inherit a husband of her own.
She who brings shame is the grief of her father.
5 She who's arrogant brings shame on father and husband.
She'll be despised by both of them.
6 Ill-timed conversation is like music in mourning,
but stripes and correction are wisdom in every season.

Dealing with fools

7 He who teaches a fool is like one who glues potsherds together,
even like one who wakes a sleeper out of a deep sleep.
8 He who teaches a fool is as one who teaches a man who slumbers.
In the end he'll say, "What's it?" 9-10 [58]
11 Weep for the dead, for he lacks light.
Weep for a fool, for he lacks understanding.
Weep more sweetly for the dead, because he's found rest,
but the life of the fool is worse than death.
12 Mourning for the dead lasts seven days,
but for a fool and an ungodly man, it lasts all the days of his life.
13 Don't talk much with a foolish man,
and don't go to one who has no understanding.
Beware of him, or his attack might bring you trouble and defile you.
Turn away from him, and you'll find rest,
and you won't be wearied in his madness.
14 What'd be heavier than lead?
What's its name, but "Fool"?
15 Sand, salt, and a mass of iron is easier to bear
than a man without understanding.
16 Timber girded and bound into a building won't be released with shaking.
So a heart established in due season on well advised counsel won't be afraid.
17 A heart settled on a thoughtful understanding
is as an ornament of plaster on a polished wall.
18 Fences set on a high place won't stand against the wind;
so a fearful heart in the imagination of a fool won't stand against any fear.

Protect your friendships

19 He who pricks the eye will make tears fall.
He who pricks the heart makes it show feeling.
20 The person who throws a stone at birds, scares them away.
He who insults a friend will dissolve friendship.
21 If you've drawn a sword against a friend,

58 RV 22:9-10 · Note Verses 9 and 10 are omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

don't despair,
for there may be a way back.
22 If you've opened your mouth against a friend, don't be afraid,
for there may be reconciliation,
unless it's for insulting, arrogance, disclosing of a secret, or a treacherous blow—
for these things any friend will flee.
23 Gain trust with your neighbour in his poverty,
that in his prosperity you may have gladness.
Stay steadfast to him in the time of his affliction,
that you may be heir with him in his inheritance.[59]
24 Before fire is the vapour and smoke of a furnace,
so insults precede bloodshed.
25 I won't be ashamed to shelter a friend.
I won't hide myself from his face.
26 If any evil happens to me because of him,
everyone who hears it'll beware of him.

A prayer for self-control

27 Who'll set a watch over my mouth,
and a seal of shrewdness on my lips,
that I may not fall from it, and that my tongue may not destroy me?
23:1 Oh master, Father and Master of my life,
don't abandon me to their counsel.
Don't let me fall because of them.
2 Who'll set scourges over my thought,
and a discipline of wisdom over my heart,
that they spare me not for my errors,
and not overlook their sins?
3 Otherwise my errors might be multiplied,
and my sins abound,
I fall before my adversaries,
and my enemy rejoice over me.[60]
4 Oh master, Father and God of my life,
don't give me a haughty eyes,[61]
5 and turn away evil desire from me.[62]
6 Let neither gluttony nor lust overtake me.
Don't give me over to a shameless mind.

Avoid careless oaths and offensive speech

7 Listen, my children, to the discipline of the mouth.
He who keeps it won't be caught.
8 The sinner will be overpowered through his lips.
By them, the insulter and the arrogant will stumble.
9 Don't accustom your mouth to an oath,
and don't be accustomed to naming the Holy One,
10 for as a servant who's continually scourged won't lack bruises,
so he also who swears and continually utters the Name won't be cleansed from sin.
11 A man of many oaths will be filled with iniquity.
The scourge won't depart from his house.
If he offends, his sin will be on him.
If he disregards it, he's sinned doubly.
If he's sworn falsely, he won't be justified,
for his house will be filled with calamities.
12 There's a manner of speech that's clothed with death.
Let it not be found in the heritage of Ya'akov (Jacob),
for all these things will be far from the godly,
and they won't wallow in sins.
13 Don't accustom your mouth to gross rudeness,
for it involves sinful speech.
14 Remember your father and your mother,
for you sit among great men,
that you be not forgetful before them,
and become a fool by your bad habit;
so you may wish that you hadn't been born,
and curse the day of your birth.
15 A man who's accustomed to abusive language

59 **RV 22:23 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
60 **RV 23:3 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
61 **RV 23:4 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.
62 **RV 23:5 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

won't be corrected all the days of his life.

Sexual sin and its consequences

16 Two sorts of people multiply sins,
and the third will bring anger:
a hot passion, like a burning fire, won't be quenched until it's consumed;
a fornicator in the body of his flesh will never cease until he has burnt out the fire.
17 All bread is sweet to a fornicator.
He won't cease until he dies.
18 A man who goes astray from his own marriage bed
says in his heart, "Who sees me?
Darkness is around me, and the walls hide me.
No one sees me. Of whom am I afraid?
The Most High won't remember my sins."
19 Men's eyes are his terror.
He doesn't know that the master's eyes are ten thousand times brighter than the sun,
seeing all the ways of men,
and looking into secret places.
20 All things were known to him before they were created,
and also after they were completed.
21 This man will be punished in the streets of the city.
He'll be seized where he least expects it.
22 So also is a wife who leaves her husband,
and produces an heir by another man.
23 Because first, she was disobedient in the Most High's law.
Second, she trespassed against her own husband.
Third, she played the adulteress in fornication,
and had children by another man.
24 She'll be brought out into the congregation.
Her punishment will extend to her children.
25 Her children won't take root.
Her branches will bear no fruit.
26 She'll leave her memory for a curse.
Her reproach won't be blotted out.
27 And those who are left behind will know that there's nothing better than the fear of the master,
and nothing sweeter than to heed the master's commandments. 28 [63]

Wisdom makes her home among God's people

24:1 Wisdom will praise her own soul,
and will proclaim her glory among her people.
2 She'll open her mouth in the congregation of the Most High,
and proclaim her glory in the presence of his power.
3 "I came out of the Most High's mouth,
and covered the earth as a mist.
4 I lived in high places,
and my throne is in the pillar of the cloud.
5 Alone I surrounded the circuit of heaven,
and walked in the depth of the abyss.
6 In the waves of the sea, and in all the earth,
and in every people and nation, I obtained a possession.
7 With all these I tried to find rest.
In whose inheritance will I stay?
8 Then the Creator of all things gave me a command.
He who created me made my tent to rest,
and said, 'Let your dwelling be in Ya'akov (Jacob),
and your inheritance in Yisrael (Israel).'
9 He created me from the beginning, before the ages.
Because all ages, I won't cease to exist.
10 In the holy tabernacle, I ministered before him.
So I was established in Tsiyon (Zion).
11 In the beloved city, likewise he gave me rest.
In Yerushalem (Jerusalem) was my domain.
12 I took root in a people that was honoured,
even in the portion of the master's own inheritance.
13 I was exalted like a cedar in Levanon,
And like a cypress tree on the mountains of Hermon.
14 I was exalted like a palm tree on the sea shore,

63 RV 23:28 · Note Verse 28 is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

like rose bushes in Yeriho (Jericho),
and like a fair olive tree in the plain.
I was exalted like a plane tree.
15 Like cinnamon and aspalathus, I've given a scent to perfumes.
Like choice myrrh, I spread abroad a pleasant fragrance,
like[64] galbanum, onycha, stacte,
and as the smell of frankincense in the tabernacle.
16 Like the terebinth, I stretched out my branches.
My branches are glorious and graceful.
17 Like the vine, I put forth grace.
My flowers are the fruit of glory and riches.
18 [65]
19 "Come to me, all you who desire me,
and be filled with my fruits.
20 Because my memory is sweeter than honey,
and my inheritance than the honeycomb.
21 Those who eat me will be hungry for more.
Those who drink me will be thirsty for more.
22 He who obeys me won't be ashamed.
Those who work with me won't sin."

Wisdom in God's law

23 All these things are the book of the Most High God's covenant,
the law which Mosheh (Moses) commanded us for an inheritance for the assemblies of Ya'akov (Jacob). 24 [66]
25 It's he who makes wisdom abundant, as Pishon,
and as Hidekel in the days of first fruits.
26 He makes understanding full as the Perat (Euphrates),
and as the Yarden (Jordan) in the days of harvest,
27 who makes instruction shine forth as the light,
as Gihon in the days of vintage.
28 The first man didn't know her perfectly.
In the same way, the last hasn't explored her.
29 Because her thoughts are filled from the sea,
and her counsels from the great deep.

Passing wisdom on to others

30 I came out as a canal stream from a river,
and as an irrigation ditch into a garden.
31 I said, "I'll water my garden,
and will drench my garden bed."
Listen, my stream became a river,
and my river became a sea.
32 I'll yet bring instruction to light as the morning,
and will make these things clear from far away.
33 I'll continue to pour out teaching like prophecy,
and leave it to all generations.
34 See that I haven't laboured for myself only,
but for all those who diligently seek wisdom.

Things that bring happiness and honour

25:1 I enjoy three things,
and they're beautiful before the master and men:
the agreement of kindred,
the friendship of neighbours,
and a woman and her husband who walk together in agreement.
2 But my soul hates three sorts of people,
and I'm greatly offended at their life:
a poor man who's arrogant,
a rich man who's a liar,
and an old fool who's an adulterer.
3 If you gathered nothing in your youth,
how could you find anything in your old age?
4 How beautiful a thing is judgement in the grey-haired,
and for elders to know good counsel!
5 How beautiful is the wisdom of old men,
and understanding and counsel to men who are in honour!

64 **RV 24:15 · Note** See Exodus 30:34.
65 **RV 24:18 · Note** Verse 18 is omitted by the best authorities.
66 **RV 24:24 · Note** Verse 24 is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

6 Much experience is the crown of the aged.
Their glory is the fear of the master.
7 There are nine things that I've thought of, and in my heart counted happy,
and the tenth I'll utter with my tongue:
a man who has joy with his children,
and a man who lives and sees the fall of his enemies.
8 Happy is he who lives with a wife of understanding,
he who hasn't slipped with his tongue,
and he who hasn't served a man who's unworthy of him.
9 Happy is he who's found prudence,
and he who speaks in the ears of those who listen.
10 How great is he who's found wisdom!
Yet is there none above him who fears the master.
11 The fear of the master surpasses all things.
Who can someone who holds it be compared to? 12 [67]
13 Any wound but a wound of the heart!
Any wickedness but the wickedness of a woman!
14 Any calamity but a calamity from those who hate me!
Any vengeance but the vengeance of enemies!
15 There's no venom worse than a snake's venom.
There's no anger worse than an enemy's anger.
16 I'd rather live with a lion and a dragon
than keep house with a wicked woman.
17 The wickedness of a woman changes her appearance,
and darkens her face like that of a bear.
18 Her husband will sit among his neighbours,
and when he hears it, he sighs bitterly.
19 All malice is small compared to the malice of a woman.
Let the portion of a sinner fall on her.
20 As walking up a sandy hill is to the feet of the aged,
so is a wife full of words to a quiet man.
21 Don't be ensnared by a woman's beauty.
Don't desire a woman for her beauty.
22 There's anger, impudence, and great reproach
if a woman supports her husband.
23 A wicked woman is abasement of heart,
a sad expression, and a wounded heart.
A woman who won't make her husband happy
is like hands that hang down, and weak knees.
24 The beginning of sin came from a woman.
Because of her, we all die.
25 Don't give water an outlet,
and don't give a wicked woman freedom of speech.
26 If she doesn't go as you direct,
cut her away from your flesh.[68]

Good and bad wives

26:1 Happy is the husband of a good wife.
The number of his days will be doubled.
2 A faithful wife gives joy to her husband.
He'll fulfil his years in peace.
3 A good wife is a great gift.
She'll be given to those who fear the master.
4 Whether a man is rich or poor,
a good heart makes a cheerful face at all times.
5 Of three things my heart was afraid,
and about the fourth[69] kind I made supplication:
The slander of a city, the assembly of a mob, and a false accusation.
All these are more grievous than death.
6 A grief of heart and sorrow is a woman who's jealous of another woman.
Her tongue-lashing makes it known to all.
7 A wicked woman is like a chafing yoke.
He who takes hold of her is like one who grasps a scorpion.

67 RV 25:12 · Note Verse 12 is omitted by the best authorities.

68 RV 25:26 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

69 RV 26:5 · Note Grk. countenance.

Readers' Version

8 A drunken woman causes great anger.
She won't cover her own shame.
9 The fornication of a woman is in the lifting up of her eyes;
it'll be known by her eyelids.
10 Keep strict watch on a headstrong daughter,
or she might find an opportunity and take it.
11 Watch out for an impudent eye,
and don't be surprised if it sins against you.
12 She'll open her mouth like a thirsty traveller,
and drink from every water that's near.
She'll sit down at every post,
and open her quiver to any arrow.
13 The grace of a wife will delight her husband.
Her knowledge will strengthen[70] his bones.
14 A silent woman is a gift of the master.
There's nothing worth so much as a well-instructed soul.
15 A modest woman is grace on grace.
There are no scales that can weigh the value of a self-controlled soul.
16 As the sun when it arises in the highest places of the master,
so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-organised home.
17 As the lamp that shines on the holy lampstand,
so is the beauty of the face on a well-proportioned body.
18 As the golden pillars are on a base of silver,
so are beautiful feet with the breasts of one who's steadfast. **19–27** [71]

Honour, hardship, and honest business

28 Because two things my heart is grieved,
and for the third anger comes on me:
a warrior who suffers for poverty,
men of understanding who are counted as garbage,
and one who turns back from righteousness to sin—
the master will prepare him for the sword!
29 It's difficult for a merchant to keep himself from wrong doing,
and for a retailer to be acquitted of sin.
27:1 Many have sinned for profit.
He who seeks to multiply wealth will turn his eye away.
2 As a nail will stick fast between the joinings of stones,
so sin will thrust itself in between buying and selling.
3 Unless a person holds on diligently to the fear of the master,
his house will be overthrown quickly.

Words reveal a person's character

4 In the shaking of a sieve, the refuse remains,
so does the filth of man in his thoughts.
5 The furnace tests the potter's vessels;
so the test of a person is in his thoughts.
6 The fruit of a tree discloses its cultivation,
so is the utterance of the thought of a person's heart.
7 Praise no man before you hear his thoughts,
for this is how people are tested.
8 If you follow righteousness, you'll obtain it,
and put it on like a long robe of glory.
9 Birds will return to their own kind,
so truth will return to those who practise it.
10 The lion lies in wait for prey.
So does sin for those who do evil.
11 The discourse of a godly man is always wise,
but the fool changes like the moon.
12 Limit your time among people void of understanding,
but persevere among the thoughtful.
13 The talk of fools is offensive.
Their laughter is wantonly sinful.
14 Their talk with much swearing makes hair stand upright.
Their strife makes others plug their ears.
15 The strife of the proud leads to bloodshed.
Their abuse of each other is a grievous thing to hear.

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70 **RV 26:13 · Note** or, fatten

71 **RV 26:19-27 · Note** Verses 19-27 are omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

Keep your friends' secrets

16 He who reveals secrets destroys trust,
and won't find a close friend.
17 Love a friend, and keep faith with him;
but if you reveal his secrets,
you won't catch him;
18 for as a man has destroyed his enemy,
so you've destroyed the friendship of your neighbour.
19 As a bird which you've released out of your hand,
so you've let your neighbour go, and you won't catch him again.
20 Don't pursue him, for he's gone far away,
and has escaped like a gazelle out of the snare.
21 Because a wound may be bound up, and after abuse there may be reconciliation;
but he who reveals secrets is without hope.

Deceit and wrongdoing bring their own punishment

22 One who winks the eye contrives evil things;
and those who know him will keep their distance.
23 When you're present, he'll speak sweetly,
and will admire your words;
but afterward he'll twist his speech
and set a trap in your words.
24 I've hated many things, but nothing like him.
The master will hate him.
25 One who casts a stone straight up casts it on his own head.
A deceitful blow opens wounds.
26 He who digs a pit will fall into it.
He who sets a snare will be caught in it.
27 He who does evil things, they'll roll back on him,
and he won't know where they came from.
28 Mockery and reproach are from the arrogant.
Vengeance lies in wait for them like a lion.
29 Those who rejoice at the fall of the godly will be caught in a snare.
Anguish will consume them before they die.

Forgive others and let go of anger

30 Anger and anger, these also are abominations.
A sinner will possess them.
28:1 He who takes vengeance will find vengeance from the master,
and he'll surely make his sins firm.
2 Forgive your neighbour the hurt that he's done,
and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.
3 Does anyone harbour anger against another
and expect healing from the master?
4 On a man like himself he has no mercy,
and does he make supplication for his own sins?
5 He himself, being flesh, nourishes anger.
Who'll make atonement for his sins?
6 Remember your last end, and stop enmity.
Remember corruption and death, and be true to the commandments.
7 Remember the commandments, and don't be angry with your neighbour.
Remember the covenant of the Highest, and overlook ignorance.

Quarrels and the damage caused by slander

8 Abstain from strife, and you'll diminish your sins,
for a passionate man will kindle strife.
9 A man who's a sinner will trouble friends
and sow discord among those who are at peace.
10 As is the fuel of the fire, so it'll burn;
and as the stoutness of the strife is, so it'll burn.
As is the man's strength, so will be his anger;
and as is his wealth, so he'll exalt his anger.
11 A contention begun in haste kindles a fire;
and hasty fighting sheds blood.
12 If you blow on a spark, it'll burn;
and if you spit on it, it'll be quenched.
Both of these come out of your mouth.
13 Curse the whisperer and double-tongued,
for he's destroyed many who were at peace.
14 A slanderer has shaken many,
and dispersed them from nation to nation.
It's pulled down strong cities
and overthrown great men's houses.
15 A slanderer has thrown out brave women

Readers' Version

and deprived them of their labours.
16 He who listens to it won't find rest,
nor will he live quietly.
17 The stroke of a whip makes a mark in the flesh,
but the stroke of a tongue will break bones.
18 Many have fallen by the edge of the sword,
yet not so many as those who've fallen because of the tongue.
19 Happy is he who's sheltered from it,
who hasn't passed through its anger,
who hasn't drawn its yoke,
and hasn't been bound with its bands.
20 Because its yoke is a yoke of iron,
and its bands are bands of brass.
21 Its death is an evil death,
and Haidais is better than it.
22 It won't have rule over godly men.
They won't be burnt in its flame.
23 Those who forsake the master will fall into it.
It'll burn among them, and won't be quenched.
It'll be sent against them like a lion.
It'll destroy them like a leopard.
24 As you hedge your possession about with thorns,
and secure your silver and your gold,
25 so make a balance and a weight for your words,
and make a door and a bar for your mouth.
26 Be careful not to slip with it,
or you might fall before someone lying in wait.

Loans, generosity, and helping the poor

29:1 He who shows mercy will lend to his neighbour.
He who strengthens him with his hand keeps the commandments.
2 Lend to your neighbour in time of his need.
Repay your neighbour on time.
3 Confirm your word, and keep faith with him;
and at all seasons you'll find what you need.
4 Many have considered a loan to be a windfall,
and have given trouble to those who helped them.
5 Until he's received, he'll kiss a man's hands.
Because his neighbour's money he'll speak submissively.
Then when payment is due, he'll prolong the time,
return excuses, and complain about the season.
6 If he prevails, the creditor will hardly receive half;
and he'll count it as a windfall.
If not, he's deprived him of his money,
and he has gotten him for an enemy without cause.
He'll pay him with cursing and railing.
Instead of honour, he'll pay him disgrace.
7 Many on account of fraud have turned away.
They're afraid of being defrauded for nothing.
8 However be patient with a man in poor estate.
Don't keep him waiting for your gift.
9 Help a poor man for the commandment's sake.
According to his need don't send him empty away.
10 Lose your money for a brother and a friend.
Don't let it rust under a stone and be lost.
11 Allocate your treasure according to the Most High's commandments
and it'll profit you more than gold.
12 Store up almsgiving in your store-chambers
and it'll deliver you out of all affliction.
13 It'll fight for you against your enemy
better than a mighty shield and a ponderous spear.

The risks of guaranteeing someone else's debt

14 A good man will be surety for his neighbour.
He who's lost shame will fail him.
15 Don't forget the kindness of your guarantor,
for he's given his life for you.
16 A sinner will waste the property of his guarantor.
17 He who's thankless will fail him who delivered him.

Readers' Version

18 Being surety has undone many who were prospering
and shaken them as a wave of the sea.
It's driven mighty men from their homes.
They wandered among foreign nations.
19 A sinner who falls into suretiship and undertakes contracts for work
will fall into lawsuits.
20 Help your neighbour according to your power,
and be careful not to fall yourself.

The value of a home of your own

21 The essentials of life are water, bread,
a garment, and a house for privacy.
22 Better is the life of a poor man under a shelter of logs
than sumptuous fare in another man's house.
23 With little or with much, be well satisfied.[72]
24 It's a miserable life to go from house to house.
Where you're a guest, you dare not open your mouth.
25 You'll entertain, serve drinks, and have no thanks.
In addition to this, you'll hear bitter words.
26 "Come here, you sojourner, set a table,
and if you have anything in your hand, feed me with it."
27 "Leave, you sojourner, for an honoured guest is here.
My brother has come to be my guest. I need my house."
28 These things are grievous to a man of understanding:
The scolding about lodging and the insults of creditors.

Discipline your children

30:1 He who loves his son will continue to lay stripes on him,
that he may have joy from him in the end.
2 He who chastises his son will have profit from him,
and will brag about him among his acquaintances.
3 He who teaches his son will provoke his enemy to jealousy.
Before friends, he'll rejoice in him.
4 His father dies, and is as though he hadn't died;
for he's left one behind him like himself.
5 In his life, he saw his son and rejoiced.
When he died, it was without regret.
6 He left behind him an avenger against his enemies,
and one to repay kindness to his friends.
7 He who makes too much of his son will bind up his wounds.
His heart will be troubled at every cry.
8 An unbroken horse becomes stubborn.
An unrestrained son becomes headstrong.
9 Pamper your child, and he'll make you afraid.
Play with him, and he'll grieve you.
10 Don't laugh with him, or you might end up grieving with him,
and end up grinding your teeth.
11 Give him no liberty in his youth,
and don't ignore his follies.[73]
12 Bow[74] down his neck in his youth,
and beat him on the sides while he's a child,
or he might become stubborn and disobey you,
and there be sorrow to your soul.[75]
13 Chastise your son, and give him work,
or his shameless behaviour might offend you.

Health and happiness are better than wealth

14 Better is a poor man who's healthy and fit,
than a rich man who's afflicted in his body.
15 Health and fitness are better than all gold,
and a strong body better than wealth without measure.

72 **RV 29:23 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

73 **RV 30:11 · Note** This line and the previous two lines are absent from some older MSS.

74 **RV 30:12 · Note** These three lines are absent from the oldest MSS.

75 **RV 30:12 · Note** These three lines are absent from the oldest MSS.

Readers' Version

16 There's no wealth better than health of body.
There's no gladness above the joy of the heart.
17 Death is better than a bitter life,
and eternal rest than a continual sickness.
18 Good things poured out on a mouth that's closed
are like food offerings laid on a grave.
19 What does an offering profit an idol?
Because it can't eat or smell.
So is he who's punished by the master,
20 seeing with his eyes and groaning,
like a eunuch embracing a virgin and groaning.
21 Don't give your soul to sorrow.
Don't afflict yourself deliberately.
22 Gladness of heart is a man's life.
Cheerfulness of a man lengthens his days.
23 Love your own soul, and comfort your heart.
Remove sorrow far from you,
for sorrow has destroyed many,
and there's no profit in it.
24 Envy and anger shorten life.
Anxiety brings old age before its time.
25 Those who are cheerful and merry
will benefit from their food.

Wealth and the temptation to do wrong

31:1 Wakefulness that comes from riches consumes the flesh,
and anxiety about it takes away sleep.
2 Wakeful anxiety will crave slumber.
In a severe disease, sleep will be broken.
3 A rich man toils in gathering money together.
When he rests, he's filled with his good things.
4 A poor man toils in lack of substance.
When he rests, he becomes needy.
5 He who loves gold won't be justified.
He who follows destruction will himself have his fill of it.
6 Many have been given over to ruin for the sake of gold.
Their destruction meets them face to face.
7 It's a stumbling block to those who sacrifice to it.
Every fool will be taken by it.
8 Blessed is the rich person who's found blameless,
and who doesn't go after gold.
9 Who's he, that we may call him blessed?
Because he's done wonderful things among his people.
10 Who's been tried by it, and found perfect?
Then let him boast.
Who's had the power to transgress, and hasn't transgressed?
And to do evil, and hasn't done it?
11 His prosperity will be made sure.
The congregation will tell of his gifts to the poor.

Good manners at meals

12 Do you sit at a great table? Don't be greedy there.
Don't say, "There's a lot of food on it!"
13 Remember that a greedy eye is a wicked thing.
What's been created more greedy than an eye?
Therefore it sheds tears from every face.
14 Don't stretch your hand wherever it looks.
Don't thrust yourself with it into the dish.
15 Consider your neighbour's feelings by your own.
Be discreet in every point.
16 Eat like a human being those things which are set before you.
Don't eat greedily, or you might be hated.
17 Be first to stop for manners' sake.
Don't be insatiable, or you might cause offence.
18 And if you sit among many,
Don't reach out your hand before them.
19 How sufficient to a well-mannered man is a very little.
He doesn't breathe heavily in his bed.
20 Healthy sleep comes from moderate eating.
He rises early, and his wits are with him.
The pain of wakefulness, colic,
and griping are with an insatiable man.
21 And if you've been forced to eat,
rise up in the middle of it, and you'll have

Readers' Version

rest.
22 Hear me, my son, and don't despise me,
and in the end you'll appreciate my words.
In all your works be skilful,
and no disease will come to you.
23 People bless him who's liberal with his food.
The testimony of his excellence will be believed.
24 The city will murmur at him who's a stingy with his food.
The testimony of his stinginess will be accurate.

Be careful with wine

25 Don't show yourself valiant in wine,
for wine has destroyed many.
26 The furnace tests the temper of steel by dipping;
so does wine test hearts in the quarrelling of the proud.
27 Wine is as good as life to men,
if you drink it in moderation.
What life is there to a man who's without wine?
It's been created to make men glad.
28 Wine drunk in season and in moderation
is joy of heart and gladness of soul:
29 Wine drunk excessively is bitterness of soul,
with provocation and conflict.
30 Drunkenness increases the rage of a fool to his hurt.
It diminishes strength and adds wounds.
31 Don't rebuke your neighbour at a banquet of wine.
Don't despise him in his mirth.
Don't speak a word of reproach to him.
Don't distress him by making demands of him.

How to behave at a feast

32:1 Have they made you ruler of a feast?
Don't be lifted up.
Be among them as one of them.
Take care of them first, and then sit down.
2 And when you've done all your duties, take your place,
that you may be gladdened on their account,
and receive a wreath for your good service.
3 Speak, you who are older, for it's your right, but with sound knowledge;
and don't interrupt the music.
4 Don't pour out talk where there's a performance of music.
Don't display your wisdom at the wrong time.
5 As a ruby signet in a setting of gold,
so is a music concert at a wine banquet.
6 As an emerald signet in a work of gold,
so is musical melody with pleasant wine.
7 Speak, young man, if you're obliged to,
but no more than twice, and only if asked.
8 Sum up your speech, many things in few words.
Be as one who knows and yet holds his tongue.
9 When among great men, don't behave as their equal.
When another is speaking, don't babble.
10 Lightning speeds before thunder.
Approval goes before one who's modest.
11 Rise up in good time, and don't be last.
Go home quickly and don't loiter
12 Amuse yourself there and do what is in your heart.
Don't sin by proud speech.
13 Because these things bless your Maker,
who gives you to drink freely of his good things.

Accept instruction and think before acting

14 He who fears the master will receive discipline.
Those who seek him early will find favour.
15 He who seeks the law will be filled with it,
but the hypocrite will stumble at it.
16 Those who fear the master will find true judgement,
and will kindle righteous acts like a light.
17 A sinful man shuns reproof,
and will find a judgement according to his will.
18 A sensible person won't neglect a thought.
An insolent and proud man won't crouch in fear,

Readers' Version

even after he's done a thing by himself without counsel.
19 Do nothing without counsel,
but when you've acted, don't regret it.
20 Don't go in a way of conflict.
Don't stumble in stony places.
21 Don't be overconfident on a smooth road.
22 Beware of your own children.
23 In every work guard your own soul,
for this is the keeping of the commandments.
24 He who believes the law gives heed to the commandment.
He who trusts in the master will suffer no loss.
33:1 No evil will happen to him who fears the master,
but in trials once and again he'll deliver him.
2 A wise man won't hate the law,
but he who's a hypocrite about it's like a boat in a storm.
3 A man of understanding will put his trust in the law.
And the law is faithful to him, as when one asks a divine oracle.
4 Prepare your speech, and so you'll be heard.
Bind up instruction, and make your answer.
5 A fool's heart is like a cartwheel.
His thoughts are like a rolling axle.
6 A stallion horse is like a mocking friend.
He neighs under every one who sits on him.

God gives different roles to days and people

7 Why does one day excel another,
when all the light of every day in the year is from the sun?
8 They were distinguished by the master's knowledge,
and he varied seasons and feasts.
9 Some of them he exalted and hallowed,
and some of them he's made ordinary days.
10 And all men are from the ground.
Adam was created from dust.
11 In the abundance of his knowledge the master distinguished them,
and made their ways different.
12 Some of them he blessed and exalted,
and some of them he made holy and brought near to himself.
Some of them he cursed and brought low,
and overthrew them from their place.
13 As the clay of the potter in his hand,
all his ways are according to his good pleasure,
so men are in the hand of him who made them,
to render to them according to his judgement.
14 Good is the opposite of evil,
and life is the opposite of death;
so[76] the sinner is the opposite of the godly.
15 Look on all the Most High's works like this,
they come in pairs, one against another.

The teacher shares what he has learnt

16 I was the last on watch,
like one who gleans after the grape gatherers.
17 By the master's blessing I arrived before them,
and filled my wine-pressing pit like one who gathers grapes.
18 Consider that I laboured not for myself alone,
but for all those who seek instruction.
19 Hear me, you great men of the people,
and listen with your ears, you rulers of the congregation.

Keep control of your own affairs

20 To son and wife, to brother and friend,
don't give power over yourself while you live,
and don't give your goods to another,
or you might regret it and have to ask for them back.
21 While you still live and breath is in you,
don't give yourself over to anybody.
22 Because it's better that your children should ask from you
than that you should look to your children's hand.

76 RV 33:14 · Note A line of this verse is here omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

23 Excel in all your works.
Don't bring a stain on your honour.
24 In the day that you end the days of your life,
in the time of death, distribute your inheritance.
25 Fodder, a stick, and burdens are for a donkey.

Responsibilities towards servants

Bread, discipline, and work are for a servant.
26 Set your slave to work, and you'll find rest.
Leave his hands idle, and he'll seek liberty.
27 Yoke and whip will bow the neck.
Because an evil slave there are racks and tortures.
28 Send him to labour, that he not be idle,
for idleness teaches much mischief.
29 Set him to work, as is fit for him.
If he doesn't obey, make his fetters heavy.
30 Don't be excessive towards any.
Do nothing unjust.
31 If you have a slave, treat him like yourself,
because you've bought him with blood.
32 If you have a slave, treat him like yourself.
Because like your own soul, you'll need him.
If you treat him ill, and he departs and runs away,
33 which way will you go to seek him?

Don't put your trust in dreams

34:1 Vain and false hopes are for a man void of understanding.
Dreams give wings to fools.
2 As one who grasps at a shadow and follows after the wind,
so is he who sets his mind on dreams.
3 The vision of dreams is a reflection,
the likeness of a face near a face.
4 From an unclean thing what can be cleansed?
From that which is false what can be true?
5 Divinations, and soothsayings, and dreams, are vain.
The heart has fantasies like a woman in labour.
6 If they aren't sent in a visitation from the Most High,
don't give your heart to them.
7 Because dreams have led many astray.
They've failed by putting their hope in them.
8 Without lying the law will be fulfilled.
Wisdom is complete in a faithful mouth.

Experience and trusting God

9 A well-instructed man knows many things.
He who has much experience will declare understanding.
10 He who has no experience knows few things.
But he who's travelled increases cleverness.
11 I've seen many things in my travels.
My understanding is more than my words.
12 I was often in danger even to death.
I was preserved because of these experiences.
13 The spirit of those who fear the master will live,
for their hope is in him who saves them.
14 Anyone who fears the master won't be afraid, and won't be a coward,
because he's his hope.
15 Blessed is the soul of him who fears the master.
To whom does he give heed? Who's his support?
16 The master's eyes are on those who love him,
a mighty protection and strong support,
a cover from the hot blast, a shade from the noonday sun,
a guard from stumbling, and a help from falling.
17 He raises up the soul, and enlightens the eyes.
He gives health, life, and blessing.

Worship that pleases God

18 He who sacrifices a thing wrongfully gotten, his offering is made in mockery.
The mockeries of wicked men aren't acceptable.
19 The Most High has no pleasure in the offerings of the ungodly,
Neither is he pacified for sins by the multitude of sacrifices.
20 Like one who kills a son before his father's

Readers' Version

eyes
is he who brings a sacrifice from the goods of the poor.
21 The bread of the needy is the life of the poor.
He who deprives him of it's a man of blood.
22 Like one who murders his neighbour is he who takes away his living.
Like a shedder of blood is he who deprives a hireling of his hire.
23 When one builds, and another pulls down,
what profit do they have but toil?
24 When one prays, and another curses,
whose voice will the master listen to?
25 He who washes himself after touching a dead body, and touches it again,
what does he gain by his washing?
26 Even so a man fasting for his sins,
and going again, and doing the same,
who'll listen to his prayer?
What profit does he have in his humiliation?
35:1 He who keeps the law multiplies offerings.
He who heeds the commandments sacrifices a peace offering.
2 He who returns a kindness offers fine flour.
He who gives to the poor sacrifices a thank offering.
3 To depart from wickedness pleases the master.
To depart from unrighteousness is an atoning sacrifice.
4 See that you don't appear in the presence of the master empty.
5 Because all these things are done because of the commandment.
6 The offering of the righteous enriches the altar.
The sweet fragrance of it's before the Most High.
7 The sacrifice of a righteous man is acceptable.
It won't be forgotten.
8 Glorify the master with generosity.
Don't reduce the first fruits of your hands.
9 In every gift show a cheerful face,
And dedicate your tithe with gladness.
10 Give to the Most High according as he's given.
As your hand has found, give generously.
11 Because the master repays,
and he'll repay you sevenfold.
12 Don't plan to bribe him with gifts, for he won't receive them.

God hears the prayers of the oppressed

Don't set your mind on an unrighteous sacrifice,
Because the master is the judge,
and with him is no respect of persons.
13 He won't accept any person against a poor man.
He'll listen to the prayer of him who's wronged.
14 He'll in no way despise the supplication of the fatherless
or the widow, when she pours out her tale.
15 Don't the tears of the widow run down her cheek?
Isn't her cry against him who's caused them to fall?
16 He who serves God according to his good pleasure will be accepted.
His supplication will reach to the clouds.
17 The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.
until it comes near, he won't be comforted.
He won't depart until the Most High visits
and he judges righteously and executes judgement.
18 And the master won't be slack, neither will he be patient towards them,
until he's crushed the loins of the unmerciful.
He'll repay vengeance to the heathen
until he's taken away the multitude of the arrogant
and broken in pieces the sceptres of the unrighteous,
19 until he's rendered to every man according to his actions,
and repaid men's works according to their plans,
until he's judged the cause of his people,
and he'll make them rejoice in his mercy.
20 Mercy is as welcome in the time of his af-

Readers' Version

fliction,
as clouds of rain in the time of drought.

A prayer for Yisrael's restoration

36:1 Have mercy on us,
Oh master the god of all,
and look at us with favour;
2 and send your fear on all the nations.[77]
3 Lift up your hand against the foreign nations
and let them see your mighty power.
4 As you showed your holiness in us before them,
so be magnified in them before us.
5 Let them know you, as we also have known you,
that there's no god but only you, Oh God.
6 Show new signs, and work various wonders.
Glorify your hand and your right arm.[78]
7 Raise up indignation and pour out anger.
Take away the adversary and destroy the enemy.
8 Hasten the time and remember your oath.
Let them declare your mighty works.
9 Let him who escapes be devoured by raging fire.
May those who harm your people find destruction.
10 Crush the heads of the rulers of the enemies
who say, "There's no one but ourselves."
11 Gather all the tribes of Ya'akov (Jacob) together,
and[79] take them for your inheritance, as from the beginning.
12 Oh master, have mercy on the people that's called by your name,
and on Yisrael (Israel), whom you likened to a firstborn.
13 Have compassion on the city of your sanctuary,
Yerushalem (Jerusalem), the place of your rest.
14 Fill Tsiyon (Zion). Exalt your oracles
and fill your people with your glory.
15 Give testimony to those who were your creatures in the beginning,
and fulfil the prophecies that have been spoken in your name.
16 Reward those who wait for you,
and men will put their trust in your prophets.
17 Listen, Oh master, to the prayer of your servants,
according to the blessing of Aharon (Aaron) about your people;
and all those who are on the earth will know
that you're the master, the[80] eternal God.

Discernment and choosing a wife

18 The belly will eat any food,
but one food is better than another.
19 The mouth tastes meats taken in hunting,
so does an understanding heart detect false speech.
20 A contrary heart will cause heaviness.
A man of experience will pay him back.
21 A woman will receive any man,
but one daughter is better than another.
22 The beauty of a woman cheers the face.
A man desires nothing more.
23 If kindness and humility are on her tongue,
her husband isn't like other sons of men.
24 He who gets a wife gets his richest treasure,
a help meet for him and a pillar of support.
25 Where no hedge is, the property will be plundered.
He who has no wife will mourn as he wanders.
26 Because who'd trust a nimble robber who skips from city to city?
Even so, who'd trust a man who has no nest, and lodges wherever he finds himself at nightfall?

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77 RV 36:2 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

78 RV 36:6 · Note The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

79 RV 36:11 · Note The ancient authorities read I took them for my inheritance: but the Greek text is here very confused.

80 RV 36:17 · Note Grk. God of the ages.

Readers' Version

Recognising a true friend

37:1 Every friend will say, "I also am his friend";
but there's a friend which is only a friend in name.
2 Isn't there a grief in it even to death
when a companion and friend is turned into an enemy?
3 Oh wicked imagination, why were you formed
to cover the dry land with deceit?
4 There's a companion who rejoices in the gladness of a friend,
but in time of affliction will be against him.
5 There's a companion who for the belly's sake labours with his friend,
yet in the face of battle will carry his buckler.
6 Don't forget a friend in your soul.
Don't be unmindful of him in your riches.

Choose your advisers carefully

7 Every counsellor extols counsel,
but some give counsel in their own interest.
8 Let your soul beware of a counsellor,
and know in advance what's his interest
(for he'll take counsel for himself),
in case he casts the lot against you,
9 and say to you, "Your way is good."
Then he'll stand near you, to see what'll happen to you.
10 Don't take counsel with one who looks askance at you.
Hide your counsel from those who are jealous of you.
11 Don't consult with a woman about her rival,
with a coward about war,
with a merchant about business,
with a buyer about selling,
with an envious man about thankfulness,
with an unmerciful man about kindliness,
with a sluggard about any kind of work,
with a hireling in your house about finishing his work,
or with an idle servant about much business.
Pay no attention to these in any matter of counsel.
12 But rather be continually with a godly man,
whom you know to be a keeper of the commandments,
who in his soul is as your own soul,
and who'll grieve with you, if you fail.
13 Make the counsel of your heart stand,
for there's no one more faithful to you than it.
14 Because a man's soul is sometimes inclined to inform him
better than seven watchmen who sit on high on a watch-tower.
15 Above all this ask the Most High
that he may direct your way in truth.

Wisdom that benefits others

16 Let reason be the beginning of every work.
Let counsel go before every action.
17 As a token of the changing of the heart,
18 four kinds of things rise up:
good and evil, life and death.
That which rules over them continually is the tongue.
19 There's one who's clever and the instructor of many,
and yet is unprofitable to his own soul.
20 There's one who's subtle in words, and is hated.
He'll be destitute of all food.
21 Because grace wasn't given to him from the master,
because he's deprived of all wisdom.
22 There's one who's wise to his own soul;
and the fruits of his understanding are trustworthy in the mouth.
23 A wise man will instruct his own people.
The fruits of his understanding are trustworthy.
24 A wise man will be filled with blessing.
All those who see him will call him happy.
25 A man's life is counted by days.
The days of Yisrael (Israel) are innumerable.
26 The wise man will inherit confidence among his people.
His name will live forever.

Know your limits with food

27 My son, test your soul in your life.

Readers' Version

See what's evil for it, and don't give in to it.
28 Because not all things are profitable for all men.
Not every soul has pleasure in everything.
29 Don't be insatiable in any luxury.
Don't be greedy in the things that you eat.
30 Because overeating brings disease,
and gluttony causes nausea.
31 Because of gluttony, many have perished,
but he who takes heed will prolong his life.

Doctors, medicines, and prayer

38:1 Honour a physician according to your need
with the honours due to him,
for truly the master has created him.
2 Because healing comes from the Most High,
and he'll receive a gift from the king.
3 The skill of the physician will lift up his head.
He'll be admired in the sight of great men.
4 The master created medicines out of the earth.
A prudent man won't despise them.
5 Wasn't water made sweet with wood,
that its power might be known?
6 He gave men skill
that he might be glorified in his marvellous works.
7 With them he heals
and takes away pain.
8 With these, the pharmacist makes a mixture.
God's works won't be brought to an end.
From him, peace is on the face of the earth.
9 My son, in your sickness don't be negligent,
but pray to the master, and he'll heal you.
10 Put away wrong doing, and direct your hands in righteousness.
Cleanse your heart from all sin.
11 Give a sweet savour and a memorial of fine flour,
and pour oil on your offering, according to your means.
12 Then give place to the physician, for truly the master has created him.
Don't let him leave you, for you need him.
13 There's a time when in recovery is in their hands.
14 Because they also will ask the master
to prosper them in diagnosis and in healing for the maintenance of life.
15 He who sins before his Maker,
let him fall into the hands of the physician.

Grieving for the dead

16 My son, let your tears fall over the dead,
and as one who suffers grievously, begin lamentation.
Wind up his body with due honour.
Don't neglect his burial.
17 Make bitter weeping and make passionate wailing.
Let your mourning be according to his merit,
for one day or two, so that people won't speak badly of you;
and so be comforted for your sorrow.
18 Because from sorrow comes death.
Sorrow of heart saps one's strength.
19 In calamity, sorrow also remains.
A poor man's life is grievous to the heart.
20 Don't give your heart to sorrow.
Put it away, remembering the end.
21 Don't forget it, for there's no returning again.
You do him no good, and you'd harm yourself.
22 Remember his end, for so also will yours be:
yesterday for me, and today for you.
23 When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance rest.
Be comforted for him when his spirit departs from him.

The work of farmers and skilled workers

24 The wisdom of the scribe comes by the opportunity of leisure.
He who has little business can become wise.
25 How could he become wise who holds the plough,
who glories in the shaft of the goad,
who drives oxen and is occupied in their labours,
and who mostly talks about bulls?
26 He'll set his heart on turning his furrows.
His lack of sleep is to give his heifers their

Readers' Version

fodder.
27 So is every craftsman and master artisan
who passes his time by night as by day,
those who cut engravings of signets.
His diligence is to make great variety.
He sets his heart to preserve likeness in his portraiture,
and is careful to finish his work.
28 So too is the smith sitting by the anvil
and considering the unwrought iron.
The smoke of the fire will waste his flesh.
He toils in the heat of the furnace.
The noise of the hammer deafens his ear.
His eyes are on the pattern of the object.
He'll set his heart on perfecting his works.
He'll be careful to adorn them perfectly.
29 So is the potter sitting at his work
and turning the wheel around with his feet,
who's always anxiously set at his work.
He produces his handiwork in quantity.
30 He'll fashion the clay with his arm
and will bend its strength in front of his feet.
He'll apply his heart to finish the glazing.
He'll be careful to clean the kiln.
31 All these put their trust in their hands.
Each becomes skilful in his own work.
32 Without these no city would be inhabited.
Men wouldn't reside as foreigners or walk up and down there.
33 They won't be searched for among the council of the people.
They won't mount on high in the assembly.
They won't sit on the seat of the judge.
They won't understand the covenant of judgement.
Neither will they declare instruction and judgement.
They won't be found where parables are.
34 But they'll maintain the fabric of the age.
Their prayer is in the handiwork of their craft.

The work of someone who studies God's law

39:1 Not so he who's applied his soul
and meditates in the Most High's law.
He'll seek out the wisdom of all the ancients
and will be occupied with prophecies.
2 He'll keep the sayings of the men of renown
and will enter in amidst the subtleties of parables.
3 He'll seek out the hidden meaning of proverbs
and be conversant in the dark sayings of parables.
4 He'll serve among great men
and appear before him who rules.
He'll travel through the land of foreign nations,
for he's learnt what's good and evil among men.
5 He'll apply his heart to return early to the master who made him,
and will make supplication before the Most High,
and will open his mouth in prayer,
and will ask for pardon for his sins.
6 If the great master wills,
he'll be filled with the spirit of understanding;
he'll pour forth the words of his wisdom
and in prayer give thanks to the master.
7 He'll direct his counsel and knowledge,
and he'll meditate in his secrets.
8 He'll show the instruction which he's been taught
and will glory in the law of the master's covenant.
9 Many will commend his understanding.
So long as the world endures, it won't be blotted out.
His memory won't depart.
His name will live throughout the generations.
10 Nations will declare his wisdom.
The congregation will proclaim his praise.
11 If he continues, he'll leave a greater name than a thousand.
If he finally rests, it's enough for him.

Praise God for the goodness of creation

12 Yet more I'll utter, which I've thought about.
I'm filled like the full moon.
13 Listen to me, you holy children,

Readers' Version

and bud forth like a rose growing by a brook of water.
14 Give a sweet fragrance like frankincense.
Put forth flowers like a lily.
Scatter a sweet smell and sing a song of praise.
Bless the master for all his works!
15 Magnify his name
and give utterance to his praise
with the songs on your lips and with harps!
Say this when you utter his praise:
16 All the master's works are extremely good,
and every command will be done in its time.
17 No one can say, "What's this?" "Why is that?"
because they'll all be discovered at the proper time.
At his word, the waters stood as a heap,
as did the reservoirs of water at the word of his mouth.
18 At his command all his good pleasure is fulfilled.
There's no one who can hinder his salvation.
19 The works of all flesh are before him.
It's impossible to be hidden from his eyes.
20 He sees from eternal to eternal.
There's nothing too wonderful for him.
21 No one can say, "What's this?" "Why is that?"
for all things are created for their own uses.
22 His blessing covered the dry land as a river
and saturated it as a flood.
23 As he's made the waters salty,
so the heathen will inherit his anger.
24 His ways are plain to the holy.
They're stumbling blocks to the wicked.
25 Good things are created from the beginning for the good.
So are evil things for sinners.
26 The main things necessary for the life of man
are water, fire, iron, salt,
wheat flour, and honey, milk,
the blood of the grape, oil, and clothing.
27 All these things are for good to the godly,
but for sinners, they'll be turned into evils.
28 There are winds that are created for vengeance,
and in their fury they lay on their scourges heavily.
In the time of reckoning, they pour out their strength,
and will appease the anger of him who made them.
29 Fire, hail, famine, and death—
all these are created for vengeance—
30 wild animals' teeth, scorpions, adders,
and a sword punishing the ungodly to destruction.
31 They'll rejoice in his commandment,
and will be made ready on earth when needed.
In their seasons, they won't disobey his command.
32 Therefore from the beginning I was convinced,
and I thought it through and left it in writing:
33 All the master's works are good.
He'll supply every need in its time.
34 No one can say, "This is worse than that,"
for they'll all be well approved in their time.
35 Now with all your hearts and voices, sing praises
and bless the master's name!

The burdens of human life

40:1 Great travail is created for every man.
A heavy yoke is on the sons of Adam,
from the day of their coming forth from their mother's womb,
until the day for their burial in the mother of all things.
2 The expectation of things to come, and the day of death,
trouble their thoughts, and cause fear in their hearts.
3 From him who sits on a throne of glory,
even to him who's humbled in earth and ashes,
4 from him who wears purple and a crown,
even to him who's clothed in burlap,
5 there's anger, jealousy, trouble, unrest,
fear of death, anger, and strife.

Readers' Version

In the time of rest on his bed,
his night sleep changes his knowledge.
6 He gets little or no rest,
and afterward in his sleep, as in a day of keeping watch,
he's troubled in the vision of his heart,
as one who's escaped from the front of battle.
7 In the very time of his deliverance, he awakens,
and marvels that the fear is nothing.
8 To all creatures, human and animal,
and on sinners sevenfold more,
9 come death, bloodshed, strife, sword,
calamities, famine, suffering, and deadly diseases.
10 All these things were created for the wicked,
and because of them the flood came.
11 All things that are of the earth turn to the earth again.
All things that are of the waters return into the sea.

Honesty, generosity, and life's good things

12 All bribery and injustice will be blotted out.
Good faith will stand forever.
13 The goods of the unjust will be dried up like a river,
and like a great thunder in rain will go off in noise.
14 In opening his hands, a man will be made glad;
so lawbreakers will utterly fail.
15 The children of the ungodly won't grow many branches,
and are as unhealthy roots on a sheer rock.
16 The reeds by every water or river bank
will be plucked up before all grass.
17 Kindness is like a garden of blessings.
Almsgiving endures forever.
18 The life of one who labours and is content will be made sweet.
He who finds a treasure is better than both.
19 Children and the building of a city establish a name.
A blameless wife is better than both.
20 Wine and music rejoice the heart.
The love of wisdom is better than both.
21 The pipe and the lute make pleasant melody.
A pleasant tongue is better than both.
22 Your eye desires grace and beauty,
but the green shoots of grain more than both.
23 A friend and a companion is always welcome,
and a wife with her husband is better than both.
24 Relatives and helpers are for a time of affliction,
but almsgiving rescues better than both.
25 Gold and silver will make the foot stand sure,
and counsel is esteemed better than both.
26 Riches and strength will lift up the heart.
The fear of the master is better than both.
There's nothing lacking in the fear of the master.
In it, there's no need to seek help.
27 The fear of the master is like a garden of blessing
and covers a man more than any glory.

The hardship of depending on others

28 My son, don't lead a beggar's life.
It's better to die than to beg.
29 A man who looks to the table of another,
his life isn't to be considered a life.
He'll pollute his soul with another person's food,
but a wise and well-instructed person will beware of that.
30 Begging will be sweet in the mouth of the shameless,
but it kindles a fire in his belly.

Facing death

41:1 Oh death, how bitter is the memory of you to a man who's at peace in his possessions,
to the man who has nothing to distract him and has prosperity in all things,
and who still has strength to enjoy food!
2 Oh death, your sentence is acceptable to a man who's needy and who fails in strength,
who's in extreme old age, is distracted about

Readers' Version

all things,
is perverse, and has lost patience!
3 Don't be afraid of the sentence of death.
Remember those who've been before you and who come after.
This is the sentence from the master over all flesh.
4 And why do you refuse when it's the good pleasure of the Most High?
Whether life lasts ten, or a hundred, or a thousand years,
there's no enquiry about life in Haidais.[81]

The lasting value of a good name

5 The children of sinners are abominable children
and they frequent the dwellings of the ungodly.
6 The inheritance of sinners' children will perish
and with their posterity will be a perpetual disgrace.
7 Children will complain of an ungodly father,
because they suffer disgrace because of him.
8 Woe to you, ungodly men,
who've forsaken the Most High God's law![82]
9 If you're born, you'll be born to a curse.
If you die, a curse will be your portion.
10 All things that are of the earth will go back to the earth;
so the ungodly will go from a curse to perdition.
11 The mourning of men is about their bodies;
but the evil name of sinners will be blotted out.
12 Have regard for your name,
for it continues with you longer than a thousand great treasures of gold.
13 A good life has its number of days,
but a good name continues forever.

Things to be ashamed of

14 My children, follow instruction in peace.
But wisdom that's hidden and a treasure that isn't seen,
what benefit is in them both?
15 Better is a man who hides his foolishness
than a man who hides his wisdom.
16 Therefore show respect for my words;
for it isn't good to retain every kind of shame.
Not everything is approved by all in good faith.
17 Be ashamed of sexual immorality before father and mother,
of a lie before a prince and a mighty man,
18 of an offence before a judge and ruler,
of iniquity before the congregation and the people,
of unjust dealing before a partner and friend,
19 and of theft in the place where you sojourn.
Be ashamed in regard of the truth of God and his covenant,
of leaning on your elbow at dinner,
of contemptuous behaviour in the matter of giving and taking,
20 of silence before those who greet you,
of looking at a woman who's a prostitute,
21 of turning away your face from a kinsman,
of taking away a portion or a gift,
of gazing at a woman who has a husband,
22 of meddling with his maid—and don't come near her bed,
of abusive speech to friends—and after you've given, don't insult,
23 of repeating and speaking what you've heard,
and of revealing of secrets.
24 So you'll be ashamed of the right things
and find favour in the sight of every man.

Things not to be ashamed of

42:1 Don't be ashamed of these things,
and don't sin to save face:
2 of the law of the Most High and his covenant,
of judgement to do justice to the ungodly,
3 of reckoning with a partner and with trav-

81 **RV 41:4 · Note** or, the place of the dead or, Sheol

82 **RV 41:8 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

ellers,
of a gift from the inheritance of friends,
4 of exactness of scales and weights,
of getting much or little,
5 of bargaining dealing with merchants,
of frequent correction of children,
and of making the back of an evil slave to bleed.
6 A seal is good where an evil wife is.
Where there are many hands, lock things up.
7 Whatever you hand over, let it be by number and weight.
In giving and receiving, let all be in writing.
8 Don't be ashamed to instruct the unwise and foolish,
and one of extreme old age who contends with those who are young.
So you'll be well instructed indeed
and approved in the sight of every living man.

A father's concerns about his daughter

9 A daughter is a secret cause of wakefulness to a father.
He loses sleep worrying about her—
in her youth, that she might pass the prime of her life;
when she's married, that she might be hated;
10 in her virginity, that she might be defiled and become pregnant in her father's house;
when she has a husband, that she might do wrong;
and when she's married, that she might be unable to have children.
11 Keep a strict watch over a headstrong daughter,
or she might make you a laughingstock to your enemies,
a byword in the city and notorious among the people,
and shame you in public.
12 Don't gaze at every beautiful body.
Don't sit among women.
13 Because from clothes comes a moth,
and from a woman comes a woman's wickedness.
14 Better is the wickedness of a man than a pleasant woman,
a woman who puts you to shame and disgrace.

God's wisdom displayed in creation

15 I'll make mention now of the master's works,
and will declare the things that I've seen.
The master's works are in his words.
16 The sun that gives light looks at all things.
The master's work is full of his glory.
17 The master hasn't given power to the saints to declare all his marvellous works,
which the Almighty master firmly settled,
that the universe might be established in his glory.
18 He searches out the deep and the heart.
He has understanding of their secrets.
Because the Most High knows all knowledge.
He sees the signs of the world.
19 He declares the things that are past and the things that'll be,
and reveals the traces of hidden things.
20 No thought escapes him.
There isn't a word hidden from him.
21 He's ordered the mighty works of his wisdom.
He's from eternal to eternal.
Nothing has been added to them, nor diminished from them.
He had no need of any counsellor.
22 How desirable are all his works!
One may see this even in a spark.
23 All these things live and remain forever in all manner of uses.
They're all obedient.
24 All things are in pairs, one opposite the other.
He's made nothing imperfect.
25 One thing establishes the good things of another.
Who could ever see enough of his glory?

The glory of the sky and the changing seasons

43:1 The pride of the heavenly heights is the clear sky,
the appearance of heaven, in the spectacle of its glory.

Readers' Version

2 The sun, when it appears, bringing tidings as it rises,
is a marvellous instrument, the Most High's work.
3 At noon, it dries up the land.
Who can stand against its burning heat?
4 A man tending a furnace is in burning heat,
but the sun three times more, burning up the mountains,
breathing out fiery vapours,
and sending out bright beams, it blinds the eyes.
5 Great is the master who made it.
At his word, he hastens on its course.
6 The moon marks the changing seasons,
declares times, and is a sign for the world.
7 From the moon is the sign of feast days,
a light that wanes when it completes its course.
8 The month is called after its name,
increasing wonderfully in its changing—
an instrument of the army on high,
shining in the structure of heaven,
9 the beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars,
an ornament giving light in the highest places of the master.
10 At the word of the Holy One, they'll stand in due order.
They won't faint in their watches.
11 Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it.
It's extremely beautiful in its brightness.
12 It encircles the sky with its glorious circle.
The Most High's hands have stretched it out.

God's power in the weather and the sea

13 By his commandment, he makes the snow fall
and swiftly sends the lightnings of his judgement.
14 Therefore the storehouses are opened,
and clouds fly out like birds.
15 By his mighty power, he makes the clouds strong
and the hailstones are broken in pieces.
16 At his appearing, the mountains will be shaken.
At his will, the south wind will blow.
17 The voice of his thunder rebukes the earth.
So does the northern storm and the whirlwind.
Like birds flying down, he sprinkles the snow.
It falls down like the lighting of locusts.
18 The eye is dazzled at the beauty of its whiteness.
The heart is amazed as it falls.
19 He also pours out frost on the earth like salt.
When it's freezes, it has points like thorns.
20 The cold north wind blows
and ice freezes on the water.
It settles on every pool of water.
The water puts it on like it was a breastplate.
21 It'll devour the mountains, burn up the wilderness,
and consume the green grass like fire.
22 A mist coming speedily heals all things.
A dew coming after heat brings cheerfulness.
23 By his counsel, he's calmed the deep
and planted islands in it.
24 Those who sail on the sea tell of its dangers.
We marvel when we hear it with our ears.
25 There are also those strange and wondrous works in it—
variety of all that has life and the huge creatures of the sea.
26 Because of him, his messengers succeed.
By his word, all things hold together.

God is greater than all our praise

27 We may say many things, but couldn't say enough.
The summary of our words is, "He's everything!"
28 How could we have strength to glorify him?
Because he's himself the greater than all his works.
29 The master is awesome and very great!
His power is marvellous!
30 Glorify the master and exalt him as much as you can!
Because even yet, he'll surpass that.

Readers' Version

When you exalt him, summon your full strength.
Don't be weary, because you can't praise him enough.
31 Who's seen him, that he may describe him?
Who can magnify him as he is?
32 Many things greater than these are hidden,
for we've seen just a few of his works.
33 Because the master made all things.
He gave wisdom to the godly.

Remembering the faithful ancestors

44:1 Let us now praise famous men,
our ancestors in their generations.
2 The master created great glory in them—
his mighty power from the beginning.
3 Some ruled in their kingdoms
and were men renowned for their power,
giving counsel by their understanding.
Some have spoken in prophecies,
4 leaders of the people by their counsels,
and by their understanding, giving instruction for the people.
Their words in their instruction were wise.
5 Some composed musical tunes,
and set forth verses in writing,
6 rich men endowed with ability,
living peaceably in their homes.
7 All these were honoured in their generations,
and were outstanding in their days.
8 Some of them have left a name behind them,
so that others declare their praises.
9 But of others, there's no memory.
They perished as though they hadn't been.
They become as though they hadn't been born,
they and their children after them.
10 But these were men of mercy,
whose righteous actions haven't been forgotten.
11 A good inheritance remains with their offspring.
Their children are within the covenant.
12 Their offspring stand fast,
with their children, for their sakes.
13 Their offspring will remain forever.
Their glory won't be blotted out.
14 Their bodies were buried in peace.
Their name lives to all generations.
15 People will declare their wisdom.
The congregation proclaims their praise.

Hanok, Noah, and Avraham's family

16 Hanok (Enoch) pleased the master, and was taken up,
an example of repentance to all generations.
17 Noah was found perfect and righteous.
In the season of anger, he kept the race alive.
Therefore a remnant was left on the earth
when the flood came.
18 Eternal covenants were made with him,
that all flesh should no more be blotted out by a flood.
19 Avraham was a great father of a multitude of nations.
There was none found like him in glory,
20 who kept the Most High's law,
and was taken into covenant with him.
In his flesh he established the covenant.
When he was tested, he was found faithful.
21 Therefore he assured him by an oath
that the nations would be blessed through his offspring,
that he'd multiply him like the dust of the earth,
exalt his offspring like the stars,
and cause them to inherit from sea to sea,
and from the Perat (Euphrates) River to the utmost parts of the earth.
22 In Yitshak (Isaac) also, he established the same assurance for Avraham his father's sake,
the blessing of all men, and the covenant.
23 He made it rest on Ya'akov's (Jacob's) head.
He acknowledged him in his blessings,
gave to him by inheritance,
and divided his portions.
He distributed them among twelve tribes.

Mosheh leads God's people

45:1 He brought out of him a man of mercy,
who found favour in the sight of all people,
a man loved by God and men, even Mosheh,
whose memory is blessed.
2 He made him equal to the glory of the

Readers' Version

saints,
and magnified him in the fears of his enemies.
3 By his words he caused the wonders to cease.
God glorified him in the sight of kings.
He gave him commandments for his people
and showed him part of his glory.
4 He sanctified him in his faithfulness and meekness.
He chose him out of all people.
5 He made him to hear his voice,
led him into the thick darkness,
and gave him commandments face to face,
even the law of life and knowledge,
that he might teach Ya'akov (Jacob) the covenant,
and Yisrael (Israel) his judgements.

Aharon and the priesthood

6 He exalted Aharon (Aaron), a holy man like Mosheh (Moses),
even his brother, of the tribe of Levi.
7 He established an eternal covenant with him,
and gave him the priesthood of the people.
He blessed him with stateliness,
and dressed him in a glorious robe.
8 He clothed him in perfect splendour,
and strengthened him with symbols of authority:
the linen trousers, the long robe, and the ephod.
9 He encircled him with pomegranates;
with many golden bells around him,
to make a sound as he went,
to make a sound that might be heard in the temple,
for a reminder for the children of his people;
10 with a holy garment, with gold, blue, and purple, the work of the embroiderer;
with an oracle of judgement—Urim and Tumim;
11 with twisted scarlet, the work of the craftsman;
with precious stones engraved like a signet, in a setting of gold, the work of the jeweller,
for a reminder engraved in writing, after the number of the tribes of Yisrael (Israel);
12 with a crown of gold on the mitre, having engraved on it, as on a signet, "HOLINESS",
an ornament of honour, the work of an expert,
the desires of the eyes, goodly and beautiful.
13 Before him there never have been anything like it.
No stranger put them on, but only his sons and his offspring perpetually.
14 His sacrifices will be wholly burnt,
twice every day continually.
15 Mosheh (Moses) consecrated him,
and anointed him with holy oil.
It was an eternal covenant with him
and to his offspring, all the days of heaven,
to minister to the master, to serve as a priest,
and to bless his people in his name.
16 He chose him out of all living
to offer sacrifice to the master—
incense, and a sweet fragrance, for a memorial,
to make atonement for your people.
17 He gave to him in his commandments,
authority in the covenants of judgements,
to teach Ya'akov (Jacob) the testimonies,
and to enlighten Yisrael (Israel) in his law.
18 Strangers conspired against him
and envied him in the wilderness:
Datan and Aviram with their company,
and the congregation of Korah, with anger and anger.
19 The master saw it, and it displeased him.
In the anger of his anger, they were destroyed.
He did wonders on them,
to consume them with flaming fire.
20 He added glory to Aharon (Aaron),
and gave him a heritage.
He divided to him the first fruits of the increase,
and prepared bread of first fruits in abundance.
21 Because they eat the sacrifices of the master,

Readers' Version

which he gave to him and to his offspring.
22 However, in the land of the people, he has no inheritance,
and he has no portion among the people,
for the master himself is your portion and inheritance.

Pinhas' faithfulness and God's promise

23 Pinhas the son of Eleazar is the third in glory,
in that he was zealous in the fear of the master,
and stood fast when the people turned away,
and he made atonement for Yisrael (Israel).
24 Therefore, a covenant of peace was established for him,
that he should be leader of the sanctuary and of his people,
that he and his offspring should have the dignity of the priesthood forever.
25 Also he made a covenant with David the son of Yishay (Jesse), of the tribe of Yehudah (Judah).
The inheritance of the king is his alone from son to son.
So the inheritance of Aharon (Aaron) is also to his seed.
26 May God give you wisdom in your heart
to judge his people in righteousness,
that their good things may not be abolished,
and that their glory may endure for all their generations.

Yeshua and Kalev remain faithful

46:1 Yeshua (Jesus) the son of Nun was valiant in war,
and was the successor of Mosheh (Moses) in prophecies.
He was made great according to his name
for the saving of[83] God's elect,
to take vengeance on the enemies that rose up against them,
that he might give Yisrael (Israel) their inheritance.
2 How was he glorified in the lifting up his hands,
and in stretching out his sword against the cities!
3 Who before him stood so firm?
Because the master himself brought his enemies to him.
4 Didn't the sun go back by his hand?
Didn't one day become as two?
5 He called on the Most High, the Mighty One,
when his foes pressed in all around him,
and the great master heard him.
6 With hailstones of mighty power,
he caused war to break violently on the nation,
and[84] on the slope he destroyed those who resisted,
so that the nations might know his armour,
how he fought in the sight of the master;
for he followed the Mighty One.
7 Also in the time of Mosheh (Moses), he did a work of mercy—
he and Kalev (Caleb) the son of Yefuneh—
in that they withstood the adversary,
hindered the people from sin,
and stilled their wicked complaining.
8 And of six hundred thousand people on foot, they two alone were preserved
to bring them into their inheritance,
into a land flowing with milk and honey.
9 The master gave strength to Kalev,
and it remained with him to his old age,
so that he entered the hill country,
and his offspring obtained it for an inheritance,
10 that all the Israeli people (Israel) might see that it's good to follow the master.

The judges and Shmuel

11 Also the judges, every one by his name,
all whose hearts didn't engage in immorality,
and who didn't turn away from the master—
may their memory be blessed!
12 May their bones flourish again out of their place.

83 **RV 46:1 · Note** Grk. his.
84 **RV 46:6 · Note** See Joshua 10:11

Readers' Version

May the name of those who've been honoured be renewed in their children.
13 Shmuel (Samuel), the master's prophet,
loved by his master,
established a kingdom and anointed princes
over his people.
14 By the master's law he judged the congregation,
and the master watched over Ya'akov (Jacob).
15 By his faithfulness he was proved to be a
prophet.
By his words he was known to be faithful in
vision.
16 When his enemies pressed on him on every
side,
he called on the master, the Mighty One,
with the offering of the suckling lamb.
17 Then the master thundered from heaven.
He made his voice heard with a mighty
sound.
18 He utterly destroyed the rulers of the
Tsorim (Tyrians)
and all the princes of the Pelishtim.
19 Before the time of his age-long sleep,
he testified in the sight of the lord and his
anointed,
"I haven't taken any man's goods, so much
as a sandal;"
and no one accused him.
20 Even after he fell asleep, he prophesied,
and showed the king his end,
and lifted up his voice from the earth in
prophecy,
to blot out the wickedness of the people.

David's victories and worship

47:1 After him, Natan (Nathan) rose up
to prophesy in the days of David.
2 As is the fat when it's separated from the
peace offering,
so was David separated from the Israeli people (Israel).
3 He played with lions as with kids,
and with bears as with lambs of the flock.
4 In his youth didn't he kill a giant,
and take away reproach from the people
when he lifted up his hand with a sling
stone,
and beat down the boasting Galyat (Goliath)?
5 Because he called on the Most High master,
and he gave him strength in his right hand
to kill a man mighty in war,
to exalt the horn of his people.
6 So they glorified him for his tens of thousands,
and praised him for the blessings of the
master,
in that a glorious diadem was given to him.
7 Because he destroyed the enemies on every
side,
and defeated the Pelishtim his adversaries.
He broke their horn in pieces to this day.
8 In every work of his he gave thanks to the
Holy One Most High with words of glory.
He sang praise with his whole heart,
and loved him who made him.
9 He set singers before the altar,
to make sweet melody by their music.[85]
10 He gave beauty to the feasts,
and set in order the seasons to completion
while they praised his holy name,
and the sanctuary resounded from early
morning.
11 The master took away his sins,
and exalted his horn forever.
He gave him a covenant of kings,
and a glorious throne in Yisrael (Israel).

From Shelomoh's wisdom to a divided kingdom

12 After him a wise son rose up,
who because of him lived in security.
13 Shelomoh (Solomon) reigned in days of
peace.
God gave him rest all around,
that he might set up a house for his name,
and prepare a sanctuary forever.
14 How wise you were made in your youth,
and filled as a river with understanding!
15 Your influence covered the earth,

85 **RV 47:9 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

and you filled it with parables and riddles.
16 Your name reached to the far away islands,
and you were loved for your peace.
17 Because your songs, proverbs, parables,
and interpretations, the countries marvelled at you.
18 By the name of the master God,
who's called the god of Yisrael (Israel),
you gathered gold like tin,
and multiplied silver like lead.
19 You bowed your loins to women,
and in your body you were brought into subjection.
20 You blemished your honour,
and defiled your offspring,
to bring anger on your children.
I was grieved for your folly,
21 because the sovereignty was divided,
and a disobedient kingdom ruled out of Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim).
22 But the master will never forsake his mercy.
He won't destroy any of his works,
nor blot out the posterity of his elect.
He won't take away the offspring him who loved him.
He gave a remnant to Ya'akov (Jacob),
and to David a root from his own family.
23 So Shelomoh (Solomon) rested with his fathers.
Of his offspring, he left behind him Rehav'am (Rehoboam),
the foolishness of the people, and one who lacked understanding,
who made the people revolt by his counsel.
Also Yarov'am (Jeroboam) the son of Nevat,
who made Yisrael (Israel) to sin,
and gave a way of sin to Yisrael.
24 Their sins were multiplied greatly,
until they were removed from their land.
25 Because they strived for all manner of wickedness,
until vengeance came on them.

Eliyah's powerful ministry

48:1 Then Eliyah (Elijah) arose, the prophet like fire.
His word burnt like a torch.
2 He brought a famine on them,
and by his zeal made them few in number.
3 By the master's word he shut up the heavens.
He brought down fire three times.
4 How you were glorified, Oh Eliyah, in your wondrous actions!
Whose glory is like yours?
5 You raised up a dead man from death,
from Haidais, by the Most High's word.
6 You brought down kings to destruction,
and honourable men from their sickbeds.
7 You heard rebuke in Sinay,
and judgements of vengeance in Horev.
8 You anointed kings for retribution,
and prophets to succeed after you.
9 You were taken up in a tempest of fire,
in a chariot of fiery horses.
10 You were recorded for reproofs in their seasons,
to pacify anger, before it broke out into anger,
to turn the father's heart to the son,
and to restore the tribes of Ya'akov (Jacob).
11 Blessed are those who saw you,
and those who've been beautified with love;
for we also will surely live.

Elisha continues Eliyah's work

12 Eliyah (Elijah) was wrapped in a whirlwind.
Elisha was filled with his spirit.
In his days he wasn't moved by the fear of any ruler,
and no one brought him into subjection.
13 Nothing was too hard for him.
When he was buried, his body prophesied.
14 As in his life he did wonders,
so his works were also marvellous in death.
15 Because all this the people didn't repent.
They didn't depart from their sins,
until they were carried away as a plunder from their land,
and were scattered through all the earth.
The people were left very few in number,
but with a ruler from the house of David.
16 Some of them did that which was right,
but some multiplied sins.

Readers' Version

Hizkiyah trusts God during the siege

17 Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) fortified his city,
and brought water into its midst.
He tunnelled through rock with iron,
and built cisterns for water.
18 In his days Sanheriv (Sennacherib) invaded,
and sent Rabshakeh, and departed.
He lifted up his hand against Tsiyon (Zion),
and boasted great things in his arrogance.
19 Then their hearts and their hands were shaken,
and they were in pain, as women in labour.
20 But they called on the master who's merciful,
spreading out their hands to him.
The Holy One quickly heard them out of Heaven,
and delivered them by Yeshayah's (Isaiah's) hand.
21 He struck the camp of the Assyrians,
and his angel utterly destroyed them.
22 Because Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) did that which was pleasing to the master,
and was strong in the ways of his ancestor David,
which Yeshayah the prophet commanded,
who was great and faithful in his vision.
23 In his days the sun went backward.
He prolonged the king's life.
24 He saw by an excellent spirit what'd happen in the future;
and he comforted those who mourned in Tsiyon (Zion).
25 He showed the things that'd happen through the end of time,
and the hidden things before they came.

Yoshiyah, the prophets, and other faithful leaders

49:1 The memory of Yoshiyah (Josiah) is like the composition of incense
prepared by the work of the perfumer.
It'll be sweet as honey in every mouth,
and like music at a banquet of wine.
2 He did what was right in the reforming of the people,
and took away the abominations of iniquity.
3 He set his heart right towards the master.
In lawless days, he made godliness prevail.
4 Except David, Hizkiyah (Hezekiah), and Yoshiyah (Josiah),
all were wicked,
because they abandoned the Most High's law.
Yehudah's (Judah's) kings came to an end.
5 They gave their power to others,
and their glory to a foreign nation.
6 They set the chosen city of the sanctuary on fire
and made her streets desolate, as it was written by Yirmiyah's (Jeremiah's) hand.
7 Because they mistreated him;
yet he was sanctified in the womb to be a prophet,
to root out, to afflict, to destroy
and likewise to build and to plant.
8 Yehezkel (Ezekiel) saw the vision of glory,
which God showed him on the chariot of the cherubim.
9 Because truly he remembered the enemies in rainstorm,
and to do good to those who directed their ways aright.
10 Also of the twelve prophets,[86]
may their bones flourish again out of their place.
He comforted Ya'akov's (Jacob's) people,
and delivered them by confident hope.
11 How can we praise Zerubavel?
He was like a signet ring on the right hand.
12 So was Yeshua (Jesus) the son of Yotsadak,
who in their days built the house,
and exalted a[87] people holy to the master,
prepared for eternal glory.
13 Also of Nehemyah (Nehemiah) the memory is great.
He raised up for us fallen walls,
set up the gates and bars,

86 **RV 49:10 · Note** The remainder of this line is omitted by the best authorities.

87 **RV 49:12 · Note** Some ancient authorities read temple.

Readers' Version

and rebuilt our houses.
14 No man was created on the earth like Hanok (Enoch),
for he was taken up from the earth.
15 Nor was there a man born like Yosef (Joseph),
a leader of his kindred, a supporter of the people.
Even his bones were cared for.
16 Shem and Shet (Seth) were honoured among men,
but above every living thing in the creation was Adam.

The high priest Shim'on leads the people's worship

50:1 It was Shim'on (Simon), the son of Honyo (Onias), the high priest,
who in his life repaired the house,
and in his days strengthened the temple.
2 The foundation was built by him to the height of the double walls,
the lofty retaining walls of the temple enclosure.
3 In his days, a water cistern was dug,
the brazen vessel like the sea in circumference.
4 He planned to save his people from ruin,
and fortified the city against siege.
5 How glorious he was when the people gathered around him
as he came out of the house of the veil!
6 He was like the morning star among clouds,
like the full moon,
7 like the sun shining on the Most High's temple,
like the rainbow shining in clouds of glory,
8 like roses in the days of first fruits,
like lilies by a water spring,
like the shoot of the frankincense tree in summer time,
9 like fire and incense in the censer,
like a vessel of beaten gold adorned with all kinds of precious stones,
10 like an olive tree loaded with fruit,
and like a cypress growing high among the clouds.
11 When he put on his glorious robe,
and clothed himself in perfect splendour,
ascending to the holy altar,
he made the courtyard of the sanctuary glorious.
12 When he received the portions out of the priests' hands,
as he stood by the hearth of the altar,
with his kindred like a garland around him,
he was like a young cedar in Levanon
surrounded by the trunks of palm trees.
13 All the sons of Aharon (Aaron) in their glory,
held the master's offering in their hands before all the congregation of Yisrael (Israel).
14 Finishing the service at the altars,
that he might arrange the offering of the Most High, the Almighty,
15 he stretched out his hand to the cup of libation,
and poured out the cup of the grape.
He poured it out at the foot of the altar,
a sweet smelling fragrance to the Most High, the King of all.
16 Then the sons of Aharon (Aaron) shouted.
They sounded the trumpets of beaten work.
They made a great fanfare to be heard,
for a reminder before the Most High.
17 Then all the people together hurried,
and fell down to the ground on their faces
to worship their master, the Almighty, God Most High.
18 The singers also praised him with their voices.
There was a sweet melody in the whole house.
19 And the people implored the master Most High,
in prayer before him who's merciful,
until the worship of the master was finished,
and so they accomplished his service.
20 Then he went down, and lifted up his hands
over the whole congregation of the Israeli people (Israel),
to give blessing to the master with his lips,
and to glory in his name.
21 He bowed himself down in worship the second time,

Readers' Version

to declare the blessing from the Most High.

A blessing and the writer's closing words

22 Now bless the god of all,
who everywhere does great things,
who exalts our days from the womb,
and deals with us according to his mercy.
23 May he grant us joyfulness of heart,
and that peace may be in our days in Yisrael (Israel) for the days of eternity,
24 to entrust his mercy with us,
and let him deliver us in his time!
25 With two nations my soul is vexed,
and the third is no nation:
26 Those who sit on the mountain of[88] Shomron (Samaria), the Pelishtim,
and the foolish people who live in Shekem.
27 I've written in this book the instruction of understanding and knowledge,
I Yeshua (Jesus), the son of Sira (Sirach) Eleazar, of Yerushalem (Jerusalem),
who out of his heart poured forth wisdom.
28 Blessed is he who'll exercise these things.
He who lays them up in his heart will become wise.
29 Because if he does them, he'll be strong in all things,
for the light of the master is his guide.[89]

A prayer of Yeshua the son of Sira. (Changed from /p to /s1)

51:1 I'll give thanks to you, Oh master, Oh King,
and will praise you, Oh God my Saviour.
I give thanks to your name,
2 for you've been my protector and helper,
and delivered my body out of destruction,
and out of the snare of a slanderous tongue,
from lips that fabricate lies.
You were my helper before those who stood by,
3 and delivered me, according to the abundance of your mercy and of your name,
from the gnashings of teeth ready to devour,
out of the hand of those seeking my life,
out of the many afflictions I endured,
4 from the choking of a fire on every side,
and out of the fire that I hadn't kindled,
5 out of the depth of the belly of Haidais,
from an unclean tongue,
and from lying words—
6 the slander of an unrighteous tongue to the king.
My soul drew near to death.
My life was near to Haidais.
7 They surrounded me on every side.
There was no one to help me.
I was looking for human help,
and there was none.
8 Then I remembered your mercy, Oh master,
and your working which has been from eternal,
how you deliver those who wait for you,
and save them out of their enemies' hand.
9 I lifted up my prayer from the earth,
and prayed for deliverance from death.
10 I called on the master, the Father of my master,
that he wouldn't forsake me in the days of affliction,
in the time when there was no help against the proud.
11 I'll praise your name continually.
I'll sing praise with thanksgiving.
My prayer was heard.
12 You saved me from destruction
and delivered me from the evil time.
Therefore I'll give thanks and praise to you,
and bless the master's name.

The writer's search for wisdom

13 When I was yet young,
before I went abroad,
I tried to gain wisdom openly in my prayer.
14 Before the temple I asked for her.
I'll seek her out even to the end.
15 From the first flower to the ripening grape my heart delighted in her.
My foot walked in uprightness.
From my youth I followed her steps.
16 I inclined my ear a little, and received her,

88 **RV 50:26 · Note** According to some ancient versions, Seir.

89 **RV 50:29 · Note** The remainder of this verse is omitted by the best authorities.

Readers' Version

and found for myself much instruction.
17 I profited in her.
I'll give glory to him who gives me wisdom.
18 Because I determined to practise her.
I was zealous for that which is good.
I'll never be put to shame.
19 My soul has wrestled with her.
In my conduct I was exact.
I spread out my hands to the heaven above,
and bewailed my ignorances of her.
20 I directed my soul to her.
In purity I found her.
I got myself a heart joined with her from the beginning.
Therefore I won't be forsaken.
21 My belly also was troubled to seek her.
Therefore I've gained a good possession.
22 The master gave me a tongue for my reward.
I'll praise him with it.

An invitation to learn

23 Draw near to me, all you who are uneducated,
and live in the house of instruction.
24 Why therefore are you all lacking in these things,
and your souls are very thirsty?
25 I opened my mouth and spoke,
"Get her for yourselves without money."
26 Put your neck under the yoke,
and let your soul receive instruction.
She's near to find.
27 See with your eyes
how that I laboured just a little
and found for myself much rest.
28 Get instruction with a great sum of silver,
and gain much gold by her.
29 May your soul rejoice in his mercy,
and may you all not be put to shame in praising him.
30 Work your work before the time comes,
and in his time he'll give you your reward.

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