

Similitudes, Instructions

25:1 **T**HESE also are ^aproverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, transcribed.

- 2** It is the glory of God to ^aconceal a matter,
But the glory of ^bkings is to search out a matter. As the heavens for height and the earth for depth,
3 So the heart of kings is unsearchable.
4 Take away the ^adross from the silver,
And there comes out a vessel for the ^bsmith;
5 Take away the ^awicked *from* before the king,
And his ^bthrone will be established in righteousness.
6 Do not claim honor in the presence of the king,
And do not stand in the place of great men;
7 For ^ait is better that it be said to you, "Come up here,"
Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince,
Whom your eyes have seen.
- 8** Do not go out ^ahastily to ¹argue *your case*;
²Otherwise, what will you do in ³the end,
When your neighbor puts you to shame?
9 ¹Argue your case with your neighbor,
And ^bdo not reveal the secret of another,
10 Lest he who hears *it* reproach you,
And the evil report about you not ¹pass away.
- 11** *Like* apples of gold in settings of silver
Is a ^aword spoken in ¹right circumstances.
12 *Like* ¹an ^aearring of gold and an ^bornament of ^cfine gold
Is a wise reprove to a ^dlistening ear.
13 Like the cold of snow in the ¹time of harvest
Is a ^afaithful messenger to those who send him,
For he refreshes the soul of his masters.
14 *Like* ^aclouds and ^bwind without rain
Is a man who boasts ¹of his gifts falsely.
15 By ¹forbearance a ruler may be persuaded,
And a soft tongue breaks the bone.
16 Have you ^afound honey? Eat *only* ¹what you need,
Lest you have it in excess and vomit it.
17 Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house,
Lest he become ¹weary of you and hate you.
18 *Like* a club and a ^asword and a sharp ^barrow
Is a man who bears ^cfalse witness against his neighbor.
19 *Like* a bad tooth and ¹an unsteady foot
Is confidence in a ^afaithless man in time of trouble.
20 *Like* one who takes off a garment on a cold day, *or like* vinegar on ¹soda,

Is he who sings songs to ²a troubled heart.

21 ^aIf ¹your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;

22 For you will ¹heap burning coals on his head,
And ^athe LORD will reward you.

23 The north wind brings forth rain,
And a ¹^abackbiting tongue, an angry countenance.

24 It is ^abetter to live in a corner of the roof
Than ¹in a house shared with a contentious woman.

25 *Like* cold water to a weary soul,
So is ^agood news from a distant land.

26 *Like* a ^atrampled spring and a ¹polluted well
Is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

27 It is not good to eat much honey,
Nor is it glory to ^asearch out ¹one's own glory.

28 *Like* a ^acity that is broken into *and* without walls
Is a man ^bwho has no control over his spirit.

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^a Prov. 1:1

^a Deut. 29:29; Rom. 11:33

^b Ezra 6:1

^a Prov. 26:23; Ezek. 22:18

^b Mal. 3:2, 3

^a Prov. 20:8

^b Prov. 16:12

^a Luke 14:7-11

^a Prov. 17:14; Matt. 5:25

¹ Lit., *contend*

² Lit., *Lest*

³ Lit., *its*

¹ Lit., *Contend*

^a Matt. 18:15

^b Prov. 11:13

¹ Lit., *return*

^a Prov. 15:23

¹ Lit., *its*

¹ Or, *a nose ring*

^a Ex. 32:2; 35:22; Ezek. 16:12

^b 2 Sam. 1:24

^c Job 28:17

^d Prov. 15:31; 20:12

¹ Lit., *day*

^a Prov. 13:17

^a Jude 12

^b Jer. 5:13; Mic. 2:11

¹ Lit., *in a gift of falsehood*

¹ Lit., *length of anger*

^a Gen. 32:4; 1 Sam. 25:24; Eccl. 10:4

^a Judg. 14:8; 1 Sam. 14:25

¹ Lit., *your sufficiency*

¹ Lit., *surfeited with*

^a Ps. 57:4; Prov. 12:18

^b Jer. 9:8

^c Ex. 20:16; Prov. 24:28

¹ Lit., *a slipping foot*

^a Job 6:15; Is. 36:6

¹ I.e., *natron*

² Lit., *an evil*

^a Ex. 23:4, 5; 2 Kin. 6:22; 2 Chr. 28:15; Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:20

¹ Lit., *one who hates you*

¹ Lit., *snatch up*

^a 2 Sam. 16:12; Matt. 6:4, 6

¹ Lit., *tongue of secrecy*

^a Ps. 101:5

^a Prov. 21:9

¹ Lit., *with a woman of contentions and a house of association*

^a Prov. 15:30

^a Ezek. 32:2; 34:18, 19

¹ Lit., *ruined*

^a Prov. 27:2; Luke 14:11

¹ Lit., *their*

^a Prov. 16:32

^b 2 Chr. 32:5; Neh. 1:3

ⁱ*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.