

Today, I Have Thirty Words For You From God

Proverbs

Albert Lemmons

Foreword — Proverbs

The autobiography of King Solomon

The occasion of Proverbs lends itself to the author and time of writing. Using Archbishop Usher's date for the call of Abraham is the place of beginning. 1921 B.C. has been the benchmark for establishing the chronology of the Old Testament. Abraham was told by Jehovah that after a dreaded 430-year period his descendants would return and possess the Eastern Mediterranean world. The date of 1491 B.C. is a questionable date for the exodus. Many allow for a 40-year discrepancy. However, the traditional dates work for me unto 586 B.C. I Kings 6:1 states that Solomon began the foundation of his Temple 480 years after the Sinai experience. If that was his 4th year as King of Israel, that would mean King David died in 1015 B.C. King Saul was anointed by Samuel in 1095 and died 1055 B.C. David's reign of 7 years in Hebron and 33 years at Fort Jebus, Zion or Jerusalem was the heyday of Jewish history.

Somewhere in the context of 1000-990 B.C. Solomon wrote most of the Proverbs. Lemuel, Agur and others may have penned the final chapters of the book. I Kings 4:29-34. A very important event occurred in approximately 1015 B.C. Upon the death of his esteemed father, Solomon made a swift decision regarding a standing issue over King David's last enemy. Scripture says, "The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands." I Kings 2:46b. "At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream and God said, ask for whatever you want me to give you."

I Kings 3:5-9:

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁶Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

He did not ask for gold, more stallions and war chariots, long life, but "for a discerning [hearing] heart in administering justice." I Kings 3:11b. God gave him everything and said, "there will never be anyone like you, nor will there ever be." Verse 12.

However, before one may enjoy the pearls of Proverbs, he might do well to take heed to the perils of Proverbs, which was the life of King Solomon. The book itself may be the most unique biography ever written. The imprimatur of the Holy Spirit seems to hover over it.

Several years ago I thought surely there is a better way to salvage this holy treasure than to read it as one reads any other book of Scripture. The following is the idea God gave to me. I read the book of Proverbs 31 times. Each time a word of worth or value was encountered I recorded it. One may survey the Table of Contents and choose a word number, turn to the page and enjoy or be inspired by a variety of ideas from God, which are fresh and relevant even after 3,000 years. The last pages are a special fascination to me. Enjoy!

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Proverbs — 5 Theological Problems

1. Search for divine order.
2. Divine retribution or simply an act of volition. Each action contains a link toward reward or punishment.
3. How does Proverbs wisdom literature relate to the rest of the Old Testament?
Covenant texts and wisdom texts. Both stand as pillars in the Old Testament theology.
4. Does Proverbs teach rich are righteous and poor are evil, lazy, and only get what they deserve?
5. Proverbs exalts learning and education. Proverbs does not subordinate the individual to the needs of the State. Human perception and divine reality.

“Today, I Have Thirty Words For You From God”

Solomon

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This arrangement of the proverbs according to theme or subject allows one to pull together or focus on these greatest principles of life from God through Solomon 3,000 years ago. These are not only important, but relevant. These ancient admonitions will come so close to you, you will know for certain, “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.” Eccl. 1:9.

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Word 30 – The Wife of Noble Character; 31:10-31, or “alphabet of wifely excellence,”

Derek Kinder, p. 37

- 10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.
- 29 Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Part VI. Conclusion – A Special Tribute to Christian Mothers and Children, p. 38

“Today, I Have Thirty Words For You From God”

Solomon – Proverbs 22:19-20

¹⁹ So that your trust may be in the Lord, I teach you today, even you.

²⁰ Have I not written thirty sayings for you, sayings of counsel and knowledge,

Introduction

1. 1:1-7a

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel
- 2 for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;
- 3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;
- 4 for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—
- 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—
- 6 for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

2. 30:5-7-8

- 5 Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
- 6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.
- 7 Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:
- 8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

3. 3:5-6

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
- 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

4. 8:10-11

- 10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,
- 11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

5. 8:22-29

- 22 The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old.
- 23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.
- 24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;
- 25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,
- 26 before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.
- 27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,
- 28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
- 29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

6. 9:10-11

- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- 11 For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

7. 10:27a

- 27 The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

Part I. Man and His Relationship to God

Word 1 – Wisdom and understanding

A. 1:20-21, 28

- 20 Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public square;
21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:
28 Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me.

B. 2:1-2, 9

- 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,
9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.

C. 3:13-20

- 13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding.
14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.
15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.
19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;
20 by his knowledge the deeps are divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

D. 4:5-9

- 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.
6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.
7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.
9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.

E. 5:21-23

- 21 For man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.
22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.
23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

F. 8:1-31

- 1 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?
2 On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
3 beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud:
4 To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.
5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.
6 Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.
7 My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.
8 All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.
9 To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.
10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.

F. 8:1-31 cont.

11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
 12 I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.
 13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.
 14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.
 15 By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just.
 16 by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.
 17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
 18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.
 19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.
 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice.
 21 bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.
 22 The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;
 23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.
 24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;
 25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth.
 26 before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.
 27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of
 the deep,
 28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
 29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when
 he marked out the foundations of the earth.
 30 Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always
 in his presence.
 31 rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

G. 11:30

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

H. 12:8

8 A man is praised according to his wisdom, but men with warped minds are despised.

I. 14:27, 34

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.
 34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

J. 15:7, 31

7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.
 31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

K. 16:13, 22, 31

13 Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.
 22 Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.
 31 Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.

L. 17:27-28

27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.
 28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

M. 19:11

11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

N. 19:23

23 The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

O. 20:15, 27

15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

27 The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.

P. 22:1, 17

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

17 Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,

Q. 23:23a

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

R. 28:2, 7, 9, 14

2 When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.

9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

14 Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

S. 29:8b, 25-26

8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.

25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

26 Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.

Word 2 – Will of God (righteousness and goodness)

A. 2:20

20 Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep on the paths of the righteous.

B. 3:32-35 – 4:1-18

32 for the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence.

33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

35 The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

1 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.

2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.

3 When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother,

4 he taught me and said, Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.

6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

B. 3:32-35 – 4:1-18 cont.

- 7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
 8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.
 9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.
 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many.
 11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.
 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.
 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.
 14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.
 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.
 16 For they cannot sleep till they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.
 17 They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.
 18 The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

C. 10:6a, 19-20

- 6 Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.
 19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.
 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

D. 11:6a, 21b

- 6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.
 21 Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.

E. 12:1a, 2a, 15b

- 1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates corruption is stupid.
 2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but the LORD condemns a crafty man.
 15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

F. 14:16a

- 16 A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

G. 15:3, 8b; 12:28, 26a

- 3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.
 8 The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.
 28 In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.
 26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

H. 15:29b

- 29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

I. 21:2b-3

- 2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.
 3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

J. 21:21

- 21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

K. 22:2, 12

2 Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

L. 28:25b

25 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

M. 29:18b

18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

N. Words of good (righteous) mankind

1. *Forcible* – Job 6:25; How painful are honest words! But what do your arguments prove?

2. *Pleasant* – Prov 16:24; Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

3. *Appropriate* – Prov 25:11; A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Prov 10:32; The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.

4. *Gracious* – Eccl 10:2a; The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

5. *Inspiring and Unforgettable* – Eccl 12:11; The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd.

6. *Comforting* – Isa 50:4; The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the Word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

Word 3 – Will of Man (conflict with God)

A. 3:31-33a

31 Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways,

32 for the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence.

33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

B. 4:14-17, 19

14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.

16 For they cannot sleep till they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.

17 They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

C. 11:6b, 21

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

21 Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.

D. 12:11; 15a

11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

E. 14:9, 12

- 9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.
12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

F. 15:8a, 9a, 29a

- 8 The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.
9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.
29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

G. 17:13

- 13 If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.

H. 21:2, 8a

- 2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.
8 The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.

I. 21:10, 16, 30

- 10 The wicked man craves evil; his neighbor gets no mercy from him.
16 A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.
30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

J. 26:12

- 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

K. 28:9

- 9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

L. Words of evil (unrighteous) mankind

1. *Vain* – Job 16:3; Will your long-winded speeches never end? What ails you that you keep on arguing?
2. *Irritating* – Prov 15:1; Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:
3. *Hasty* – Prov 29:20; If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.
4. *Irreverent* – Mal 3:13; “You have said harsh things against me,” says the LORD. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’
5. *Enticing* – Col 2:4; I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.
6. *Flattering* – I Thes 2:5; You know we never used flattery, not did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.
7. *Insincere* – II Pet 2:3; In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.
8. *Proud* – II Pet 2:18; For their mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.
9. *Malicious* – III John 10; So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.
10. *Destructive* – Prov 11:9; With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.

Word 4 – Truth (honesty)**A. 3:21-24**

- 21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;
 22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.
 23 Then you will go on your own way in safety, and your foot will not stumble;
 24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

B. 11:13b

- 13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

C. 11:22b

- 22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

D. 18:24

- 24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

E. 21:2

- 2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

F. 22:28

- 28 Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers.

Word 5 – Death**A. 8:36**

- 36 But whoever fails to find me (wisdom) harms himself; all who hate me (wisdom) love death.

B. 9:17-18

- 17 Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!
 18 But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave.

C. 10:2b

- 2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.

D. 11:7

- 7 When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing.

E. 12:28

- 28 In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.

F. 14:27

- 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

G. 16:14

- 14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will appear it.

H. 27:20

20 Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.

Part II. Man and His Relationship to Mankind

Word 6 – Husbands and Wives

A. 5:18-19

18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

B. 11:6b, 22

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

C. 12:4

4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

D. 14:1, 7

1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

7 Stay away from a foolish man, for you will not find knowledge on his lips.

E. 18:1a, 22

1 An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.

22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

F. 19:13b

13 A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

G. 21:9, 19

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

19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

H. 25:24

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

I. 27:15-16

15 A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day;

16 restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.

J. Epilogue – The Noble Woman. 31:10-31

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

J. Epilogue – The Noble Woman. 31:10-31 cont.

- 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hands she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
- 29 Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Word 7 – Children and Discipline**A. 1:8-16**

- 8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
- 9 They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.
- 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not give to them.
- 11 If they say, Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul;
- 12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
- 13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;
- 14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse—
- 15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;
- 16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

B. 3:11-12

- 11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,
- 12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

C. 4:1-17

- 1 Listen, my son, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.
- 2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.
- 3 When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother,
- 4 he taught me and said, Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live.
- 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.
- 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

C. 4:1-17 cont.

- 7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.
9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.
10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many.
11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.
12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.
13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.
14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.
15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.
16 For they cannot sleep till they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.
17 They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

D. 14:24

- 24 The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

E. 15:5, 10, 20, 32

- 5 A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.
10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.
20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.
32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

F. 17:2a, 25

- 2 A wise servant will rule over a disgraceful son, and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.
25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.

G. 19:18, 26

- 18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.
26 He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace.

H. 20:11, 29-30

- 11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.
29 The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old.
30 Blows and wounds cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the inmost being.

I. 22:6, 15

- 6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

J. 28:24

- 24 He who robs his father or mother and says, It's not wrong— he is partner to him who destroys.

K. 29:15, 17

- 15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.
17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

L. 30:11-12a, 17

- 11 There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers;
 12 those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth;
 17 The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

Word 8 – Home and Heart**A. 3:1, 33b**

- 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,
 33 The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

B. 4:20-23; 5:21

- 20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words.
 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;
 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.
 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
 21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

C. 6:16, 18a

- 16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ...
 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,

D. 12:10a

- 10 A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

E. 14:10

- 10 Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.

F. 15:1

- 1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

G. 17:1, 3, 6

- 1 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.
 3 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.
 6 Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

H. 19:22

- 22 What a man desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.

I. 20:6

- 6 Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?

J. 27:8, 10c

- 8 Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.
 10 Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

Word 9 – Friends and Enemies

A. 3:27-28

27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back later; I’ll give it tomorrow”—when you now have it with you.

B. (Special note James 2:14-17)

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16 I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.

17 The Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

C. 15:22

22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

D. 17:17

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

E. 18:24

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

F. 27:6b, 10a,b

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

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

G. 16:7

7 When a man’s ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

H. 24:17

17 Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice,

I. 25:21-22

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

J. 27:6

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

K. 28:28a

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

L. 29:24

24 The accomplice of a thief is his own enemy; he is put under oath and dare not testify.

M. 30:13-14

13 those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful;

14 those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.

Word 10 – Respect (dignity) for God and Mankind**A. 10:7a**

7 The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

B. 11:16a

16 A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.

C. 13:13

13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.

D. 20:29

29 The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old.

E. 23:22-24

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

F. 31:23

23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

G. 31:23a, 25a

23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

Word 11 – Caring (compassion) for the Poor**A. 10:3a, 4**

3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

B. 14:20a, 31

20 The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.

31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

C. 17:5a

5 He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.

D. 18:23a

23 A poor man pleads for mercy, but a rich man answers harshly.

E. 19:17

17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

F. 21:13

13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

G. 22:16, 22-23

16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty.

22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,

23 for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

H. 28:6, 27

6 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

27 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

I. 29:7

7 The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

J. 30:7-8

7 “Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die;

8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

K. Evil men, 30:14

14 those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.

L. 31:9

9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

M. The noble wife – woman, 31:20

20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

Word 12 – Wealth (prosperity)

A. Deut. 8:18

18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

B. 1:10a, 15-19

- 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.
 15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;
 16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.
 17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!
 18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves!
 19 Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.

C. 3:9-10

- 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

D. 10:2, 4, 15-16, 22

- 2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.
 4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.
 15 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
 16 The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked brings them punishment.
 22 The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

E. 11:4, 10a, 16b, 24-26, 28a

- 4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
 10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.
 16 A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.
 24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
 25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.
 26 People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.
 28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

F. 12:11a, 15b

- 11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lack judgment.
 15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

G. 13:7, 11, 21b-22a

- 7 One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.
 11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.
 21 Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.
 22 A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

H. 14:4, 20, 24a

- 4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest.
 20 The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.
 24 The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

I. 15:3, 16, 27, 29a

- 3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.
16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.
27 A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.
29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

J. 16:8, 16

- 8 Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.
16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!

K. 17:3, 16, 20

- 3 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.
16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?
20 A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls in trouble.

L. 18:16, 23

- 16 A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.
23 A poor man pleads for mercy, but a rich man answers harshly.

M. 21:6, 20

- 6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.
20 In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

N. 22:4, 9

- 4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.
9 A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

O. 23:4-7

- 4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.
5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.
6 Do not eat the food of a stingy man, do not crave his delicacies;
7 for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. Eat and drink, he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

P. 27:24a

- 24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

Q. 28:6-8, 11a, 16b, 19-22, 25

- 6 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.
7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.
8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.
11 A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.
16 A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment, but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life.
19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.
20 A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Q. 28:6-8, 11a, 16b, 19-22, 25 cont.

- 21 To show partiality is not good—yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.
 22 A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.
 25 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Word 13 – Adultery**A. 2:16-19**

- 16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words,
 17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.
 18 For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.
 19 None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.

B. 5:1-14a, 20

- 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,
 2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.
 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;
 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.
 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.
 6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.
 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.
 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,
 9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,
 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.
 11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.
 12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!
 13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.
 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly.
 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

C. 6:20-29, 32-33

- 20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
 21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck.
 22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you
 awake, they will speak to you.
 23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the
 way to life,
 24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.
 25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes,
 26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life.
 27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?
 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?
 29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.
 32 But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.
 33 Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away;

D. 7:1-27

1 My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.
2 Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of my eye.
3 Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman;
5 they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.
6 At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice.
7 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.
8 He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house
9 at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.
10 Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.
11 (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home;
12 now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)
13 She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said:
14 "I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows.
15 So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!
16 I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.
18 Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!
19 My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey.
20 He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.
21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.
22 All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose
23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his
life.
24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.
25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.
26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng.
27 Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

E. 11:6; 13:2

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.
2 From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence.

F. 13:15

15 Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

G. 22:12b

12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

H. 23:26-28

26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,
27 for a prostitute is a deep pit and a wayward wife is a narrow well.
28 Like a bandit she lies in wait, and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

I. 25:19

19 Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.

J. 29:3b

3 A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

K. 30:20

20 This is the way of an adulteress: She eats and wipes her mouth and says, “I’ve done nothing wrong.”

L. 31:2-3

2 O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows,
3 do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings.

Word 14 – Contentious (quarrelsome)**A. 6:19b**

19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

B. 10:12

12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

C. 11:12

12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

D. 15:18

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

E. 16:27-28a

27 A scoundrel plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

F. 20:3

3 It is to a man’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

G. 26:17, 20

17 Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

20 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

Word 15 – Gossip (lies)**A. 3:29-30**

29 Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.

30 Do not accuse a man for no reason—when he has done you no harm.

B. 4:24

24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

C. 6:17, 19

17 God hates ...a lying tongue, ...

19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

D. 10:6b, 18

6 Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.

18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

E. 11:13

13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

F. 12:17, 22

17 A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.

22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

G. 16:28b, 30

28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

30 He who winks with his eye is plotting perversity; he who purses his lips is bent on evil.

H. 19:9, 22b

9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish.

22 What a man desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.

I. 20:19

19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

J. 26:17, 20-22

17 Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

20 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

22 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.

K. 29:12

12 If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.

L. 30:8a

8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

Word 16 – Work Ethic

A. 1:7

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

B. 4:24-27

24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.

26 Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.

27 Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

C. 6:6-8

- 6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!
 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,
 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

D. 10:4-5

- 4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.
 5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

E. 12:24-27

- 24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.
 25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.
 26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
 27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

F. 13:19

- 19 A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.

G. 14:4, 23

- 4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest.
 23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

H. 20:13a

- 13 Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.

I. 21:17a

- 17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

J. 26:13-16

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

K. 30:8b

- 8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

Word 17 – Weights and Measures (honesty)**A. 11:1**

- 1 The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

B. 12:17

17 A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.

C. 16:8, 11-13

8 Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; all the weights in the bag of his making.

12 Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteous.

13 Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.

D. 20:10, 23

10 Differing weights and differing measures—the LORD detests them both.

23 The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.

Part III. Man and His Relationship to Himself/Herself

Word 18 – Love

A. 3:3-4

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

B. 4:6

6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

C. 5:19b

19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

D. 7:18

18 Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!

E. 8:17a, 21, 36

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

21 bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

36 But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death.

F. 9:8

8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

G. 10:12

12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

H. 14:22b

22 Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.

I. 15:4, 13, 17, 30

- 4 The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.
 13 A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.
 17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.
 30 A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.

J. 16:6-7

- 6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.
 7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

K. 17:9, 17, 22

- 9 He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
 17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
 22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

L. 18:21

- 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

M. 19:22a

- 22 What a man desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.

N. 20:6, 28

- 6 Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?
 28 Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.

O. 21:21

- 21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

P. 27:5

- 5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Word 19 – Humility**A. 3:34**

- 34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

B. 6:2-5

- 2 if you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth.
 3 then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands:
 Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor!
 4 Allow no sleep to your eyes, no slumber to your eyelids.
 5 Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

C. 10:8a

- 8 The wise in heart accept commands, but a clattering fool comes to ruin.

D. 11:2b

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

E. 15:33

33 The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

F. 16:19

19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

G. 22:4

4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

H. 29:23b

23 A man's pride brings him low, and but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

Word 20 – Faith and Confidence (trust)

A. 2:8a

8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

B. 3:26a, 32b

26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being ensnared.

32 for the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence.

C. 4:10-12

10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be nasty.

11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.

12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.

D. 10:9a, 11a, 25b

9 The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.

25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

E. 12:26a

26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

F. 16:9

9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

G. 20:6

6 Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?

H. 25:9-10

9 If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence,

10 or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.

I. 27:6b

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

J. 28:13, 20a

13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

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

K. 29:25b

25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

L. 31:11, 2b

11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

2 O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows,

Word 21 – Honor**A. 3:9, 27, 35**

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

35 The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

B. 8:18

8 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.

C. 11:3

3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

D. 13:18b

18 He who ignites discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.

E. 15:33

33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

F. 18:12

12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

G. 20:3

3 It is a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

H. 21:21

21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

I. 22:1, 4

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

J. 25:27

27 It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.

K. 27:1-2, 21b, 23-27

- 1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.
- 2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.
- 21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.
- 23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds,
- 24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.
- 25 When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in,
- 26 the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field.
- 27 You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you and your family and to nourish your servant girls.

L. 28:2b, 7b, 14

- 2 When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.
- 7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.
- 14 Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

M. 29:23b, 26b

- 23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.
- 26 Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.

Word 22 – Pain and Suffering

A. 6:17c

- 17 God hates... hands that shed innocent blood,...

B. 10:3

- 3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

C. 13:12

- 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

D. 14:10, 12

- 10 Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.
- 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

E. 18:14

- 14 A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

Word 23 – Anger (fear)

A. 10:12a, 18a, 24a

- 12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.
- 18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.
- 24 What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted.

B. 14:10, 16-17

- 10 Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.
 16 A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.
 17 A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.

C. 15:1

- 1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

D. 16:32

- 32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

E. 19:19

- 19 A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

F. 22:24

- 24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,

G. 29:8, 22

- 8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.
 22 An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

H. 30:33

- 33 For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife.”

Word 24 – Jealousy (envy)**A. 3:28-31**

- 28 Do not say to your neighbor, Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow—when you now have it with you.
 29 Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.
 30 Do not accuse a man for no reason—when he has done you no harm.
 31 Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways,

B. 6:12-15, 18, 34

- 12 A scoundrel and villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth,
 13 who winks with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers,
 14 who plots evil with deceit in his heart—he always stirs up dissension.
 15 Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.
 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,
 34 for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

C. 14:21a, 30b

- 21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.
 30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

D. 23:17

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.

E. 24:1

1 Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company;

F. 27:4

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

Word 25 – Pride

A. 3:7-8

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

B. 8:13

13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

C. 11:2a, 20a

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

20 The LORD detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

D. 13:10

10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

E. 15:25a

25 The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

F. 16:2-5,18-19

2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

4 The LORD works out everything for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster.

5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

G. 18:12

12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

H. 29:23a

23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

I. 30:32-33

32 If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!

33 For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife.

Word 26 – Foolishness (lack of good judgment)**A. 1:7**

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

B. 3:35

35 The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

C. 10:1, 10, 18

1 The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.

10 He who winks maliciously causes grief, and a chattering fool comes to ruin.

18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

D. 12:15-16, 23

15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly.

E. 13:19-20

19 A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.

20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

F. 14:1, 9, 16b, 24b

1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.

16 A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

24 The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

G. 15:5, 20

5 A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

H. 17:12, 16, 21, 25

12 Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly.

16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

21 To have a fool for a son brings grief; there is no joy for the father of a fool.

25 A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.

I. 18:2, 13

2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

13 He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.

J. 19:13a

13 A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

K. 20:3

3 It is a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

L. 23:9

9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

M. 24:7

7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the assembly at the gate he has nothing to say.

N. 26:7, 11-12

7 Like a lame man's legs that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

O. 27:22

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

P. 28:26

26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Q. 29:11a, 20

11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Word 27 – Alcohol (wine, drunkenness)

A. 20:1

1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

B. 21:17

17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

C. 23:20-21, 26-35

20 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat,

21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways.

27 for a prostitute is a deep pit and a wayward wife is a narrow well.

28 Like a bandit she lies in wait, and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!

32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things.

34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging.

35 They hit me, you will say, but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?

D. 26:9

9 Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

E. 31:4-7

4 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel—not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer,
 5 lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.
 6 Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish;
 7 let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

Word 28 – Vows**A. 20:25**

25 It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.

B. Num. 30:2

2 When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

C. Deut. 23:21

21 If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin.

D. Eccl. 5:4

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.

Part IV.**Word 29 – Fixed Categories****1. Seven things God hates; 6:16-19**

- A. 17a – haughty eyes,
- B. 17b – a lying tongue,
- C. 17c – hands that shed innocent blood,
- D. 18a – a heart that devises wicked schemes,
- E. 18b – feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- F. 19a – a false witness who pours out lies
- G. 19b – a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

2. Four matters never satisfied; 30:15-16

- A. 16a – the grave,
- B. 16b – the barren womb,
- C. 16c – land, which is never satisfied with water,
- D. 16d – and fire, which never says, 'Enough!'

3. Four amazing things; 30:18-19

- A. 19a – the way of an eagle in the sky,
- B. 19b – the way of a snake on a rock,
- C. 19c – the way of a ship on the high seas,
- D. 19d – and the way of a man with a maiden.

4. Four “earth-shaking” realities; 30:21-23

- A. 22a – a servant who becomes king,
- B. 22b – a fool who is full of food,
- C. 23a – an unloved woman who is married,
- D. 23b – and a maidservant who displaces her mistress.

5. Four wise little creatures; 30:24-28

- A. 25 – Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;
- B. 26 – coney are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags;
- C. 27 – locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks;
- D. 28 – a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings’ palaces.

6. Four proud masculines; 30:29-31

- A. 30 – a lion, mighty among beasts, who retreats before nothing;
- B. 31a – a strutting rooster,
- C. 31b – a he-goat,
- D. 31c – and a king with his army around him.

Part V. Epilogue

Word 30 – The Wife of Noble Character – 31:10-31, or “alphabet of wifely excellence,”

Derek Kinder

- 10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hands she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.
- 29 “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Part VI. Conclusion – A Special Tribute to Christian Mothers and Children

TO MOTHER

THE YOUNG MOTHER SET HER FOOT ON THE PATH OF LIFE.

“IS THE WAY LONG?” SHE ASKED.

AND THE GUIDE SAID, “YES, AND THE WAY IS HARD, AND YOU WILL BE OLD BEFORE YOU REACH THE END OF IT. BUT THE END WILL BE BETTER THAN THE BEGINNING.”

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years, so she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed with them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them, and life was good, and the young mother cried, “nothing will ever be lovelier than this.”

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, “Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come. And the mother said, “This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage.”

And the morning came and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, “A little patience, and we are there”; so the children climbed, and then they reached the top, they said, “We could not have done it without you, mother” and the mother, when she lay down that night, looking up at the stars, said: “This is better this day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today I have given them strength.”

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth—clouds of war and hate and evil; and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: “Look up. Lift your eyes to the light.” And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness, and that night the mother said, “This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God.”

And the days went on, and the weeks, and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their mother; and when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates, flung wide.

And the mother said, “I have reached the end of my journey; and now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them.”

And the children said, “You will always walk with us, mother, even when you have gone through the gates.”

AND THEY STOOD AND WATCHED HER AS SHE WENT ALONE, AND THE GATES CLOSED AFTER HER. AND THEY SAID, WE CANNOT SEE HER, BUT SHE IS WITH US STILL.

A MOTHER LIKE OURS IS MORE THAN A MEMORY, SHE IS A LIVING PRESENCE.

—by Temple Bailey

DAUGHTER

By W. H. PERRINS

I'm mighty proud of you —DAUGHTER,
 Just as proud as any mother well might be,
 I raised you with a glorious hope,
 You've not disappointed me.
 I hoped you'd be a thorobred in life,
 Making the highest bid,
 For the truest, the best and the wisest,
 AND YOU DID.

You chose the path that good women choose,
 You loved the things true and fine,
 You made me glad to possess you,
 Happy to call you mine.
 You are the branch and I am the stem,
 All of the selfsame tree,
 I'm mighty proud of you DAUGHTER,
 YOU'VE NOT DISAPPOINTED ME.

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WHAT IS A GIRL?

By Alan Beck

Little girls are the nicest things that happen to people. They are born with a little bit of angel-shine about them and though it wears thin sometimes, there is always enough left to lasso your heart—even when they are sitting in the mud, or crying temperamental tears, or parading up the street in mother’s best clothes.

A little girl can be sweeter (and badder) oftener than anyone else in the world. She can jitter around, and stomp, and make funny noises that frazzle your nerves, yet just when you open your mouth, she stands there demure with that special look in her eyes. A girl is Innocence playing in the mud, Beauty standing on its head, and Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot.

Girls are available in five colors—black, white, red, yellow, or brown, yet Mother Nature always manages to select your favorite color when you place your order. They disprove the law of supply and demand—there are millions of little girls, but each is as precious as rubies.

God borrows from many creatures to make a little girl. He uses the song of a bird, the squeal of a pig, the stubbornness of a mule, the antics of a monkey, the spryness of a grasshopper, the curiosity of a cat, the speed of a gazelle, the slyness of a fox, the softness of a kitten, and to top it all off He adds the mysterious mind of a woman.

A little girl likes new shoes, party dresses, small animals, first grade, noisemakers, the girl next door, dolls, make-believe, dancing lessons, ice cream, kitchens, coloring books, make-up, cans of water, going visiting, tea parties, and one boy. She doesn’t care so much for visitors, boys in general, large dogs, hand-me-downs, straight chairs, vegetables, snow suits, or staying in the front yard. She is loudest when you are thinking, the prettiest when she has provoked you, the busiest at bedtime, the quietest when you want to show her off, and the most flirtatious when she absolutely must not get the best of you again.

Who else can cause you more grief, joy, irritation, satisfaction, embarrassment, and genuine delight than this combination of Eve, Salome, and Florence Nightingale? She can muss up your home, your hair, and your dignity—spend your money, your time, and your temper—then just when your patience is ready to crack, her sunshine peeks through and you’ve lost again.

Yes, she is a nerve-racking nuisance, just a noisy bundle of mischief. But when your dreams tumble down and the world is a mess—when it seems you are pretty much of a fool after all—she can make you a king when she climbs on your knee and whispers, “I love you best of all!”

WHAT IS A BOY?

By Alan Beck

Between the innocence of babyhood and the dignity of manhood we find a delightful creature called a boy. Boys come in assorted sizes, weights, and colors, but all boys have the same creed: to enjoy every second of every minute of every hour of every day and to protest with noise (their only weapon) when their last minute is finished and the adult males pack them off to bed at night.

Boys are found everywhere—on top of, underneath, inside of, climbing on, swinging from, running around, or jumping to.

Mothers love them, little girls hate them, older sisters and brothers tolerate them, adults ignore them, and Heaven protects them.

A boy is Truth with dirt on its face, Beauty with a cut on its finger, Wisdom with bubble gum in its hair, and the Hope of the future with a frog in its pocket. When you are busy, a boy is an inconsiderate, bothersome, intruding jangle of noise. When you want him to make a good impression, his brain turns to jelly or else he becomes a savage, sadistic, jungle creature bent on destroying the world and himself with it.

A boy is a composite—he has the appetite of a horse, the digestion of a sword-swallower, the energy of a pocket-sized atomic bomb, the curiosity of a cat, the lungs of a dictator, the imagination of a Paul Bunyan, the shyness of a violet, the audacity of a steel trap, the enthusiasm of a firecracker, and when he makes something, he has five thumbs on each hand. He likes ice cream, knives, saws, Christmas, comic books, the boy across the street, woods, water (in its natural habitat), large animals, Dad, trains, Saturday mornings, and fire engines.

He is not much for Sunday School, company, schools, books with pictures, music lessons, neckties, barbers, girls, overcoats, adults, or bedtime. Nobody else is so early to rise, or so late to supper. Nobody else gets so much fun out of trees, dogs, and breezes. Nobody else can cram into one pocket a rusty knife, a half-eaten apple, three feet of string, an empty Bull Durham sack, two gum drops, six cents, a slingshot, a chunk of unknown substance, and a genuine supersonic code ring with a secret compartment.

A boy is a magical creature—you can lock him out of your workshop, but you can't lock him out of your heart. You can get him out of your study, but you can't get him out of your mind. Might as well give up—he is your captor, your jailer, your boss, and your master—a freckle-faced, pint-sized, cat-chasing, bundle of noise. But when you come home at night with only shattered pieces of your hopes and dreams, he can mend them like new with two magic words, "Hi Dad!"