

Ecclesiasticus Prologue

This Jesus was the son of Sirach, and grandchild to Jesus of the same name with him: this man therefore lived in the latter times, after the people had been led away captive, and called home a again, and almost after all the prophets. Now his grandfather Jesus, as he himself witnesseth, was a man of great diligence and wisdom among the Hebrews, who did not only gather the grave and short sentences of wise men, that had been before him, but himself also uttered some of his own, full of much understanding and wisdom. When as therefore the first Jesus died, leaving this book almost perfected, Sirach his son receiving it after him left it to his own son Jesus, who, having gotten it into his hands, compiled it all orderly into one volume, and called it Wisdom, intitulings it both by his own name, his father's name, and his grandfather's; alluring the hearer by the very name of Wisdom to have a greater love to the study of this book. It containeth therefore wise sayings, dark sentences, and parables, and certain particular ancient godly stories of men that pleased God; also his prayer and song; moreover, what benefits God had vouchsafed his people, and what plagues he had heaped upon their enemies. This Jesus did imitate Solomon, and was no less famous for wisdom and learning, both being indeed a man of great learning, and so reputed also. [The Prologue of the Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach.] Whereas many and great things have been delivered unto us by the law and the prophets, and by others that have followed their steps, for the which things Israel ought to be commended for learning and wisdom; and whereof not only the readers must needs become skillful themselves, but also they that desire to learn be able to profit them which are without, both by speaking and writing: my grandfather Jesus, when he had much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and other books of our fathers, and had gotten therein good judgment, was drawn on also himself to write something pertaining to learning and wisdom; to the intent that those which are desirous to learn, and are addicted to these things, might profit much more in living according to the law. Wherefore let me intreat you to read it with favour and attention, and to pardon us, wherein we may seem to come short of some words, which we have laboured to interpret. For the same things uttered in Hebrew, and translated into another tongue, have not the same force in them: and not only these things, but the law itself, and the prophets, and the rest of the books, have no small difference, when they are spoken in their own language. For in the eight and thirtieth year coming into Egypt, when Euergetes was king, and continuing there some time, I found a book of no small learning: therefore I thought it most necessary for me to bestow some diligence and travail to interpret it; using great watchfulness and skill in that space to bring the book to an end, and set it forth for them also, which in a strange country are willing to learn, being prepared before in manners to live after the law.

Ecclesiasticus 1:1-30

- 1: All wisdom cometh from the Lord, and is with him for ever.
- 2: Who can number the sand of the sea, and the drops of rain, and the days of eternity?
- 3: Who can find out the height of heaven, and the breadth of the earth, and the deep, and wisdom?
- 4: Wisdom hath been created before all things, and the understanding of prudence from everlasting.
- 5: The word of God most high is the fountain of wisdom; and her ways are everlasting commandments.
- 6: To whom hath the root of wisdom been revealed? or who hath known her wise counsels?
- 7: [Unto whom hath the knowledge of wisdom been made manifest? and who hath understood her great experience?]
- 8: There is one wise and greatly to be feared, the Lord sitting upon his throne.
- 9: He created her, and saw her, and numbered her, and poured her out upon all his works.
- 10: She is with all flesh according to his gift, and he hath given her to them that love him.
- 11: The fear of the Lord is honour, and glory, and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing.
- 12: The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart, and giveth joy, and gladness, and a long life.
- 13: Whoso feareth the Lord, it shall go well with him at the last, and he shall find favour in the day of his death.
- 14: To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and it was created with the faithful in the womb.
- 15: She hath built an everlasting foundation with men, and she shall continue with their seed.
- 16: To fear the Lord is fullness of wisdom, and filleth men with her fruits.
- 17: She filleth all their house with things desirable, and the garners with her increase.
- 18: The fear of the Lord is a crown of wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish; both which are the gifts of God: and it enlargeth their rejoicing that love him.
- 19: Wisdom raineth down skill and knowledge of understanding standing, and exalteth them to honour that hold her fast.
- 20: The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and the branches thereof are long life.
- 21: The fear of the Lord driveth away sins: and where it is present, it turneth away wrath.
- 22: A furious man cannot be justified; for the sway of his fury shall be his destruction.

23: A patient man will tear for a time, and afterward joy shall spring up unto him.

24: He will hide his words for a time, and the lips of many shall declare his wisdom.

25: The parables of knowledge are in the treasures of wisdom: but godliness is an abomination to a sinner.

26: If thou desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord shall give her unto thee.

27: For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction: and faith and meekness are his delight.

28: Distrust not the fear of the Lord when thou art poor: and come not unto him with a double heart.

29: Be not an hypocrite in the sight of men, and take good heed what thou speakest.

30: Exalt not thyself, lest thou fall, and bring dishonour upon thy soul, and so God discover thy secrets, and cast thee down in the midst of the congregation, because thou camest not in truth to the fear of the Lord, but thy heart is full of deceit.

Ecclesiasticus 2:1-18

- 1: My son, if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation.
- 2: Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble.
- 3: Cleave unto him, and depart not away, that thou mayest be increased at thy last end.
- 4: Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate.
- 5: For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.
- 6: Believe in him, and he will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in him.
- 7: Ye that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and go not aside, lest ye fall.
- 8: Ye that fear the Lord, believe him; and your reward shall not fail.
- 9: Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good, and for everlasting joy and mercy.
- 10: Look at the generations of old, and see; did ever any trust in the Lord, and was confounded? or did any abide in his fear, and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise, that called upon him?
- 11: For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, longsuffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction.
- 12: Woe be to fearful hearts, and faint hands, and the sinner that goeth two ways!
- 13: Woe unto him that is fainthearted! for he believeth not; therefore shall he not be defended.
- 14: Woe unto you that have lost patience! and what will ye do when the Lord shall visit you?
- 15: They that fear the Lord will not disobey his Word; and they that love him will keep his ways.
- 16: They that fear the Lord will seek that which is well, pleasing unto him; and they that love him shall be filled with the law.
- 17: They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and humble their souls in his sight,
- 18: Saying, We will fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men: for as his majesty is, so is his mercy.

Ecclesiasticus 3:1-31

- 1: Hear me your father, O children, and do thereafter, that ye may be safe.
- 2: For the Lord hath given the father honour over the children, and hath confirmed the authority of the mother over the sons.
- 3: Whoso honoureth his father maketh an atonement for his sins:
- 4: And he that honoureth his mother is as one that layeth up treasure.
- 5: Whoso honoureth his father shall have joy of his own children; and when he maketh his prayer, he shall be heard.
- 6: He that honoureth his father shall have a long life; and he that is obedient unto the Lord shall be a comfort to his mother.
- 7: He that feareth the Lord will honour his father, and will do service unto his parents, as to his masters.
- 8: Honour thy father and mother both in word and deed, that a blessing may come upon thee from them.
- 9: For the blessing of the father establisheth the houses of children; but the curse of the mother rooteth out foundations.
- 10: Glory not in the dishonour of thy father; for thy father's dishonour is no glory unto thee.
- 11: For the glory of a man is from the honour of his father; and a mother in dishonour is a reproach to the children.
- 12: My son, help thy father in his age, and grieve him not as long as he liveth.
- 13: And if his understanding fail, have patience with him; and despise him not when thou art in thy full strength.
- 14: For the relieving of thy father shall not be forgotten: and instead of sins it shall be added to build thee up.
- 15: In the day of thine affliction it shall be remembered; thy sins also shall melt away, as the ice in the fair warm weather.
- 16: He that forsaketh his father is as a blasphemer; and he that angereth his mother is cursed: of God.
- 17: My son, go on with thy business in meekness; so shalt thou be beloved of him that is approved.
- 18: The greater thou art, the more humble thyself, and thou shalt find favour before the Lord.
- 19: Many are in high place, and of renown: but mysteries are revealed unto the meek.
- 20: For the power of the Lord is great, and he is honoured of the lowly.
- 21: Seek not out things that are too hard for thee, neither search the things that are above thy strength.

22: But what is commanded thee, think thereupon with reverence, for it is not needful for thee to see with thine eyes the things that are in secret.

23: Be not curious in unnecessary matters: for more things are shewed unto thee than men understand.

24: For many are deceived by their own vain opinion; and an evil suspicion hath overthrown their judgment.

25: Without eyes thou shalt want light: profess not the knowledge therefore that thou hast not.

26: A stubborn heart shall fare evil at the last; and he that loveth danger shall perish therein.

27: An obstinate heart shall be laden with sorrows; and the wicked man shall heap sin upon sin.

28: In the punishment of the proud there is no remedy; for the plant of wickedness hath taken root in him.

29: The heart of the prudent will understand a parable; and an attentive ear is the desire of a wise man.

30: Water will quench a flaming fire; and alms maketh an atonement for sins.

31: And he that requiteth good turns is mindful of that which may come hereafter; and when he falleth, he shall find a stay.

Ecclesiasticus 4:1-31

1: My son, defraud not the poor of his living, and make not the needy eyes to wait long.

2: Make not an hungry soul sorrowful; neither provoke a man in his distress.

3: Add not more trouble to an heart that is vexed; and defer not to give to him that is in need.

4: Reject not the supplication of the afflicted; neither turn away thy face from a poor man.

5: Turn not away thine eye from the needy, and give him none occasion to curse thee:

6: For if he curse thee in the bitterness of his soul, his prayer shall be heard of him that made him.

7: Get thyself the love of the congregation, and bow thy head to a great man.

8: Let it not grieve thee to bow down thine ear to the poor, and give him a friendly answer with meekness.

9: Deliver him that suffereth wrong from the hand of the oppressor; and be not fainthearted when thou sittest in judgment.

10: Be as a father unto the fatherless, and instead of an husband unto their mother: so shalt thou be as the son of the most High, and he shall love thee more than thy mother doth.

11: Wisdom exalteth her children, and layeth hold of them that seek her.

12: He that loveth her loveth life; and they that seek to her early shall be filled with joy.

13: He that holdeth her fast shall inherit glory; and wheresoever she entereth, the Lord will bless.

14: They that serve her shall minister to the Holy One: and them that love her the Lord doth love.

15: Whoso giveth ear unto her shall judge the nations: and he that attendeth unto her shall dwell securely.

16: If a man commit himself unto her, he shall inherit her; and his generation shall hold her in possession.

17: For at the first she will walk with him by crooked ways, and bring fear and dread upon him, and torment him with her discipline, until she may trust his soul, and try him by her laws.

18: Then will she return the straight way unto him, and comfort him, and shew him her secrets.

19: But if he go wrong, she will forsake him, and give him over to his own ruin.

20: Observe the opportunity, and beware of evil; and be not ashamed when it concerneth thy soul.

21: For there is a shame that bringeth sin; and there is a shame which is glory and grace.

22: Accept no person against thy soul, and let not the reverence of any man cause thee to fall.

23: And refrain not to speak, when there is occasion to do good, and hide not thy wisdom in her beauty.

24: For by speech wisdom shall be known: and learning by the word of the tongue.

25: In no wise speak against the truth; but be abashed of the error of thine ignorance.

26: Be not ashamed to confess thy sins; and force not the course of the river.

27: Make not thyself an underling to a foolish man; neither accept the person of the mighty.

28: Strive for the truth unto death, and the Lord shall fight for thee.

29: Be not hasty in thy tongue, and in thy deeds slack and remiss.

30: Be not as a lion in thy house, nor frantick among thy servants.

31: Let not thine hand be stretched out to receive, and shut when thou shouldest repay.

Ecclesiasticus 5:1-15

- 1: Set thy heart upon thy goods; and say not, I have enough for my life.
- 2: Follow not thine own mind and thy strength, to walk in the ways of thy heart:
- 3: And say not, Who shall control me for my works? for the Lord will surely revenge thy pride.
- 4: Say not, I have sinned, and what harm hath happened unto me? for the Lord is longsuffering, he will in no wise let thee go.
- 5: Concerning propitiation, be not without fear to add sin unto sin:
- 6: And say not His mercy is great; he will be pacified for the multitude of my sins: for mercy and wrath come from him, and his indignation resteth upon sinners.
- 7: Make no tarrying to turn to the Lord, and put not off from day to day: for suddenly shall the wrath of the Lord come forth, and in thy security thou shalt be destroyed, and perish in the day of vengeance.
- 8: Set not thine heart upon goods unjustly gotten, for they shall not profit thee in the day of calamity.
- 9: Winnow not with every wind, and go not into every way: for so doth the sinner that hath a double tongue.
- 10: Be stedfast in thy understanding; and let thy word be the same.
- 11: Be swift to hear; and let thy life be sincere; and with patience give answer.
- 12: If thou hast understanding, answer thy neighbour; if not, lay thy hand upon thy mouth.
- 13: Honour and shame is in talk: and the tongue of man is his fall.
- 14: Be not called a whisperer, and lie not in wait with thy tongue: for a foul shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double tongue.
- 15: Be not ignorant of any thing in a great matter or a small.

Ecclesiasticus 6:1-37

- 1: Instead of a friend become not an enemy; for [thereby] thou shalt inherit an ill name, shame, and reproach: even so shall a sinner that hath a double tongue.
- 2: Extol not thyself in the counsel of thine own heart; that thy soul be not torn in pieces as a bull [straying alone.]
- 3: Thou shalt eat up thy leaves, and lose thy fruit, and leave thyself as a dry tree.
- 4: A wicked soul shall destroy him that hath it, and shall make him to be laughed to scorn of his enemies.
- 5: Sweet language will multiply friends: and a fairspeaking tongue will increase kind greetings.
- 6: Be in peace with many: nevertheless have but one counsellor of a thousand.
- 7: If thou wouldest get a friend, prove him first and be not hasty to credit him.
- 8: For some man is a friend for his own occasion, and will not abide in the day of thy trouble.
- 9: And there is a friend, who being turned to enmity, and strife will discover thy reproach.
- 10: Again, some friend is a companion at the table, and will not continue in the day of thy affliction.
- 11: But in thy prosperity he will be as thyself, and will be bold over thy servants.
- 12: If thou be brought low, he will be against thee, and will hide himself from thy face.
- 13: Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends.
- 14: A faithful friend is a strong defence: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure.
- 15: Nothing doth countervail a faithful friend, and his excellency is invaluable.
- 16: A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find him.
- 17: Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright: for as he is, so shall his neighbour be also.
- 18: My son, gather instruction from thy youth up: so shalt thou find wisdom till thine old age.
- 19: Come unto her as one that ploweth and soweth, and wait for her good fruits: for thou shalt not toil much in labouring about her, but thou shalt eat of her fruits right soon.
- 20: She is very unpleasant to the unlearned: he that is without understanding will not remain with her.
- 21: She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial; and he will cast her from him ere it be long.
- 22: For wisdom is according to her name, and she is not manifest unto many.

- 23: Give ear, my son, receive my advice, and refuse not my counsel,
24: And put thy feet into her fetters, and thy neck into her chain.
25: Bow down thy shoulder, and bear her, and be not grieved with her bonds.
26: Come unto her with thy whole heart, and keep her ways with all thy power.
27: Search, and seek, and she shall be made known unto thee: and when thou hast got hold of her, let her not go.
28: For at the last thou shalt find her rest, and that shall be turned to thy joy.
29: Then shall her fetters be a strong defence for thee, and her chains a robe of glory.
30: For there is a golden ornament upon her, and her bands are purple lace.
31: Thou shalt put her on as a robe of honour, and shalt put her about thee as a crown of joy.
32: My son, if thou wilt, thou shalt be taught: and if thou wilt apply thy mind, thou shalt be prudent.
33: If thou love to hear, thou shalt receive understanding: and if thou bow thine ear, thou shalt be wise,
34: Stand in the multitude of the elders; and cleave unto him that is wise.
35: Be willing to hear every godly discourse; and let not the parables of understanding escape thee.
36: And if thou seest a man of understanding, get thee betimes unto him, and let thy foot wear the steps of his door.
37: Let thy mind be upon the ordinances of the Lord and meditate continually in his commandments: he shall establish thine heart, and give thee wisdom at thine owns desire.

Ecclesiasticus 7:1-36

- 1: Do no evil, so shall no harm come unto thee.
- 2: Depart from the unjust, and iniquity shall turn away from thee.
- 3: My son, sow not upon the furrows of unrighteousness, and thou shalt not reap them sevenfold.
- 4: Seek not of the Lord preeminence, neither of the king the seat of honour.
- 5: justify not thyself before the Lord; and boast not of thy wisdom before the king.
- 6: Seek not to be judge, being not able to take away iniquity; lest at any time thou fear the person of the mighty, an stumblingblock in the way of thy uprightness.
- 7: Offend not against the multitude of a city, and then thou shalt not cast thyself down among the people.
- 8: Bind not one sin upon another; for in one thou shalt not be unpunished.
- 9: Say not, God will look upon the multitude of my oblations, and when I offer to the most high God, he will accept it.
- 10: Be not fainthearted when thou makest thy prayer, and neglect not to give alms.
- 11: Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul: for there is one which humbleth and exalteth.
- 12: Devise not a lie against thy brother; neither do the like to thy friend.
- 13: Use not to make any manner of lie: for the custom thereof is not good.
- 14: Use not many words in a multitude of elders, and make not much babbling when thou prayest.
- 15: Hate not laborious work, neither husbandry, which the most High hath ordained.
- 16: Number not thyself among the multitude of sinners, but remember that wrath will not tarry long.
- 17: Humble thyself greatly: for the vengeance of the ungodly is fire and worms.
- 18: Change not a friend for any good by no means; neither a faithful brother for the gold of Ophir.
- 19: Forego not a wise and good woman: for her grace is above gold.
- 20: Whereas thy servant worketh truly, entreat him not evil. nor the hireling that bestoweth himself wholly for thee.
- 21: Let thy soul love a good servant, and defraud him not of liberty.
- 22: Hast thou cattle? have an eye to them: and if they be for thy profit, keep them with thee.
- 23: Hast thou children? instruct them, and bow down their neck from their youth.
- 24: Hast thou daughters? have a care of their body, and shew not thyself cheerful toward them.

25: Marry thy daughter, and so shalt thou have performed a weighty matter: but give her to a man of understanding.

26: Hast thou a wife after thy mind? forsake her not: but give not thyself over to a light woman.

27: Honour thy father with thy whole heart, and forget not the sorrows of thy mother.

28: Remember that thou wast begotten of them; and how canst thou recompense them the things that they have done for thee?

29: Fear the Lord with all thy soul, and reverence his priests.

30: Love him that made thee with all thy strength, and forsake not his ministers.

31: Fear the Lord, and honor the priest; and give him his portion, as it is commanded thee; the firstfruits, and the trespass offering, and the gift of the shoulders, and the sacrifice of sanctification, and the firstfruits of the holy things.

32: And stretch thine hand unto the poor, that thy blessing may be perfected.

33: A gift hath grace in the sight of every man living; and for the dead detain it not.

34: Fail not to be with them that weep, and mourn with them that mourn.

35: Be not slow to visit the sick: for that shall make thee to be beloved.

36: Whatsoever thou takest in hand, remember the end, and thou shalt never do amiss.

Ecclesiasticus 8:1-19

- 1: Strive not with a mighty man' lest thou fall into his hands.
- 2: Be not at variance with a rich man, lest he overweigh thee: for gold hath destroyed many, and perverted the hearts of kings.
- 3: Strive not with a man that is full of tongue, and heap not wood upon his fire.
- 4: Jest not with a rude man, lest thy ancestors be disgraced.
- 5: Reproach not a man that turneth from sin, but remember that we are all worthy of punishment.
- 6: Dishonour not a man in his old age: for even some of us wax old.
- 7: Rejoice not over thy greatest enemy being dead, but remember that we die all.
- 8: Despise not the discourse of the wise, but acquaint thyself with their proverbs: for of them thou shalt learn instruction, and how to serve great men with ease.
- 9: Miss not the discourse of the elders: for they also learned of their fathers, and of them thou shalt learn understanding, and to give answer as need requireth.
- 10: Kindle not the coals of a sinner, lest thou be burnt with the flame of his fire.
- 11: Rise not up [in anger] at the presence of an injurious person, lest he lie in wait to entrap thee in thy words
- 12: Lend not unto him that is mightier than thyself; for if thou lendest him, count it but lost.
- 13: Be not surety above thy power: for if thou be surety, take care to pay it.
- 14: Go not to law with a judge; for they will judge for him according to his honour.
- 15: Travel not by the way with a bold fellow, lest he become grievous unto thee: for he will do according to his own will, and thou shalt perish with him through his folly.
- 16: Strive not with an angry man, and go not with him into a solitary place: for blood is as nothing in his sight, and where there is no help, he will overthrow thee.
- 17: Consult not with a fool; for he cannot keep counsel.
- 18: Do no secret thing before a stranger; for thou knowest not what he will bring forth.
- 19: Open not thine heart to every man, lest he requite thee with a shrewd turn.

Ecclesiasticus 9:1-18

- 1: Be not jealous over the wife of thy bosom, and teach her not an evil lesson against thyself.
- 2: Give not thy soul unto a woman to set her foot upon thy substance.
- 3: Meet not with an harlot, lest thou fall into her snares.
- 4: Use not much the company of a woman that is a singer, lest thou be taken with her attempts.
- 5: Gaze not on a maid, that thou fall not by those things that are precious in her.
- 6: Give not thy soul unto harlots, that thou lose not thine inheritance.
- 7: Look not round about thee in the streets of the city, neither wander thou in the solitary place thereof.
- 8: Turn away thine eye from a beautiful woman, and look not upon another's beauty; for many have been deceived by the beauty of a woman; for herewith love is kindled as a fire.
- 9: Sit not at all with another man's wife, nor sit down with her in thine arms, and spend not thy money with her at the wine; lest thine heart incline unto her, and so through thy desire thou fall into destruction.
- 10: Forsake not an old friend; for the new is not comparable to him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, thou shalt drink it with pleasure.
- 11: Envy not the glory of a sinner: for thou knowest not what shall be his end.
- 12: Delight not in the thing that the ungodly have pleasure in; but remember they shall not go unpunished unto their grave.
- 13: Keep thee far from the man that hath power to kill; so shalt thou not doubt the fear of death: and if thou come unto him, make no fault, lest he take away thy life presently: remember that thou goest in the midst of snares, and that thou walkest upon the battlements of the city.
- 14: As near as thou canst, guess at thy neighbour, and consult with the wise.
- 15: Let thy talk be with the wise, and all thy communication in the law of the most High.
- 16: And let just men eat and drink with thee; and let thy glorying be in the fear of the Lord.
- 17: For the hand of the artificer the work shall be commended: and the wise ruler of the people for his speech.
- 18: A man of an ill tongue is dangerous in his city; and he that is rash in his talk shall be hated.

Ecclesiasticus 10:1-31

- 1: A wise judge will instruct his people; and the government of a prudent man is well ordered.
- 2: As the judge of the people is himself, so are his officers; and what manner of man the ruler of the city is, such are all they that dwell therein.
- 3: An unwise king destroyeth his people; but through the prudence of them which are in authority the city shall be inhabited.
- 4: The power of the earth is in the hand of the Lord, and in due time he will set over it one that is profitable.
- 5: In the hand of God is the prosperity of man: and upon the person of the scribe shall he lay his honour.
- 6: Bear not hatred to thy neighbour for every wrong; and do nothing at all by injurious practices.
- 7: Pride is hateful before God and man: and by both doth one commit iniquity.
- 8: Because of unrighteous dealings, injuries, and riches got by deceit, the kingdom is translated from one people to another.
- 9: Why is earth and ashes proud? There is not a more wicked thing than a covetous man: for such an one setteth his own soul to sale; because while he liveth he casteth away his bowels.
- 10: The physician cutteth off a long disease; and he that is to day a king to morrow shall die.
- 11: For when a man is dead, he shall inherit creeping things, beasts, and worms.
- 12: The beginning of pride is when one departeth from God, and his heart is turned away from his Maker.
- 13: For pride is the beginning of sin, and he that hath it shall pour out abomination: and therefore the Lord brought upon them strange calamities, and overthrew them utterly.
- 14: The Lord hath cast down the thrones of proud princes, and set up the meek in their stead.
- 15: The Lord hath plucked up the roots of the proud nations, and planted the lowly in their place.
- 16: The Lord overthrew countries of the heathen, and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.
- 17: He took some of them away, and destroyed them, and hath made their memorial to cease from the earth.
- 18: Pride was not made for men, nor furious anger for them that are born of a woman.

19: They that fear the Lord are a sure seed, and they that love him an honourable plant: they that regard not the law are a dishonourable seed; they that transgress the commandments are a deceivable seed.

20: Among brethren he that is chief is honorable; so are they that fear the Lord in his eyes.

21: The fear of the Lord goeth before the obtaining of authority: but roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

22: Whether he be rich, noble, or poor, their glory is the fear of the Lord.

23: It is not meet to despise the poor man that hath understanding; neither is it convenient to magnify a sinful man.

24: Great men, and judges, and potentates, shall be honoured; yet is there none of them greater than he that feareth the Lord.

25: Unto the servant that is wise shall they that are free do service: and he that hath knowledge will not grudge when he is reformed.

26: Be not overwise in doing thy business; and boast not thyself in the time of thy distress.

27: Better is he that laboureth, and aboundeth in all things, than he that boasteth himself, and wanteth bread.

28: My son, glorify thy soul in meekness, and give it honour according to the dignity thereof.

29: Who will justify him that sinneth against his own soul? and who will honour him that dishonoureth his own life?

30: The poor man is honoured for his skill, and the rich man is honoured for his riches.

31: He that is honoured in poverty, how much more in riches? and he that is dishonourable in riches, how much more in poverty?

Ecclesiasticus 11:1-34

1: Wisdom lifteth up the head of him that is of low degree, and maketh him to sit among great men.

2: Commend not a man for his beauty; neither abhor a man for his outward appearance.

3: The bee is little among such as fly; but her fruit is the chief of sweet things.

4: Boast not of thy clothing and raiment, and exalt not thyself in the day of honour: for the works of the Lord are wonderful, and his works among men are hidden.

5: Many kings have sat down upon the ground; and one that was never thought of hath worn the crown.

6: Many mighty men have been greatly disgraced; and the honourable delivered into other men's hands.

7: Blame not before thou hast examined the truth: understand first, and then rebuke.

8: Answer not before thou hast heard the cause: neither interrupt men in the midst of their talk.

9: Strive not in a matter that concerneth thee not; and sit not in judgment with sinners.

10: My son, meddle not with many matters: for if thou meddle much, thou shalt not be innocent; and if thou follow after, thou shalt not obtain, neither shalt thou escape by fleeing.

11: There is one that laboureth, and taketh pains, and maketh haste, and is so much the more behind.

12: Again, there is another that is slow, and hath need of help, wanting ability, and full of poverty; yet the eye of the Lord looked upon him for good, and set him up from his low estate,

13: And lifted up his head from misery; so that many that saw from him is peace over all the

14: Prosperity and adversity, life and death, poverty and riches, come of the Lord.

15: Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the law, are of the Lord: love, and the way of good works, are from him.

16: Error and darkness had their beginning together with sinners: and evil shall wax old with them that glory therein.

17: The gift of the Lord remaineth with the ungodly, and his favour bringeth prosperity for ever.

18: There is that waxeth rich by his wariness and pinching, and this his the portion of his reward:

19: Whereas he saith, I have found rest, and now will eat continually of my goods; and yet he knoweth not what time shall come upon him, and that he must leave those things to others, and die.

20: Be steadfast in thy covenant, and be conversant therein, and wax old in thy work.

21: Marvel not at the works of sinners; but trust in the Lord, and abide in thy labour: for it is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord on the sudden to make a poor man rich.

22: The blessing of the Lord is in the reward of the godly, and suddenly he maketh his blessing flourish.

23: Say not, What profit is there of my service? and what good things shall I have hereafter?

24: Again, say not, I have enough, and possess many things, and what evil shall I have hereafter?

25: In the day of prosperity there is a forgetfulness of affliction: and in the day of affliction there is no more remembrance of prosperity.

26: For it is an easy thing unto the Lord in the day of death to reward a man according to his ways.

27: The affliction of an hour maketh a man forget pleasure: and in his end his deeds shall be discovered.

28: Judge none blessed before his death: for a man shall be known in his children.

29: Bring not every man into thine house: for the deceitful man hath many trains.

30: Like as a partridge taken [and kept] in a cage, so is the heart of the proud; and like as a spy, watcheth he for thy fall:

31: For he lieth in wait, and turneth good into evil, and in things worthy praise will lay blame upon thee.

32: Of a spark of fire a heap of coals is kindled: and a sinful man layeth wait for blood.

33: Take heed of a mischievous man, for he worketh wickedness; lest he bring upon thee a perpetual blot.

34: Receive a stranger into thine house, and he will disturb thee, and turn thee out of thine own.

Ecclesiasticus 12:1-18

- 1: When thou wilt do good know to whom thou doest it; so shalt thou be thanked for thy benefits.
- 2: Do good to the godly man, and thou shalt find a recompence; and if not from him, yet from the most High.
- 3: There can no good come to him that is always occupied in evil, nor to him that giveth no alms.
- 4: Give to the godly man, and help not a sinner.
- 5: Do well unto him that is lowly, but give not to the ungodly: hold back thy bread, and give it not unto him, lest he overmaster thee thereby: for [else] thou shalt receive twice as much evil for all the good thou shalt have done unto him.
- 6: For the most High hateth sinners, and will repay vengeance unto the ungodly, and keepeth them against the mighty day of their punishment.
- 7: Give unto the good, and help not the sinner.
- 8: A friend cannot be known in prosperity: and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity.
- 9: In the prosperity of a man enemies will be grieved: but in his adversity even a friend will depart.
- 10: Never trust thine enemy: for like as iron rusteth, so is his wickedness.
- 11: Though he humble himself, and go crouching, yet take good heed and beware of him, and thou shalt be unto him as if thou hadst wiped a lookingglass, and thou shalt know that his rust hath not been altogether wiped away.
- 12: Set him not by thee, lest, when he hath overthrown thee, he stand up in thy place; neither let him sit at thy right hand, lest he seek to take thy seat, and thou at the last remember my words, and be pricked therewith.
- 13: Who will pity a charmer that is bitten with a serpent, or any such as come nigh wild beasts?
- 14: So one that goeth to a sinner, and is defiled with him in his sins, who will pity?
- 15: For a while he will abide with thee, but if thou begin to fall, he will not tarry.
- 16: An enemy speaketh sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he imagineth how to throw thee into a pit: he will weep with his eyes, but if he find opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood.
- 17: If adversity come upon thee, thou shalt find him there first; and though he pretend to help thee, yet shall he undermine thee.
- 18: He will shake his head, and clap his hands, and whisper much, and change his countenance.

Ecclesiasticus 13:1-26

1: He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled therewith; and he that hath fellowship with a proud man shall be like unto him.

2: Burden not thyself above thy power while thou livest; and have no fellowship with one that is mightier and richer than thyself: for how agree the kettle and the earthen pot together? for if the one be smitten against the other, it shall be broken.

3: The rich man hath done wrong, and yet he threateneth withal: the poor is wronged, and he must intreat also.

4: If thou be for his profit, he will use thee: but if thou have nothing, he will forsake thee.

5: If thou have any thing, he will live with thee: yea, he will make thee bare, and will not be sorry for it.

6: If he have need of thee, he will deceive thee, and smile upon thee, and put thee in hope; he will speak thee fair, and say, What wantest thou?

7: And he will shame thee by his meats, until he have drawn thee dry twice or thrice, and at the last he will laugh thee to scorn afterward, when he seeth thee, he will forsake thee, and shake his head at thee.

8: Beware that thou be not deceived and brought down in thy jollity.

9: If thou be invited of a mighty man, withdraw thyself, and so much the more will he invite thee.

10: Press thou not upon him, lest thou be put back; stand not far off, lest thou be forgotten.

11: Affect not to be made equal unto him in talk, and believe not his many words: for with much communication will he tempt thee, and smiling upon thee will get out thy secrets:

12: But cruelly he will lay up thy words, and will not spare to do thee hurt, and to put thee in prison.

13: Observe, and take good heed, for thou walkest in peril of thy overthrowing: when thou hearest these things, awake in thy sleep.

14: Love the Lord all thy life, and call upon him for thy salvation.

15: Every beast loveth his like, and every man loveth his neighbor.

16: All flesh consorteth according to kind, and a man will cleave to his like.

17: What fellowship hath the wolf with the lamb? so the sinner with the godly.

18: What agreement is there between the hyena and a dog? and what peace between the rich and the poor?

19: As the wild ass is the lion's prey in the wilderness: so the rich eat up the poor.

20: As the proud hate humility: so doth the rich abhor the poor.

21: A rich man beginning to fall is held up of his friends: but a poor man being down is thrust away by his friends.

22: When a rich man is fallen, he hath many helpers: he speaketh things not to be spoken, and yet men justify him: the poor man slipped, and yet they rebuked him too; he spake wisely, and could have no place.

23: When a rich man speaketh, every man holdeth his tongue, and, look, what he saith, they extol it to the clouds: but if the poor man speak, they say, What fellow is this? and if he stumble, they will help to overthrow him.

24: Riches are good unto him that hath no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly.

25: The heart of a man changeth his countenance, whether it be for good or evil: and a merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.

26: A cheerful countenance is a token of a heart that is in prosperity; and the finding out of parables is a wearisome labour of the mind.

Ecclesiasticus 14:1-27

- 1: Blessed is the man that hath not slipped with his mouth, and is not pricked with the multitude of sins.
- 2: Blessed is he whose conscience hath not condemned him, and who is not fallen from his hope in the Lord.
- 3: Riches are not comely for a niggard: and what should an envious man do with money?
- 4: He that gathereth by defrauding his own soul gathereth for others, that shall spend his goods riotously.
- 5: He that is evil to himself, to whom will he be good? he shall not take pleasure in his goods.
- 6: There is none worse than he that envieth himself; and this is a recompence of his wickedness.
- 7: And if he doeth good, he doeth it unwillingly; and at the last he will declare his wickedness.
- 8: The envious man hath a wicked eye; he turneth away his face, and despiseth men.
- 9: A covetous man's eye is not satisfied with his portion; and the iniquity of the wicked drieth up his soul.
- 10: A wicked eye envieth [his] bread, and he is a niggard at his table.
- 11: My son, according to thy ability do good to thyself, and give the Lord his due offering.
- 12: Remember that death will not be long in coming, and that the covenant of the grave is not shewed unto thee.
- 13: Do good unto thy friend before thou die, and according to thy ability stretch out thy hand and give to him.
- 14: Defraud not thyself of the good day, and let not the part of a good desire overpass thee.
- 15: Shalt thou not leave thy travails unto another? and thy labours to be divided by lot?
- 16: Give, and take, and sanctify thy soul; for there is no seeking of dainties in the grave.
- 17: All flesh waxeth old as a garment: for the covenant from the beginning is, Thou shalt die the death.
- 18: As of the green leaves on a thick tree, some fall, and some grow; so is the generation of flesh and blood, one cometh to an end, and another is born.
- 19: Every work rotteth and consumeth away, and the worker thereof shall go withal.
- 20: Blessed is the man that doth meditate good things in wisdom, and that reasoneth of holy things by his understanding.

21: He that considereth her ways in his heart shall also have understanding in her secrets.

22: Go after her as one that traceth, and lie in wait in her ways.

23: He that prieth in at her windows shall also hearken at her doors.

24: He that doth lodge near her house shall also fasten a pin in her walls.

25: He shall pitch his tent nigh unto her, and shall lodge in a lodging where good things are.

26: He shall set his children under her shelter, and shall lodge under her branches.

27: By her he shall be covered from heat, and in her glory shall he dwell.

Ecclesiasticus 15:1-20

1: He that feareth the Lord will do good, and he that hath the knowledge of the law shall obtain her.

2: And as a mother shall she meet him, and receive him as a wife married of a virgin.

3: With the bread of understanding shall she feed him, and give him the water of wisdom to drink.

4: He shall be stayed upon her, and shall not be moved; and shall rely upon her, and shall not be confounded.

5: She shall exalt him above his neighbours, and in the midst of the congregation shall she open his mouth.

6: He shall find joy and a crown of gladness, and she shall cause him to inherit an everlasting name.

7: But foolish men shall not attain unto her, and sinners shall not see her.

8: For she is far from pride, and men that are liars cannot remember her.

9: Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, for it was not sent him of the Lord.

10: For praise shall be uttered in wisdom, and the Lord will prosper it.

11: Say not thou, It is through the Lord that I fell away: for thou oughtest not to do the things that he hateth.

12: Say not thou, He hath caused me to err: for he hath no need of the sinful man.

13: The Lord hateth all abomination; and they that fear God love it not.

14: He himself made man from the beginning, and left him in the hand of his counsel;

15: If thou wilt, to keep the commandments, and to perform acceptable faithfulness.

16: He hath set fire and water before thee: stretch forth thy hand unto whether thou wilt.

17: Before man is life and death; and whether him liketh shall be given him.

18: For the wisdom of the Lord is great, and he is mighty in power, and beholdeth all things:

19: And his eyes are upon them that fear him, and he knoweth every work of man.

20: He hath commanded no man to do wickedly, neither hath he given any man licence to sin.

Ecclesiasticus 16:1-30

1: Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children, neither delight in ungodly sons.

2: Though they multiply, rejoice not in them, except the fear of the Lord be with them.

3: Trust not thou in their life, neither respect their multitude: for one that is just is better than a thousand; and better it is to die without children, than to have them that are ungodly.

4: For by one that hath understanding shall the city be replenished: but the kindred of the wicked shall speedily become desolate.

5: Many such things have I seen with mine eyes, and mine ear hath heard greater things than these.

6: In the congregation of the ungodly shall a fire be kindled; and in a rebellious nation wrath is set on fire.

7: He was not pacified toward the old giants, who fell away in the strength of their foolishness.

8: Neither spared he the place where Lot sojourned, but abhorred them for their pride.

9: He pitied not the people of perdition, who were taken away in their sins:

10: Nor the six hundred thousand footmen, who were gathered together in the hardness of their hearts.

11: And if there be one stiffnecked among the people, it is marvel if he escape unpunished: for mercy and wrath are with him; he is mighty to forgive, and to pour out displeasure.

12: As his mercy is great, so is his correction also: he judgeth a man according to his works

13: The sinner shall not escape with his spoils: and the patience of the godly shall not be frustrate.

14: Make way for every work of mercy: for every man shall find according to his works.

15: The Lord hardened Pharaoh, that he should not know him, that his powerful works might be known to the world.

16: His mercy is manifest to every creature; and he hath separated his light from the darkness with an adamant.

17: Say not thou, I will hide myself from the Lord: shall any remember me from above? I shall not be remembered among so many people: for what is my soul among such an infinite number of creatures?

18: Behold, the heaven, and the heaven of heavens, the deep, and the earth, and all that therein is, shall be moved when he shall visit.

19: The mountains also and foundations of the earth be shaken with trembling, when the Lord looketh upon them.

20: No heart can think upon these things worthily: and who is able to conceive his ways?

21: It is a tempest which no man can see: for the most part of his works are hid.

22: Who can declare the works of his justice? or who can endure them? for his covenant is afar off, and the trial of all things is in the end.

23: He that wanteth understanding will think upon vain things: and a foolish man erring imagineth follies.

24: by son, hearken unto me, and learn knowledge, and mark my words with thy heart.

25: I will shew forth doctrine in weight, and declare his knowledge exactly.

26: The works of the Lord are done in judgment from the beginning: and from the time he made them he disposed the parts thereof.

27: He garnished his works for ever, and in his hand are the chief of them unto all generations: they neither labour, nor are weary, nor cease from their works.

28: None of them hindereth another, and they shall never disobey his word.

29: After this the Lord looked upon the earth, and filled it with his blessings.

30: With all manner of living things hath he covered the face thereof; and they shall return into it again.

Ecclesiasticus 17:1-32

- 1: The Lord created man of the earth, and turned him into it again.
- 2: He gave them few days, and a short time, and power also over the things therein.
- 3: He endued them with strength by themselves, and made them according to his image,
- 4: And put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him dominion over beasts and fowls.
- 5: They received the use of the five operations of the Lord, and in the sixth place he imparted them understanding, and in the seventh speech, an interpreter of the cogitations thereof.]
- 6: Counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, ears, and a heart, gave he them to understand.
- 7: Withal he filled them with the knowledge of understanding, and shewed them good and evil.
- 8: He set his eye upon their hearts, that he might shew them the greatness of his works.
- 9: He gave them to glory in his marvellous acts for ever, that they might declare his works with understanding.
- 10: And the elect shall praise his holy name.
- 11: Beside this he gave them knowledge, and the law of life for an heritage.
- 12: He made an everlasting covenant with them, and shewed them his judgments.
- 13: Their eyes saw the majesty of his glory, and their ears heard his glorious voice.
- 14: And he said unto them, Beware of all unrighteousness; and he gave every man commandment concerning his neighbour.
- 15: Their ways are ever before him, and shall not be hid from his eyes.
- 16: Every man from his youth is given to evil; neither could they make to themselves fleshy hearts for stony.
- 17: For in the division of the nations of the whole earth he set a ruler over every people; but Israel is the Lord's portion:
- 18: Whom, being his firstborn, he nourisheth with discipline, and giving him the light of his love doth not forsake him.
- 19: Therefore all their works are as the sun before him, and his eyes are continually upon their ways.
- 20: None of their unrighteous deeds are hid from him, but all their sins are before the Lord
- 21: But the Lord being gracious and knowing his workmanship, neither left nor forsook them, but spared them.
- 22: The alms of a man is as a signet with him, and he will keep the good deeds of man as the apple of the eye, and give repentance to his sons and daughters.

23: Afterwards he will rise up and reward them, and render their recompence upon their heads.

24: But unto them that repent, he granted them return, and comforted those that failed in patience.

25: Return unto the Lord, and forsake thy sins, make thy prayer before his face, and offend less.

26: Turn again to the most High, and turn away from iniquity: for he will lead thee out of darkness into the light of health, and hate thou abomination vehemently.

27: Who shall praise the most High in the grave, instead of them which live and give thanks?

28: Thanksgiving perisheth from the dead, as from one that is not: the living and sound in heart shall praise the Lord.

29: How great is the lovingkindness of the Lord our God, and his compassion unto such as turn unto him in holiness!

30: For all things cannot be in men, because the son of man is not immortal.

31: What is brighter than the sun? yet the light thereof faileth; and flesh and blood will imagine evil.

32: He vieweth the power of the height of heaven; and all men are but earth and ashes.

Ecclesiasticus 18:1-33

- 1: He that liveth for ever Hath created all things in general.
- 2: The Lord only is righteous, and there is none other but he,
- 3: Who governeth the world with the palm of his hand, and all things obey his will: for he is the King of all, by his power dividing holy things among them from profane.
- 4: To whom hath he given power to declare his works? and who shall find out his noble acts?
- 5: Who shall number the strength of his majesty? and who shall also tell out his mercies?
- 6: As for the wondrous works of the Lord, there may nothing be taken from them, neither may any thing be put unto them, neither can the ground of them be found out.
- 7: When a man hath done, then he beginneth; and when he leaveth off, then he shall be doubtful.
- 8: What is man, and whereto serveth he? what is his good, and what is his evil?
- 9: The number of a man's days at the most are an hundred years.
- 10: As a drop of water unto the sea, and a gravelstone in comparison of the sand; so are a thousand years to the days of eternity.
- 11: Therefore is God patient with them, and poureth forth his mercy upon them.
- 12: He saw and perceived their end to be evil; therefore he multiplied his compassion.
- 13: The mercy of man is toward his neighbour; but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh: he reproveth, and nutureth, and teacheth and bringeth again, as a shepherd his flock.
- 14: He hath mercy on them that receive discipline, and that diligently seek after his judgments.
- 15: My son, blemish not thy good deeds, neither use uncomfortable words when thou givest any thing.
- 16: Shall not the dew assuage the heat? so is a word better than a gift.
- 17: Lo, is not a word better than a gift? but both are with a gracious man.
- 18: A fool will upbraid churlishly, and a gift of the envious consumeth the eyes.
- 19: Learn before thou speak, and use physick or ever thou be sick.
- 20: Before judgment examine thyself, and in the day of visitation thou shalt find mercy.
- 21: Humble thyself before thou be sick, and in the time of sins shew repentance.
- 22: Let nothing hinder thee to pay thy vow in due time, and defer not until death to be justified.
- 23: Before thou prayest, prepare thyself; and be not as one that tempteth the Lord.
- 24: Think upon the wrath that shall be at the end, and the time of vengeance, when he shall turn away his face.

25: When thou hast enough, remember the time of hunger: and when thou art rich, think upon poverty and need.

26: From the morning until the evening the time is changed, and all things are soon done before the Lord.

27: A wise man will fear in every thing, and in the day of sinning he will beware of offence: but a fool will not observe time.

28: Every man of understanding knoweth wisdom, and will give praise unto him that found her.

29: They that were of understanding in sayings became also wise themselves, and poured forth exquisite parables.

30: Go not after thy lusts, but refrain thyself from thine appetites.

31: If thou givest thy soul the desires that please her, she will make thee a laughingstock to thine enemies that malign thee.

32: Take not pleasure in much good cheer, neither be tied to the expence thereof.

33: Be not made a beggar by banqueting upon borrowing, when thou hast nothing in thy purse: for thou shalt lie in wait for thine own life, and be talked on.

Ecclesiasticus 19:1-30

- 1: A labouring man that is given to drunkenness shall not be rich: and he that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little.
- 2: Wine and women will make men of understanding to fall away: and he that cleaveth to harlots will become impudent.
- 3: Moths and worms shall have him to heritage, and a bold man shall be taken away.
- 4: He that is hasty to give credit is lightminded; and he that sinneth shall offend against his own soul.
- 5: Whoso taketh pleasure in wickedness shall be condemned: but he that resisteth pleasures crowneth his life.
- 6: He that can rule his tongue shall live without strife; and he that hateth babbling shall have less evil.
- 7: Rehearse not unto another that which is told unto thee, and thou shalt fare never the worse.
- 8: Whether it be to friend or foe, talk not of other men's lives; and if thou canst without offence, reveal them not.
- 9: For he heard and observed thee, and when time cometh he will hate thee.
- 10: If thou hast heard a word, let it die with thee; and be bold, it will not burst thee.
- 11: A fool travaileth with a word, as a woman in labour of a child.
- 12: As an arrow that sticketh in a man's thigh, so is a word within a fool's belly.
- 13: Admonish a friend, it may be he hath not done it: and if he have done it, that he do it no more.
- 14: Admonish thy friend, it may be he hath not said it: and if he have, that he speak it not again.
- 15: Admonish a friend: for many times it is a slander, and believe not every tale.
- 16: There is one that slippeth in his speech, but not from his heart; and who is he that hath not offended with his tongue?
- 17: Admonish thy neighbour before thou threaten him; and not being angry, give place to the law of the most High.
- 18: The fear of the Lord is the first step to be accepted [of him,] and wisdom obtaineth his love.
- 19: The knowledge of the commandments of the Lord is the doctrine of life: and they that do things that please him shall receive the fruit of the tree of immortality.
- 20: The fear of the Lord is all wisdom; and in all wisdom is the performance of the law, and the knowledge of his omnipotency.
- 21: If a servant say to his master, I will not do as it pleaseth thee; though afterward he do it, he angereth him that nourisheth him.

22: The knowledge of wickedness is not wisdom, neither at any time the counsel of sinners prudence.

23: There is a wickedness, and the same an abomination; and there is a fool wanting in wisdom.

24: He that hath small understanding, and feareth God, is better than one that hath much wisdom, and transgresseth the law of the most High.

25: There is an exquisite subtilty, and the same is unjust; and there is one that turneth aside to make judgment appear; and there is a wise man that justifieth in judgment.

26: There is a wicked man that hangeth down his head sadly; but inwardly he is full of deceit,

27: Casting down his countenance, and making as if he heard not: where he is not known, he will do thee a mischief before thou be aware.

28: And if for want of power he be hindered from sinning, yet when he findeth opportunity he will do evil.

29: A man may be known by his look, and one that hath understanding by his countenance, when thou meetest him.

30: A man's attire, and excessive laughter, and gait, shew what he is.

Ecclesiasticus 20:1-32

- 1: There is a reproof that is not comely: again, some man holdeth his tongue, and he is wise.
- 2: It is much better to reprove, than to be angry secretly: and he that confesseth his fault shall be preserved from hurt.
- 3: How good is it, when thou art reproved, to shew repentance! for so shalt thou escape wilful sin.
- 4: As is the lust of an eunuch to deflower a virgin; so is he that executeth judgment with violence.
- 5: There is one that keepeth silence, and is found wise: and another by much babbling becometh hateful.
- 6: Some man holdeth his tongue, because he hath not to answer: and some keepeth silence, knowing his time.
- 7: A wise man will hold his tongue till he see opportunity: but a babbler and a fool will regard no time.
- 8: He that useth many words shall be abhorred; and he that taketh to himself authority therein shall be hated.
- 9: There is a sinner that hath good success in evil things; and there is a gain that turneth to loss.
- 10: There is a gift that shall not profit thee; and there is a gift whose recompence is double.
- 11: There is an abasement because of glory; and there is that lifteth up his head from a low estate.
- 12: There is that buyeth much for a little, and repayeth it sevenfold.
- 13: A wise man by his words maketh him beloved: but the graces of fools shall be poured out.
- 14: The gift of a fool shall do thee no good when thou hast it; neither yet of the envious for his necessity: for he looketh to receive many things for one.
- 15: He giveth little, and upbraideth much; he openeth his mouth like a crier; to day he lendeth, and to morrow will he ask it again: such an one is to be hated of God and man.
- 16: The fool saith, I have no friends, I have no thank for all my good deeds, and they that eat my bread speak evil of me.
- 17: How oft, and of how many shall he be laughed to scorn! for he knoweth not aright what it is to have; and it is all one unto him as if he had it not.
- 18: To slip upon a pavement is better than to slip with the tongue: so the fall of the wicked shall come speedily.
- 19: An unseasonable tale will always be in the mouth of the unwise.

20: A wise sentence shall be rejected when it cometh out of a fool's mouth; for he will not speak it in due season.

21: There is that is hindered from sinning through want: and when he taketh rest, he shall not be troubled.

22: There is that destroyeth his own soul through bashfulness, and by accepting of persons overthroweth himself.

23: There is that for bashfulness promiseth to his friend, and maketh him his enemy for nothing.

24: A lie is a foul blot in a man, yet it is continually in the mouth of the untaught.

25: A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie: but they both shall have destruction to heritage.

26: The disposition of a liar is dishonourable, and his shame is ever with him.

27: A wise man shall promote himself to honour with his words: and he that hath understanding will please great men.

28: He that tilleth his land shall increase his heap: and he that pleaseth great men shall get pardon for iniquity.

29: Presents and gifts blind the eyes of the wise, and stop up his mouth that he cannot reprove.

30: Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what profit is in them both?

31: Better is he that hideth his folly than a man that hideth his wisdom.

32: Necessary patience in seeking the Lord is better than he that leadeth his life without a guide.

Ecclesiasticus 21:1-28

- 1: My son, hast thou sinned? do so no more, but ask pardon for thy former sins.
- 2: Flee from sin as from the face of a serpent: for if thou comest too near it, it will bite thee: the teeth thereof are as the teeth of a lion, slaying the souls of men.
- 3: All iniquity is as a two edged sword, the wounds whereof cannot be healed.
- 4: To terrify and do wrong will waste riches: thus the house of proud men shall be made desolate.
- 5: A prayer out of a poor man's mouth reacheth to the ears of God, and his judgment cometh speedily.
- 6: He that hateth to be reproved is in the way of sinners: but he that feareth the Lord will repent from his heart.
- 7: An eloquent man is known far and near; but a man of understanding knoweth when he slippeth.
- 8: He that buildeth his house with other men's money is like one that gathereth himself stones for the tomb of his burial.
- 9: The congregation of the wicked is like tow wrapped together: and the end of them is a flame of fire to destroy them.
- 10: The way of sinners is made plain with stones, but at the end thereof is the pit of hell.
- 11: He that keepeth the law of the Lord getteth the understanding thereof: and the perfection of the fear of the Lord is wisdom.
- 12: He that is not wise will not be taught: but there is a wisdom which multiplieth bitterness.
- 13: The knowledge of a wise man shall abound like a flood: and his counsel is like a pure fountain of life.
- 14: The inner parts of a fool are like a broken vessel, and he will hold no knowledge as long as he liveth.
- 15: If a skilful man hear a wise word, he will commend it, and add unto it: but as soon as one of no understanding heareth it, it displeaseth him, and he casteth it behind his back.
- 16: The talking of a fool is like a burden in the way: but grace shall be found in the lips of the wise.
- 17: They enquire at the mouth of the wise man in the congregation, and they shall ponder his words in their heart.
- 18: As is a house that is destroyed, so is wisdom to a fool: and the knowledge of the unwise is as talk without sense.
- 19: Doctrine unto fools is as fetters on the feet, and like manacles on the right hand.
- 20: A fool lifteth up his voice with laughter; but a wise man doth scarce smile a little.

21: Learning is unto a wise man as an ornament of gold, and like a bracelet upon his right arm.

22: A foolish man's foot is soon in his [neighbour's] house: but a man of experience is ashamed of him.

23: A fool will peep in at the door into the house: but he that is well nurtured will stand without.

24: It is the rudeness of a man to hearken at the door: but a wise man will be grieved with the disgrace.

25: The lips of talkers will be telling such things as pertain not unto them: but the words of such as have understanding are weighed in the balance.

26: The heart of fools is in their mouth: but the mouth of the wise is in their heart.

27: When the ungodly curseth Satan, he curseth his own soul.

28: A whisperer defileth his own soul, and is hated wheresoever he dwelleth.

Ecclesiasticus 22:1-27

- 1: A slothful man is compared to a filthy stone, and every one will hiss him out to his disgrace.
- 2: A slothful man is compared to the filth of a dunghill: every man that takes it up will shake his hand.
- 3: An evilnurtured man is the dishonour of his father that begat him: and a [foolish] daughter is born to his loss.
- 4: A wise daughter shall bring an inheritance to her husband: but she that liveth dishonestly is her father's heaviness.
- 5: She that is bold dishonoureth both her father and her husband, but they both shall despise her.
- 6: A tale out of season [is as] musick in mourning: but stripes and correction of wisdom are never out of time.
- 7: Whoso teacheth a fool is as one that glueth a potsherd together, and as he that waketh one from a sound sleep.
- 8: He that telleth a tale to a fool speaketh to one in a slumber: when he hath told his tale, he will say, What is the matter?
- 9: If children live honestly, and have wherewithal, they shall cover the baseness of their parents.
- 10: But children, being haughty, through disdain and want of nurture do stain the nobility of their kindred.
- 11: Weep for the dead, for he hath lost the light: and weep for the fool, for he wanteth understanding: make little weeping for the dead, for he is at rest: but the life of the fool is worse than death.
- 12: Seven days do men mourn for him that is dead; but for a fool and an ungodly man all the days of his life.
- 13: Talk not much with a fool, and go not to him that hath no understanding: beware of him, lest thou have trouble, and thou shalt never be defiled with his fooleries: depart from him, and thou shalt find rest, and never be disquieted with madness.
- 14: What is heavier than lead? and what is the name thereof, but a fool?
- 15: Sand, and salt, and a mass of iron, is easier to bear, than a man without understanding.
- 16: As timber girt and bound together in a building cannot be loosed with shaking: so the heart that is stablished by advised counsel shall fear at no time.
- 17: A heart settled upon a thought of understanding is as a fair plaistering on the wall of a gallery.

18: Pales set on an high place will never stand against the wind: so a fearful heart in the imagination of a fool cannot stand against any fear.

19: He that pricketh the eye will make tears to fall: and he that pricketh the heart maketh it to shew her knowledge.

20: Whoso casteth a stone at the birds frayeth them away: and he that upbraideth his friend breaketh friendship.

21: Though thou drewest a sword at thy friend, yet despair not: for there may be a returning [to favour.]

22: If thou hast opened thy mouth against thy friend, fear not; for there may be a reconciliation: except for upbraiding, or pride, or disclosing of secrets, or a treacherous wound: for for these things every friend will depart.

23: Be faithful to thy neighbour in his poverty, that thou mayest rejoice in his prosperity: abide stedfast unto him in the time of his trouble, that thou mayest be heir with him in his heritage: for a mean estate is not always to be contemned: nor the rich that is foolish to be had in admiration.

24: As the vapour and smoke of a furnace goeth before the fire; so reviling before blood.

25: I will not be ashamed to defend a friend; neither will I hide myself from him.

26: And if any evil happen unto me by him, every one that heareth it will beware of him.

27: Who shall set a watch before my mouth, and a seal of wisdom upon my lips, that I fall not suddenly by them, and that my tongue destroy me not?

Ecclesiasticus 23:1-28

1: O Lord, Father and Governor of all my whole life, leave me not to their counsels, and let me not fall by them.

2: Who will set scourges over my thoughts, and the discipline of wisdom over mine heart? that they spare me not for mine ignorances, and it pass not by my sins:

3: Lest mine ignorances increase, and my sins abound to my destruction, and I fall before mine adversaries, and mine enemy rejoice over me, whose hope is far from thy mercy.

4: O Lord, Father and God of my life, give me not a proud look, but turn away from thy servants always a haughty mind.

5: Turn away from me vain hopes and concupiscence, and thou shalt hold him up that is desirous always to serve thee.

6: Let not the greediness of the belly nor lust of the flesh take hold of me; and give not over me thy servant into an impudent mind.

7: Hear, O ye children, the discipline of the mouth: he that keepeth it shall never be taken in his lips.

8: The sinner shall be left in his foolishness: both the evil speaker and the proud shall fall thereby.

9: Accustom not thy mouth to swearing; neither use thyself to the naming of the Holy One.

10: For as a servant that is continually beaten shall not be without a blue mark: so he that sweareth and nameth God continually shall not be faultless.

11: A man that useth much swearing shall be filled with iniquity, and the plague shall never depart from his house: if he shall offend, his sin shall be upon him: and if he acknowledge not his sin, he maketh a double offence: and if he swear in vain, he shall not be innocent, but his house shall be full of calamities.

12: There is a word that is clothed about with death: God grant that it be not found in the heritage of Jacob; for all such things shall be far from the godly, and they shall not wallow in their sins.

13: Use not thy mouth to intemperate swearing, for therein is the word of sin.

14: Remember thy father and thy mother, when thou sittest among great men. Be not forgetful before them, and so thou by thy custom become a fool, and wish that thou hadst not been born, and curse they day of thy nativity.

15: The man that is accustomed to opprobrious words will never be reformed all the days of his life.

16: Two sorts of men multiply sin, and the third will bring wrath: a hot mind is as a burning fire, it will never be quenched till it be consumed: a fornicator in the body of his flesh will never cease till he hath kindled a fire.

17: All bread is sweet to a whoremonger, he will not leave off till he die.

18: A man that breaketh wedlock, saying thus in his heart, Who seeth me? I am compassed about with darkness, the walls cover me, and no body seeth me; what need I to fear? the most High will not remember my sins:

19: Such a man only feareth the eyes of men, and knoweth not that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun, beholding all the ways of men, and considering the most secret parts.

20: He knew all things ere ever they were created; so also after they were perfected he looked upon them all.

21: This man shall be punished in the streets of the city, and where he suspecteth not he shall be taken.

22: Thus shall it go also with the wife that leaveth her husband, and bringeth in an heir by another.

23: For first, she hath disobeyed the law of the most High; and secondly, she hath trespassed against her own husband; and thirdly, she hath played the whore in adultery, and brought children by another man.

24: She shall be brought out into the congregation, and inquisition shall be made of her children.

25: Her children shall not take root, and her branches shall bring forth no fruit.

26: She shall leave her memory to be cursed, and her reproach shall not be blotted out.

27: And they that remain shall know that there is nothing better than the fear of the Lord, and that there is nothing sweeter than to take heed unto the commandments of the Lord.

28: It is great glory to follow the Lord, and to be received of him is long life.

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-34

- 1: Wisdom shall praise herself, and shall glory in the midst of her people.
- 2: In the congregation of the most High shall she open her mouth, and triumph before his power.
- 3: I came out of the mouth of the most High, and covered the earth as a cloud.
- 4: I dwelt in high places, and my throne is in a cloudy pillar.
- 5: I alone compassed the circuit of heaven, and walked in the bottom of the deep.
- 6: In the waves of the sea and in all the earth, and in every people and nation, I got a possession.
- 7: With all these I sought rest: and in whose inheritance shall I abide?
- 8: So the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and he that made me caused my tabernacle to rest, and said, Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel.
- 9: He created me from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail.
- 10: In the holy tabernacle I served before him; and so was I established in Sion.
- 11: Likewise in the beloved city he gave me rest, and in Jerusalem was my power.
- 12: And I took root in an honourable people, even in the portion of the Lord's inheritance.
- 13: I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cypress tree upon the mountains of Hermon.
- 14: I was exalted like a palm tree in En-gaddi, and as a rose plant in Jericho, as a fair olive tree in a pleasant field, and grew up as a plane tree by the water.
- 15: I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon and aspalathus, and I yielded a pleasant odour like the best myrrh, as galbanum, and onyx, and sweet storax, and as the fume of frankincense in the tabernacle.
- 16: As the turpentine tree I stretched out my branches, and my branches are the branches of honour and grace.
- 17: As the vine brought I forth pleasant savour, and my flowers are the fruit of honour and riches.
- 18: I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and holy hope: I therefore, being eternal, am given to all my children which are named of him.
- 19: Come unto me, all ye that be desirous of me, and fill yourselves with my fruits.
- 20: For my memorial is sweeter than honey, and mine inheritance than the honeycomb.
- 21: They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.
- 22: He that obeyeth me shall never be confounded, and they that work by me shall not do amiss.

23: All these things are the book of the covenant of the most high God, even the law which Moses commanded for an heritage unto the congregations of Jacob.

24: Faint not to be strong in the Lord; that he may confirm you, cleave unto him: for the Lord Almighty is God alone, and beside him there is no other Saviour.

25: He filleth all things with his wisdom, as Phison and as Tigris in the time of the new fruits.

26: He maketh the understanding to abound like Euphrates, and as Jordan in the time of the harvest.

27: He maketh the doctrine of knowledge appear as the light, and as Geon in the time of vintage.

28: The first man knew her not perfectly: no more shall the last find her out.

29: For her thoughts are more than the sea, and her counsels profounder than the great deep.

30: I also came out as a brook from a river, and as a conduit into a garden.

31: I said, I will water my best garden, and will water abundantly my garden bed: and, lo, my brook became a river, and my river became a sea.

32: I will yet make doctrine to shine as the morning, and will send forth her light afar off.

33: I will yet pour out doctrine as prophecy, and leave it to all ages for ever.

34: Behold that I have not laboured for myself only, but for all them that seek wisdom.

Ecclesiasticus 25:1-26

1: In three things I was beautified, and stood up beautiful both before God and men: the unity of brethren, the love of neighbours, a man and a wife that agree together.

2: Three sorts of men my soul hateth, and I am greatly offended at their life: a poor man that is proud, a rich man that is a liar, and an old adulterer that doateth.

3: If thou hast gathered nothing in thy youth, how canst thou find any thing in thine age?

4: O how comely a thing is judgment for gray hairs, and for ancient men to know counsel!

5: O how comely is the wisdom of old men, and understanding and counsel to men of honour.

6: Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their glory.

7: There be nine things which I have judged in mine heart to be happy, and the tenth I will utter with my tongue: A man that hath joy of his children; and he that liveth to see the fall of his enemy:

8: Well is him that dwelleth with a wife of understanding, and that hath not slipped with his tongue, and that hath not served a man more unworthy than himself:

9: Well is him that hath found prudence, and he that speaketh in the ears of them that will hear:

10: O how great is he that findeth wisdom! yet is there none above him that feareth the Lord.

11: But the love of the Lord passeth all things for illumination: he that holdeth it, whereto shall he be likened?

12: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of his love: and faith is the beginning of cleaving unto him.

13: [Give me] any plague, but the plague of the heart: and any wickedness, but the wickedness of a woman:

14: And any affliction, but the affliction from them that hate me: and any revenge, but the revenge of enemies.

15: There is no head above the head of a serpent; and there is no wrath above the wrath of an enemy.

16: I had rather dwell with a lion and a dragon, than to keep house with a wicked woman.

17: The wickedness of a woman changeth her face, and darkeneth her countenance like sackcloth.

18: Her husband shall sit among his neighbours; and when he heareth it shall sigh bitterly.

19: All wickedness is but little to the wickedness of a woman: let the portion of a sinner fall upon her.

20: As the climbing up a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is a wife full of words to a quiet man.

21: Stumble not at the beauty of a woman, and desire her not for pleasure.

22: A woman, if she maintain her husband, is full of anger, impudence, and much reproach.

23: A wicked woman abateth the courage, maketh an heavy countenance and a wounded heart: a woman that will not comfort her husband in distress maketh weak hands and feeble knees.

24: Of the woman came the beginning of sin, and through her we all die.

25: Give the water no passage; neither a wicked woman liberty to gad abroad.

26: If she go not as thou wouldest have her, cut her off from thy flesh, and give her a bill of divorce, and let her go.