

Revised Standard Version – Greek OT Order

Psalms

~The Righteous and the Wicked Contrasted. [1:1] Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; [1:2] but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. [1:3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. [1:4] The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. [1:5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; [1:6] for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

~Folly and Wickedness of Men. [14:1] The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none that does good. [14:2] The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that act wisely, that seek after God. [14:3] They have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good, no, not one. [14:4] Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the LORD? [14:5] There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous. [14:6] You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge. [14:7] O that deliverance for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, Israel shall be glad.

~The Works and the Word of God. [19:1] The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. [19:2] Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. [19:3] There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; [19:4] yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, [19:5] which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. [19:6] Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and there is nothing hid from its heat. [19:7] The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; [19:8] the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; [19:9] the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. [19:10] More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. [19:11] Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. [19:12] But who can discern his errors? Clear thou me from hidden faults. [19:13] Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. [19:14] **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

~A Cry of Anguish and a Song of Praise. [22:1] **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** Why art thou so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? [22:2] O my God, I cry by day, but thou dost not answer; and by night, but find no rest. [22:3] Yet thou art holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. [22:4] In thee our fathers trusted; they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. [22:5] To thee they cried, and were saved; in thee they trusted, and were not disappointed. [22:6] But I am a worm, and no man; scorned by men, and despised by the people. [22:7] All who see me mock at me, they make mouths at me, they wag their heads; [22:8] "He committed his cause to the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" [22:9] Yet thou art he who took me from the womb; thou didst keep me safe upon my mother's breasts. [22:10] Upon thee was I cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me thou hast been my God. [22:11] Be not far from me, for trouble is near and there is none to help. [22:12] Many bulls encompass me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; [22:13] they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. [22:14] I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is melted within my breast; [22:15] my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; thou dost lay me in the dust of death. [22:16] Yea, dogs are round about me; a company of evildoers encircle me; they have pierced my hands and feet - [22:17] I can count all my bones - they stare and gloat over me; [22:18] they divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots. [22:19] But thou, O LORD, be not far off! O thou my help, hasten to my aid! [22:20] Deliver

my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! [22:21] Save me from the mouth of the lion, my afflicted soul from the horns of the wild oxen! [22:22] I will tell of thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee: [22:23] You who fear the LORD, praise him! all you sons of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you sons of Israel! [22:24] For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; and he has not hid his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. [22:25] From thee comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. [22:26] The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live for ever! [22:27] All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. [22:28] For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. [22:29] Yea, to him shall all the proud of the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and he who cannot keep himself alive. [22:30] Posterity shall serve him; men shall tell of the Lord to the coming generation, [22:31] and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, that he has wrought it.

~The LORD, the Psalmist's Shepherd. [23:1] The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; [23:2] he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; [23:3] he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [23:4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. [23:5] Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. [23:6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

~The LORD, a Provider and Deliverer. [34:1] I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. [34:2] My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and be glad. [34:3] O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! [34:4] I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. [34:5] Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. [34:6] This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. [34:7] The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. [34:8] O taste and see that the LORD is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in him! [34:9] O fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no want! [34:10] The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. [34:11] Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the LORD. [34:12] What man is there who desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? [34:13] Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. [34:14] Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. [34:15] The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. [34:16] The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. [34:17] When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. [34:18] The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. [34:19] Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the LORD delivers him out of them all. [34:20] He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. [34:21] Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. [34:22] The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

~Folly and Wickedness of Men. [53:1] The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none that does good. [53:2] God looks down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any that are wise, that seek after God. [53:3] They have all fallen away; they are all alike depraved; there is none that does good, no, not one. [53:4] Have those who work evil no understanding, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon God? [53:5] There they are, in great terror, in terror such as has not been! For God will scatter the bones of the ungodly; they will be put to shame, for God has rejected them. [53:6] O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When God restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

~The God of Sinai and of the Sanctuary. [68:1] Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him! [68:2] As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before fire, let the wicked perish before God! [68:3] But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy! [68:4] Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds; his name is the LORD, exult before him! [68:5] Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. [68:6] God gives the desolate a home to dwell in; he leads out the prisoners to

prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. [68:7] O God, when thou didst go forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness, Selah [68:8] the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, at the presence of God; yon Sinai quaked at the presence of God, the God of Israel. [68:9] Rain in abundance, O God, thou didst shed abroad; thou didst restore thy heritage as it languished; [68:10] thy flock found a dwelling in it; in thy goodness, O God, thou didst provide for the needy. [68:11] The Lord gives the command; great is the host of those who bore the tidings: [68:12] "The kings of the armies, they flee, they flee!" The women at home divide the spoil, [68:13] though they stay among the sheepfolds - the wings of a dove covered with silver, its pinions with green gold. [68:14] When the Almighty scattered kings there, snow fell on Zalmon. [68:15] O mighty mountain, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan! [68:16] Why look you with envy, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount which God desired for his abode, yea, where the LORD will dwell for ever? [68:17] With mighty chariotry, twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands, the Lord came from Sinai into the holy place. [68:18] Thou didst ascend the high mount, leading captives in thy train, and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there. [68:19] Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah [68:20] Our God is a God of salvation; and to GOD, the Lord, belongs escape from death. [68:21] But God will shatter the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways. [68:22] The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea, [68:23] that you may bathe your feet in blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe." [68:24] Thy solemn processions are seen, O God, the processions of my God, my King, into the sanctuary - [68:25] the singers in front, the minstrels last, between them maidens playing timbrels: [68:26] "Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O you who are of Israel's fountain!" [68:27] There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in their throng, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali. [68:28] Summon thy might, O God; show thy strength, O God, thou who hast wrought for us. [68:29] Because of thy temple at Jerusalem kings bear gifts to thee. [68:30] Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample under foot those who lust after tribute; scatter the peoples who delight in war. [68:31] Let bronze be brought from Egypt; let Ethiopia hasten to stretch out her hands to God. [68:32] Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, Selah [68:33] to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; lo, he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice. [68:34] Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and his power is in the skies. [68:35] Terrible is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel, he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

~A Call to Praise the LORD for His Righteousness. [98:1] O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. [98:2] The LORD has made known his victory, he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. [98:3] He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. [98:4] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! [98:5] Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! [98:6] With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! [98:7] Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! [98:8] Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together [98:9] before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

~Praise for the LORD'S Mercies. [103:1] Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! [103:2] Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, [103:3] who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, [103:4] who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, [103:5] who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. [103:6] The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. [103:7] He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. [103:8] The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. [103:9] He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger for ever. [103:10] He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. [103:11] For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; [103:12] as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. [103:13] As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear him. [103:14] For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. [103:15] As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; [103:16] for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. [103:17] But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, [103:18] to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. [103:19] The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. [103:20] Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! [103:21] Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will! [103:22] Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

~The LORD Gives Dominion to the King. [110:1] The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool." [110:2] The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your foes! [110:3] Your people will offer themselves freely on the day you lead your host upon the holy mountains. From the womb of the morning like dew your youth will come to you. [110:4] The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." [110:5] The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. [110:6] He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. [110:7] He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

~Hope in the LORD'S Forgiving Love. [130:1] Out of the depths I cry to thee, O LORD! [130:2] Lord, hear my voice! Let thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! [130:3] If thou, O LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? [130:4] But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. [130:5] I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; [130:6] my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. [130:7] O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption. [130:8] And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

~An Experience of the Captivity. [137:1] By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. [137:2] On the willows there we hung up our lyres. [137:3] For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" [137:4] How shall we sing the lord's song in a foreign land? [137:5] If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! [137:6] Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! [137:7] Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Rase it, rase it! Down to its foundations!" [137:8] O daughter of Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall he be who requites you with what you have done to us! [137:9] **Happy shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!**

~A Psalm of Praise. [150:1] Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! [150:2] Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his exceeding greatness! [150:3] Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! [150:4] Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! [150:5] Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! [150:6] Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 151

[Psalm 151:1] I was small among my brothers, and youngest in my father's house; I tended my father's sheep. [Psalm 151:2] My hands made a harp, my fingers fashioned a lyre. [Psalm 151:3] And who will declare it to my Lord? The Lord himself; it is he who hears. [Psalm 151:4] It was he who sent his messenger and took me from my father's sheep, and anointed me with his anointing oil. [Psalm 151:5] My brothers were handsome and tall, but the Lord was not pleased with them. [Psalm 151:6] I went out to meet the Philistine, and he cursed me by his idols. [Psalm 151:7] But I drew his own sword; I beheaded him, and removed reproach from the people of Israel.

Job

~Job's Character and Wealth [1:1] There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil. [1:2] There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. [1:3] He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. [1:4] His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each on his day; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. [1:5] And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually. [1:6] Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. [1:7] The LORD said to Satan, "Whence have you come?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." [1:8] And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" [1:9] Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nought? [1:10] Hast thou not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. [1:11] But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face." [1:12] And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself do not put forth your hand." So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

~Satan Allowed to Test Job [1:13] Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; [1:14] and there came a messenger to Job, and said, "The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them; [1:15] and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." [1:16] While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you." [1:17] While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The Chaldeans formed three companies, and made a raid upon the camels and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." [1:18] While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; [1:19] and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you." [1:20] Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshiped. [1:21] And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." [1:22] In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

~Job Loses His Health [2:1] Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. [2:2] And the LORD said to Satan, "Whence have you come?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." [2:3] And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause." [2:4] Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. [2:5] But put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face." [2:6] And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power; only spare his life." [2:7] So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD, and afflicted Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. [2:8] And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. [2:9] Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God, and die." [2:10] But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. [2:11] Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to condole with him and comfort him. [2:12] And when they saw him from afar, they did not recognize him; and they raised their voices and wept; and they rent their robes and sprinkled dust upon

their heads toward heaven. [2:13] And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

~Job's Lament [3:1] After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. [3:2] And Job said: [3:3] "Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night which said, 'A man-child is conceived.' [3:4] Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it. [3:5] Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. [3:6] That night - let thick darkness seize it! let it not rejoice among the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months. [3:7] Yea, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry be heard in it. [3:8] Let those curse it who curse the day, who are skilled to rouse up Leviathan. [3:9] Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning; [3:10] because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes. [3:11] "Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire? [3:12] Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should suck? [3:13] For then I should have lain down and been quiet; I should have slept; then I should have been at rest, [3:14] with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, [3:15] or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. [3:16] Or why was I not as a hidden untimely birth, as infants that never see the light? [3:17] There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. [3:18] There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster. [3:19] The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master. [3:20] "Why is light given to him that is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, [3:21] who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hid treasures; [3:22] who rejoice exceedingly, and are glad, when they find the grave? [3:23] Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, whom God has hedged in? [3:24] For my sighing comes as my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. [3:25] For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. [3:26] I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest; but trouble comes."

Chapters 4-37: Job's discussions with his friends

~God Speaks Now to Job [38:1] Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: [38:2] "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? [38:3] Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. [38:4] "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. [38:5] Who determined its measurements - surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? [38:6] On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, [38:7] when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? [38:8] "Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth from the womb; [38:9] when I made clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, [38:10] and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, [38:11] and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?

~God's Mighty Power [38:12] "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, [38:13] that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? [38:14] It is changed like clay under the seal, and it is dyed like a garment. [38:15] From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. [38:16] "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? [38:17] Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? [38:18] Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. [38:19] "Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, [38:20] that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? [38:21] You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! [38:22] "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, [38:23] which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? [38:24] What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? [38:25] "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, [38:26] to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man; [38:27] to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground put forth grass? [38:28] "Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? [38:29] From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven? [38:30] The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. [38:31] "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? [38:32] Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their

season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? [38:33] Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? [38:34] "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? [38:35] Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? [38:36] Who has put wisdom in the clouds, or given understanding to the mists? [38:37] Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, [38:38] when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cleave fast together? [38:39] "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, [38:40] when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? [38:41] Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

~God Speaks of Nature and Its Beings [39:1] "Do you know when the mountain goats bring forth? Do you observe the calving of the hinds? [39:2] Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they bring forth, [39:3] when they crouch, bring forth their offspring, and are delivered of their young? [39:4] Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. [39:5] "Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, [39:6] to whom I have given the steppe for his home, and the salt land for his dwelling place? [39:7] He scorns the tumult of the city; he hears not the shouts of the driver. [39:8] He ranges the mountains as his pasture, and he searches after every green thing. [39:9] "Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your crib? [39:10] Can you bind him in the furrow with ropes, or will he harrow the valleys after you? [39:11] Will you depend on him because his strength is great, and will you leave to him your labor? [39:12] Do you have faith in him that he will return, and bring your grain to your threshing floor? [39:13] "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly; but are they the pinions and plumage of love? [39:14] For she leaves her eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, [39:15] forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that the wild beast may trample them. [39:16] She deals cruelly with her young, as if they were not hers; though her labor be in vain, yet she has no fear; [39:17] because God has made her forget wisdom, and given her no share in understanding. [39:18] When she rouses herself to flee, she laughs at the horse and his rider. [39:19] "Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with strength? [39:20] Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrible. [39:21] He paws in the valley, and exults in his strength; he goes out to meet the weapons. [39:22] He laughs at fear, and is not dismayed; he does not turn back from the sword. [39:23] Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear and the javelin. [39:24] With fierceness and rage he swallows the ground; he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet. [39:25] When the trumpet sounds, he says 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting. [39:26] "Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads his wings toward the south? [39:27] Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high? [39:28] On the rock he dwells and makes his home in the fastness of the rocky crag. [39:29] Thence he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it afar off. [39:30] His young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there is he."

~Job: What Can I Say? [40:1] And the LORD said to Job: [40:2] "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it." [40:3] Then Job answered the LORD: [40:4] "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer thee? I lay my hand on my mouth. [40:5] I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further."

~God Questions Job [40:6] Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: [40:7] "Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you declare to me. [40:8] Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be justified? [40:9] Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? [40:10] "Deck yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor. [40:11] Pour forth the overflowings of your anger, and look on every one that is proud, and abase him. [40:12] Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked where they stand. [40:13] Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. [40:14] Then will I also acknowledge to you, that your own right hand can give you victory.

~God's Power Shown in Creatures [40:15] "Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. [40:16] Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. [40:17] He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. [40:18] His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron. [40:19] "He is the first of the works of God; let him who made him bring near his sword! [40:20] For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play. [40:21] Under the lotus plants he lies, in the covert of the reeds and in the marsh. [40:22] For his shade the lotus

trees cover him; the willows of the brook surround him. [40:23] Behold, if the river is turbulent he is not frightened; he is confident though Jordan rushes against his mouth. [40:24] Can one take him with hooks, or pierce his nose with a snare?

~God's Power Shown in Creatures [41:1] "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or press down his tongue with a cord? [41:2] Can you put a rope in his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? [41:3] Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak to you soft words? [41:4] Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant for ever? [41:5] Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on leash for your maidens? [41:6] Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? [41:7] Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? [41:8] Lay hands on him; think of the battle; you will not do it again! [41:9] Behold, the hope of a man is disappointed; he is laid low even at the sight of him. [41:10] No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he that can stand before me? [41:11] Who has given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine. [41:12] "I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, or his mighty strength, or his goodly frame. [41:13] Who can strip off his outer garment? Who can penetrate his double coat of mail? [41:14] Who can open the doors of his face? Round about his teeth is terror. [41:15] His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal. [41:16] One is so near to another that no air can come between them. [41:17] They are joined one to another; they clasp each other and cannot be separated. [41:18] His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn. [41:19] Out of his mouth go flaming torches; sparks of fire leap forth. [41:20] Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. [41:21] His breath kindles coals, and a flame comes forth from his mouth. [41:22] In his neck abides strength, and terror dances before him. [41:23] The folds of his flesh cleave together, firmly cast upon him and immovable. [41:24] His heart is hard as a stone, hard as the nether millstone. [41:25] When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves. [41:26] Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail; nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin. [41:27] He counts iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. [41:28] The arrow cannot make him flee; for him slingstones are turned to stubble. [41:29] Clubs are counted as stubble; he laughs at the rattle of javelins. [41:30] His underparts are like sharp potsherds; he spreads himself like a threshing sledge on the mire. [41:31] He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. [41:32] Behind him he leaves a shining wake; one would think the deep to be hoary. [41:33] Upon earth there is not his like, a creature without fear. [41:34] He beholds everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride."

~Job's Confession [42:1] Then Job answered the LORD: [42:2] "I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be thwarted. [42:3] 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. [42:4] 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' [42:5] I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee; [42:6] therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

~God Displeased with Job's Friends [42:7] After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. [42:8] Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." [42:9] So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the LORD had told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

~God Restores Job's Fortunes [42:10] And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. [42:11] Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house; and they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold. [42:12] And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she-asses. [42:13] He had also seven sons and three daughters. [42:14] And he called the name of the first Jemimah; and the name of the second Keziah; and the name of the

third Kerenhappuch. [42:15] And in all the land there were no women so fair as Job's daughters; and their father gave them inheritance among their brothers. [42:16] And after this Job lived a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. [42:17] And Job died, an old man, and full of days, and it is written that he will rise again with those whom the Lord raises up.

(42:17B) This man is described in the Syriac book as living in the land of Ausis, on the borders of Idumea and Arabia: and his name before was Jobab; (42:17C) and having taken an Arabian wife, he begot a son whose name was Ennon. And he himself was the son of his father Zare, one of the sons of Esau, and of his mother Bosorrha, so that he was the fifth from Abraham. (42:17D) And these were the kings who reigned in Edom, which country he also ruled over: first, Balak, the son of Beor, and the name of his city was Dennaba: but after Balak, Jobab, who is called Job, and after him Asom, who was governor out of the country of Thaeman: and after him Adad, the son of Barad, who destroyed Midian in the plain of Moab; and the name of his city was Gethaim. (42:17E) And his friends who came to him were Eliphaz, of the children of Esau, king of the Thaemanites, Bildad sovof the Sauchaeans, Zophar king of the Minaeans.

Proverbs

~The Usefulness of Proverbs [1:1] The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: [1:2] That men may know wisdom and instruction, understand words of insight, [1:3] receive instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; [1:4] that prudence may be given to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth - [1:5] the wise man also may hear and increase in learning, and the man of understanding acquire skill, [1:6] to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. [1:7] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

~The Enticement of Sinners [1:8] Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; [1:9] for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck. [1:10] My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. [1:11] If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood, let us wantonly ambush the innocent; [1:12] like Sheol let us swallow them alive and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; [1:13] we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with spoil; [1:14] throw in your lot among us, we will all have one purse" - [1:15] my son, do not walk in the way with them, hold back your foot from their paths; [1:16] for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. [1:17] For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird; [1:18] but these men lie in wait for their own blood, they set an ambush for their own lives. [1:19] Such are the ways of all who get gain by violence; it takes away the life of its possessors.

~Wisdom Warns [1:20] Wisdom cries aloud in the street; in the markets she raises her voice; [1:21] on the top of the walls she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks; [1:22] "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? [1:23] Give heed to my reproof; behold, I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. [1:24] Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, [1:25] and you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, [1:26] I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, [1:27] when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. [1:28] Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. [1:29] Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, [1:30] would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, [1:31] therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. [1:32] For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; [1:33] but he who listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of evil."

~The Pursuit of Wisdom Brings Security [2:1] My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, [2:2] making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; [2:3] yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, [2:4] if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures; [2:5] then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. [2:6] For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; [2:7] he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, [2:8] guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his saints. [2:9] Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; [2:10] for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; [2:11] discretion will watch over you; understanding will guard you; [2:12] delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, [2:13] who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, [2:14] who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil; [2:15] men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. [2:16] You will be saved from the loose woman, from the adventuress with her smooth words, [2:17] who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; [2:18] for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the shades; [2:19] none who go to her come back nor do they regain the paths of life. [2:20] So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. [2:21] For the upright will inhabit the land, and men of integrity will remain in it; [2:22] but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

~The Rewards of Wisdom [3:1] My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; [3:2] for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you. [3:3] Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them on the tablet of your

heart. [3:4] So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man. [3:5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. [3:6] In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. [3:7] Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. [3:8] It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. [3:9] Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; [3:10] then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. [3:11] My son, do not despise the lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, [3:12] for the LORD reproofs him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. [3:13] Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding, [3:14] for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and its profit better than gold. [3:15] She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. [3:16] Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. [3:17] Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. [3:18] She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy. [3:19] The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; [3:20] by his knowledge the deeps broke forth, and the clouds drop down the dew. [3:21] My son, keep sound wisdom and discretion; let them not escape from your sight, [3:22] and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. [3:23] Then you will walk on your way securely and your foot will not stumble. [3:24] If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. [3:25] Do not be afraid of sudden panic, or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes; [3:26] for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. [3:27] Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. [3:28] Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it" - when you have it with you. [3:29] Do not plan evil against your neighbor who dwells trustingly beside you. [3:30] Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm. [3:31] Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways; [3:32] for the perverse man is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence. [3:33] The lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the abode of the righteous. [3:34] Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he shows favor. [3:35] The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

~The Discipline of Knowledge [12:1] Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. [12:2] A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of evil devices he condemns. [12:3] A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved. [12:4] A good wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones. [12:5] The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are treacherous. [12:6] The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers men. [12:7] The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand. [12:8] A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of perverse mind is despised. [12:9] Better is a man of humble standing who works for himself than one who plays the great man but lacks bread. [12:10] A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. [12:11] He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits has no sense. [12:12] The strong tower of the wicked comes to ruin, but the root of the righteous stands firm. [12:13] An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble. [12:14] From the fruit of his words a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him. [12:15] The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. [12:16] The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent man ignores an insult. [12:17] He who speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. [12:18] There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. [12:19] Truthful lips endure for ever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. [12:20] Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan good have joy. [12:21] No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. [12:22] Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight. [12:23] A prudent man conceals his knowledge, but fools proclaim their folly. [12:24] The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. [12:25] Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. [12:26] A righteous man turns away from evil, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. [12:27] A slothful man will not catch his prey, but the diligent man will get precious wealth. [12:28] In the path of righteousness is life, but the way of error leads to death.

~Fine Speech, False Speech, the Price of Wisdom [17:1] Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife. [17:2] A slave who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers. [17:3] The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold,

and the LORD tries hearts. [17:4] An evildoer listens to wicked lips; and a liar gives heed to a mischievous tongue. [17:5] He who mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished. [17:6] Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of sons is their fathers. [17:7] Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is false speech to a prince. [17:8] A bribe is like a magic stone in the eyes of him who gives it; wherever he turns he prospers. [17:9] He who forgives an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter alienates a friend. [17:10] A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool. [17:11] An evil man seeks only rebellion, and a cruel messenger will be sent against him. [17:12] Let a man meet a she-bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly. [17:13] If a man returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house. [17:14] The beginning of strife is like letting out water; so quit before the quarrel breaks out. [17:15] He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD. [17:16] Why should a fool have a price in his hand to buy wisdom, when he has no mind? [17:17] A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. [17:18] A man without sense gives a pledge, and becomes surety in the presence of his neighbor. [17:19] He who loves transgression loves strife; he who makes his door high seeks destruction. [17:20] A man of crooked mind does not prosper, and one with a perverse tongue falls into calamity. [17:21] A stupid son is a grief to a father; and the father of a fool has no joy. [17:22] A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones. [17:23] A wicked man accepts a bribe from the bosom to pervert the ways of justice. [17:24] A man of understanding sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. [17:25] A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him. [17:26] To impose a fine on a righteous man is not good; to flog noble men is wrong. [17:27] He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. [17:28] Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

~Foolishness, Laziness, Dishonesty [26:1] Like snow in summer or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. [26:2] Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight. [26:3] A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the back of fools. [26:4] Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. [26:5] Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. [26:6] He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. [26:7] Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless, is a proverb in the mouth of fools. [26:8] Like one who binds the stone in the sling is he who gives honor to a fool. [26:9] Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools. [26:10] Like an archer who wounds everybody is he who hires a passing fool or drunkard. [26:11] Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool that repeats his folly. [26:12] Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. [26:13] The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!" [26:14] As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. [26:15] The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. [26:16] The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer discreetly. [26:17] He who meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears. [26:18] Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, [26:19] is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!" [26:20] For lack of wood the fire goes out; and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. [26:21] As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. [26:22] The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. [26:23] Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are smooth lips with an evil heart. [26:24] He who hates, dissembles with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; [26:25] when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart; [26:26] though his hatred be covered with guile, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. [26:27] He who digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back upon him who starts it rolling. [26:28] A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Ecclesiastes

~The Futility of All Endeavor [1:1] The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. [1:2] Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. [1:3] What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? [1:4] A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever. [1:5] The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. [1:6] The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. [1:7] All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. [1:8] All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. [1:9] What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun. [1:10] Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us. [1:11] There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to happen among those who come after.

~The Futility of Wisdom [1:12] I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. [1:13] And I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. [1:14] I have seen everything that is done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. [1:15] What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered. [1:16] I said to myself, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." [1:17] And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. [1:18] For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

~The Futility of Pleasure and Possessions [2:1] I said to myself, "Come now, I will make a test of pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. [2:2] I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" [2:3] I searched with my mind how to cheer my body with wine - my mind still guiding me with wisdom - and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven during the few days of their life. [2:4] I made great works; I built houses and planted vineyards for myself; [2:5] I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. [2:6] I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. [2:7] I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house; I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. [2:8] I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, man's delight. [2:9] So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. [2:10] And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. [2:11] Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

~Wisdom Excels Folly [2:12] So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what he has already done. [2:13] Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. [2:14] The wise man has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness; and yet I perceived that one fate comes to all of them. [2:15] Then I said to myself, "What befalls the fool will befall me also; why then have I been so very wise?" And I said to myself that this also is vanity. [2:16] For of the wise man as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise man dies just like the fool! [2:17] So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me; for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

~The Futility of Labor [2:18] I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me; [2:19] and who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. [2:20] So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, [2:21] because sometimes a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. [2:22] What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun? [2:23] For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a

vexation; even in the night his mind does not rest. This also is vanity. [2:24] There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; [2:25] for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? [2:26] For to the man who pleases him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy; but to the sinner he gives the work of gathering and heaping, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

~A Time for Everything [3:1] For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: [3:2] a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; [3:3] a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; [3:4] a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; [3:5] a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; [3:6] a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; [3:7] a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; [3:8] a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. [3:9] What gain has the worker from his toil? [3:10] I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.

~The Evils of Oppression [4:1] Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. [4:2] And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive; [4:3] but better than both is he who has not yet been, and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun. [4:4] Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. [4:5] The fool folds his hands, and eats his own flesh. [4:6] Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind. [4:7] Again, I saw vanity under the sun: [4:8] a person who has no one, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business. [4:9] Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. [4:10] For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up. [4:11] Again, if two lie together, they are warm; but how can one be warm alone? [4:12] And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken. [4:13] Better is a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king, who will no longer take advice, [4:14] even though he had gone from prison to the throne or in his own kingdom had been born poor. [4:15] I saw all the living who move about under the sun, as well as that youth, who was to stand in his place; [4:16] there was no end of all the people; he was over all of them. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

~Your Attitude Toward God [5:1] Guard your steps when you go to the house of God; to draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know that they are doing evil. [5:2] Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let your words be few. [5:3] For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words. [5:4] When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it; for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. [5:5] It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. [5:6] Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake; why should God be angry at your voice, and destroy the work of your hands? [5:7] For when dreams increase, empty words grow many: but do you fear God. [5:8] If you see in a province the poor oppressed and justice and right violently taken away, do not be amazed at the matter; for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. [5:9] But in all, a king is an advantage to a land with cultivated fields.

~The Folly of Riches [5:10] He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain: this also is vanity. [5:11] When goods increase, they increase who eat them; and what gain has their owner but to see them with his eyes? [5:12] Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much; but the surfeit of the rich will not let him sleep. [5:13] There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, [5:14] and those riches were lost in a bad venture; and he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. [5:15] As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil, which he may carry away in his hand. [5:16] This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go; and what gain

has he that he toiled for the wind, [5:17] and spent all his days in darkness and grief, in much vexation and sickness and resentment? [5:18] Behold, what I have seen to be good and to be fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life which God has given him, for this is his lot. [5:19] Every man also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and find enjoyment in his toil - this is the gift of God. [5:20] For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

~Men Are in the Hand of God [9:1] But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God; whether it is love or hate man does not know. Everything before them is vanity, [9:2] since one fate comes to all, to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good man, so is the sinner; and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. [9:3] This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that one fate comes to all; also the hearts of men are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. [9:4] But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. [9:5] For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward; but the memory of them is lost. [9:6] Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and they have no more for ever any share in all that is done under the sun. [9:7] Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already approved what you do. [9:8] Let your garments be always white; let not oil be lacking on your head. [9:9] Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life which he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

~Whatever Your Hand Finds to Do [9:10] Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going. [9:11] Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. [9:12] For man does not know his time. Like fish which are taken in an evil net, and like birds which are caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them. [9:13] I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. [9:14] There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. [9:15] But there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. [9:16] But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heeded. [9:17] The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. [9:18] Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

~Remember God in Your Youth [12:1] Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; [12:2] before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain; [12:3] in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows are dimmed, [12:4] and the doors on the street are shut; when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; [12:5] they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets; [12:6] before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, [12:7] and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. [12:8] Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

[12:13] The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. [12:14] For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Wisdom of Solomon

[6:6] For the lowliest man may be pardoned in mercy, but mighty men will be mightily tested. [6:7] For the Lord of all will not stand in awe of any one, nor show deference to greatness; because he himself made both small and great, and he takes thought for all alike. [6:8] But a strict inquiry is in store for the mighty. [6:9] To you then, O monarchs, my words are directed, that you may learn wisdom and not transgress. [6:10] For they will be made holy who observe holy things in holiness, and those who have been taught them will find a defense. [6:11] Therefore set your desire on my words; long for them, and you will be instructed. [6:12] Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. [6:13] She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. [6:14] He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. [6:15] To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, [6:16] because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought. [6:17] The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her, [6:18] and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality, [6:19] and immortality brings one near to God; [6:20] so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom. [6:21] Therefore if you delight in thrones and scepters, O monarchs over the peoples, honor wisdom, that you may reign for ever. [6:22] I will tell you what wisdom is and how she came to be, and I will hide no secrets from you, but I will trace her course from the beginning of creation, and make knowledge of her clear, and I will not pass by the truth; [6:23] neither will I travel in the company of sickly envy, for envy does not associate with wisdom. [6:24] A multitude of wise men is the salvation of the world, and a sensible king is the stability of his people. [6:25] Therefore be instructed by my words, and you will profit.

[7:1] I also am mortal, like all men, a descendant of the first-formed child of earth; and in the womb of a mother I was molded into flesh, [7:2] within the period of ten months, compacted with blood, from the seed of a man and the pleasure of marriage. [7:3] And when I was born, I began to breathe the common air, and fell upon the kindred earth, and my first sound was a cry, like that of all. [7:4] I was nursed with care in swaddling cloths. [7:5] For no king has had a different beginning of existence; [7:6] there is for all mankind one entrance into life, and a common departure. [7:7] Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. [7:8] I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. [7:9] Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her. [7:10] I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her rather than light, because her radiance never ceases. [7:11] All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands uncounted wealth. [7:12] I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them; but I did not know that she was their mother. [7:13] I learned without guile and I impart without grudging; I do not hide her wealth, [7:14] for it is an unfailing treasure for men; those who get it obtain friendship with God, commended for the gifts that come from instruction. [7:15] May God grant that I speak with judgment and have thought worthy of what I have received, for he is the guide even of wisdom and the corrector of the wise. [7:16] For both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts. [7:17] For it is he who gave me unerring knowledge of what exists, to know the structure of the world and the activity of the elements; [7:18] the beginning and end and middle of times, the alternations of the solstices and the changes of the seasons, [7:19] the cycles of the year and the constellations of the stars, [7:20] the natures of animals and the tempers of wild beasts, the powers of spirits and the reasonings of men, the varieties of plants and the virtues of roots; [7:21] I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, [7:22] for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me. For in her there is a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, [7:23] beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent and pure and most subtle. [7:24] For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. [7:25] For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. [7:26] For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. [7:27] Though she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; [7:28] for God loves nothing so much as the man who lives with wisdom. [7:29] For she is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light

she is found to be superior, [7:30] for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

[8:1] She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well. [8:2] I loved her and sought her from my youth, and I desired to take her for my bride, and I became enamored of her beauty. [8:3] She glorifies her noble birth by living with God, and the Lord of all loves her. [8:4] For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and an associate in his works. [8:5] If riches are a desirable possession in life, what is richer than wisdom who effects all things? [8:6] And if understanding is effective, who more than she is fashioner of what exists? [8:7] And if any one loves righteousness, her labors are virtues; for she teaches self-control and prudence, justice and courage; nothing in life is more profitable for men than these. [8:8] And if any one longs for wide experience, she knows the things of old, and infers the things to come; she understands turns of speech and the solutions of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and of the outcome of seasons and times. [8:9] Therefore I determined to take her to live with me, knowing that she would give me good counsel and encouragement in cares and grief. [8:10] Because of her I shall have glory among the multitudes and honor in the presence of the elders, though I am young. [8:11] I shall be found keen in judgment, and in the sight of rulers I shall be admired. [8:12] When I am silent they will wait for me, and when I speak they will give heed; and when I speak at greater length they will put their hands on their mouths. [8:13] Because of her I shall have immortality, and leave an everlasting remembrance to those who come after me. [8:14] I shall govern peoples, and nations will be subject to me; [8:15] dread monarchs will be afraid of me when they hear of me; among the people I shall show myself capable, and courageous in war. [8:16] When I enter my house, I shall find rest with her, for companionship with her has no bitterness, and life with her has no pain, but gladness and joy. [8:17] When I considered these things inwardly, and thought upon them in my mind, that in kinship with wisdom there is immortality, [8:18] and in friendship with her, pure delight, and in the labors of her hands, unfailling wealth, and in the experience of her company, understanding, and renown in sharing her words, I went about seeking how to get her for myself. [8:19] As a child I was by nature well endowed, and a good soul fell to my lot; [8:20] or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body. [8:21] But I perceived that I would not possess wisdom unless God gave her to me - and it was a mark of insight to know whose gift she was - so I appealed to the Lord and besought him, and with my whole heart I said:

[9:1] "O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy, who hast made all things by thy word, [9:2] and by thy wisdom hast formed man, to have dominion over the creatures thou hast made, [9:3] and rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul, [9:4] give me the wisdom that sits by thy throne, and do not reject me from among thy servants. [9:5] For I am thy slave and the son of thy maidservant, a man who is weak and short-lived, with little understanding of judgment and laws; [9:6] for even if one is perfect among the sons of men, yet without the wisdom that comes from thee he will be regarded as nothing. [9:7] Thou hast chosen me to be king of thy people and to be judge over thy sons and daughters. [9:8] Thou hast given command to build a temple on thy holy mountain, and an altar in the city of thy habitation, a copy of the holy tent which thou didst prepare from the beginning. [9:9] With thee is wisdom, who knows thy works and was present when thou didst make the world, and who understand what is pleasing in thy sight and what is right according to thy commandments. [9:10] Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of thy glory send her, that she may be with me and toil, and that I may learn what is pleasing to thee. [9:11] For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory. [9:12] Then my works will be acceptable, and I shall judge thy people justly, and shall be worthy of the throne of my father. [9:13] For what man can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? [9:14] For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, [9:15] for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful mind. [9:16] We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labor; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? [9:17] Who has learned thy counsel, unless thou hast given wisdom and sent thy holy Spirit from on high? [9:18] And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and men were taught what pleases thee, and were saved by wisdom."

Sirach

[1:1] All wisdom comes from the Lord and is with him for ever. [1:2] The sand of the sea, the drops of rain, and the days of eternity - who can count them? [1:3] The height of heaven, the breadth of the earth, the abyss, and wisdom - who can search them out? [1:4] Wisdom was created before all things, and prudent understanding from eternity. [1:6] The root of wisdom - to whom has it been revealed? Her clever devices - who knows them? [1:8] There is One who is wise, greatly to be feared, sitting upon his throne. [1:9] The Lord himself created wisdom; he saw her and apportioned her, he poured her out upon all his works. [1:10] She dwells with all flesh according to his gift, and he supplied her to those who love him. [1:11] The fear of the Lord is glory and exultation, and gladness and a crown of rejoicing. [1:12] The fear of the Lord delights the heart, and gives gladness and joy and long life. [1:13] With him who fears the Lord it will go well at the end; on the day of his death he will be blessed. [1:14] To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; she is created with the faithful in the womb. [1:15] She made among men an eternal foundation, and among their descendants she will be trusted. [1:16] To fear the Lord is wisdom's full measure; she satisfies men with her fruits; [1:17] she fills their whole house with desirable goods, and their storehouses with her produce. [1:18] The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom, making peace and perfect health to flourish. [1:19] He saw her and apportioned her; he rained down knowledge and discerning comprehension, and he exalted the glory of those who held her fast. [1:20] To fear the Lord is the root of wisdom, and her branches are long life. [1:22] Unrighteous anger cannot be justified, for a man's anger tips the scale to his ruin. [1:23] A patient man will endure until the right moment, and then joy will burst forth for him. [1:24] He will hide his words until the right moment, and the lips of many will tell of his good sense. [1:25] In the treasuries of wisdom are wise sayings, but godliness is an abomination to a sinner. [1:26] If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord will supply it for you. [1:27] For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction, and he delights in fidelity and meekness. [1:28] Do not disobey the fear of the Lord; do not approach him with a divided mind. [1:29] Be not a hypocrite in men's sight, and keep watch over your lips. [1:30] Do not exalt yourself lest you fall, and thus bring dishonor upon yourself. The Lord will reveal your secrets and cast you down in the midst of the congregation, because you did not come in the fear of the Lord, and your heart was full of deceit.

[51:1] I will give thanks to thee, O Lord and King, and will praise thee as God my Savior. I give thanks to thy name, [51:2] for thou hast been my protector and helper and hast delivered my body from destruction and from the snare of a slanderous tongue, from lips that utter lies. Before those who stood by thou wast my helper, [51:3] and didst deliver me, in the greatness of thy mercy and of thy name, from the gnashings of teeth about to devour me, from the hand of those who sought my life, from the many afflictions that I endured, [51:4] from choking fire on every side and from the midst of fire which I did not kindle, [51:5] from the depths of the belly of Hades, from an unclean tongue and lying words - [51:6] the slander of an unrighteous tongue to the king. My soul drew near to death, and my life was very near to Hades beneath. [51:7] They surrounded me on every side, and there was no one to help me; I looked for the assistance of men, and there was none. [51:8] Then I remembered thy mercy, O Lord, and thy work from of old, that thou dost deliver those who wait for thee and dost save them from the hand of their enemies. [51:9] And I sent up my supplication from the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death. [51:10] I appealed to the Lord, the Father of my lord, not to forsake me in the days of affliction, at the time when there is no help against the proud. [51:11] I will praise thy name continually, and will sing praise with thanksgiving. My prayer was heard, [51:12] for thou didst save me from destruction and rescue me from an evil plight. Therefore I will give thanks to thee and praise thee, and I will bless the name of the Lord. [51:13] While I was still young, before I went on my travels, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer. [51:14] Before the temple I asked for her, and I will search for her to the last. [51:15] From blossom to ripening grape my heart delighted in her; my foot entered upon the straight path; from my youth I followed her steps. [51:16] I inclined my ear a little and received her, and I found for myself much instruction. [51:17] I made progress therein; to him who gives wisdom I will give glory. [51:18] For I resolved to live according to wisdom, and I was zealous for the good; and I shall never be put to shame. [51:19] My soul grappled with wisdom, and in my conduct I was strict; I spread out my hands to the heavens, and lamented my ignorance of her. [51:20] I directed my soul to her, and through purification I found her. I gained understanding with her from the first, therefore I will not be forsaken. [51:21] My heart was stirred to seek her, therefore I have gained a good possession. [51:22] The Lord gave me a tongue as my reward, and I will praise him with it. [51:23] Draw near to me, you who are untaught, and lodge in my school. [51:24] Why do you say you are lacking in these things, and why are your souls very thirsty? [51:25] I opened my mouth and said, Get

these things for yourselves without money. [51:26] Put your neck under the yoke, and let your souls receive instruction; it is to be found close by. [51:27] See with your eyes that I have labored little and found myself much rest. [51:28] Get instruction with a large sum of silver, and you will gain by it much gold. [51:29] May your soul rejoice in his mercy, and may you not be put to shame when you praise him. [51:30] Do your work before the appointed time, and in God's time he will give you your reward.