

Proverbs 17:1-28 **More Concise Straight and Contrasting Statements**

**The LORD Tests Hearts**

- 1 Better *is* a dry morsel with quietness,  
Than a house full of feasting\* *with* strife.
- 2 A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame,  
And will share an inheritance among the brothers.
- 3 The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold,  
But Yahweh (the LORD) tests the hearts.
- 4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips;  
A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.
- 5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker;  
He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 6 Children's children *are* the crown of old men,  
And the glory of children *is* their father.
- 7 Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool,  
Much less lying lips to a prince.
- 8 A present *is* a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor;  
Wherever he turns, he prospers.
- 9 He who covers a transgression seeks love,  
But he who repeats a matter separates friends.
- 10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise *man*  
Than a hundred blows on a fool.
- 11 An evil *man* seeks only rebellion;  
Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
- 12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs,  
Rather than a fool in his folly.
- 13 Whoever rewards evil for good,  
Evil will not depart from his house.
- 14 The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water;  
Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just,  
Both of them alike *are* an abomination to Yahweh (the LORD).

16 Why *is there* in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom,  
Since *he has* no heart *for it*?

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

18 A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge,  
*And* becomes surety for his friend.

19 He who loves transgression loves strife,  
And he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.

20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good,  
And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

21 He who begets a scoffer *does so* to his sorrow,  
And the father of a fool has no joy.

22 A merry heart does good, *like* medicine,\*  
But a broken spirit dries the bones.

23 A wicked *man* accepts a bribe behind the back\*  
To pervert the ways of justice.

24 Wisdom *is* in the sight of him who has understanding,  
But the eyes of a fool *are* on the ends of the earth.

25 A foolish son *is* a grief to his father,  
And bitterness to her who bore him.

26 Also, to punish the righteous *is* not good,  
*Nor* to strike princes for *their* uprightness.

27 He who has knowledge spares his words,  
*And* a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace;  
*When* he shuts his lips, *he is considered* perceptive.

NKJV\_

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Short self evident contrasting and straight statements of Solomon requiring no commentary.
- ✧ Contrast between good and evil with the expected reward (end) of each.