

Proverbs 21:1-31 **More Concise Straight and Contrasting Statements**

The LORD Considers the Heart

21 The king's heart *is* in the hand of Yahweh (the LORD),
Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

2 Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes,
But Yahweh (the LORD) weighs the hearts.

3 To do righteousness and justice
Is more acceptable to Yahweh (the LORD) than sacrifice.

4 A haughty look, a proud heart,
And the plowing* of the wicked *are* sin.

5 The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to plenty,
But *those of* everyone *who is* hasty, surely to poverty.

6 Getting treasures by a lying tongue
Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.*

7 The violence of the wicked will destroy them,*
Because they refuse to do justice.

8 The way of a guilty man *is* perverse;*
But *as for* the pure, his work *is* right.

9 Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop,
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil;
His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

11 When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise;
But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

12 The righteous *God* wisely considers the house of the wicked,
Overthrowing the wicked for *their* wickedness.

13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor
Will also cry himself and not be heard.

14 A gift in secret pacifies anger,

And a bribe behind the back,* strong wrath.

15 *It is* a joy for the just to do justice,
But destruction *will come* to the workers of iniquity.

16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding
Will rest in the assembly of the dead.

17 He who loves pleasure *will be* a poor man;
He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

18 The wicked *shall be* a ransom for the righteous,
And the unfaithful for the upright.

19 Better to dwell in the wilderness,
Than with a contentious and angry woman.

20 *There is* desirable treasure, And oil in the dwelling of the wise,
But a foolish man squanders it.

21 He who follows righteousness and mercy
Finds life, righteousness and honor.

22 A wise *man* scales the city of the mighty,
And brings down the trusted stronghold.

23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue
Keeps his soul from troubles.

24 A proud *and* haughty *man* – "Scoffer" *is* his name;
He acts with arrogant pride.

25 The desire of the lazy *man* kills him,
For his hands refuse to labor.

26 He covets greedily all day long,
But the righteous gives and does not spare.

27 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination;
How much more *when* he brings it with wicked intent!

28 A false witness shall perish,
But the man who hears *him* will speak endlessly.

29 A wicked man hardens his face,
But *as for* the upright, he establishes* his way.

30 *There is* no wisdom or understanding
Or counsel against Yahweh (the LORD).

31 The horse *is* prepared for the day of battle,
But deliverance *is* of Yahweh (the LORD).

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.