

## Sirach, or “Ecclesiasticus.”

Excerpted from

### The Latin Testament Project Bible,

Searchlight Press, 2016.

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### **Sirach 1.**

All wisdom is from God the Lord. It was with Him always, and is before time.

Who numbered the sea’s sand, and the raindrops, and the age's days? Who measured sky's height, and earth’s breadth, and the abyss's depth?

Who investigated God's wisdom, preceding all?

Wisdom was created before all, and prudence's understanding from all time.

Wisdom's fountain is God's word in the highest. Her entry is the eternal commandments.

To whom is wisdom's root revealed? Who has known her cleverness?

To whom is wisdom's discipline revealed and made known? Who has understood the multiplication of her entry?

One exists, the Most High, the omnipotent creator, mighty king and overwhelmingly to be feared – God, sitting on His throne and ruling.

He created her by Holy Spirit. He saw, and numbered, and measured.

He poured her out over all His works and over all flesh, according to His gift. He furnished her to those loving Him.

Fear of the Lord is glory, boasting, happiness, and exultation's crown.

Fear of the Lord will delight the heart. It will give happiness and joy in length of days.

It will be well in the end for one fearing the Lord. He will be blessed on the day of his death.

God's delight is wisdom's honor.

They to whom she appears in vision delight in her in vision and in recognition of her great deeds.

Wisdom's beginning is the fear of the Lord. She was created in the vulva together with the faithful ones. She is believed with the chosen ones' seed, and is known with the righteous and faithful.

Fear of the Lord is knowledge of faithful living.

Faithful living will guard and justify the heart. It will give happiness and joy.

It will be well with one fearing God. He will be blessed in the days of his consummation.

To fear God is wisdom's fullness, and fullness is from His fruits.

He will fill all his house from the generations, the storerooms from His treasures.

Wisdom's crown is the fear of the Lord, repaying the fruit of peace and salvation.

She has seen and numbered her, yet both are God's gifts.

Wisdom will share the knowledge and understanding of prudence. She lifts up the glory of those holding on to her.

To fear the Lord is wisdom's root, for her branches are long-lived.

Understanding and the knowledge of faithful living are in wisdom's treasures, yet wisdom is a rebuke to sinners.

Fear of God drives out sin.

One who is without fear cannot be justified, for the wrath of his animosity is his undoing.

The patient will sustain even to the time, and afterwards will be the repayment of happiness.

Good sense will hide his words even to the time, and the lips of many will tell his sense.

Desiring wisdom preserves righteousness, and God will furnish her to you.

The fear of the Lord is wisdom and discipline. What is well pleasing to Him is faith and gentleness, and He will fill up his treasures.

Don't be unbelieving to the fear of the Lord, and don't come near Him with a double heart, that you not be a hypocrite in men's sight, and give scandal by your lips.

Pay attention to them, unless perhaps you fall, and bring dishonor to your soul, and God reveal your hidden secrets, and strike you in the middle of the synagogue, because you've come near the Lord malignantly, and your heart is full of deceit and lies.

## **Sirach 2.**

Son, coming near the service of God, stand in righteousness and fear, and prepare your soul for testing!

Silence your heart and endure! Turn aside the ear, and follow words of understanding, and don't hurry into a time of affliction!

Endure God's trials! Join to God and endure, so your life may increase to the end!

Receive all that is added to you, and endure in pain, and have patience in your humiliation!

Gold and silver are proved in fire, yet acceptable men are proved in the furnace of humiliation.

Believe God and He will restore you, and direct your way! Hope in Him, serve the fear of Him, and grow old in it!

Fearing God, wait for His mercy, and do not turn away from Him, that you not fall!

You who fear God, believe Him, and your reward will not be taken away!

You who fear God, hope in Him, and mercy will come to you in delight!

You who fear God, love Him, and your hearts will be enlightened!

Look, sons, on man's nations, and understand. Who has hoped in the Lord and been confounded?

Has he remained in His commandments and been abandoned? Who has invoked Him, and He has despised him?

God is loyal and merciful, and in a time of trouble He forgives the sins of all seeking Him in truth.

Woe to the double heart, the criminal lips, the hands of those working harms! Woe to sinners going on earth in double ways!

Woe to the lax in heart who do not believe God! Therefore, they will not be protected by Him.

Woe to those who destroy sustenance, who have abandoned right ways, and turned aside to perverse ways!

What will you do when God begins to inspect?

Those who fear the Lord will not be unbelieving to His word, and those who love Him will keep His way.

Those who fear the Lord will seek what are well-pleasing to Him, and those who love Him will be filled by His law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts. They will sanctify their souls in His sight. Those who fear the Lord keep His commandments. They will have patience even to His inspection, saying, "If we do not act out penance, we will fall into God's hands, and not into human hands – for according to His greatness, so also is His mercy with him."

### **Sirach 3.**

The righteous ones' assembly is wisdom's sons, and their birth is obedience and delight. Listen to a father's judgment, beloved sons! Do so that you may be safe, for God has honored the father in the sons, and the one seeking a mother's judgment in the sons! Who loves God will plead for sins, and contain himself from them. He will be heard in prayer daily.

As one who gathers up treasure, so also is one who honors his mother.

Who honors a father will be made happy in sons.

Who honors his father will live a longer life, and one who obeys a father will refresh a mother.

Who fears God honors parents. He will serve as if masters among those who brought him forth.

Honor your father in work and word and all patience, that blessing make come over you from God, and His blessing may remain to the end.

A father's blessing strengthens sons' houses, but a mother's curse uproots the foundations.

Don't boast in the abuse of your father, for it is not glory to you, yet confusion,

for a man's glory is from his father's honor, and a father without honor is shameful to sons!

Son, sustain your father's old age, and don't sadden him in his life!

If he falters in sense, give kindness! Do not reject him in your strength, for kindness to a father will not be in oblivion, for good will be restored to you for a mother's sin.

Injustice also will be built up for you, and will be remembered for you on the day of trouble.

Your sins will melt away like ice on a clear day.

Of what terrible reputation is one who abandons a father! Who exasperates a mother is cursed by God.

Son, complete your works in gentleness, and you will be loved beyond human glory!

The greater you are, humble yourself in all and you will find grace before God,

because great power is God's alone, and He is honored by the humble!

Don't scrutinize things higher than you, nor seek things mightier than you! Yet what God has commanded you, think always on these, and do not be curious in many of His works, for it isn't necessary for you to see those that are hidden with your eyes!

Don't scrutinize too much in unnecessary matters, and don't be curious about many of His works, for many things shown you are beyond human sense.

Suspicion has led many astray, and their sense was detained in vanity.

A hard heart will have it badly in the end, and one who loves danger will perish in it.

A heart going in two ways will not have success, and the mean-spirited will be scandalized in them.

A wicked heart will be weighed down by pains, and a sinner will add to sinning.

Safety isn't in the proud ones' gathering, for sin's stalk will be uprooted among them, and he won't understand.

A wise heart understands in wisdom, and a good ear will hear wisdom with all desire.

A wise and understanding heart will keep itself from sins, and will have success in works of righteousness.

Water puts out burning fire, and alms resist sins.

God is the inspector. He remembers in the future one who repays grace, and you will find a foundation in the time of your dying.

#### **Sirach 4.**

Son, don't defraud the poor of alms, and don't turn your eyes away from the poor!

Don't despise a hungry soul, and don't exasperate the poor in his lack!

Don't afflict a lacking heart, and don't drag out a gift to the distressed!

Don't take away the troubled one's request, and don't turn your face away from the needy!

Don't turn eyes away from the needy because of anger!

Don't abandon those seeking, so they curse you behind your back, for the prayer of him cursing you in bitterness will be heard, and the One who made him will hear him!

Make yourself agreeable to the congregation of the poor! Humble your soul to the elder, and humble your head to the great one!

Turn your ear to the poor! Pay your debt, and answer peaceful words in gentleness!

Free from a proud hand him who suffers injury, and do not consider unpleasantly in your soul!

In judging, be merciful to the orphans as a father, and as a husband to their mother, and you will be as the Most High's obedient son, and He will have mercy on you more than a mother!

Wisdom has breathed life into her sons. She supports those seeking her, and will go before in the way of righteousness.

Who delights in her delights in life, and who keeps watch toward her will embrace her pleasure.

Those who hold on to her will inherit life, and God blesses where she goes in.

Those who serve her, yielding, will be to the Holy One, and God will love those who love her.

Who hears her judges nations, and who looks to her will endure, trusting.

If he believes her, he will inherit her, and their offspring will be in strength, because she walks with him in testing, and chooses him among the foremost.

She will bring in over him fear and awe and testing, and will crucify him in her doctrine's tribulation, until she may test him in his thoughts and trust his soul.

She will strengthen him, and again will lead a straight path to him.

She will strip bare her secrets, and store up over him knowledge and understanding of righteousness.

But if he wanders away, she will abandon him and hand him over into his enemy's hand.

Son, conserve the time, and turn away from harm!

For your soul's sake, don't be restrained to speak truth, for there is a confusion bringing in sin, and there is a confusion bringing in glory and grace!

Don't accept a face against your own face, or a lie against your soul!

Don't revere your neighbor in his fall, or hold back a word in a time of safety!

Don't hide your wisdom in her beauty, for wisdom is known in the tongue, and sense and knowledge and teaching in words of truth, and a foundation in works of righteousness!  
Don't contradict truth in any way, yet be confounded by your ignorance's lie!  
Don't be ashamed to confess your sins, and don't subject yourself to man for sin's sake!  
Don't resist against the face of the powerful, or struggle against the river's flow!  
Strive for righteousness for your soul's sake! Struggle for righteousness even to death, and God will fight against your enemies on your behalf!  
Don't be impulsive in your tongue, and useless and lax in your works!  
Don't be like a lion in your house, overthrowing those of your household and oppressing those subject to you!  
Don't let your hand be stretched out for receiving, and shut up for giving!

### **Sirach 5.**

Don't pay attention to unrighteous possessions, and don't say, "Life is enough to me," for nothing will benefit in the time of vengeance and distress!  
Don't follow the heart's lust, and don't say, "How can I?" or, "Who will hold me accountable because of my acts?", for God will surely avenge!  
Don't say, "I have sinned, and what bad happened to me?", for the Most High is a patient rewarder!  
Don't be without fear of the propitiation of sinners, or add sin over sin, and don't say, "God's mercy is great. He will have mercy on the multitude of my sins", for mercy and wrath are from Him, and His wrath looks on sinners!  
Don't delay to be converted to God, and don't put it off from day to day, for His wrath comes suddenly, and He will destroy you in the time of vengeance!  
Don't be anxious over unjust riches, for they will not profit you on the day of distress and vengeance!  
Don't expose yourself to every wind, and don't go in every way, for a double-tongued sinner is proved in this way!  
Be strong in God's way, and in the truth and knowledge of your sense, and let a word of peace and righteousness go with you!  
Be gentle to hearing the word, so you may understand and bear a true answer with wisdom!  
If intelligence is yours, answer a neighbor. But if not, let your hand be over your mouth, that you not be captured in an undisciplined word and be confounded.  
Honor and glory are in the word of the sensible. The tongue of the imprudent is its own downfall.  
Don't be called a whisperer, and don't be captured and confounded by your tongue, for confusion and regret are on a thief, and dismal censure on the double-tongued – but hatred and animosity and abuse to the whisperer!  
Justify small and great alike!

## **Sirach 6.**

Don't be an enemy to a neighbor instead of a friend, for a harmful man will inherit reproach and abuse, and every sinner is envious and double-tongued!

Don't lift yourself up like a bull in your soul's thought, unless perhaps your strength be crushed through foolishness, and it eat up your leaves, and destroy your fruit, and you be left like a dry tree in the desert, for a wicked soul will destroy the one who has it. It gives him into an enemy's joy, and leads him out in the lawless ones' portion.

A sweet word multiplies friends and reduces enemies, and a thankful tongue abounds to man in good.

Many may be peaceful with you, and counselors may be for you one from a thousand.

If you possess a friend, possess him in testing, and do not believe him easily, for there is a friend according to his own time, and he will not remain in the day of trouble; and there is a friend who goes out to enmity, and there is a friend who will lay bare hatred and quarrels and reproaches; but there is a friend who is a table companion, and will not remain in a day of necessity.

Yet if a friend remains, he will be attached to you like an equal, and will act faithfully among your household.

If he humbles himself facing you, and hides himself from your face, you will have good friendship as one soul.

Separate yourself from your enemies, and pay attention to your friends!

A faithful friend is a mighty protection. Who finds him finds a treasure.

Nothing compares to a faithful friend. A weight of silver and gold is not worth comparing to his faithful goodness.

A faithful friend is the medicine of life and immortality. Those who fear the Lord find him.

Who fears God will have equally good friendship, because his friend will be like Him.

Son, follow teaching from your youth, and you will find wisdom even to gray hairs.

Come near her like him who plows and sows, and wait for her good fruit, for you will labor a little in her work, and will eat quickly from her produce.

How harsh is too much wisdom to untaught men! The silly won't remain in her.

She will be like a mighty stone of proving among them, and they won't delay to throw her away, for teaching's wisdom is according to her name, and she is not made known to many. Yet one to whom she is made known will endure even to God's inspection.

Listen, son, and follow an intelligent one's counsel, and don't throw away my counsel!

Put your foot in her fetters, and your neck in her yoke!

Put your shoulder under, and carry her, and don't be weary of her chains!

Come near her in all your soul, and serve her ways in all your strength!

Investigate her, and she will be made evident to you! Made continent, you will not abandon her – for in the end you will find rest in her, and she will be turned to you in delight!

The fetters will be to you as mighty protection and a strong base, and her yoke as a glorious garment, for life's beauty is in her, and her chains as the weaving of safety.

You will dress her in glory's garment, and put the crown of thankfulness on yourself.

Son, if you pay attention to me you will learn, and if you accommodate your soul you will be wise.

If you incline your ear you will follow teaching, and if you delight to listen you will be wise.

Stand in the multitude of prudent elders! Join to their wisdom from the heart, that you may know to listen to all God's story, and praiseworthy proverbs may not flee from you.  
If you see a sensible man, watch toward him! Let your foot appear on the steps to his door.  
Have consideration in God's precepts, and be supremely diligent in His commandments, and He will give you a heart, and wisdom's desire will be given you.

### **Sirach 7.**

Don't do harms, and they won't overtake you.  
Back away from a treacherous man, and harms will fall away from you.  
Don't sow harm in injury's furrows, and you won't reap them seven-fold.  
Don't seek leadership from man, or a seat of honor from a king.  
Don't justify yourself before God, for He is the knower of hearts.  
Don't seek to be seen as wise in a king's power.  
Don't seek to be made a judge, unless you not have strength to break into iniquities – unless perhaps you fear the powerful's face, and set a scandal in your agility.  
Don't sin among the city's multitude, and don't throw yourself into people, nor bind yourself to doubled sin, for you will not be exempt in one.  
Don't be timid in your soul, and don't despise to pray and to do alms.  
Don't say, "God will see the multitude of my gifts, and when I offer to God most high, He will receive my gifts."  
Don't mock a man in the soul's bitterness, for it is God the watchman who humbles and lifts up.  
Don't love a lie against your brother, nor do likewise against a friend.  
Don't wish to be deceived by any lie, for their practice isn't good.  
Don't be long-winded among the multitude of elders, and don't repeat a word in your prayer.  
Don't hate hard work and rural living, created from the Most High.  
Don't consider yourself among the multitude of the undisciplined.  
Remember anger, because it will not delay.  
Humble your spirit greatly, because the vengeance of lawless flesh is fire and worms.  
Don't transgress against a friend over financial differences, or reject a most loved brother over gold.  
Don't pull away from a sensible and good woman who is your lot in the fear of God, for her modesty's grace is better than gold.  
Don't wound a slave working in truth, or a hired soldier giving his soul.  
Let a sensible slave be loved like your soul. Don't defraud him of liberty, or abandon him in need.  
Are herds yours? Pay attention to them and, if they are useful, let them stay with you.  
Are sons yours? Teach them, and influence them from their childhood.  
Are daughters yours? Serve their bodies, and don't show your face as light-hearted to them. Hand over a daughter in marriage and you will do a great work. Give her to a sensible man.  
If a woman is yours according to your soul, don't throw her out, and don't trust yourself in all the heart to one worthy of hate.

Honor your father, and don't ignore your mother's groan. Remember that you wouldn't be except through them, and repay them as they you.

Fear God in all your soul, and sanctify His priests. In all strength love Him who made you, and don't abandon His ministers. Honor God from all your soul. Give honor to the priests, and cleanse yourself with arms. Give them a portion of first fruits and purification as is commanded you, and cleanse yourself from negligence with a few offerings. Offer the gift of your arms and the sacrifice of sanctification, the beginning of holy things.

Stretch out your hand to the poor, that your atonement and your benediction may be completed. A gift has grace in the sight of all the living, and don't forbid grace to the dead.

Don't fail those weeping in the gathered assembly, and walk with the grieving.

Don't be lazy to visit the sick, for from these acts you will be strengthened in delight.

Remember your end in all your works, and you will not sin in eternity.

### **Sirach 8.**

Don't go to law with a mighty man, unless perhaps you fall into his hands.

Don't contend with a rich man, unless perhaps he arrange a lawsuit against you.

Gold has destroyed many, and silver, and it reaches to and changes even a king's heart.

Don't go to law with a smooth-talking man, and don't spread wood on his fire.

Don't communicate with an untaught man, that he not speak harmfully of your offspring.

Don't despise a man turning himself away from sin, or reproach him. Remember that we all are under correction.

Don't reject a man in his old age, for they grow old from us too.

Don't rejoice over the dead, knowing that we all die, and we don't come into joy.

Don't despise the story of wise elders, and talk about their proverbs, for you will learn intelligent teaching from them, and to serve the great without complaint.

Don't let the old ones' story pass you by, for they too learned from their fathers, for you will learn understanding from them, and an answer in a time of necessity.

Don't light sinners' coals arguing with them, that you not be burned by the fire of their sins' flame.

Don't stand against the face of an insulting man, that he not sit as one lying in ambush against your mouth.

Don't lend to a mightier man than you. If you lend, have that as loss.

Don't promise beyond your strength. If you promise, consider that as one paying back.

Don't judge against a judge, because he judges according to what is worthy.

Don't go on the road with the reckless, unless perhaps his harm weigh down on you – for he goes according to his will, and you will perish together with his foolishness.

Don't make a quarrel with the wrathful.

Don't go into the desert with the reckless, for blood is nothing before him, and he will crush you where there is no helper.

Don't take counsel with fools, for they can't love anything except what pleases them.

Don't make counsel before a stranger, for you don't know what he will prepare.

Don't open your heart before every man, unless perhaps he inflict grace on you and revile you.

### **Sirach 9.**

Don't be jealous of the woman in your embrace, that you not show against yourself the harmfulness of wicked teaching.

Don't give a woman your soul's power, that she not go into your strength and you be confounded.

Don't look at a woman who is wanting many things, lest you fall into her snares.

Don't be constant with a female musician or listen to her, lest perhaps you perish in her influence.

Don't stare at a young woman, lest perhaps you be scandalized in her beauty.

Don't give your soul to fornicators in anything, lest you destroy yourself and your inheritance.

Don't look around at a city's streets, or wander around in its squares.

Turn your face away from an adorned woman, and don't inspect a strange beauty. Many perish because of a woman's beauty, and lust blazes up like fire from this. Every woman who is a fornicator is trampled like dung in the street. Many have become base admiring a strange woman's beauty, for her conversation blazes up like fire.

Don't lie down on a bed with a strange woman. Don't sit with a strange woman at all, or lie down with her on a bed. Don't banter with her in wine, lest perhaps your heart turn aside to her, and you slide to destruction by your blood.

Don't abandon an old friend, for a new one will not be like him. Let a new friend age like new wine, and you will drink it with smoothness.

Don't be jealous of a sinner's glory and wealth, for you do not know what may be their future downfall.

Don't let an injury done by the unrighteous please you, knowing that the lawless one will not please even to the dead.

Stay far away from a man having power to kill, and don't mistrust the fear of death. If you come near him, don't start anything, lest perhaps he take away your life. Know the communion of the dead, for you go into the midst of snares, and you walk over the weapons of the grieving.

Beware of your neighbor according to your power, and discuss with the wise and prudent.

Let righteous men be your table companions, and let glory be yours in the fear of God.

Let a thought be yours in sense, and each story of yours in the Most High's commandments.

A work will be praised in an artisan's hand, and a people's prince in the wisdom of his speech, yet the elders' word in sense.

A wordy man is terrible in his city, and a reckless man will be hateful in his word.

### **Sirach 10.**

A wise judge will vindicate his people, and sensible leadership will be stable. As the judge is, so the people and his ministers will be. As the city's governor, so also the inhabitants. A foolish king will destroy his people, and cities will be inhabited through the sense of the prudent.

Earth's authority is in God's hand, and in time He will stir up over it all the outcry of the nations' iniquity, and the usefulness of the governors. Human authority is in God's hand, and He will set His honor over a writer's face.

Don't remember each of your neighbor's wrongs, and carry on nothing in wrong works.

Pride is hateful before God and men, and all the iniquity of nations is detestable.

A kingdom is taken away from nation to nation because of injustices and injuries and abuses and various lies.

Nothing is more criminal than a greedy man. Why is earth and ashes proud? Nothing is more wicked than to love money, for this one has even his soul for sale – for in his life he throws out his inmost parts.

All political power has a brief road. A doctor cuts short a brief illness. So also a king is today, and tomorrow will die.

When a man dies, he will inherit snakes and beasts and worms.

The beginning of human pride is to turn away from God. His heart pulls back from Him who made him, for pride is the beginning of every sin. Who holds on to it will be filled by curses, and it will overthrow them in the end. For this reason, God has dishonored the gathering of the harmful, and destroyed them even to the end.

God has destroyed the thrones of prideful generals, and made the humble sit in their places. God has dried up the roots of prideful nations, and planted the humble from these nations. The Lord has overthrown the nations' lands, and has destroyed them even to the foundation. He made some of them dry up, and destroyed them, and made their memory cease from the earth. God destroyed the remembrance of the proud, and left the remembrance of the humble in sense.

Pride was not created for men, nor anger for the nation of women.

This human seed that fears the Lord will be honored, but this human seed that passes over the Lord's commandments will be dishonored.

In the midst of brothers, their governor is in honor, and so will those who fear God be in their eyes. Fear of God is the glory of the rich, the honorable, and the poor.

Don't despise a righteous poor man, and don't magnify a sinful rich man.

A judge is great, and a mighty man is in honor, and none is greater than one who fears God.

The free will serve a sensible slave. A disciplined, prudent man will not complain when corrected, and the ignorant will not be honored.

Don't lift yourself up in doing your work, and don't be slow in a time of anguish. Who works and abounds in all is better than one who boasts and lacks bread.

Son, serve your soul in gentleness, and give her honor according to her merit. Who will justify one sinning against his soul, and who will honor one dishonoring his soul?

A poor man may boast through his discipline and fear, and there is a man who is honored because of his wealth. Who boasts in poverty, how much more in wealth? Yet let who boasts in wealth fear poverty.

### **Sirach 11.**

A humbled one's wisdom will lift up his head, and make him sit among the great.

Don't praise a man because of his beauty, or reject a man because of his appearance.

A bee is small among flying things, yet her fruit has the beginning of sweetness.

Don't ever boast in clothing, or extol yourself on a day of honor, for marvelous works are the Most High's alone. His works are glorious and hidden and unseen.

Many tyrants have sat on a throne, and the unsuspected has carried a crown.

Many mighty ones have been greatly pressed, and the glorious have been handed over into others' hands.

Don't blame anyone before you investigate, and when you investigate, correct fairly.

Don't answer a word before you listen, and don't break in to speak in the middle of a speech.

Don't struggle over a thing that doesn't bother you, and don't stand together in sinners' judgment.

Son, don't let your acts be among many. If you are rich, you will not be immune from sin. If you follow you won't take hold, and if you run before you won't escape.

There is a lawless man laboring and hurrying and suffering, and so much more he does not abound.

There is an exhausted man needing recuperation, faltering more in strength and abounding in poverty.

God's eye has looked on him in good, and lifted him from his humiliation, and exalted his head – and many have wondered at him and honored God.

Good and harm, life and death, poverty and honor are from God.

God's gift endures for the righteous, and His advances will have success in eternity.

There is one who grows rich doing sparingly, and this is his reward's portion in this: that he says, "I have found rest for me, and now I alone will eat from my goods".

He doesn't know that time may pass, and he will leave it all to others.

Stand in your testament, and speak about it, and grow old in the work of your commandments.

Don't remain in sinners' works, but trust in God and remain in your place, for it is easy in God's eye to honor the poor in an instant.

God's blessing hurries to the righteous one's reward, and His advancement bears fruit in a rapid honor.

Don't say, "What is lacking to me, and what good will be mine from this?"

Don't say, "I am sufficient," and "Why will I be worse from this?"

Don't be unmindful of harm on a day of good, and on a day of harm don't be unmindful of good, for it is easy before God on the day of death to repay each one according to his ways.

An hour's ill-will makes the forgetting of great luxury, and in a man's end is the laying bare of his works.

Don't praise any man before death, because a man is known in his sons.

Don't bring every man into your home, for there are many traps of the deceitful.

As the bowels discharge foul odors, as the partridge is led into a cage, and as a deer into a trap, so is the heart of the proud, and as one gazing out, seeing his neighbor's fall.

He lies in wait, turning good to harm, and he inflicts a stain on the chosen.

Fire is increased by one spark, and blood is increased by one liar, and a sinful man lies in wait for blood.

Watch yourself around the pestilent, for he fabricates harms – unless perhaps he bring in mockery over you forever.

Admit a stranger to yourself, and he will undermine you in agitation, and alienate you from your own.

**Sirach 12.**

If you do good, know to whom you do it, and there will be much grace in your good deeds. Do good to the righteous and you will find a great reward, and, if not from him, certainly from the Lord.

It isn't well to one who pays attention to harm and not to giving alms, because even the Most High has hatred for sinners, and is merciful to the repentant.

Give to the merciful, and don't support a sinner. He too will return judgment to the lawless and sinners, keeping them to the day of vengeance.

Give to the good, and don't receive a sinner.

Do good to the humble, and don't give to the lawless. Forbid your loaves to him, lest he become stronger than you in them.

You will find double harm for all your good, because the Most High also has hatred for sinners, and returns vengeance to the lawless.

A friend is not recognized in good times, and an enemy is not hidden in hard times.

In a man's good times his enemies are in sadness, and in his hard times a friend is recognized.

Don't trust your enemy forever, for his wickedness rusts like brass.

Even if he goes bent down, humbled, add to your soul and keep yourself from him.

Don't stand him near you or let him sit at your right, that, turning back, he not stand in your place – unless perhaps turning back to your place, he seek your seat, and at the last you know my words and will be stung by my sayings.

Who will pity a charmer struck by a snake, or all who come near beasts? Who will pity one who accompanies a treacherous man and is wrapped up in his sins?

He will remain with you one hour, but if you turn away, he will not put up with it.

An enemy sweetens by his lips and lays traps in his heart, so he can topple you into a pit.

An enemy weeps with his eyes, yet if he finds the time, he will not be satisfied by blood.

If harms rush in to you, you will find him there before.

An enemy weeps with his eyes and, as if helping, will undermine your steps.

He will shake his head, and clap the hands, and, whispering much, will change his face.

**Sirach 13.**

Who touches tar will be stained by it, and who makes common cause with the proud will put on pride.

Who makes common cause with one more honored takes a weight on himself. Don't be a companion to one richer than you.

What common cause will the brass pot have with the earthen jar? When they strike together, it will be broken.

A rich man acted lawlessly and will roar, but a poor man will be silent when beaten.

If you are a giver of bribes, he will take you up, and if you don't have, he will abandon you.

If you have, he will dine with you and empty you, and he will not be sorry over you.

If you are necessary to him, he will undermine you, and, smiling, will give you hope, telling you good things. He will say, "What do you need?"

He will confound you in his food until he drains you twice and three times, and in the end mock you. Afterwards, seeing you, he will abandon you and shake his head at you.

Pay attention that, seduced into foolishness, you not be humiliated.

Don't be humble in your wisdom, that, humiliated, you not be seduced into foolishness.

Called by one mightier, withdraw, for from this he will call you more.

Don't be greedy, that you not be thrust back. Stay far away, that you not go into oblivion.

Don't delay to speak with him as an equal. Don't believe his many words, for he will test you with much talk, and, smiling, will question you about your secrets.

His cruel mind will keep your words, and he will not spare from harms and from chains.

Watch yourself and pay attention diligently to your hearing, for you walk with your own downfall.

Hearing these, see as if in a dream, and keep watch.

Delight in God all your life, and invoke Him in your well-being.

Every animal loves one like it. So also every man loves one closest to him.

All flesh is joined to one like it, and every man associates with those like him.

If a wolf will sometimes make common cause with a lamb, so a sinner with the righteous.

What sharing does a holy man have with a dog, or what good peace a rich man with the poor?

A wild ass is the lion's prey in the desert. So the poor are eaten up by the rich.

As humility is an abomination to the proud, so the poor man is detestable to the rich.

A rich man will be strengthened by friends when shaken, but a humble man is thrown out even by his acquaintances when he falls.

Many restorers help a rich man deceived. He has spoken proud words, and they have justified him.

A humble man is deceived, and beyond that is rebuked. He has spoken sensibly, and no place is given him.

A rich man has spoken, and all were silent, and they led his word through even to the clouds.

A poor man has spoken, and they say, "Who is this?" If he stumbles, they overthrow him.

Wealth is good to one who has no sin in conscience, and poverty is most wicked in the mouth of the lawless.

Man's heart changes his face, whether to the good or to the harm.

You will find the footsteps of a good heart and good face with difficulty and with labor.

#### **Sirach 14.**

A man is blessed who has not fallen by a word from his mouth, and is not tormented in the sadness of transgression.

Happy is one who does not have sadness in his soul, and has not fallen from his hope.

To a greedy and tight-fisted man, wealth is pointless. What use is gold to an envious man?

Who heaps up unjustly from his soul gathers for others, and another will indulge in his goods.

One who is wicked to himself, to whom will he be good? Will he not be happy in his own goods?

Nothing is more wicked than one who envies himself. This is the repayment of his ill-will.

If he does well, he does it ignorantly, not willing, and he makes known his ill-will in the end.

An envious eye is wicked, turning the face away, and despising its soul.

A lusting eye is insatiable in iniquity's portion. It won't be satisfied until it consumes its soul, drying up.

A harmful eye looks to harms. It won't be satisfied by bread, and will be in sadness over its own table.

Son, if you have, do good with you, and offer good gifts to God.

Be mindful that death does not delay, and that the dead ones' testament is demonstrated to you – for this world's testament will surely die.

Bless your friend before death, and, stretching out, give to the poor according to your strengths.

Don't be defrauded on a good day, and don't let a small portion of a good gift pass you by.

Won't you relinquish your pains and labors to others in the division of lots?

Give, and receive, and justify your soul.

Work righteousness before your death, for to find food is not with the dead.

All flesh grows old like grass, like a leaf bearing fruit in a green tree.

One bears and another falls. So is the generation of flesh and blood: one ends and another is born.

Every corruptible work will fail in the end, and who works it will go with it.

Every chosen work will be justified, and who worked it will be honored in it.

A man is blessed who will die in His wisdom, and who will meditate in His righteousness, and who will consider in the sense of God's foresight – who thinks out her ways in his heart, and has understanding in her hidden ways, going after her like a tracker and staying in her ways; who looks through her windows and is listening at her doors; who rests beside her house, and, fixing a stake in her walls, will stand his little house at her hands, and good things rest in his little house through the age.

He will stand his sons under her protection, and will live under her branches.

He will be protected from the heat in her covering, and will rest in her glory.

### **Sirach 15.**

Who fears God will work her, and who is contained in justice will take hold of her.

She will meet him like an honored mother, and will receive him like a wife from virginity.

She will feed him life's bread and understanding, and will give him the water of wisdom's well-being to drink. She will be strengthened in him, and he will not weep.

She will contain him, and he will not be confounded. She will lift him up with his neighbors.

He will open his mouth in the middle of the assembly. She will fulfill him by wisdom's spirit and understanding, and will dress him in a glorious garment.

She will store up happiness and exultation over him, and make him inherit an eternal name.

Foolish men will not take hold of her, and sensible men will meet her. Foolish men will not see her, for she is far away from pride and deceit.

Lying men will not be mindful of her. Truthful men will be found in her, and will have success even to God's inspection.

Praise is not beautiful in a sinner's mouth, for wisdom set out from God. Praise will stand with God's wisdom. She will abound in a faithful mouth, and the Ruler will give her to him.

Don't say, "She is far away because of God," – for what He hates, don't do!

Don't say, "He deceived me,"— for lawless men aren't necessary to Him.  
God hates each detestable error, and such an error will not be loved by those fearing Him.  
God appointed man from the beginning, and left him in His counsel's hand.  
He added His commandments and precepts.  
If you desire, the commandments will keep you, to do them in perpetual, pleasing faith.  
He has set water and fire before you. Stretch out your hand to what you wish.  
Life and death, good and harm, are before man. What pleases him will be given to him, for God's wisdom is great and mighty in power, seeing all without pausing.  
God's eyes look to those fearing Him, and He knows all man's works.  
He commanded no one to act lawlessly, and gave no one space for sinning, for He doesn't desire a multitude of faithless and useless sons.

### **Sirach 16.**

Don't be happy over lawless sons. If they multiply, don't rejoice over them, if the fear of God is not with them.  
Don't trust their life, and don't respect their labors, for one son fearing God is better than a thousand lawless sons.  
It is more useful to die without sons than to leave behind lawless sons.  
A country will be inhabited from one sensible man, and devastated by lawless tribes.  
My eye has seen many such truths, and my ear has heard mightier than these.  
Fire will blaze up in a synagogue of sinners, and wrath blazes up among an unbelieving nation.  
They did not plead for their sins among the ancient giants, who were destroyed trusting their strength.  
He did not spare them because of their sojourner, and He despised them for their word's pride.  
He had no mercy on them, destroying the whole nation and those praising themselves in their sins.  
As six hundred thousand foot-soldiers who gathered in their heart's hardness, if one was hard-necked, it was a wonder if he was untouched.  
Mercy is with Him and anger, mighty intercession and pouring out anger.  
According to His mercy, so is His correction. He judges man according to his works.  
The sinner will not escape to plunder, and the endurance of one working mercy will not be delayed.  
Each kindness will make a place for each one, according to their works' merit, and according to his sojourning's understanding.  
Don't say, "I will be hidden from God, and who will remember me from on high among a great people, for what is my soul in so immense a creation? I will not be noticed."  
Look! The sky and the skies' sky, the abyss and the whole earth and what are in it, will be moved together in His sight.  
Mountains and hills and earth's foundations together, when God looks on them, they will be struck by trembling, and every heart will be understood.  
Who understands His ways, and the storm which man's eye will not see?  
Many of His works are in hiddenness. Who will tell His righteous works, or endure, for the

testament is far from them, and the questioning of all is at the end.

Who is diminished in heart considers vain things, and an imprudent and erring man considers foolishness.

Listen to me, son! Learn the discipline of sense, and pay attention to my words in heart!

I will proclaim discipline in equity, and will study to tell wisdom. Pay attention to my words in your heart. I speak in equity's breath the powers that God has placed in His works from the beginning. I tell His knowledge in truth.

His works are in God's judgment from the beginning. He has distinguished their parts from their origin, and their beginnings among their nations.

He has adorned their works in eternity. They neither hungered, nor labored, nor have they ceased from their works.

Each one has not constricted his neighbor even to all time.

Don't disbelieve His word!

God looked on the earth after this, and filled her with His good.

The soul of all the living has been stripped bare before His face, and their return is into her again.

### **Sirach 17.**

God created man from earth, and made Him according to His image.

He turned him back to her again, and dressed him in strength according to Himself.

He gave him a number of days and time, and He gave him authority over those that are on the earth.

He set fear of him over all flesh, and he is ruler of beasts and flying things.

He created from him a helper like himself. He gave him counsel and tongue and eyes, ears and a heart to considering. He filled them with understanding's discipline.

He created knowledge of spirit for them, filled their heart with sense, and showed them harm and good.

He set their eye above their hearts to show them His great works, that they may praise the name of sanctification, and boast in His wonders, and tell the greatness of His works.

He added discipline to them, and made them inherit life's law.

He set up an eternal testament with them, and showed them His judgments.

Their eye saw wonders of His honor, and their ears heard the voice's honor. He said to them, "Keep yourselves from every iniquity!"

He commanded each one about the neighbor.

Their ways are always before Him. They are not hidden from His eyes.

He set up a governor in each nation, and Israel became God's manifest portion.

All their works are like the sun in God's sight, and His eyes are looking on their ways without ceasing.

The testaments aren't hidden through their iniquity, and all their iniquities are in God's sight.

Man's alms are like a purse with Him, and He will keep man's grace like the eye's pupil.

Afterwards, He will rise up and pay back to each of them a reward on their head, and turn them to the inner parts of the earth.

Yet He gave the way of righteousness to the penitent. He summoned them to sustain the faltering, and destined them to truth's lot.  
Turn to God, and leave behind your sins!  
Plead before the face, and reduce the stumbling block!  
Turn yourself back to the Lord! Turn away from injustice, and hate the curse overwhelmingly!  
Know God's justices and judgments, and stand in the lot of God Most High's propositions and prayers!  
Go to the portions of the holy age, with those living and giving confession!  
Don't linger to death in the error of the lawless! He dies like nothing.  
While living, confess! Alive and whole, confess and praise God and glory in His mercies!  
How great is God's mercy and His atonement for those turning to Him!  
All things cannot be in men, for man's son is not immortal, and they've pleased themselves in the vanity of harmfulness.  
What is brighter than the Sun, and this will falter. What is more wicked than what flesh and blood will plot, and this is rebuked.  
He looks on the power of the sky's height, and all men are earth and ashes.

### **Sirach 18.**

The One who lives in eternity has created all. God alone will be justified and will endure, an unconquered King in eternity.  
Who is sufficient to tell His works?  
Who will investigate His wonders?  
Who will tell the power of His greatness, and who will add to tell His mercy?  
To diminish or to add to is not possible, nor is it possible to find God's wonders.  
When man finishes, then He begins. When he is quieted, He will work.  
What is man, and what is his grace? What is his good or what is his wickedness?  
The number of man's days when many are a hundred years. Like a drop of water to the sea, and like a grain of sand, so are meager years in the age's day.  
Because of this, God is patient with them, and poured out His mercy over them.  
He saw their heart's presumption, that it is harmful, and knew their overthrowing, that it is wicked.  
Therefore, He fulfilled His atonement among them, and showed them equity's way.  
Man's pity is concerning his neighbor, but God's mercy is over all flesh.  
He has mercy and teaches. He guides His flock as a shepherd.  
He has mercy on one following mercy's doctrine, and on those who hurry to His judgments.  
Son, don't give a complaint in good things, and don't give sadness to every gift by a harmful word.  
Won't dew cool the heat? So also a word is better than a gift.  
Look! Isn't a word above a good gift? Both are with a justified man.  
A fool taunts unpleasantly, and the gift of the undisciplined makes the eyes dry up.  
Prepare justice for yourself before judgment, and learn before you speak.

Use medicine before sickness, and question yourself before judgment, and you will find atonement in God's sight.  
Humble yourself before sickness, and show your manner of life in a time of weakness.  
Don't always be hindered to work, and don't be an obstacle to being justified even to death, for God's reward endures in eternity.  
Prepare your soul before prayer, and don't be like a man who tests God.  
Be mindful of wrath on the day of consummation, and the time of retribution in the turning of the face.  
Be mindful of poverty in a time of abundance, and of poverty's necessity on a day of riches.  
Time is changed from morning even to evening, and all these are set in motion in God's eyes.  
A wise man will fear in all, and will keep himself from laziness in days of offense.  
Every shrewd man has known wisdom, and will give confession to those finding her.  
The sensible themselves have also acted wisely in words. They have understood truth and justice, and have asked help of proverbs and judgments.  
Don't go after your lusts from the soul's contentment. Turn away from your will.  
If you furnish your soul its lusts, it will make you into an enemy's joy.  
Don't take pleasure in crowds, not even as small as two, for it is their action.  
Don't become mediocre in competition from usury, and there is nothing for you in your wallet, for you will be envious of your life.

### **Sirach 19.**

A drunken worker will not grow rich, and who spurns the modest will fall little by little.  
Wine and women make the wise fall away, and will rebuke the sensible.  
Who joins himself to fornicators will be wicked. Rot and worms will inherit him. He will be lifted up as a powerful example, and his soul will be taken away from the number.  
Who trusts quickly with a light heart will be reduced, and who sins against his soul will be held as well.  
Who rejoices in iniquity will be made known, who hates correction will be crushed by life, and who hates easy words will extinguish ill-will.  
Who sins against his soul will be sorry, and those who are happy in malice will be made known.  
Don't repeat a harsh and wicked word, and you will not be diminished.  
Don't tell your sense to friend and enemy. If there is an offense to you, don't lay it bare.  
He will hear you, and keep you, and hate you like one defending sin, and so it will be added to you always.  
Have you heard a word against a neighbor? Let it die in you, trusting that it will not break you.  
A fool is in labor at the face of a word, like the groan of one birthing an infant.  
As an arrow stuck in the thigh's flesh, so is a word in a fool's heart.  
Correct a friend, unless perhaps he not know. He may say, "I didn't do it," or, if he did, he may not add to do it again.  
Correct a neighbor, unless perhaps he did not say it. If he said it, correct him, unless perhaps he repeat it.  
Correct a friend, for often the action may happen.

Don't believe every word, for there is one who slips from the tongue, yet not from the soul.  
Who is there who does not fall short by his tongue? Correct a neighbor before you threaten.  
Give place to the fear of the Most High – for fear of God is all wisdom, and to fear God in her  
and in all wisdom is the law's disposition.  
There is no wisdom in the discipline of wickedness, and there is no prudence in the consideration  
of sinners.  
There is wickedness and the same is a curse, and there is a fool who diminishes wisdom.  
Better is a man who falters in wisdom, and, sense faltering, remains in the fear of God, than one  
who abounds in sense and violates the Most High's law.  
There is a certain cleverness, and the same is iniquity.  
There is one who sends out a certain word, telling the truth, and there is one who humiliates  
himself wickedly, and his guts are full of deceit.  
There is a righteous one who submits himself greatly in much humility, and there is a righteous  
one who inclines the face, and shapes himself not to see what he doesn't know.  
Even if he is hindered in sinning from lack of power, if he finds time for doing wrong he will do  
wrong.  
A man is known from the appearance, and a sensible person is known from the meeting of faces.  
The body's clothing, and the teeth's laughter, and the man's entry tell about him.  
There is a lying rebuke in an abusive man's anger, and there is evidence that is proved not to be  
good, and there is a silent man – and he is prudent.

## **Sirach 20.**

How much better it is to argue than to get angry, and not to forbid confessing in prayer!  
A eunuch's lust has deflowered a young woman: so is one who works a judgment treacherously,  
through violence.  
How much better it is, corrected, to make evident penance, for so you will escape voluntary sin.  
It is the silent one who is found wise.  
He who is undisciplined in speaking is hateful.  
One is silent not having sense to speak, and one is silent knowing the time of an apt response.  
A wise man will be silent even to the time, but the lustful and imprudent will not serve the time.  
Who uses many words wounds his soul, and who takes up power to himself unjustly will be  
hated.  
There is a procession to harm in an undisciplined man, and there is a discovery to loss.  
There is a gift that may not be useful, and there is a gift whose reward is double.  
There is a diminishing for glory's sake, and there is one who has lifted up the head from humility.  
There is one who buys back much at a small price, and is restoring them sevenfold.  
A wise man makes himself beloved in words, but fools' graces are poured out.  
A gift to fools will not be useful to you, for his eyes are sevenfold.  
He will give little and blame much, and the opening of his mouth is inflammatory.  
Who loans today and demands tomorrow – such a man is hateful too.

There will be no friend to a fool, and there will be no thanks for his good deeds, for those who eat his bread are of false tongue. How often and how much they will mock him, for he has not distributed by direct sense what was to be had, and likewise also what was not to be had. The slipping of a false tongue is as one who is falling to the pavement. So also the fall of harmful ones comes quickly.

An unpleasant man will be relentless, like a vain fable in the mouth of the undisciplined. A parable from a fool's mouth will be rejected, for he does not speak at its time. There is one who is kept from sin by poverty, and in his ease he will be stung. There is one who destroys his soul from confusion, and will destroy it by an imprudent person, and will destroy himself by favoring a person. There is one who makes promises to a friend out of confusion, and gains him as an enemy for nothing.

A lie is a wicked reproach to a man, and it will stay relentlessly in the mouth of the undisciplined. Better a thief than the relentlessness of a lying man, yet both will inherit destruction. The customs of lying men are without honor, and their confusion will be with them without ceasing.

A wise man will advance himself in words by the word of parables, and a prudent man will please the great. Who works his land will build up a heap of grain; and who works justice, he will be exalted. Who pleases the great will escape iniquity. Presents and gifts blind judges' eyes, and like one mute in mouth he turns away their corrections. Hidden wisdom and unseen treasure – what use is in either? Better among men are those who hide their foolishness than those who hide their wisdom.

## **Sirach 21.**

Son, have you sinned? Don't add again, yet plead also about the first, that it be forgiven you! Flee sins as if from a cobra's face! If you come near them, they will take you. Its teeth are a lion's teeth, killing men's souls. All iniquity is like a twice-sharpened spear. There is no healing of its blow. Terror and injury wipe out wealth. So the proud's wealth will be pulled up by the roots. The poor man's prayer will come from the mouth even to His ears, and judgment will come to him quickly. Who hates correction is a sinner's footstep, and who fears God turns to His heart. The mighty one is known from far off by a bold tongue, and sensible man knows to slip himself away from him. Who builds a house by strangers' expenses is like one who gathers his stones in winter. A synagogue of sinners is gathered stubble, and its consummation a flame of fire. The way of sinners is covered by stones. Their end is the inferno, and shadows, and punishment. Who keeps justice will contain its sense. Wisdom and sense are the consummation of the fear of God. Who is not wise in good will not be taught.

There is a foolishness that abounds to harm, and there is no sense where bitterness abounds.  
The knowledge of the wise will abound like a flood, and their counsel will endure like a fountain of life.

A fool's heart is like a broken vessel. It won't hold any wisdom.

When he hears a wise word, a knowing person will praise it, and will add it to himself. The self-indulgent has heard, and it will displease him, and he will throw it out behind his back.

A fool's story is like a burden on the road, for grace will be found in the lips of the sensible.

The prudent one's mouth is sought in the assembly. They will consider his words in their heart.

Like a house wiped out, so is wisdom to a fool. Knowledge is untellable words to the senseless.

Teaching is shackles on the feet to a fool, and like hand chains on the right hand.

A fool raises his voice in laughter, but a wise man will hardly laugh silently.

Teaching is a golden ornament to the prudent, and like a bracelet on the right arm.

A fool's foot goes easily to a neighbor's house, and a skilled man will be confounded by a powerful person.

A fool will look in the window of a house, but a learned man will stand outside.

Man's foolishness is to listen through the door, and the prudent will be weighed down by abuse.

The lips of the imprudent will tell foolish tales, but the words of the wise will be weighed in a scale.

In the mouth of fools is their heart, and in the heart of the wise is their mouth.

While the lawless curses the devil, he curses his own soul.

A gossip stains his soul, and will be hated among all. Who stays with him will be hated. The silent and sensible will be honored.

## **Sirach 22.**

A lazy man is stoned with a dirty rock, and all will talk about his rejection.

A lazy man is stoned by ox dung, and everyone who touches him will shake out the hand.

A father's confounding is from an undisciplined son. In a daughter, it will happen by degradation.

A prudent daughter is an inheritance to her husband. She who confounds becomes an affront to her father.

A reckless daughter confounds father and husband, and will not be less than the lawless – yet she will be dishonored by both.

A story at the wrong time is like music in mourning. A beating and teaching yield wisdom all the time.

Who teaches a fool is like one who glues together a clay jar.

Who tells a word to one not paying attention is like one who rouses the sleeping from a deep sleep.

Who spells something out to a fool, in the end he also says, "Who is this?"

Weep over the dead for his light has failed, and weep over the fool for his sense has failed.

Weep little over the dead, for he has rested.

The wicked life of a fool is more wicked than death.

Grieving the dead lasts seven days, but grieving the fool and the lawless lasts all the days of their life.

Don't talk a lot with a fool, and don't go out with the senseless.  
Keep yourself from him, that you not have aggravation, and you not be stained in his thrashing.  
Turn away from him and you will find rest. You won't be worn out in his foolishness.  
He will weigh down more than lead. What other name is his than "Fool"?  
It is easier to carry sand and salt and a lump of iron than an imprudent, foolish, and lawless man.  
Strapped wood bound in a building's foundation will not be unbound. So also is a heart confirmed in counsel's consideration.  
A sensible man's thought will not be twisted in all time by fear.  
As straw and cheap cement in a high places will not endure against the wind's face, so also the heart of the timid in a fool's thought does not stand up against the force of fear.  
So also the heart of the fearful will not fear all the time in a fool's thought, and so also is one who remains always in God's commandments.  
Poking the eye brings out tears, and who pokes the heart will bring out sense.  
Throwing a stone at birds will bring them down. So also, who insults a friend dissolves friendship.  
Don't despair if you have drawn out a sword at a friend, for there is a return to a friend.  
Don't be afraid if a sad mouth opens, for there is reconciliation – except for mockery and insult and pride and revealing secrets and deceitful blows. In all these a friend will flee.  
Have faith with a neighbor in his poverty, that you may rejoice in his good times too.  
Remain faithful to him in his time of trouble, so you may be a co-heir with him in his inheritance.  
Smoke and fumes go up before the furnace's fire. So also are curses, abuses, and threats before blood.  
Don't be ashamed to greet a friend, and let me not hide myself from his face. If harms come to me through him, I endure.  
Everyone who will hear will warn himself away from him.  
Who will give a guard for my mouth, and a certain seal to use over my lips, lest through them I fall, and my tongue destroy me?

### **Sirach 23.**

Lord, my life's Father and ruler, don't let me go! Don't allow me to fall among them!  
Who will set beatings over me in my thought, and wisdom's teaching in my heart, that they not spare me in their ignorance, and their offenses may not appear – and my ignorance increase, and my offenses be multiplied, and my sins abound, and I fall in my adversaries' sight – and my enemy be happy?  
Lord, my life's Father and God, don't abandon me to their scheme!  
Don't give me the lifting up of my eyes! Turn every lust away from me!  
Take the lusts of the gut away from me, and don't let the lust of sex capture me! Don't let me betray myself to an irreverent and tasteless soul!  
Listen, sons, to the mouth's teaching! Who keeps it will not perish by his lips, or be scandalized in wicked works.  
A sinner will be captured in his vanity, and the proud and the cursing will be scandalized in it.

Don't let your mouth get used to swearing, for in it is a great fall!  
Indeed, don't let God's name be constant in your mouth, and don't mix together the names of holy ones, for you will not be unclean from them – for as a slave questioned carefully is not without a bruise, so each one swearing and naming will not be purged from sin in all.  
A man swearing much will be filled by iniquity, and the blow will not pull away from his house.  
If he frustrates his offense will be over him, and if he lies he will fall short doubly.  
If he swears for nothing, he will not be justified, for his house will be filled by retribution.  
There is another speech against death. Let it not be found in Jacob's inheritance – for all these will be taken away from the merciful, and they will not wallow in offenses.  
Don't let your mouth get used to undisciplined speech, for sin's word is in it.  
Remember your father and mother, for you stand among the great, unless perhaps He forget you in their sight and, made a fool, you suffer rebuke by your habit, and you wish not to have been born, and you curse the day of your birth!  
A man accustomed to taunting words will not be taught in all his days.  
Two types abound in sins, and a third brings in wrath and destruction: a rash soul, like fire blazing up, will not be extinguished until it engulfs something; a wicked man in his flesh's mouth will not stop until he kindles a fire.  
To a man fornicating, all bread is sweet. He will not cease going beyond his bed.  
Every man who goes beyond his bed is condemning in his soul and saying, "Who will see me? Shadows surround me, and walls cover me. No one watches me. Whom do I fear? The Most High will not remember my offenses."  
He will not understand that His eye sees all, for such a man's fear expels the fear of God from himself, and the eyes of men fearing Him.  
He has not understood that the Lord's eyes are much clearer than the sun, looking over all man's ways, looking into the abyss's depths and human hearts, to the hidden portions – for all were known to the Lord God before they were created, and He looks on all after completion.  
This one will be judged in the city's streets. He will be driven out like a horse's colt, and seized where he did not expect it.  
He will be shameful to all, because he has not understood the fear of God.  
So also is every woman abandoning her husband, and setting up an inheritance from another marriage.  
First of all, she was unbelieving to the Most High's law; second, she abandoned her husband; third, she has fornicated in adultery, and set up sons to herself from another man.  
She will be led into the assembly, and will be looked on in her sons.  
Her sons will not hand down roots, and her branches will not give fruit. They will abandon her memory in cursing, and her shame will not be erased.  
Those who are left will know that nothing is better than the fear of God, and nothing sweeter than to look on the Lord's commandments.  
To follow the Lord is great glory – for length of days will be taken up from Him.

#### **Sirach 24.**

Wisdom will praise her soul, and will be honored in God. She will glory among His people.

She will open her mouth in the Most High's assemblies, and will glory in the presence of His power.

She will be exalted among the people, and admired in holy fullness.

She will have praise among the multitude of chosen, and will be blessed among the blessed, saying, I came forth from the Most High's mouth, firstborn before every creature.

I worked that unfaltering light be born in the skies, and wove as a cloud all the earth.

I lived in the heights, and my throne was in a column of cloud.

I alone circled the sky's circle, and penetrated the abyss's depth. I walked on the sea's waves.

I stood in all the earth, and among all people.

I had first place in every nation.

By power I trampled the hearts of all, great and small. I sought rest among all these, and will stay in His inheritance.

Then the Creator of all, the One who created me and rested in my tabernacle, commanded and spoke to me.

He said to me, "Live in Jacob, and inherit in Israel! Take root among My chosen ones!"

I was created from the beginning, before the age, and I will not come to an end even to the future age. I have ministered before Him in the holy habitation.

I was established so in Sion, and rested likewise in the sanctified city. My power was in Jerusalem.

I put down roots among an honorable people, and his inheritance was in my God's portion. My possession was in the fullness of the holy ones.

I was exalted like a cedar in Lebanon, and like a cypress on Mount Sion.

I was exalted like a palm tree in Kadesh, and like a rose planting in Jericho.

I was exalted like a beautiful olive tree in the fields, and like a plane-tree beside water in the streets.

I gave a fragrance like cinnamon and fragrant camel thorn. I gave a fragrance of smoothness like choice myrrh.

I filled my dwelling with fragrant smoke like gum tree wood, and resin, and drops, and like uncut incense. I gave my fragrance like unmixed balsam.

I stretched out my branches like a terebinth tree, and my branches were honored and graceful.

I bore fruit of smooth fragrance like a vine, and my flowers were the fruit of beauty and honesty.

I am mother of beauty's delight, and reverence, and recognition, and holy hope.

The grace of all life and truth is in me. The hope of all life and power is in me.

Come across to me, all who desire me! Be filled from my fruits, for my breath is sweeter than honey, and my inheritance sweeter than honey and honeycomb!

My memory lives to the generation of the ages.

Those who eat me will yet hunger, and those who drink me will yet thirst.

One who hears me will not be confounded, and those who work in me will not sin.

Those who explain me will have eternal life.

All these are the book of life, the Most High's testament, and the recognition of truth.

Moses commanded a law in precepts of righteousness, the inheritance of Jacob's house and of Israel's promise.

God placed David His servant, to stir up from him the mightiest king, sitting forever on a throne of honor – who fills wisdom like the Phison, and like the Tigris in the days of fresh growth; who fills up sense like the Euphrates, who multiplies it like the Jordan at harvest time; who sends discipline like light, standing constant like Geon on the day of the grape-harvest – who perfects first to know her, and the weaker has not investigated her – for her thought has abounded more than the sea, and her counsel beyond the great abyss!

I, wisdom, poured out rivers.

I, like a channel of immense water from a river, I came out from paradise like the River Doryx, and like an aqueduct.

I said, "I will water my garden of plantings, and make my fruit's meadow drunk."

Look! It became for me an abundant channel, and my river came near the sea – for I illumine teaching to all like dawning light, and I will speak of her even in a land far away.

I will penetrate earth's lower portions, and look on all the sleeping. I will illumine those hoping in God.

I yet will pour out teaching like prophecy, and will leave her to those seeking wisdom. I will not leave off among their offspring even to the holy age.

See that I have not labored for myself alone, yet for all seeking truth!

### **Sirach 25.**

It is pleasing to my spirit in three things, which are proven before God and men: brotherly concord, love of neighbors, and a husband and wife harmonious with each other.

My soul has hated three types, and I am greatly weighed down by their soul: a proud poor man, a lying rich man, and a foolish and senseless old man.

You haven't gathered in your youth? How will you find her in your old age?

How beautiful is judgment to gray hairs, and knowing counsel to elders!

How beautiful is wisdom to the experienced, and understanding and counsel to the celebrated!

The crown of the old is much expertise, and their glory is the fear of God.

I have magnified nine things unsuspected to the heart, and I will tell a tenth to men by tongue: a man who takes delight in sons, living and seeing the overthrow of enemies.

Blessed is one who lives with a sensible woman, and who has not slipped by his tongue, and has not served those unworthy of him.

Who finds a true friend is blessed, and who tells righteousness to a listening ear.

How great is one who finds wisdom and knowledge, yet he is not above one fearing God!

Fear of God has been placed above all.

Blessed is one to whom it is given to have the fear of God. Who fears Him, who is he like?

Fear of God is the beginning of His delight, but faith's beginning is to be joined to Him.

Every blow is sadness to the heart. A woman's wickedness is every harm and every blow, yet he will not see the heart's blow; and every wickedness, and not a woman's wickedness; and every deception, yet not the deception of those hating; and every revenge, yet not the revenge of enemies.

No head is more wicked than a cobra's head, and no anger is worse than an enemy's anger. It will please more to live with a lion and a dragon than to live with a wicked woman.

A woman's wickedness changes her face, and will darken her face like a bear. She will show like a sack among her neighbors.

Listening, he will sigh a little.

Malice is brief compared to a woman's malice. Let the sinners' lot fall on her!

A sandy ascent to an old man's feet – so is a blabbing wife to a quiet man.

Don't look on a woman's beauty, and don't lust for a woman in beauty!

A woman's anger and irreverence and confusion are great.

If a wife has first place, she is against her husband.

A wicked woman is a humiliated heart, and a sad face, and a death blow.

A woman who does not bless her husband is weak hands and wobbly knees.

Sin's beginning came from a woman, and through her all of us die.

Don't give away your water's outlet, not even a little, nor give indulgence to a wicked woman to go out.

If she does not walk at your hand, she will also confound you in the enemies' sight.

Cut her off from your flesh, that she not always abuse you!

### **Sirach 26.**

A good woman's husband is blessed, for the number of his years is double.

A strong woman delights her husband, and will fill up his life's years in peace.

A good wife is a good portion. She will be given in good portion to those fearing God, to a man for good deeds.

Yet to rich and poor, their appearance in cheerfulness is a good heart at all time.

My heart feared for three things, and my face was afraid at a fourth: a fallen city, and a people's gathering, and a lying accusation – all are heavier than death.

A jealous woman is a heart's pain and grief.

In an unfaithful wife is a tongue-lashing, telling all.

As a yoked ox that is moved, so also is a wicked woman. Who holds on to her is like one who grabs a scorpion.

A drunken woman is great wrath, and her abuse and shame will not be covered.

A woman's fornication will be known in the lifting up of the eyes and in her eyelids.

Keep a firm watch over a daughter not turning herself away, that, finding an occasion, she not use herself.

Beware of every irreverence of the eyes, and don't be amazed if she neglects you.

She will open the mouth like a thirsty traveler at a fountain, and will drink from every neighbor's water. She will sit against every fence, and will open the quiver against every arrow until she falls.

The grace of an attentive woman will delight her husband, and make his bones fat.

Her discipline is God's gift.

A sensible and quiet woman is no change for a learned soul.

A holy and modest woman is grace upon grace, yet every precious weight is not worthy of a temperate soul.

As the sun rising pure in God's heights, so the beauty of a good woman in her house's decoration.  
As a lamp shining on a holy candlestick, so the face's beauty in steady age.  
As golden columns on silver bases, so also strong feet on the soles of a steadfast woman.  
An eternal foundation on solid rock, so also God's commandments in a holy woman's heart.  
My heart is saddened in two things, and anger comes to me in a third: a man of war faltering through lack, and a sensible man scorned, and one who crosses over from righteousness to sin.  
God has prepared him for a spear.  
Two species appeared difficult and dangerous to me: a trader is drawn out of negligence with difficulty; and a salesman will not be justified from the lip's sins.

### **Sirach 27.**

Many have done wrong because of poverty, and one who wants to get rich turns his eye away.  
As a stake is stuck fast in the midst of a binding together of stones, so he is constricted by sin in the middle of selling and buying.  
The wrong will be crushed.  
If you are not held fast instantly in the fear of the Lord, your house will be overthrown quickly.  
As dung will remain in a perforated sieve, so a man's wavering in his thought.  
A furnace proves a potter's vessel, and trouble's testing righteous men.  
As the cultivation of a tree shows its fruit, so a devised word a human heart.  
Don't praise a man before a word, for this is a man's testing.  
If you follow righteousness, you will take hold of her, and dress in honor like a long robe. You also will live with her, and she will protect you forever. You will find a support on the day of recognition.  
Birds come together with those like them, and truth will come back to those who work her.  
A lion always lies in wait for the hunted. So are sins to those working iniquity.  
A holy man remains in wisdom like the sun, yet a fool is changed like the moon.  
Keep a timely word among the senseless, yet be constant among the thoughtful.  
The tale of sinners is hateful, and their laughter is sin's offense.  
Speech of much swearing will stand the hairs on end, and its irreverence is the stopping up of the ears.  
The pouring out of blood is in the quarrels of the proud, and their cursing is a heavy hearing.  
Who lays bare a friend's secrets will lose trust, and he won't find a friend for his soul.  
Love a neighbor, and be joined with him by faith!  
Yet if you lay bare his hidden secrets, don't follow after him – for as a man who destroys his friend, so is one who destroys his neighbor's friendship – and as one who frees a bird from his hand, so you've let your neighbor go, and you will not capture him.  
Don't follow him, for he has gone far away. He fled like a deer from a trap, because he was wounded.  
There is a reconciliation to binding and to cursing, yet to lay bare a friend's mysteries is a desperate act.  
One winking with the eye fabricates iniquity, and no one will throw him out.

Your mouth will sweeten in the sight of your eyes, and he will admire your words, yet in the end his mouth will pervert, and he will give scandal to your words.

I have heard many things, and have not been like him, and the Lord will hate him.

Who throws a stone up high, it will fall on his head, and a lying blow will sever the wounded.

Who digs a pit will fall in it too, and who stands up a stone against a neighbor will trip on it.

Who sets a trap for another will perish in it.

To work wickedly will come back on itself, and he won't know where it comes to him from.

Mocking and reproaches are for the proud, and revenge will lie in wait for him like a lion.

Those who rejoice at the fall of the righteous will perish in a trap, but pain will consume them before they die.

Both anger and fury are hateful, and a sinful man will be held fast in them.

### **Sirach 28.**

Who wants to be avenged will find vengeance from God, and will surely serve his sins.

Let go of your neighbor harming you, and then, praying, sins will be forgiven you.

Man keeps anger toward man, and does he seek healing from God?

He has no mercy on a man like himself, and does he plead for his own sins?

This one, while he is flesh, holds on to anger, and does he ask forgiveness from God? Who will pray for his offenses?

Remember the ends, and leave off being an enemy, for wasting away and death loom ahead in the commandments!

Remember the fear of God, and don't be angry with a neighbor!

Remember the Most High's testament, and overlook a neighbor's ignorance!

Abstain from a quarrel, and you will diminish sins, for a wrathful man ignites a quarrel, and a sinful man troubles friends, and throws in animosity in the middle of those having peace.

According to a forest's trees, so a fire blazes up, and a man's wrath will be according to his strength. He will lift up his anger according to his wealth.

A hurried struggle kindles a fire, and a hurrying quarrel pours out blood, and a testifying tongue brings in death.

If you blow on it, it will blaze up like fire, and if you spit on it, it will be extinguished – and both come out of the mouth.

A gossip and a double-tongued man is cursed, for he has troubled many having peace.

A third tongue has stirred up many, and scattered them from nation to nation.

It has destroyed the walled cities of the rich, and undermined the houses of the great.

It has cut down the powers of peoples, and dissolved mighty nations.

A third tongue has thrown out strong women, and deprived them of their labors.

Who looks on it will not have rest, nor will he live with rest.

A whip's blow makes a bruise, but a tongue's blow will shatter bones.

Many have fallen at the sword's mouth, yet not so many as those who have been destroyed by their tongue.

Happy is one who is covered against a wicked tongue, who has not crossed over into its anger, and who has not dragged its yoke, and is not bound in its chains.

Its yoke is an iron yoke, and its chain is a brass chain.  
Its death is a wicked death, and the inferno is more useful than it.  
Its steadfastness will not endure, yet it will obtain the ways of the unrighteous – yet in its flames,  
it will not burn up the righteous.  
Those who abandon God will fall into it. It will blaze up among them, and won't be extinguished.  
It will be thrown in among them like a lion, and will wound them like a leopard.  
Hedge your ears with thorns, and don't listen to a wicked tongue! Make doors and locks for your  
mouth!  
Forge your gold and silver, and make a scale for your words, and right bridles for your mouth!  
Pay attention, unless perhaps you slip in tongue, and fall in the sight of enemies lying in wait  
against you, and your fall be incurable to death!

### **Sirach 29.**

Let who works mercy lend to a neighbor, and let who is stronger in hand keep the  
commandments.  
Lend to a neighbor of yours in the time of his necessity, and pay a neighbor again in his time!  
Confirm a word and carry on faithfully with him, and you will find at all times what is necessary  
to you.  
Many have considered a loan as something found, and they've given grief to those who helped  
them.  
Until they receive, they kiss the hand of the one giving, and they humble their voice in promises.  
They will plead for time at the time of repayment. They will speak weary and complaining  
words, and will allege an excuse for time.  
Yet if he can pay, turning himself solidly away, he will hardly pay half, and will count it as  
something found.  
If he defrauds him of his money, he will have him as an enemy, without cost.  
He will pay him mockery and cursing, and return him abuse for the honor and benefit.  
Many have refused to lend not because of wickedness, yet they feared being defrauded for  
nothing.  
Nevertheless, be of a stronger soul concerning the humble, and don't drag him out over alms.  
Take up the poor for the commandment's sake, and don't let him go away empty for his lack's  
sake!  
Lose money for a brother and friend, and don't hide it under a stone in destruction!  
Place your treasure in the Most High's precepts, and it will profit you more than gold.  
Wrap up a gift in a poor man's heart, and this will prevail on your behalf against every harm.  
It will fight against your enemy more than the shield of the powerful and more than the lance.  
A good man works faith with his neighbor, and one who has lost shame will leave him to  
himself.  
Don't forget the grace of one who bails you out, for he has given his soul on your behalf.  
The sinner and unclean flees the one who has promised.  
A sinner reckons to himself the goods of the one who promises, and an ingrate will abandon in  
sense the one who freed him.

A man gives a guarantee for his neighbor, and when he loses reverence, he will be abandoned by him.

A wicked promise has destroyed many boundaries, and has moved them like the sea's waves.

It has made mighty men move away reeling, and they've wandered among alien nations.

A sinner transgressing the Lord's commandments will fall into a wicked promise, and one who tries to carry on many things will fall into judgment.

Help a neighbor according to your strength, and pay attention to yourself – that you not fall!

Life's beginning is water, and bread, and clothing, and a house covering shame.

Better a poor man's meal under a board roof than splendid feasts in a journey without a home.

Let a little be pleasing to you rather than a lot, and you won't hear the abuse of the homeless.

It is a wicked life lodging from house to house. Where he lodges, he will not act confidently or open his mouth.

He will lodge, and feed, and give drink to the ungrateful, and listen to these bitter words: "Go, guest, and furnish a table, and feed others what you have in hand! Go out before my honored friends' face! A brother has become my house's lodger to me by necessity."

These are heavy to a man having sense: the correction of a house, and the rebuke of a lender.

### **Sirach 30.**

Who loves his son constantly applies correction to him, so he may be happy at his end.

Who teaches his son will be praised in him, and he will boast about him among his household.

Who teaches his son throws an enemy into envy, and he will boast about him among friends.

His father is dead and as if not dead, for he leaves behind him one like himself.

He saw during his life and was happy in him. At his death he was neither saddened nor confused before enemies, for he has left a defender of the home and one repaying grace to friends.

He will bind up his wounds for his sons' souls, and his guts will be troubled over every voice.

A stubborn, unbroken horse escapes, and a rash, lax son escapes.

Lead your son on, and he will make you afraid. Play with him, and he will sadden you.

Don't laugh with him, that you not be pained, and your smiles be astonished at the end.

Don't give him power in youth, and don't overlook his thought.

Bend his neck in youth, and bruise his side while he is a child, unless perhaps he be hardened, and not believe you, and the soul's pain will be yours.

Teach your son and work in him, unless you stumble in his shame.

Better is the healthy poor of mighty strengths than the stupid rich beaten down by malice.

A soul's health in the sanctity of righteousness is better than all gold and silver, and a strong body than a vast estate.

No estate is better than the estate of a healthy body, and no delight is better than a joyful heart.

Death is better than a bitter life, and eternal rest than a lingering sickness.

Good words hidden in a closed mouth are like settings of feasts placed around a grave.

How does a drink offering profit an idol, for it neither eats nor smells?

So is one who is frightened away from the Lord and carrying iniquity's rewards, eyes seeing and groaning, like a eunuch hugging a young woman and sighing.

Don't give sadness to your soul, and don't afflict yourself in your counsel!

Happiness of heart – this is man's life and treasure without failing in holiness. Man's exultation is long life.

Have mercy on your soul, pleasing God, and contain and gather your heart in His holiness. Drive sadness far from you, for sadness has killed many, and no usefulness is in it!

Envy and anger diminish the days, and scheming brings on old age before the time.

A splendid and good heart is in feasting, for its feasts are made diligently.

### **Sirach 31.**

Watching for honors shrinks the flesh, and plotting for them takes away sleep.

The present's plotting turns away sense, and a grave illness makes the soul sober.

A rich man labored in the gathering of wealth, and in his rest he will be filled with his goods.

A poor man has labored in a reduced living, and in the end is made needy.

Who loves gold will not be justified, and who pursues consumption will be filled from it.

Many are brought to a fall through gold, and it has become their destruction in its appearance.

Gold is a stumbling block to those sacrificing. Woe to those who pursue it, and each imprudent fool will be destroyed in it!

Blessed is a rich man who is found without stain, and has not gone out after gold, or hoped in money and treasure.

Who is he, and we will praise him – for he has worked wonders in his life!

Who has been proved in it, and was perfected, and will be in eternal glory in it – who could have transgressed yet didn't transgress, and have done harm and didn't do it!

Therefore, his goods are made stable in God, and the holy ones' assembly will tell of his alms.

Have you sat down at a great table? Don't open your jaw first over it!

Don't say, "Those that are on it are fake."

Remember that a wicked eye is harmful.

What is created more wicked than the eye? Therefore it will weep over all its face when it sees.

Don't stretch out your hand first and be ashamed, contaminated by envy, or be hasty in a feast.

Understand your neighbor from yourself!

Use what are set before you like a frugal man, and you will not be hated when you have eaten much.

Leave off first for discipline's sake, and don't be excessive, unless perhaps you offend.

If you've sat down in the midst of many, don't stretch out your hand before them, nor ask to drink first.

How sufficient is a little wine to a learned man! You won't labor in sleeping from it, and you won't feel pain.

Sleeplessness and irritability and torment come to a senseless man.

A healthy sleep comes to a self-controlled man. He will sleep even to morning, and his soul will be delighted with him.

If you are compelled to eat much, get up from the midst and vomit. It will refresh you, and you won't bring sicknesses to your body.

Listen to me, son! Don't reject me, and you will find my words in the end!

Be swift in all your works, and not every sickness will meet you!

The lips of many will bless one splendid in bread, and the testimony of his truth comes faithfully.  
A city will grumble against one wicked in bread, and the testimony of his wickedness is true.  
Don't provoke those delighting in wine, for wine has exterminated many!  
Fire proves hard iron. So wine drunk to drunkenness will accuse the hearts of the proud.  
Wine has made equal in the life of men. If you drink it moderately, you will be sober.  
What is a life that is diminished by wine?  
What defrauds life? Death!  
Wine was created from the beginning for happiness, not for drunkenness.  
Wine drunk moderately is the soul and heart's exultation.  
It is health to body and soul.  
Much wine drunk makes provocation and anger and many downfalls.  
Much wine drunk is a soul's bitterness.  
The animosity of drunkenness is the stumbling block of the imprudent, reducing strength and making wounds.  
Don't argue with a neighbor in a drunken feast, and don't despise him in his happiness!  
Don't speak rebuking words to him, and don't press him in demanding back!

### **Sirach 32.**

Did they place you as leader? Don't be lifted up! Be among them as one of them.  
Have care for them, and take a position so, and, all your concern explained, sit down – that you may be happy for their sake, and receive a crown as grace's ornament, and attend to the gathering's reputation.  
Speak, older born, for it is fitting to you, the first word by one loving knowledge!  
Don't impede music!  
Don't pour out a word where it is heard, and don't be lifted up rudely in your wisdom!  
As a carbuncle gem in a golden ornament, so is a musical preparation in a feast of wine.  
As is an emerald sign in a work of gold, so is a musical number in happy and moderate wine.  
Listen silently, and good grace will come to you for reverence's sake!  
Youth, hardly speak in your own cause!  
If you are questioned twice, let the head have your response.  
Be as one not knowing about many things, and listen, at once silent and seeking!  
Don't presume among the great, and don't speak much where there are elders!  
The flash will go before the hail-storm, and good grace will come to you for reverence' sake.  
Don't dally yourself at the hour for going, yet run first to your house! Amuse yourself there, and play there!  
Act on your ideas, yet not in offenses and a proud word!  
Above all these, bless the Lord who made you, and makes you drunk from all His good!  
Who fears God will receive His teaching, and those who keep vigil toward Him will find blessing.  
Who seeks the law will be filled by it, and who carries on deceitfully will be scandalized by it.  
Those who fear the Lord will find a just judgment, and they will kindle just works like light.  
A sinful man will avoid correction, and he will find a preparation according to his will.

A man of counsel will not be destroyed by understandings, and a strange and proud man does not fear your fear.

Even after he worked with it without counsel, he too will be rebuked by his criticisms.

Son, don't do anything without counsel, and you won't be sorry after the fact!

Don't go down the road of ruin, and don't stumble on the stones! Don't trust yourself on a laborious road, lest you set a scandal in your soul!

Beware of your sons, and pay attention to those of your household!

Trust in your soul's faith in every work, for this is the keeping of the commandments!

Who believes God attends to the commandments, and those who trust in Him will not be diminished.

### **Sirach 33.**

Harms will not meet one fearing the Lord, yet God keeps him in testing. He will free him from harm.

A wise man does not hate commandments and just works, and will not be toyed with like a ship in a storm.

A sensible man believes God's law, and the law is faithful to him.

Who makes a question clear will prepare a word, and so, having prayed, will be heard. He will keep discipline, and then will answer.

A fool's feelings are like a wagon wheel, and his thought like an axle turning.

A mocking friend is like a horse let loose. He whinnies under every rider.

Why does day excel day, and again light excel light, and year excel year from the sun?

They were separated by the Lord's knowledge, the sun being made and keeping the commandment.

He changed the seasons and their feast days, and they celebrated these feast days at the hour.

God exalted and lifted up some of these, and He set some of them in the number of days. All men are from the ground and from the earth, from which Adam was created.

He separated them in the multitude of the Lord's discipline, and changed their ways.

He blessed and exalted some of them. He made some of them holy, and brought them to Himself.

Some of them He cursed and humbled, and turned them back from their separation.

As potter's clay in his own hands, to shape it and put it to use, all His ways are according to His setting forth. So is man in His hand who made him. He will repay him according to His judgment.

Good is against harm, and life against death. So also the sinner is against a righteous man.

Understand from this in all the Most High's words – two, two; one against one.

I awakened last, and as one who gathers grapes after the harvesters, I too hoped in God's blessing, and filled the wine press like one who harvests grapes.

Look! I haven't worked for myself alone, yet for all seeking discipline.

Listen to me, great ones and all peoples! Perceive by ears, leaders of the assembly!

Don't give authority over you during your life to son and wife, brother and friend! Don't give another your possession, unless perhaps you be sorry and beg for it!

While you live and breathe, no flesh will change you, for it is better that your children beg from you than for you to look to your sons' hands.  
Be excellent in all your works, that you not be stained in your reputation on the day of your life's consummation. Distribute your inheritance, too, at the time of your death!  
Food and a stick and a burden are for a donkey. Bread and discipline and work are for a slave. He works under discipline and seeks rest. His hands are lax, and he wants liberty.  
A yoke and strap bend a hard neck, and continuing tasks bend a slave down.  
Torture and fetters come to a spiteful slave. Throw him into work, that he not be idle – for idleness has taught much harm.  
Set him to work, for such is fitting to him! Yet if he will not obey, weigh him down with fetters. Yet don't build up against any true flesh, that you do nothing gravely without judgment.  
If a slave is yours, let him be yours like your soul. Treat him so, like a brother, for you've prepared him in the soul's blood.  
If you beat him lawlessly, and getting up, he flees, you don't know whom you may ask, or down what road you may seek him.

#### **Sirach 34.**

Hope is vain and lying to a senseless man, and dreams lift up the imprudent.  
Like one who grasps a shadow and follows the wind, so also one who pays attention to lying visions.  
This vision of dreams is like this: as a man's face before a man's reflection.  
What will be cleaned by uncleanness, and what truth will be spoken from a lie?  
Erring divination, and lying predictions, and wrongdoers' dreams – it is vanity.  
Your heart suffers a fantasy as one giving birth. Unless the visitation is sent out from the Most High, don't give your heart to it, for dreams have made many err, and cut down those hoping in them.  
The word will be consummated without a lie, and wisdom will be made plain in a faithful mouth.  
What does he know who hasn't been tested? A man experienced in much has considered many things, and one who has learned many things will tell understanding.  
Who is not experienced recognizes little, but who has worked in many things will multiply malice.  
I've seen many things wandering, and the customs of many words.  
At times I was endangered even to death because of them, and I was freed by God's grace.  
The breath of those fearing God will be sought out, and they will be blessed in His consideration – for their hope is in the One securing them, and God's eyes are on those loving Him.  
Who fears the Lord will dread nothing. He will not be afraid, because He is his hope.  
One fearing the Lord? His soul is blessed.  
To whom does he look, and who is his strength?  
The Lord's eyes are on those fearing Him: a mighty protector, a powerful foundation, a covering from heat, and a shade at midday; a plea for sin, and a helper at a fall, lifting up the soul and enlightening the eyes, giving health, life, and blessing!

The offering of one sacrificing from iniquity is stained, and the mockeries of the unrighteous are not pleasing.

The Lord alone is to those waiting on Him in the way of truth and righteousness.

The Most High does not approve the gifts of the treacherous by the offerings of the treacherous, nor will He be propitiated for sins by the multitude of their sacrifices.

Who offers a sacrifice from the poor's substance is like one who offers a son in his father's sight.

The bread of the needy is a poor man's life. Who cheats him is a man of blood.

Who takes away bread in sweat is as one who kills his neighbor.

Who pours out blood and who defrauds, he works the reward of a mercenary.

One building and one destroying – what profits them except the labor?

One praying and one cursing – whose voice will God hear?

Who is washed from the dead and touches him again, what does his washing profit?

So is a man who fasts from his sins and is doing the same again. What does his humbling himself profit? Who will listen to his prayers?

### **Sirach 35.**

Who keeps the law multiplies prayers.

A healthful sacrifice is to pay attention to the commandments, and to pull away from every iniquity, and prayer is to pull back from unrighteousness.

Don't appear empty before God's presence, for all these happen because of the Lord's commandment.

A righteous man's offering makes the altar prosperous, and is a fragrance of smoothness in the Most High's sight.

A righteous man's sacrifice is acceptable, and the Lord will not forget his memory.

Repay God the glory of a good soul, and don't reduce your hands' first fruits!

Make your appearance cheerful in every gift, and sanctify your tenths in exultation!

Give to the Most High according to His gift, and with a good eye work your hands to discovery — for the Lord is repaying, and will return seven times as much to you!

Don't offer perverse gifts, for He will not receive them, and don't look into an unrighteous sacrifice, for the Lord is judge, and there is no boasting of persons with Him.

The Lord will not receive a person against the poor, and will hear the wounded's prayer.

He will not despise an orphan's prayers, nor a widow if she pours out her sorrow's plea.

Doesn't a tear go down the cheek, and a cry?

It goes up the cheek, and the Lord is hearer, loving them.

Who worships God will be received in delight, and his prayer will come near even to the clouds.

The prayer of one humbling himself will penetrate the clouds, and until it comes near He will not be summoned. It will not pull back until the Most High sees it.

The Lord will not pull far away, yet will judge the righteous and work judgment. The Mightiest One will not have patience among them, that He may bruise their back.

He will repay vengeance to nations until He takes away the proud ones' plenty, and crushes the treacherous ones' scepters, until He repays men according to their acts, according to Adam's

works, and according to his presumption; until He judges His people's judgment. He will delight the righteous ones by His mercy.

How beautiful is God's mercy in a time of trouble – like rain clouds in a time of drought!

### **Sirach 36.**

Have mercy on us, God of all! Look on us, and show us Your mercy's light!

Send fear of You over nations that have not sought You, and let them know that no God exists except You, that they may tell Your great works!

Lift up Your hand over alien nations, that they may see Your power – for as You are sanctified among us in their sight, so in our sight may You be magnified among them – that they may know You as we too have known, that no God exists beside You, Lord!

Renew signs, and transform wonders!

Glorify the right hand and arm!

Stir up fury, and pour out anger!

Take away the adversary, and afflict the enemy!

Speed up the time, and remember the end, that they may tell Your wonders!

Let who was rescued be devoured in flaming anger, and who treated Your people harshly find destruction!

Shatter the head of the enemies' princes, saying, “There is no other before us.”

Gather all Jacob's tribes! May they know that no God exists except You, that they may tell Your great works – and You will inherit them as from the beginning!

Have mercy on Your people over whom Your name is invoked, and on Israel, whom You've made equal to Your firstborn!

Have mercy on the city of Your sanctifications, Jerusalem, the city of Your rest!

Fill Sion with Your untellable words, and Your people with Your glory!

Give testimony that they were created from the beginning, and stir up the prayers that the prior prophets have spoken in Your name!

Give a reward to those sustaining You, that Your prophets may be found faithful! Hear Your slaves' prayers!

Guide us also in the way of righteousness, according to Aaron's blessing over Your people! Let all who live on earth know that You are God, overseer of ages!

The gut will eat every meat, and some food is better than other food.

The throat tastes wild food, and a sensible heart lying words.

A twisted heart will give sadness, and a skilled man will resist it.

A woman will receive every male, yet one daughter is better than another daughter.

A woman's beauty excites her husband's face, and brings home a pleasure beyond every human desire.

If she has a tongue of healing and of mercy's soothing, her husband is not against men's sons.

Who possesses a wife begins a possession. She is a helper facing him, and a column that he may rest.

Where there is no fence a possession will be stolen, and where there is no woman a needy man groans.

Who trusts one who has no nest and turns aside wherever darkness falls, like a practiced thief leaping from city to city?

### **Sirach 37.**

Every friend will say, "I too have joined in friendship," yet there is a friend who is a friend in name only. Isn't this a sadness leading even to death?

Yet a companion and friend will turn to enmity.

O wicked presumption, from whence were you created to cover up dry ground, its malice and deceitfulness?

A companion rejoices in a friend's delight, yet will be an adversary in time of trouble.

A companion feels a friend's pain for his belly's sake, and will take up a shield against an enemy.

Don't forget your friend in your soul, and don't be unmindful of him in your works!

Don't take counsel with your father-in-law! Hide counsel from those jealous of you!

Every counselor brings forth counsel, yet there is a counselor in it for himself.

Keep your soul from a counselor! First know what his necessity may be, for he has plotted in his soul too – unless perhaps he throw a stake to the ground, and say to you, "Your road is good!" – and he stand opposite to see what may happen to you.

Don't argue about holiness with the irreligious, and about righteousness with the unrighteous, and about one she envies with a woman, about war with a coward, about business with a trader, about selling with a buyer, about giving thanks with a spiteful man; about godliness with the lawless, about honesty with the dishonest, about every work with a field worker; about the year's end with a yearly worker, about much work with a lazy slave. Don't pay attention to these in any counsel!

Be constant with a holy man, whomever you recognize as keeping the fear of God, whose soul is according to your soul. Yet whoever staggers in shadows will not feel empathy for you.

Stand the heart in good counsel, for no other is more valuable to you than it.

A holy man's soul will sometimes tell more truth than seven overseers sitting down to watch.

In all these, pray the Most High that He guide your way in truth!

Before every work let a true word go before you, and stable counsel before every act!

A wicked word will change the heart. Four portions arise: good and harm, life and death – and their ruler is a constant tongue.

A skilled man has taught many, and is soothing in his soul.

Who speaks deceptively is worthy of hate, and will defraud in every act, for grace is not given him from the Lord – for he is defrauded of every wisdom.

A wise man is wise in his soul, and the fruit of his sense is praiseworthy.

A wise man teaches his people, and the fruits of his sense are faithful.

A wise man will be filled by blessing, and those seeing him will praise.

Man's life is in a number of days, but Israel's days are uncountable.

A wise man will inherit honor among the people, and his name will be living in eternity.

Son, test your soul during your life, and if it is wicked, don't give it power!

All things are not helpful to all, and every type is not pleasing to every soul.

Don't be eager in all feasting, and don't pour yourself out over every food, for sickness will be in much food, and indulgence will come near even to cholera.  
Many have fallen because of indulgence, but who is abstinent will add to life.

### **Sirach 38.**

Honor a physician because of necessity, for the Most High has created him.

Every cure is from God, and he will receive payment from the king.

The doctor's discipline will lift up his head, and he will be praised in the presence of the great.

The Most High created medicine from the earth, and a prudent man won't despise it.

Wasn't bitter water sweetened by wood?

Their potency comes to human recognition, and the Most High has given men's understanding to be honored in their wonders.

Healing, He has lessened pain through these. The ointment-maker makes a soothing pigment, and will concoct soothing ointments, and their works won't come to an end, for God's peace is over all the earth's face.

Son, don't despise in your sickness, yet pray to the Lord, and He will heal you.

Turn away from sin, and direct the hand, and cleanse your heart from every sin!

Give smoothness, and a memorial of fine flour! Fatten an offering, and give place to the doctor – for the Lord has created him also. Don't let him pull away from you, for his works are necessary – for there is a time when you may run into his hands.

They indeed will plead with the Lord that He direct their rest and healing, according to their manner of life.

Who falls short in the sight of Him who made him may fall into the doctor's hands.

Son, bring out tears for the dead, and begin to weep as if suffering a fearful loss! Contain his body according to judgment, and don't despise his burial.

For the sake of accusation, bear bitterly his grief for one day, and console for the sake of sadness, for Death hurries from sadness, and will cover up power, and the heart's sadness will bend the neck. Sadness remains in loss, and the poor man's substance is according to his heart.

Don't give your heart to sadness, yet push it away from you! Remember the ends!

Don't forget, for there is no turning back! You will profit him nothing, and will ruin yourself!

Be mindful of my judgments, for so will yours be also – to me yesterday, and to you today.

Make his memory rest in death's peace, and console him in the going out of his breath.

Write wisdom in a time of leisure! One who reduces work will perceive wisdom – by which wisdom he will be filled.

Who holds the plow, doesn't he also boast in the driving whip? He works the oxen, and lives among their works, and his story is about the bulls' calves.

He will give his heart to turning furrows, and his attention to fattening cattle.

So is every builder and architect, who works the night as the day, who sculpts the graven seals, and varies the image by his constancy. He will give his heart to the image's likeness, and complete the work by his attention.

So is the blacksmith, sitting beside the anvil and considering the iron work. The fire's smoke will burn his flesh, and he will struggle in the furnace's heat.

The hammer's voice will alter his ear, and his eyes are facing the vessel's likeness.  
He will give his heart to the work's completion, and will adorn it by his attention to the end.  
So is the potter, sitting to his work, turning the wheel by his feet, who always sets his work with care, and all his work is innumerable.  
He will form the clay by his arm, and bend its power before his feet.  
He will give his heart so he may complete the plaster, and will clean the furnace by his attention.  
All these have hoped in their hands, and each is wise in his art.  
A city is not built without all these.  
They will not live in it, or walk around in it, or go up into the assembly.  
They will not sit on the judge's seat, or understand judgment's testament, or make discipline and judgment plain, and they will not be found in parables.  
They will strengthen the age's creation, and their prayer will be in their art's work, accommodating their soul and seeking together in the Most High's law.

### **Sirach 39.**

He will seek out all the wisdom of the ancients, and will be at leisure among the prophets.  
He will preserve the story of famous men, and will go at once into the cunning of parables.  
He will seek out the secrets of proverbs, and will live among the hidden depths of parables.  
He will minister among the great, and appear in the sight of a governor.  
He will pass through alien nations' land, for he has tested good and harm among men.  
He will give his heart over early to watching for the Lord who made him, and will pray in the Most High's sight.  
He will open his mouth in prayer, and will plead for his offenses, for if the great Lord wishes, He will fill him by intelligence's spirit.  
He himself will throw his wisdom's eloquence like rain, and will confess to the Lord in prayer.  
He will guide his counsel and discipline, and will be counseled in His hidden depths.  
He will make his learning's discipline plain, and will boast in the law of the Lord's testament.  
Many will praise his wisdom, and it will not be erased even to the age.  
His memory will not recede, and his name will be sought from generation to generation.  
Nations will tell of his wisdom, and the assembly will announce his praise.  
If he endures, he will leave a name among a thousand, and if he rests, it will profit him.  
I will yet be counseled, that I may tell it – for I am full of fury.  
She says by voice, Obey me, the divine fruit, and bear fruit like roses planted over a stream of waters!  
Have a fragrance of smoothness like incense!  
Bloom, flowers, like the lily! Give a fragrance, and bear leaves in grace! Lift up a song together, and bless the Lord in your works!  
Give magnificence to His name, and confess to Him in your lips' voice, in songs of lips and harps! You will speak so in confession.  
All the Lord's works are supremely good.  
Water stood like a heap at His word, and at His speech like reservoirs of waters.

May it be that I am reconciled in His commandment, and there is no diminishing in His well-being!

The works of all flesh are before Him, and nothing is hidden from His eyes.

He seeks from age even to age, and nothing is a marvel in His sight.

It is not to say, "What is this," or "What is that," for all things will be sought in their season.

His blessing has flooded like a river.

As a deluge made dry land drunk, so His anger will inherit nations who have not sought Him.

As He turned back waters, and earth was dried up, and His ways were directed to their strengths, so are stumbling blocks to sinners in His anger.

Good things were created in goodness from the beginning. So for the most wicked, good and harm.

The beginning of necessary things for man's life are water, fire, and iron; milk, and bread of flour, and honey, and grape clusters, and oil, and clothing.

All these will be to the holy ones in good. So also they will be turned to harms for the lawless and sinners.

There are breaths which were created for vengeance, and they strengthened their torment in His fury.

They will pour out power in the time of consummation, and will confound at the fury of the One who made them.

Fire, hail, hunger and death – these were created for vengeance – the teeth of beasts and scorpions and snakes, and the avenging spear, to the extermination of the lawless.

They will feast in His commandments, and will prepare on earth in necessity. They will not pass over the Word in its seasons.

For this reason, strengthened, I also was counseled from the beginning. I have considered and set it down in writings.

All the Lord's works are good, and He will undergird every work at its hour.

It is not to say, "This is wicked," for all will be proved in its season.

Now praise and bless the Lord's name in every heart and mouth!

#### **Sirach 40.**

A great occupation was created for all men, and a heavy yoke on Adam's sons – from the day of exit from their mother's womb even to the day of burial in the mother of all.

Their thoughts and heart's fears are the invention of expectation and the day of death: from those sitting on glorious thrones, even to those humbled in earth and ashes; from him who uses the blue and carries a crown, even to him who wears rough cloth – fury, jealousy, conflict, change, and fear of death, enduring wrath, and contention.

In time of rest, night dreams in bed change his knowledge.

A brief time like nothing is in rest, and from it care, in sleep as in the day.

He was troubled in his heart's sight like one who escapes on the day of war. He rose up in the season of his health and was marveling at no fear.

So with all flesh, from human even to cattle, and seven-fold over sinners, to these: death, blood, contention and spear; oppressions, hunger, and breaking, and beatings.

All these were created against the wicked, and the cataclysm happened for their sake.  
All that are from earth will turn back to earth, and all waters will turn back to the sea.  
Every bribe and iniquity will be erased, and faith will stand in the age.  
The wealth of the unrighteous will dry up like a river, and will endure like great thunder in rain.  
He will rejoice in opening his hands. So transgressors will waste away to the end.  
The grandchildren of the lawless will not multiply branches, and unclean roots may sound over a peak of rock.  
A green weed over all water and at the bank of a river will be pulled up by the roots, before all grass.  
Grace remains like paradise in blessings, and mercy will endure to the age.  
A worker's life sufficient in himself will be sweetened, and you will find treasure in it.  
Son, building a city will strengthen a name, and an unstained wife is reckoned above this.  
Wine and music make the heart glad, and delight of wisdom is above both.  
Pipes and strings make a soothing melody, and a soothing tongue is above both.  
Your eye will desire grace and beauty, and the green of the field is above these.  
A friend and companion at an agreeable time is pleasant, and a wife with a husband is above both.  
Brothers as helpers in a time of trouble bless, and mercy will set free above them.  
Gold and silver will establish the foot, and well-pleasing counsel is above both.  
Abilities and strengths lift up the heart, and the fear of the Lord is above these.  
There is no diminishing in the fear of the Lord, and there is no seeking of helpers in it.  
Fear of the Lord is like the paradise of the blessed, and they've covered it beyond all glory.  
Son, don't be in need in your lifetime, for it is better to die than to be in need.  
A man looking on a stranger's table thinking about food – his life isn't his, for he feeds his soul by a stranger's food.  
But a disciplined and learned man will keep himself.  
Need will be sweetened in the imprudent's mouth, and fire will blaze up in his gut.

#### **Sirach 41.**

O death, how bitter your memory is to a man having peace in his possessions, to a man at rest, and one whose ways are guided in all, and he still has ability to take food!  
O death, how good your judgment is to a man in need, and who is diminished in strengths, and who, worn out by age and unbelieving, worries about all – who loses wisdom!  
Don't fear death's judgment! Remember what were before you and what will come to you! This judgment comes from the Lord to all flesh, and is what will come in the Most High's pleasure, whether ten, or a hundred, or a thousand years.  
In the inferno, there is no accusation of life.  
Sons of sinners and those who keep company beside the houses of the lawless become sons of abominations.  
The inheritance of sinners' children will perish, and constant disgrace will be with their seed.  
Sons grumble about a lawless father, because for his sake they are in disgrace.  
Woe to you, lawless men who've abandoned the law of the Most High Lord!

If you are born, you will be born in cursing, and if you die, your portion will be in cursing. All that are of earth will turn back to earth. So the lawless will turn from cursing to destruction. Men's grief is in their body, but the name of the lawless will be erased.

Have care for a good name, for this will last longer for you than a thousand treasures of great price!

There is a number to the days of a good life, but a good name will endure in the age.

Keep discipline in peace, sons, for hidden wisdom and secret treasure – what use is in either?

Better is a man who hides his foolishness than a man who hides his wisdom.

Nevertheless, be reverent of those words that come out of my mouth, for it isn't good to watch all irreverence, and all things don't please all people in faith.

Be ashamed of fornication before mother and father, and of a lie before a governor and a powerful man; of offense before a prince and a judge, of iniquity before gathering and people; of injustice before companion and friend, of the place where you live; of theft, of God's truth and testament, of sitting down to bread, and of hiding truth in giving and receiving; of silence before those greeting, of the sight of a fornicating woman, and of turning the face away from a kinsman. Don't turn the face away from your neighbor. Be ashamed of taking away a portion and not returning it.

Don't look at another man's wife, don't stare at his female servant, and don't stand beside his bed!

Be ashamed of insulting words before friends, and when you have given, don't belittle!

## **Sirach 42.**

Don't repeat a word heard of the revelation of a hidden word, and you will truly be without confusion, and will find grace in all men's sight. Don't be confounded over all of these, and don't favor a person so you fall short: of the Most High's law and testament, and of judgment to justify the lawless; of the word of companions and travelers, and of the gift of an inheritance of friends; of the evenness of scales and weights, and of the acquisition of the many and the few; of the correction of buyers and sellers, and of much discipline for sons, of making the side of a dismal slave bleed.

A sign over a wicked woman is good.

Close up where there are many hands. Number and weigh whatever you hand over, and write out everything given and received!

Don't be confounded by the instruction of the senseless and the fool, and of elders who are judged by youths – and you will be learned in all things, and approved in men's sight.

A daughter is a father's hidden wakefulness. His worry takes away sleep, unless perhaps she become an adulterer in her youth, and living with a man, become hateful; unless she be polluted in her virginity, and be found pregnant in her father's house, unless perhaps she transgress, living with a man, or of course be made sterile.

Strengthen a watch over a self-indulgent daughter, unless she make you come into an enemy's reproach from disparagement in the city and rejection by the people, and she confound you among the people's multitude.

Don't look at every man's beauty, and don't hang out among women, for a moth comes out of clothing, and man's iniquity from woman.

A man's iniquity is better than a woman doing good, and a woman confounding in shame.

I will remember, therefore, the Lord's work, and will tell what I have seen. His work is in the Lord's words.

The sun looks down, illumining through all, and his work is full of the Lord's glory.

Hasn't the Lord made holy ones to tell all His wonders, which the omnipotent Lord strengthened to make stable in His glory?

He searched out the abyss and man's heart, and considered in their cleverness – for the Lord has known all knowledge, and has searched out in the age's sign, telling what have gone before and what are coming after, revealing the footsteps of the hidden.

No thought passes Him by, and no word hides itself from Him.

He made beautiful the great works of His wisdom, who is before the age and even to the age; nor has He added, nor is He diminished, and He does not need anyone's counsel.

How desirable are all His works! To consider them is like a spark!

All these will live. They remain in the age, and all obey him in every necessity.

All are doubled, one against one, and He has made nothing to be lacking.

He strengthened each one in good, and who will have enough of seeing His glory?

### **Sirach 43.**

The height of the firmament is lovely, sky's beauty in a vision of glory, the sun telling forth in appearance, in going out, a wondrous vessel, the Most High's work.

It burns the earth at midday. Who can endure the furnace in its heat's presence, keeping watch in the works of heat?

The sun, burning mountains threefold, breathing out rays of fire, and by flashing its rays, it blinds eyes.

The Lord who made it is great, and has sped the journey by His words.

The moon in its time is the showing forth of seasons and the sign of the age to all.

The feast day's sign comes from a moon that is diminished to a consummation.

It is increasing wondrously to a consummation to a month, according to its name, a vessel of armies in the highest, shining in sky's firmament.

The sky's beauty is the glorious stars, the Lord illumining the world on high.

They stand to judgment in the Holy One's words, and will not burn out in their vigils.

See the rainbow, and bless who made it! It is greatly beautiful in its splendor.

It wheeled around the sky in its glory's circuit. The Most High's hands have made it appear.

He sped the snow by His command, and speeds to send forth lightning flashes of His judgment.

For this reason the treasures are opened, and the clouds have flown out like birds.

He placed clouds in His greatness, and hail stones are broken apart.

Mountains will be moved in His presence, and in His will the familiar wind will blow.

His thunder's voice has rebuked the earth, the north-wind's storm and the gathering of winds.

He scatters snow like a bird settling down to sit, and its descent is like the locust coming down.

Eye will marvel at its color's loveliness, and the heart will be frightened at its shower.

He pours out ice like salt over the earth, and while it freezes, it will become like the top of a thistle.

A frigid wind will blow from the north, and the crystal will freeze from water. It will rest over all the waters' gatherings, and will dress itself with waters like a coat of armor.

It will devour mountains, and burn desert, and extinguish green plants like fire.

The medicine of all is in the cloud hurrying. The dew meeting it, coming from the heat, will make it humble.

The wind will be silent at His word, and the Lord Jesus has planted it.

Who sails the sea tells of its dangers, and will we not wonder, hearing by ears?

Splendid and wondrous works are in that place, various types of beasts, and flocks of all, and wild sea creatures.

Because of Him, the journey's end is confirmed, and all are put in place by His word.

We will say many things and falter in words, but the word's consummation is this: He is in all.

To what will we prevail boasting, for He is Omnipotent over all His works!

The Lord is terrifying and fiercely great.

However much you can do, He yet will overcome, and His magnificence is wondrous.

Blessing the Lord, lift Him up as much as you can, for He is greater than all praise!

Lifting Him up, be filled by strength, nor will you labor – for you will not have it!

Who has seen Him and will tell? Who will magnify Him as from the beginning?

Many greater things than these are hidden, for we have seen few of His works.

Yet the Lord has made all, and has given wisdom to those acting faithfully.

#### **Sirach 44.**

The praise of the fathers: Let us praise famous men, and our parents in their generation.

The Lord worked much glory from the age by His magnificence – men of great power ruling in their authorities, provided with His prudence, telling in the dignity of prophets, and commanding the people to the present, and teaching the people most holy words by the power of prudence.

In childhood, seeking musical rhythms, and chanting songs in scripture, rich men in power, having enthusiasm for beauty, making peace in their houses – all these gained glory in their nation's generations, and were held in praises in their days.

Those who were born of them left a name, telling their praises.

There are those of whom there is no memory. They perished as if they had not existed, and were born as if not born, and their sons with them.

Yet these men are merciful, whose acts of faithful living have not failed, and the good endured with their seed.

Their descendants are an inheritance, and their seed stood in the covenants.

Their sons remained for their sake. Their seed endures even to eternity, and their glory will not be abandoned.

Their bodies were buried in peace, and their name will live in generations and generations.

Let peoples tell their wisdom! Let an assembly announce their praise!

Enoch pleased God, and was taken to paradise, that he might give repentance to nations.

Noah was found complete, righteous, and became reconciliation in a season of anger.

Therefore, a remnant was left of earth when the flood came.  
The age's covenants were placed with him, that all flesh might not be destroyed by a flood.  
Abraham was a great father of a multitude of nations. No one was found like him in glory, who kept the Most High's law, and was in covenant with Him.  
He made the covenant stand in his flesh, and was found faithful in testing.  
Therefore, swearing an oath, He gave him seed to grow into His nation, him like the pinnacle of earth – and to lift up his seed like the stars, and them to inherit from sea even to sea, and from the River even to the earth's ends.  
He worked in the same manner in Isaac, for Abraham his father's sake.  
He gave him the blessing of all nations, and confirmed the covenant over Jacob's head.  
He knew him in His blessings, and gave him an inheritance. He divided a portion to him in twelve tribes.  
He kept them, men of mercy, finding grace in the eyes of all flesh.

#### **Sirach 45.**

Moses, whose memory is in blessing, was loved by God and men.  
He made him like the holy ones in glory, and magnified him in his enemies' fear. He placated portents by his words.  
He glorified him in the sight of kings, and commanded him before His people. He showed him His glory.  
He made him holy in His faith and gentleness, and chose him from all flesh.  
He heard him and his voice, and brought him into the cloud.  
He gave him precepts before His face, the law of life and discipline, to teach Jacob the covenant and Israel His judgments.  
He made his brother Aaron from Levi's tribe eminent and like himself.  
He stood the eternal covenant before him, and gave him the nation's priesthood. He blessed him in glory.  
He girded him around with glory's belt, dressed him in glory's robe, and crowned him in power's vessels.  
He set on him sandals, and thigh-coverings, and breastplate, and girded him with many small golden bells all around, to give sound to his approach, to make the sound heard in the temple, as a memorial for his nation's sons – the holy robe of gold and blue and purple, woven work of a wise man, gifted with judgment and truth – of twisted scarlet, precious work of a craftsman of gems, figured in a binding of gold, carved by a stonecutter's work in memorial, according to the number of Israel's tribes – a golden crown over his head-piece, a sign of holiness copied, the glory of honor, and a work of power, desired of the eyes, beautiful.  
Such beautiful works did not exist before him, even to the beginning.  
No foreigner was dressed in these, yet only his sons and descendants alone, through all time.  
His sacrifices were consumed daily by fire.  
Moses filled his hands, and anointed him with holy oil.  
It was made into an eternal covenant like the sky's days for him and his seed, to carry on priesthood, to have praise, and to glorify His people in His name.

He chose him alone from all the living to bring in sacrifice to God, incense and a pleasing fragrance as a memorial, to make peace for His people.

He gave him authority in the commandments to teach Jacob testimonies in covenants of judgments, and to give light to Israel in His law – for strangers stood against him, and for envy's sake, the men who were with Dathan and Abiram surrounded him in the desert, Korah's gathering, in anger.

The Lord God saw, and it did not please Him. They were consumed in the force of anger.

He made them portents, and consumed them in flames of fire.

He added glory to Aaron, and gave him an inheritance. He divided to him the land's first fruits.

He prepared bread for them to fullness in the first places, for they will eat the Lord's sacrifices which He gave to him and to his seed.

He will inherit the rest in the nations' land, and no portion is theirs in the nation – for He is their portion and inheritance.

Phineas, Eleazar's son, is third in glory, in following to such an extent in the fear of the Lord.

To stand in the nation's reverence, he made peace for Israel in the goodness and promptness of his soul.

Therefore, He stood up the testament of peace for him as prince of the holy ones and of His people, that the dignity of his priesthood might be his in eternity.

The covenant of King David, Jesse's son, from Judah's tribe, is the inheritance to him and his seed, that He might give wisdom in our heart to judge His nation in righteousness, that their good not be abolished. He made their glory eternal in their nation.

#### **Sirach 46.**

Joshua of Nave, Moses' successor among the prophets, was mighty in war, who was great according to his name – supreme in the salvation of God's chosen ones, to fight against enemies rising up, so he might attain an inheritance for Israel.

Such glory he achieved in lifting his hands and casting a spear against a city!

Who before him resisted so, for the Lord Himself led him through the enemies!

Wasn't the sun hindered in his anger, and one day became like two?

He invoked the mighty Most High in fighting against enemies on every side, and the great and holy God heard him in hail stones of overwhelmingly mighty power.

He worked force against a hostile nation, and in going down destroyed those opposing – so nations may know His power, that it is not easy to fight against the Lord – and he followed after the back of the mighty ones.

In Moses' days, He worked mercy with Caleb, Iepphone's son, to stand against the enemy, to forbid the nation from sin, and to break through a harmful griping.

These appointed two were freed from danger from the number of six hundred thousand foot soldiers, to bring them to an inheritance, to a land that flows with milk and honey.

The Lord gave Caleb himself power, and strength endured with him even to old age, that he went up into the land's high place – and his seed obtained an inheritance, that all Israel's sons might see that it is good to yield to a holy God.

There are the judges, each one by his name, whose heart was not corrupted, who did not turn away from the Lord, that their memory may be in blessing, and their bones may blossom forth from their place, and their name remain in eternity, the glory of holy men enduring to their sons. Loved by his Lord, Samuel, the Lord's prophet, renewed the kingdom, and anointed princes among his nation.

He judged the congregation in the Lord's law, and Jacob's Lord saw, and the prophet was proven in his faith.

He was known as faithful in his words, because he saw the God of light.

He invoked the God of might in fighting against enemies on all sides, in the offering of a pure man.

The Lord thundered from the sky, and made His voice heard in a mighty sound, and filled Tyrian princes and all the Philistine dukes with terror.

Before the time of his life and age's end, he provided testimony in the sight of the Lord and His Christ. He did not take money or even a sandal lace from all flesh, and no man accused him.

After this he slept, and made known to the king, and showed him his life's end. He lifted up his voice from the earth in prophecy to erase the nation's lawlessness.

#### **Sirach 47.**

After this, Nathan the prophet rose up in David's days.

As fat is separated from flesh, so David was from Israel's sons.

He played with lions as if with lambs, and did likewise in his youth with bears as if with the flock's lambs.

Didn't he kill the giant, and take away reproach from the nation?

In lifting up the hand with a slung stone, he threw down Goliath's boasting.

Where he invoked the mighty Lord, He also gave into his right hand to take a mighty man in war, and to lift up His nation's horn.

So He glorified him among the thousands, and He praised him in the Lord's blessings, in offering him glory's crown – for he struck terror into enemies on every side, and uprooted the Philistines opposing him even to the present day. He struck terror into their crown even to eternity.

In every work, he gave confession to the Holy and Most High in glory's word.

He praised the Lord from all his heart, and loved God who made him. God gave him power against enemies.

He made singers stand facing the altar, and made sweet rhythms to their sound.

He gave beauty to the celebrations, and decorated the seasons even to life's end, that they might praise the Lord's holy name, and amplify early God's holiness.

Christ purged his sins, and lifted up his horn in eternity. He gave him a royal covenant and glory's seat in Israel.

A sensible son rose up after him, and for his sake he threw down all the enemies' power.

Solomon ruled in days of peace, to whom God subjected all adversaries, that he might build a house in His name, and prepare holiness forever – just as he was taught in his youth.

He was filled by wisdom like a river, and his soul laid earth bare.

You completed mysteries in parables, you spread your name abroad to islands far away, and were beloved in your peace.

The lands marveled at you in sayings, and proverbs, and comparison, and interpretations, and in the Lord God's name, whose surname is Israel's God.

You gathered gold like brass, and filled up silver like lead.

You reclined your thighs to women. You had power in your body.

You gave a stain to your glory, and poured out your seed to bring wrath to your children, and to stir up your foolishness – that you might make a divided kingdom, and a harsh kingdom to rule from Ephraim.

Yet God does not abandon His mercy, and neither corrupts nor will erase His works, nor will He destroy descendants from His chosen race. He will not corrupt the seed of him who loves the Lord.

He gave a remnant to Jacob and David, from the same race, and Solomon had an end with his fathers.

After him he left from his seed the foolishness of a nation, and Rehoboam of mute prudence, who turned the nation away by his counsel; and Jeroboam, Nabath's son, who made Israel sin, and gave Ephraim the way of sinning – and their many sins overflowed.

They turned them away greatly from their land.

He sought all wickedness, even while a defense came through to them, and freed them from all sins.

#### **Sirach 48.**

Elijah the prophet rose up like fire, and his word burned like a torch.

He brought famine in among them. Those imitating him were made few by their envy, for they couldn't sustain the Lord's commandments.

He exalted the sky by the Lord's word, and threw down fire to the earth from himself.

So Elijah was amplified in his wonders, and who can boast like you – who raised up the dead child from below, from the dead's portion, by the Lord God's word – who threw down kings to disaster, and easily broke their power, and ejected glorious ones from their bed – who heard judgment in Sinai, and judgment of defense in Horeb – who will anoint kings to repentance, and make prophets successors after you – who were taken in a flaming whirlwind, in a chariot of flaming horses – who were written in the evidences of seasons, and you soften the Lord's anger, to reconcile a father's heart to a son, and to restore Jacob's tribes?

Those who saw you were blessed, and they were made beautiful in your friendship, for we live for life only, yet after death there will be no such name for us.

Consider Elijah, who was covered in the whirlwind, and his spirit was completed in Elisha! He feared no prince in his days, and no one conquered him by power, nor did any word overcome him, and his body prophesied, though dead.

He worked portents in his life, and his works were wondrous in death.

In all these, it did not lead people to repentance. They did not pull back from their sins, even while they were thrown down from their land and scattered to all the earth.

The nation was left very few, and a prince in David's house.

Some of them did what was pleasing to God, but many others were mixed up in sins. Hezekiah fortified his city, and brought water into its midst. He dug a rock by iron, and built a well for water. In those days, Sennacherib came up, and sent Rabshakeh. He raised his hand against them. He stretched out his hand in Sion, and became proud in his power. Then their hearts and hands were moved, and they suffered like women giving birth. They invoked the Lord of mercy. Extending the hands, they stretched them out to the sky, and the holy Lord God heard their voice quickly. He did not remember their sins, nor did He give them to their enemies, yet He purged them in the hand of Isaiah the holy prophet. He threw down the Assyrians' armies, and God's angel struck them with terror, for Hezekiah did what was pleasing to God, and went mightily in David his father's way, which Isaiah the great and faithful prophet commanded him in God's sight. In his days the sun went backwards, and he added to the king's life. By a great spirit, he saw the last things, and he prayed for those mourning in Sion even to forever. He showed the future and the hidden, before they came about.

#### **Sirach 49.**

Josiah's memory is like a composition of fragrance, made by the perfumer's work. His memory will be sweetened in every mouth like honey, and as music in a feast of wine. He guided divinity in a nation's penance, and took away the abominations of lawlessness. He governed his heart to the Lord. He strengthened godliness in the days of sinners. Except for David, and Hezekiah, and Josiah, all committed sin, for Judah's kings abandoned the Mighty One's law, and despised the fear of God. They gave His kingdom to others, and His glory to an alien nation. They burned the chosen city of holiness, and made its roads deserts under Jeremiah's hand. They treated him badly who was consecrated a prophet from the mother's womb, to overturn, and to pluck up, and to destroy, and again to build, and to renew. Ezekiel was who saw glory's sight, which He showed him in a cherubim's chariot. He remembered the enemies as rain, and they showed right ways to do good for them. May the bones of the twelve prophets blossom forth from their place, for they prayed for Jacob, and redeemed themselves by the power of faith. How we amplify Zerubbabel, for he too was like a sign on the right hand in Israel, and Jesus of Josedec, who in their days built a house, and exalted a holy temple to the Lord, prepared to everlasting glory. Nehemiah is in the memory of many seasons, who built for us the overthrown walls, and made the gates and bars stand – who built our houses. No one born on earth is like Enoch, for he too was received from the earth. Joseph was born a man, a prince among brothers, a mainstay of the nation, ruler of brothers, the people's foundation. His bones were visited, and prophesied after death.

Seth and Shem gained glory among men, and stood, and Adam was above every soul at the origin.

### **Sirach 50.**

Simon, Oniah's son, was a great priest who in his life propped up the house, and strengthened it in his days.

The temple's height also was established by him, the double building, the temple's high wall. Wells of waters flowed back in his days, and were filled beyond measure like the sea – who cared for his nation, and freed it from danger; who was strong enough to build up the city, who gained glory in the nation's conversation, and built up the house's entrance and courtyard. He shines in his days like the morning star in the middle of a cloud, and like the full moon. Like the sun shining brightly, so he shone forth in God's temple – like the rainbow shining in a cloud of glory, and like a flower of roses in days of spring, like lilies that are at a crossing of water, and like incense giving fragrance in days of summer – like fire shining forth, and incense burning in fire – like a vessel of solid gold, decorated with every precious stone – like an olive tree budding, and a circle taking itself on high, in receiving his glory's robe as well, to dress him by power's consummation.

In the ascent to the holy altar, he gave the glorious covering of holiness.

Yet in receiving portions from the priests' hands, and he, standing beside the altar, a crown of brothers around him like a planting of cedars on Mount Lebanon – so they stood around him like branches on a palm tree, and all Aaron's sons in their glory.

The Lord's offering was in their hands before all Israel's gathering, carrying out the consummation on the altar, to amplify the Most High King's offering.

He stretched out his hand in libation, and made a drink offering from the grape's blood.

He poured out on the altar's foundation a divine fragrance to the Most High Prince.

Then Aaron's sons shouted. They sounded with handmade trumpets, and made a great voice heard as a memorial before God.

Then all the people together hurried. They fell on their face on the ground to worship their Lord, and to give prayers to omnipotent God most high.

Those singing psalms amplified their voices, and a sound full of smoothness increased in the great house.

The people prayed to the Lord most high in a plea, even while the Lord's honor was completed, and they completed their gift.

Then, coming down, he raised his hands to all the congregation of Israel's sons, to give glory to God by his lips, and to glory in His name.

He repeated his prayer, wanting to show God's power.

Now, pray to the Lord of all, who has done great works in all the earth, who has increased our days from our mother's womb, and worked with us according to His mercy!

May He give us the heart's happiness, and may peace come to Israel in our days, through everlasting days – Israel trusting God's mercy to be with us – that He may heal you in his days!

My soul hates two nations, yet a third which I hate is no nation: those who sit on Mount Seir, and the Philistines, and the foolish people who lives in Shechem.

I have written the teaching of wisdom and discipline in this book, Jesus, son of Sirach, the Jerusalemite, who renewed wisdom from his heart.  
Who ponders these good words is blessed. Who puts these in his heart will always be wise.  
If he works these words, he will be strong for all occasions – for God's light is his footstep.

### **Sirach 51.**

A prayer of Jesus, Sirach's son.  
I will confess to you, Lord King,  
and praise you, God my Savior.  
I will confess your name,  
for You have become a helper and protector to me.  
You freed my body from destruction,  
from the trap of a wicked tongue,  
and from lips working lies.  
You've become a helper to me  
in the sight of those standing by.  
You freed me according to  
the multitude of Your mercy's name,  
from roaring ones prepared to prey;  
from hands seeking my soul,  
and from trouble's gates which surrounded me;  
from flaming pressure that surround me –  
I was not hot in the midst of fire –  
from the depth of the dead's womb,  
and from a stained tongue and a lying word,  
from a wicked king and an unjust tongue!  
My soul has praised the Lord even to death.  
My life was coming near the place of the dead below.  
They surrounded me on all sides, and no one who helped was there. I was looking for my helper,  
and he was not.  
I remembered Your mercy and Your works, Lord, which are from the age.  
You will rescue those sustaining You, and You free them from the nations' hands.  
You lifted up my habitation above the earth, and I prayed for the sake of death flowing away.  
I invoked the Lord, father of my Lord, that He not abandon me on the day of my trouble, or leave  
me without help in the proud ones' season.  
I will praise Your name constantly, and praise Him together in confession. My prayer was heard.  
You freed me from destruction, and rescued me from a wicked time.  
For this reason, I will confess and speak praise to You, and will bless the Lord's name.  
When I was still young, before I wandered, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer. I asked for her  
before the time, and I will seek her even to the end. She will blossom like the ripening grape.  
My heart was happy in her. My foot walked a right journey. I sought her out from my youth.  
I inclined my ear moderately, and received her.

I found much wisdom in myself. I profited much in her.  
Giving me wisdom, I will give glory.  
I was counseled that I work for her. I was zealous of good, and am not confounded.  
My soul struggled in her, and I was strengthened in working her.  
I stretched out my hands on high, and mourned its lack of wisdom.  
I guided my soul to her, and found her in recognition.  
I possessed the heart with her from the beginning. Because of this, I will not be abandoned.  
My gut was troubled seeking her. Therefore, I will possess a good possession.  
The Lord has given me a tongue, my reward, and I will praise Him in her.  
Come near me, you untaught, and gather yourselves into discipline's house!  
Why do you still hold back, and why do you say, "Your souls thirst fiercely in these"?  
I've opened my mouth and spoken. Buy for yourselves without silver!  
Put your neck under the yoke! Let your soul receive discipline, for she is near to find her!  
See with your eyes, for I labored a little and found much rest for myself!  
Take up discipline as a great number of silver, and possess much gold in her!  
Let your soul rejoice in her mercy, and you won't be confounded in her praise.  
Do your work before the time, and she will give you your reward in her time.

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