

2:1,2

1 My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for an ordeal.

2 Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be
alarmed when disaster comes.

3:1-28

1 Children, listen to me for I am your father: do
what I tell you, and so be safe,

2 for the Lord honors the father above his
children and upholds the rights of a mother over her
sons.

3 Whoever respects a father expiates sins,

4 whoever honors a mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.

5 Whoever respects a father will in turn be happy
with children, the day he prays for help, he will be
heard.

6 Long life comes to anyone who honors a father;
whoever obeys the Lord makes a mother happy.

7 Such a one serves parents as also the Lord.

8 Respect your father in deed as well as word, so
that blessing may come on you from him,

9 since a father's blessing makes his children's
house firm, while a mother's curse tears up its
foundations.

10 Do not make a boast of disgrace overtaking
your father, your father's disgrace reflects no honor on
you;

11 for a person's own honor derives from the
respect shown to his father, and a mother held in
dishonor is a reproach to her children.

12 My child, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.

13 Even if his mind should fail, show him
sympathy, do not despise him in your health and
strength;

14 for kindness to a father will not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

15 On your own day of ordeal God will
remember you; like frost in sunshine, your sins will
melt away.

16 Whoever deserts a father is no better than a
blasphemer, and whoever distresses a mother is
accursed of the Lord.

17 My child, be gentle in carrying out your
business, and you will be better loved than a lavish
giver.

18 The greater you are, the more humbly you
should behave, and then you will find favor with the
Lord;

20 for great though the power of the Lord is, He
accepts the homage of the humble.

21 Do not try to understand things that are too
difficult for you, or try to discover what is beyond your
powers,

22 Concentrate on what has been assigned you,
you have no need to worry over mysteries.

23 Do not meddle with matters that are beyond
you, what you have been taught already exceeds the
scope of the human mind,

24 For many have been misled by their own
notions, wicked presumption having warped their
judgment.

26 A stubborn heart will come to a bad end, and
whoever dallies with danger will perish in it.

27 A stubborn heart is weighed down with
troubles, the sinner heaps sin on sin,

28 For the disease of the proud there is no cure,
since an evil growth has taken root there.

29 The heart of the sensible will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

30 Water puts out a blazing fire, almsgiving expiates sins.

31 Whoever gives favors in return is mindful of the future; at the moment of falling, such a person will find support.

6:18-37

18 My child, from your earliest youth choose instruction, and until your hair is white you will keep finding wisdom.

19 Like ploughman and sower, cultivate her and wait for her fine harvest, for in tilling her you will toil a little while, but very soon you will be eating her crops.

20 How very harsh she is to the undisciplined! The senseless does not stay with her for long,

21 she will weigh as heavy on the senseless as a touchstone and such a person will lose no time in throwing her off,

22 for Wisdom is true to her name, she is not accessible to many.

23 Listen, my child, and take my advice, do not reject my counsel:

24 put your feet into her fetters, and your neck into her collar,

25 offer your shoulder to her burden do not be impatient of her bonds;

26 court her with all your soul, and with all your might keep in her ways;

27 search for her, track her down; she will reveal herself, once you hold her, do not let her go.

28 For in the end you will find rest in her and she will take the form of joy for you:

29 her fetters you will find a mighty defense, her collars, a precious necklace.

30 Her yoke will be a golden ornament, and her bonds be purple ribbons;

31 you will wear her like a robe of honor, you will put her on like a crown of joy.

32 If you wish it, my child, you can be taught; apply yourself and you will become intelligent.

33 If you love listening, you will learn, if you pay attention, you will become wise.

34 Attend the gathering of elders; if there is a wise man there, attach yourself to him.

35 Listen willingly to any discourse coming from God, do not let wise proverbs escape you.

36 If you see a man of understanding, visit him early, let your feet wear out his doorstep.

37 Reflect on the injunctions of the Lord, busy yourself at all times with his commandments He will strengthen your mind, and the wisdom you desire will be granted you.

7:14, 15, 23-25, 27-28

14 Do not talk too much at the gathering of elders, and do not repeat yourself at your prayers.

15 Do not shirk tiring jobs or farm work, ordained by the Most High.

23 Have you children? Educate them, from childhood make them bow the neck.

24 Have you daughters? Take care of their bodies, but do not be over-indulgent.

25 Marry a daughter off, and you have finished a great work, but give her to a man of sense.

27 With all your heart honor your father, never forget the birthpangs of your mother.

28 Remember that you owe your birth to them; how can you repay them for what they have done for you?

13:1

1 Whoever touches pitch will be defiled, and anyone who associates with the proud will come to be like them.

15:11, 14-17

11 Do not say, "The Lord was responsible for my sinning," for he does not do what he hates.

14 He himself made human beings in the beginning, and then left them free to make their own decisions.

15 If you choose, you will keep the commandments and so be faithful to his will.

16 He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

17 A human being has life and death before him; whichever he prefers will be given him.

16:1-4

1 Do not long for a brood of worthless children, and do not take pleasure in godless sons.

2 However many you have, take no pleasure in them unless the fear of the Lord lives among them.

3 Do not count on their having long life, do not put too much faith in their number;

4 for better have one than a thousand, better die childless than have children who are godless.

18:14,30,31

14 He has compassion on those who accept correction, and who fervently search for his judgments.

30 Do not be governed by your passions, restrain your desires.

31 If you allow yourself to satisfy your desires, this will make you the laughing-stock of your enemies.

19:1-30

1 A drunken workman will never grow rich, and one who makes light of small matters will gradually sink.

2 Wine and women corrupt intelligent men, the customer of whores loses all sense of shame.

3 Grubs and worms will have him as their legacy, and the man who knows no shame will lose his life.

4 Being too ready to trust shows shallowness of mind, and sinning harms the sinner.

5 Taking pleasure in evil earns condemnation;

6 by hating gossip one avoids evil.

7 Never repeat what you are told and you will come to no harm;

8 whether to friend or foe, do not talk about it, unless it would be sinful not to, do not reveal it;

9 you would be heard out, then mistrusted, and in due course you would be hated.

10 Have you heard something? Let it die with you. Courage! It will not burst you!

11 A fool will suffer birthpangs over a piece of news, like a woman laboring with child.

12 Like an arrow stuck in the flesh of the thigh, so is a piece of news inside a fool.

13 Question your friend, he may have done nothing at all; and if he has done anything, he will not do it again.

14 Question your neighbor, he may have said nothing at all; and if he has said anything, he will not say it again.

15 Question your friend, for slander is very common, do not believe all you hear.

16 People sometimes make a slip, without meaning what they say; and which of us has never sinned by speech?

17 Question your neighbor before you threaten him, and defer to the Law of the Most High.

20 Wisdom consists entirely in fearing the Lord, and wisdom is entirely consisted by the fulfilling of the Law.

22 Being learned in evil, however, is not wisdom, there is no prudence in the advice of sinners.

23 There is a cleverness that is detestable; whoever has no wisdom is a fool.

24 Better be short of sense and full of fear, than abound in shrewdness and violate the Law.

25 There is a wickedness which is scrupulous but nonetheless dishonest, and there are those who misuse kindness to win their case.

26 There is the person who will walk bowed down with grief, when inwardly this is nothing but deceit:

27 he hides his face and pretends to be deaf, if he is not unmasked, he will take advantage of you.

28 There is the person who is prevented from sinning by lack of strength, yet he will do wrong when he gets the chance.

29 You can tell a person by his appearance, you can tell a thinker by the look on his face.

30 The way a person dresses, the way he laughs, the way he walks, tell you what he is.

20:24-26

24 Lying is an ugly blot on anyone, and ever on the lips of the undisciplined.

25 A thief is preferable to an inveterate liar, but both are heading for ruin.

26 Lying is an abominable habit, the liar's disgrace lasts forever.

22:1-8

1 An idler is like a stone covered in filth, everyone whistles at his disgrace.

2 An idler is like a lump of dung, anyone picking it up shakes it off his hand.

3 It is a disgrace to have fathered a badly brought-up son, but the birth of a daughter is a loss,

4 a sensible daughter will find a husband, but a shameless one is a grief to her father.

5 A brazen daughter puts father and mother to shame, and will be disowned by both.

6 An untimely remonstrance is like music at a funeral,

7 but a thrashing and correction are wisdom at all times.

8 Teaching a fool is like gluing bits of pottery together.

25:1-26

1 There are three things my soul delights in, and which are delightful to God and to all people:

2 concord between brothers, friendship between neighbors, and a wife and husband who live happily together.

3 There are three sorts of people my soul hates, and whose existence I consider an outrage:

4 the poor swollen with pride, the rich who is a liar and an adulterous old man who has no sense.

5 If you have gathered nothing in your youth, how can you find anything in your old age?

6 How fine a thing: sound judgment with gray hairs, and for graybeards to know how to advise!

7 How fine a thing: wisdom in the aged, and considered advice coming from people of distinction!

8 The crown of the aged is ripe experience, their glory, the fear of the Lord.

9 There are nine things I can think of which strike me as happy, and a tenth which is now on my tongue:

10 the man who can be proud of his children, he who lives to see the downfall of his enemies;

11 happy is he who keeps house with a sensible wife; he who does not toil with ox and donkey; he who has never sinned with his tongue; he who does not serve a man less worthy than himself,

12 happy is he who has acquired good sense and can find attentive ears for what he has to say,

13 how great is he who has acquired wisdom; but unsurpassed is one who fears the Lord.

14 The fear of the Lord surpasses everything; what can compare with someone who has mastered that?

17 Any wound rather than a wound of the heart! Any spite rather than the spite of woman!

18 Any evil rather than an evil caused by an enemy!

19 Any vengeance rather than the vengeance of a foe!

22 There is no poison worse than the poison of a snake, there is no fury worse than that of an enemy.

23 I would sooner keep house with a lion or a dragon than keep house with a spiteful wife.

24 A woman's spite changes her appearance and makes her face as grim as a bear's.

25 When her husband goes out to dinner with his neighbors, he cannot help heaving bitter sighs.

26 No spite can approach the spite of a woman, may a sinner's lot be hers!

27 Like the climbing of a sand hill for elderly feet, such is a garrulous wife for a quiet husband.

28 Do not be taken in by a woman's beauty, never lose your head over a woman.

29 Bad temper, insolence and shame holds sway where the wife supports the husband.

31 Low spirits, gloomy face, stricken heart: such is a spiteful wife.

32 Slack hands and sagging knees; such is the wife who does not make her husband happy.

34 Do not let water find a leak, nor a spiteful woman give free rein to her tongue.

35 If she will not do as you tell her, get rid of her.

26:1-28

1 How blessed is the husband of a really good wife; the number of his days will be doubled.

2 A perfect wife is the joy of her husband, he will live out the years of his life in peace.

3 A good wife is the best of portions, reserved for those who fear the Lord;

4 rich or poor, their hearts will be glad, their faces cheerful, whatever the season.

5 There are three things that I dread, and a fourth which terrifies me;

6 slander by a whole town, the gathering of a mob,

7 and a false accusation — these are all worse than death;

8 but a woman jealous of a woman means heartbreak and sorrow,

9 and all this is the scourge of the tongue.

10 A bad wife is a badly fitting ox yoke, trying to master her is like grasping a scorpion.

11 A drunken wife will goad anyone to fury, she cannot conceal her own degradation.

12 A woman's wantonness shows in her bold look, and can be recognized by her sidelong glances.

13 Keep a headstrong daughter under firm control, or, feeling free, she will take advantage of it.

14 Keep a strict watch on her shameless eye, do not be surprised if she disgraces you.

15 Like a thirsty traveler she will open her mouth and drink any water she comes across; she will sit

down in front of every tent-peg and open her quiver to any arrow.

16 The grace of a wife will charm her husband,

17 her understanding will make him the stronger.

18 A silent wife is a gift from the Lord, no price can be put on a well-trained character.

19 A modest wife is a boon twice over,

20 a chaste character cannot be over-valued.

21 Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord, such is the beauty of a good life in a well-run house.

22 Like golden pillars on a silver base, such are shapely legs on firm-set heels.

24 There are two things which grieve my heart and a third arouses my anger:

25 a warrior wasting away through poverty, the intelligent treated with contempt,

27 someone turning back from virtue to sin — the Lord marks out such a person for a violent death.

29 It is difficult for a merchant to avoid doing wrong and for a trader not to incur sin.

28:13-26

13 A curse on the scandal-monger and double-talker, such a person has ruined many who lived in concord.

14 That third tongue has shattered the peace of many and driven them from nation to nation; it has pulled down fortified cities, and overthrown the houses of the great.

15 The third tongue has had upright wives divorced, depriving them of reward for their hard work.

16 No one who listens to it will ever know peace of mind, will ever live in peace again.

17 A stroke of the whip raises a weal, but a stroke of the tongue breaks bones.

18 Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but many more have fallen by the tongue,

19 Blessed is anyone who has been sheltered from it, and has not experienced its fury, who has not dragged its yoke about, or been bound in its chains.

20 for its yoke is an iron yoke, its chains are bronze chains;

21 the death it inflicts is a miserable death, Sheol is preferable to it.

22 It cannot gain a hold over the devout, they are not burnt by its flames.

23 Those who desert the Lord will fall into it, it will flare up inextinguishable among them, it will be let loose against them like a lion, it will tear them like a leopard.

24 Be sure you put a thorn-hedge round your property, lock away your silver and gold;

25 then make scales and weights for your words, and put a door with bolts across your mouth.

26 Take care you take no false step through it, in case you fall a prey to him who lies in wait.

30:1-13

1 Whoever loves his son will beat him frequently so that in after years the son may be his comfort.

2 Whoever is strict with his son will reap the benefit, and be able to boast of him to his acquaintances.

3 Whoever educates his son will be the envy of his enemy, and will be proud of him among his friends.

4 Even when the father dies, he might well not be dead, since he leaves his likeness behind him.

5 In life he has had the joy of company, dying, he has no anxieties.

6 He leaves an avenger against his enemies and a rewarder of favors for his friends.

7 Whoever coddles his son will bandage his wounds, his heart will turn over at every cry.

8 A badly broken-in horse turns out stubborn, a son left to himself turns out headstrong.

9 Pamper your child and he will terrorize you, play along with him and he will bring you sorrow.

10 Do not laugh with him or one day you will weep with him and end up gnashing your teeth.

11 While he is young, do not allow him his freedom and do not wink at his mistakes.

12 Bend his neck in youth, bruise his ribs while he is a child, or else he will grow stubborn and disobedient, and hurt you deeply.

13 Be strict with your son, and persevere with him, or you will rue his insolence.

31:12-26

12 If you are sitting down to a lavish table, do not display your greed, do not say, "What a lot to eat!"

13 Remember, it is bad to have a greedy eye. Is any creature more wicked than the eye? That is why it is always weeping!

14 Do not reach out for anything your host has his eye on, do not jostle him at the dish.

15 Judge your fellow guest's needs by your own, be thoughtful in every way.

16 Eat what is offered you like a well brought-up person, do not wolf your food or you will earn dislike.

17 For politeness' sake be the first to stop; do not act the glutton, or you will give offense,

18 and if you are sitting with a large party, do not help yourself before the others do.

19 A little is quite enough for a well-bred person; his breathing is easy when he lies in bed.

20 A moderate diet ensures sound sleep, one gets up early, in the best of spirits. Sleeplessness,

biliousness and gripe are what the glutton has to endure.

21 If you are forced to eat too much, get up, go and vomit, and you will feel better.

22 Listen to me, my child, do not disregard me, eventually you will see the force of my words. Be moderate in all your activities and illness will never overtake you.

23 People praise the person who keeps a splendid table, and their opinion of his munificence is sound.

24 But a niggardly host provokes universal resentment and people will retell instances of his meanness.

25 Do not play the valiant at your wine, for wine has been the undoing of many.

26 The furnace proves the temper of steel, and wine proves hearts in the drinking bouts of braggarts.

32:1-18

1 Have they made you the presider? Do not let it go to your head, behave like everyone else in the party, see that they are happy and then sit down yourself

2 Having discharged your duties, take your place so that your joy may be through theirs, and you may receive the crown for your competence.

3 Speak, old man, it is proper that you should, but with discretion; do not spoil the music.

4 If someone is singing, do not ramble on and do not play the sage at the wrong moment.

5 An amber seal on a precious stone, such is a concert of music at a wine feast.

6 An emerald seal in a golden setting, such are strains of music with a vintage wine.

7 Speak, young man, when you must, but twice at most, and then only if questioned.

8 Keep to the point, say much in few words; give the impression of knowing but not wanting to speak.

9 Among eminent people do not behave as though you were their equal; do not make frivolous remarks when someone else is speaking.

10 Lightning comes before the thunder, favor goes ahead of a modest person.

11 Leave in good time, do not bring up the rear, and hurry home without loitering.

12 There amuse yourself, and do what you have a mind to but do not sin by arrogant talk.

13 And for all this bless your Creator, who intoxicates you with his favors.

14 Whoever fears the Lord will accept his correction; those who look for him will win his favor.

15 Whoever seeks the Law will be nourished by it, the hypocrite will find it a stumbling-block.

16 Those who fear the Lord win his approval, their good deeds shining like a light.

17 The sinner waves reproof aside, he finds an excuse for headstrong behavior.

18 A sensible person never scorns a warning; foreigners and the proud do not know about fear.

37:29-31

29 Do not be insatiable for any delicacy, do not be greedy for food,

30 for over-eating leads to illness and excess leads to liver attacks.

31 Many people have died from over-eating; control yourself, and so prolong your life.

44:1-26

1 Next let us praise illustrious men, our ancestors in their successive generations.

2 The Lord has created an abundance of glory, and displayed his greatness from earliest times.

3 Some wielded authority as kings and were renowned for their strength; others were intelligent advisers and uttered prophetic sayings.

4 Others directed the people by their advice, by their understanding of the popular mind, and by the wise words of their teaching;

5 others composed musical melodies and set down ballads;

6 others were rich and powerful, living peacefully in their homes.

7 All these were honored by their contemporaries and were the glory of their day.

8 Some of them left a name behind them, so that their praises are still sung.

9 While others have left no memory and disappeared as though they had not existed. They are now as though they had never been, and so too, their children after them.

10 But here is a list of illustrious men whose good works have not been forgotten.

11 In their descendants they find a rich inheritance, their posterity.

12 Their descendants stand by the commandments and, thanks to them, so do their children's children.

13 Their offspring will last forever, their glory will not fade.

14 Their bodies have been buried in peace, and their name lives on for all generations.

15 The peoples will proclaim their wisdom, the assembly will celebrate their praises.

Enoch

16 Enoch pleased the Lord and was transferred to heaven, an example for the conversion of all generations.

Noah

17 Noah was found perfectly upright, in the time of retribution he became the heir; because of him a remnant was preserved for the earth

18 at the coming of the Flood.

19 Everlasting covenants were made with him that never again should every living creature perish by flood.

Abraham

20 Abraham, the great ancestor of a host of nations, no one was ever his equal in glory. He observed the Law of the Most High, and entered into a covenant with him.

21 He confirmed the covenant in his own flesh, and proved himself faithful under ordeal.

22 The Lord therefore promised him an oath to bless the nations through his descendants, to multiply him like the dust on the ground,

23 to exalt his descendants like the stars, and to give them the land as their heritage, from one sea to the other, from the River to the ends of the earth.

Isaac and Jacob

24 To Isaac too, for the sake of Abraham his father,

25 he assured the blessing of all humanity; he caused the covenant to rest on the head of Jacob.

26 He confirmed him in his blessings and gave him the land as his inheritance, he divided it into portions, and shared it out among the twelve tribes.

45:1-26

Moses

1 From Jacob's stock he produced a generous man who found favor in the eyes of all humanity,

beloved by God and people, Moses, of blessed memory.

2 He made him the equal of the holy ones in glory and made him strong, to the terror of his enemies.

3 By the word of Moses, he made prodigies cease and raised him high in the respect of kings; he gave him commandments for his people, and showed him something of his glory.

4 For his loyalty and gentleness he sanctified him choosing him alone out of all human beings;

5 he allowed him to hear his voice, and led him into the darkness;

6 he gave him the commandments face to face, the law of life and knowledge, to teach Jacob his ordinances and Israel his decrees.

Aaron

7 He raised up Aaron, a holy man like Moses, his brother, of the tribe of Levi.

8 He made an everlasting covenant with him, and gave him the priesthood of the people. He adorned him with impressive vestments,

9 he dressed him in a robe of glory. He clothed him in glorious perfection and invested him with rich ornaments,

10 the breeches, the long robe, the ephod. To surround the robe he gave him pomegranates, and many gold bells all round

11 to chime at every step, for their sound to be heard in the Temple as a reminder to the children of his people;

12 and a sacred vestment of gold and aquamarine and scarlet, the work of an embroiderer, the pectoral of judgment, the Urim and Thummim,

13 of plaited crimson, the work of a craftsman; precious stones cut like seals mounted in gold, the

work of a jeweler, as a reminder with their engraved inscriptions of the number of the tribes of Israel;

14 and a golden diadem on his turban, engraved with the seal of consecration, superb ornamentation, magnificent work, adornment to delight the eye.

15 There had never been such lovely things before him,

16 and no one else has ever put them on, but only his own sons, and descendants for all time.

17 His sacrifices were to be burnt entirely, twice each day and for ever.

18 Moses consecrated him and anointed him with holy oil;

19 and this was an everlasting covenant for him, and for his descendants as long as the heavens endure, that he should preside over worship, act as priest, and bless the people in the name of the Lord.

20 He chose him out of all the living to offer sacrifices to the Lord, incense and perfume as a memorial to make expiation for the people.

21 He entrusted him with his commandments, committed to him the statutes of the Law for him to teach Jacob his decrees and enlighten Israel on his Law.

22 Others plotted against him, they were jealous of him in the desert, Dathan and Abiram and their men, Korah and his crew in fury and rage.

23 The Lord saw it and was displeased, his raging fury made an end of them;

24 he worked miracles on them, consuming them by his flaming fire.

25 And he added to Aaron's glory, he gave him an inheritance; he allotted him the offerings of the first-fruits,

26 before all else, as much bread as he could want. Thus they eat the sacrifices of the Lord which he gave to him and his posterity.

27 But of the people's territory he inherits nothing, he alone of all the people has no share, "For I myself am your share and heritage."

Phinehas

28 Phinehas son of Elezar is third in glory because of his zeal in the fear of the Lord,

29 because he stood firm when the people revolted, with a staunch and courageous heart; and in this way made expiation for Israel.

30 Hence a covenant of peace was sealed with him, making him governor of both sanctuary and people, and securing to him and his descendants the high priestly dignity for ever.

31 There was also a covenant with David son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah, a royal succession by exclusively linear descent, but the succession of Aaron's passes to all his descendants. May God endow your hearts with wisdom to judge his people uprightly, so that the virtues of your ancestors may never fade, and their glory may pass to all their descendants!

46:1-20

Joshua

1 Mighty in war was Joshua son of Nun, successor to Moses in the prophetic office, who well deserved his name,

2 and was a great Savior of the chosen people, wreaking vengeance on the enemies who opposed him, and so bringing Israel into its inheritance.

3 How splendid he was when, arms uplifted, he brandished his sword against cities!

4 Who had ever shown such determination as his? He himself led the battles of the Lord.

5 Was not the sun held back by his hand, and one day drawn out into two?

6 He called on the Most High, the Mighty One, while pressing the enemies from all directions, and the great Lord answered him with hard and violent hailstones.

7 He fell on that enemy nation, and at the Descent destroyed all resistance

8 to make the nations acknowledge his warlike prowess and that he was waging war on behalf of the Lord.

Caleb

For he was a follower of the Mighty One, in the time of Moses showing his devotion,

9 he and Caleb son of Jephunneh, by opposing the whole community, by preventing the people from sinning, and by silencing the mutters of rebellion.

10 Hence these two alone were preserved out of six hundred thousand men on the march, and brought into their inheritance, into a land where milk and honey flow.

11 And the Lord conferred strength on Caleb too, which stayed by him into old age, so that he could invest the highlands of the country which his descendants kept as their inheritance,

12 so that every Israelite might see that it good to follow the Lord.

The Judges

13 The Judges too, each when he was called, all men whose hearts were never disloyal, who never turned their backs on the Lord;

14 may their memory be blessed!

15 May their bones flourish again from the tomb, and may the names of those illustrious men be worthily borne by their sons!

Samuel

16 Samuel was the beloved of his Lord; prophet of the Lord, he instituted the kingdom, and anointed rulers over his people.

14 By the Law of the Lord he judged the assembly, and the Lord watched over Jacob.

15 By his loyalty he was recognized as a prophet, by his words he was known to be a trustworthy seer.

16 He called on the Lord, the Mighty One, when his enemies pressed in from all directions, by offering a sucking lamb.

17 And the Lord thundered from heaven, and made his voice heard in a rolling peal;

18 he massacred the leaders of the enemy, and all the rulers of the Philistines.

19 Before the time of his everlasting rest he bore witness of the Lord and his anointed, 'Of no property, not even a pair of sandals, have I ever deprived a soul'. Nor did anyone accuse him.

20 And, having fallen asleep, he prophesied again, warning the king of his end; he spoke from the depths of the earth in prophecy, to blot out the wickedness of the people.

47:1-25

Nathan

1 After him arose Nathan, to prophesy in the time of David.

David

2 As the fat is set apart from the communion sacrifice, so was David chosen out of the Israelites.

3 He played with lions as though with kids, and with bears as though with lambs.

4 While still a boy, did he not slay the giant and take away the people's shame, by hurling a stone from his sling and cutting short the boasting of Goliath?

5 For he called on the Lord Most High, who gave strength to his right arm to put a mighty warrior to death and assert the strength of his own people.

6 Hence they gave him credit for ten thousand and praised him while they blessed the Lord, by offering him a crown of glory.

7 For he destroyed the enemies on every front, and annihilated his foes, the Philistines, and crushed their strength for ever.

8 In all his activities he gave thanks to the Holy One Most High in words of glory; he put all his heart into his songs out of love for his Creator.

9 He placed singers before the altar, melodiously to sing,

10 he gave the feasts their splendor, the festivals their solemn pomp, causing the Lord's holy name to be praised and the sanctuary to resound from dawn.

11 The Lord took away his sins, making his strength ever greater; he gave him a royal covenant, and a glorious throne in Israel.

Solomon

12 A wise son succeeded him, who lived content, thanks to him.

13 Solomon reigned in a time of peace, and God gave him peace all round so that he could raise a house to his name and prepare an everlasting sanctuary.

14 How wise you were despite your youth, like a river, brimming over with intelligence!

15 Your mind ranged the earth, you filled it with mysterious sayings.

16 Your name reached the distant islands, and you were loved for your peace.

17 Your songs, your proverbs, your sayings and your answers were the wonders of the world.

18 In the name of the Lord God, of him who is called the God of Israel, you amassed gold like so much tin, and made silver as common as lead.

19 You abandoned your body to women, you became the slave of your appetites.

20 You stained your honor, you profaned your stock, so bringing retribution on your children and affliction for your folly:

21 the empire split in two, from Ephraim arose a rebel kingdom.

22 But the Lord never goes back on his mercy, never cancels any of his words, will neither deny offspring to his elect nor stamp out the line of the man who loved him, And hence, he has granted a remnant to Jacob and to David a root sprung from him.

Rehoboam

23 Solomon rested with his ancestors, leaving one of his stock as his successor, the stupidest member of the nation, brainless Rehoboam, who drove the people to rebel.

Jeroboam

24 Next, Jeroboam son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, and set Ephraim on the way of evil; from then on their sins multiplied so excessively as to drive them out of their country,

25 for they tried out every kind of wickedness, until vengeance overtook them.

48:1-25

Elijah

1 Then the prophet Elijah arose like a fire, his word flaring like a torch.

2 It was he who brought famine on them and decimated them in his zeal.

3 By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens, three times also he brought down fire.

4 How glorious you were in your miracles, Elijah! Has anyone reason to boast as you have?

5 rousing a corpse from death, from Sheol, by the word of the Most High;

6 dragging kings down to destruction, and high dignitaries from their beds;

7 hearing a rebuke on Sinai and decrees of punishment on Horeb;

8 anointing kings as avengers, and prophets to succeed you;

9 taken up in the whirlwind of fire, in a chariot with fiery horses,

10 designated in the prophecies of doom to allay God's wrath before the fury breaks, to turn the hearts of fathers towards their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

11 Blessed, those who will see you, and those who have fallen asleep in love; for we too shall certainly have life.

Elisha

12 Such was Elijah, who was enveloped in a whirlwind; and Elisha was filled with his spirit; throughout his life no ruler could shake him, and no one could subdue him.

13 No task was too hard for him, and even in death his body prophesied.

14 In his lifetime he performed wonders, and in death his works were marvelous.

Infidelity and punishment

15 Despite all this the people did not repent, nor did they give up their sins, until they were herded out of their country and scattered all over the earth;

16 only a few of the people were left, with a ruler of the House of David. Some of them did what pleased the Lord, others piled sin on sin.

Hezekiah

17 Hezekiah fortified his city and laid on a water supply inside it; with iron he tunneled through the rock and constructed storage tanks.

18 In his days Sennacherib invaded and sent Rabshakeh; he lifted his hand against Zion and boasted loudly in his arrogance.

19 Then their hearts and hands trembled, they felt the pangs of a woman in labor,

20 but they called on the merciful Lord, stretching out their hands towards him. Swiftly the Holy One heard them from heaven and delivered them by the agency of Isaiah;

21 he struck the camp of the Assyrians and his angel annihilated them.

Isaiah

22 For Hezekiah did what is pleasing to the Lord and was steadfast in the ways of David his father, enjoined on him by the prophet Isaiah, a great man trustworthy in his vision.

23 In his days the sun moved back; he prolonged the life of the king.

24 In the power of the spirit he saw the last things, he comforted the mourners of Zion,

25 he revealed the future to the end of time, and hidden things long before they happened.

49:1-16

Josiah

1 The memory of Josiah is like blended incense prepared by the perfumer's art; it is as sweet as honey to all mouths, and like music at a wine feast.

2 He took the right course, of converting the people, he rooted out the iniquitous abominations,

3 he set his heart on the Lord, in godless times he upheld the cause of religion.

The last kings and prophets

4 Apart from David, Hezekiah and Josiah, they all heaped wrong on wrong, they abandoned the Law of the Most High: the kings of Judah disappeared;

5 for they handed their power over to others and their honor to a foreign nation.

6 The holy, chosen city was burnt down, her streets were left deserted,

7 as Jeremiah had predicted; for they had ill-treated him, though consecrated a prophet in his mother's womb, to tear up and afflict and destroy, but also to build up and to plant.

8 Ezekiel saw a vision of glory which God showed to him above the chariot of the great winged creatures,

9 for he mentioned the enemies in the downpour to the advantage of those who follow the right way.

10 As for the twelve prophets, may their bones flower again from the tomb, since they have comforted Jacob and redeemed him in faith and hope.

Zerubbabel and Joshua

11 How shall we extol Zerubbabel? He was like a signet ring on the right hand,

12 so too was Joshua son of Jozadak; they who in their days built the Temple and raised a sanctuary sacred to the Lord, destined to everlasting glory.

Nehemiah

13 Great too is the memory of Nehemiah, who rebuilt our walls which lay in ruins, erected the bolted gates and rebuilt our houses.

Retrospect

14 No one else has ever been created on earth to equal Enoch, for he was taken up from earth.

15 And no one else ever born has been like Joseph, the leader of his brothers, the prop of his people; his bones received a visitation.

16 Shem and Seth were the most honored of men, but above every living creature is Adam.

Verses from ECCLESIASTICUS used in the Youth Teaching