

WISDOM OF JESHUA, SON OF ELEAZAR, SON OF SIRACH

PROLOGUE¹

Many and great *are the things* having been given to us through the law and the prophets and the other *men*, the *men* having followed them; in behalf of which *things*, it is being-necessary to be praising the Israel of discipline and wisdom.² **2** And as it is being-necessary for the *ones who are* reading-aloud, not only to be becoming experienced with them *themselves* but instead to be being-able to be useful to the outsiders,³ even saying and writing *things*, **3** my grandfather Jeshua (*who* gave himself onto much into the reading-aloud both of the law and of the prophets and of the other fatherly books, and *who* acquired for himself an adequate habit in these *things*) was even himself led-forward to compose something of the *things* pertaining into discipline and wisdom, **4** so-that the *ones who are* fond-of-learning, after they *have* become involved⁴ with these *things*, might add much more upon⁵ *themselves* through the manner-of-living within-law.⁶

5 Therefore, *all of you** have been exhorted to be doing the reading-aloud of it with goodwill and attention, and to be having concession on-the-basis-of which *things* we, *despite* the *things* throughout the interpretation having been laborious,⁷ would be seeming to be being-unable to *render* certain *phrases* of the sayings perfectly. **6** For *while* the *things* in themselves *are* being originally said in-Hebraic, it is not even having-equal-force⁸ whenever it might be transferred⁹ into a different tongue. **7** But not only these *things*, but instead even the law itself and the prophecies and the remaining *things* of the books, it has the differences¹⁰ in them *which* are not small *while* they *are* being said in *another* tongue.

8 For¹¹ after I came-by into Egypt, in the 38th year of¹² King Ptolemaios the Good-Worker¹³ and after I took *some* time-together *there*, I, after I found an opportunity¹⁴ of no small discipline, **9** prescribed¹⁵ *it* most-obligatory even myself to offer some effort and fondness-of-exertion of the *act* to translate this-here book, **10** I, *who* offered much lack-of-slumber and experience in the interval of the time *spent* *there* toward 'the *act* to give-out the book after I led¹⁶ *it* onto its completion'¹⁷ even to the *ones* in the sojourning *who were* wishing to be being-fond-of-learning, *who are* pre-furnishing themselves the customs to be making-their-lifestyle within-law.¹⁸

CHAPTER 1¹⁹

- 1 {{All wisdom *is* from Yahweh.²⁰
and is with him into the *future* age.²¹
- 2 Sand of seas, and drops of heavy-rain,
and days of an age: who shall number *these* out?
- 3 Heaven's height, and earth's width,
and an abyss' depth²² who shall explore *these*?
Who has investigated God's wisdom which precedes all things?²³
- 4 Before²⁴ all *things* wisdom has been created,
and intelligence of sensibleness²⁵ out of a *first* age.
- 5 Wisdom's spring is a god's account in highest places,
and her goings are perpetual instructions.²⁶

¹ This prologue is not part of the original Hebrew text. It was originally composed in Greek, and appended to the beginning of the Greek translation of Sirach by the translator. "Prologue" is actually part of the text in LXX(AVE), but omitted in LXX(S,157,248), Syr, Eth

² [0:1] most LXX, Lat / LXX(253) reverses "discipline" and "wisdom"

³ literally "to the *ones* outside"

⁴ [0:4] LXX(EC) / LXX(S2,AN,254) "after their involvement"

⁵ [0:4] LXX(V) / LXX(S), Syro-Hex "", shall still add much more to"

⁶ [0:4] LXX(V) ("within-law") / LXX(S1,N) "out of a law" / LXX(70,253) "in a law"

⁷ literally "fond-of-exertion"

⁸ literally "-power"

⁹ literally "led-in-another-direction"

¹⁰ usually translated "diversities"

¹¹ [0:8] LXX(AEV,S2) / LXX(S1,N) "But"

¹² literally "upon/on"

¹³ 132AD

¹⁴ [0:8] LXX(254, two more) / LXX(AESV) may be translated "something-reproduced" (lit. "something-likened-from") as in a "copy" or "unlikeness" / Lat "book"

¹⁵ literally "put"

¹⁶ [0:10] LXX(AE,S2, some others) / LXX(S1) "after they led" / LXX(V) "*while* I was leading"

¹⁷ usually translated "limit"

¹⁸ [0:10] LXX(AN,E1,254), Syro-Hex ("within-law") / LXX(SV) "in a law"

¹⁹ The original Hebrew for verses 1:1-3:6 have been lost, only extant in various daughter translations, such as Greek, Latin, Syriac, etc.

²⁰ [1:1] Hebrew emendation / LXX "Lord" (and in all other occurrences where only the LXX survives) [In this particular verse Lat "God Lord"]

²¹ [1:1] LXX / Lat "and it has always been with him, and it is before *the first* age"

²² [1:3] Lat, Cop, Eth / LXX "and an abyss and wisdom" / Syr "the great ocean"

²³ [1:3] LXX / Lat add

²⁴ literally "Former"

²⁵ [1:4] LXX, Lat / Syr "and firm faithfulness" (corruption at Hebrew level)

²⁶ [1:5] most LXX, Syr / LXX(248), Lat, Sah, Syro-Hex add

- 6 To whom was wisdom's root revealed?
And who knew her crafty-deeds?²⁷
- 7 To whom was wisdom's experience manifest?
And who gained-insight about her vast-trial?²⁸
- 8 *There* is one *who is* wise,²⁹ exceedingly fearsome,³⁰
sitting himself upon his throne
- 9 Yahweh;³¹ he himself created her in *a holy spirit*,³²
and he saw her and he numbered her out and he measured her.³³
- 10 And he poured her out upon all his works,
with all flesh according-to his giving;
and he supplied her to the *ones who* love³⁴ him.
Love of Yahweh is ennobling wisdom;
to those to whom he appears he apportions her,
in order that they may see him.³⁵
- 11 Fear of Yahweh *is* glory and a boast,
and gladness and a crown of a leap-for-joy.³⁶
- 12 Fear of Yahweh shall delight a heart,
and shall give gladness³⁷ and joy and lengthening-of-days.³⁸
Fear of Yahweh is a gift from Yahweh;
also for love he makes firm paths.³⁹
- 13 To the *man* fearing Yahweh,⁴⁰ it shall be well onto *his* last days;⁴¹
even in the day of his end⁴² he shall be blest.⁴³
- 14 To fear⁴⁴ Yahweh⁴⁵ *is* the beginning of wisdom;
and with faithful men, she was created⁴⁶ in *the womb of their mother*⁴⁷
together with them.
It walks with elect women, and is known with the righteous and
faithful.⁴⁸
- 15 She nested with humans *from* the foundation of an *earlier* age;⁴⁹
and with their seed, she shall have-faith-put-in *her*.⁵⁰
- 16 To fear Yahweh *is* the saturation⁵¹ of wisdom;
and she intoxicates them from the multitude of her fruits.⁵²
- 17 She shall fill-up all her⁵³ house *full* of objects-of-desire,⁵⁴
and her⁵⁵ granaries from her products.⁵⁶
Both are gifts of God for peace.⁵⁷
- 18 Fear of Yahweh *is* a crown⁵⁸ of wisdom,
reflourishing peace and health of healing.⁵⁹
He increases glorying to the ones who love him.⁶⁰
And he saw her and he numbered her out.⁶¹ Both are gifts of God.⁶²
- 19 She showered-forth experience and knowledge of intelligence,¹

²⁷ [1:6] LXX, Lat, Syr / Armenia omit "And who knew her crafty-deeds?"

²⁸ [1:7] most LXX (including 248), Syr / some LXX, Lat, Sah, Syro-Hex add

²⁹ [1:8] Syr / LXX add / Lat instead add "most high creator almighty, omnipotent king,"

³⁰ [1:8] LXX / Syr, Arabic "", having dominion over all her treasures"

³¹ [1:8-9] most LXX ("sitting himself upon his throne, Yahweh") / LXX(V) "Yahweh sitting himself upon his throne;" / Lat "sitting upon his throne, and is the god of dominion" (see Syr/Arabic above)

³² [1:9] LXX, Syr / Lat add

³³ [1:9] LXX, Syr / Lat add

³⁴ [1:10] few LXX, Syr "fear"

³⁵ [1:10] most LXX (including 248) / some LXX, Syro-Hex 1 add / Lat instead add [though Lat add after verse 13] "Love of God is honorable wisdom. And they to whom she shall appear in sight love her in vision and in knowledge of her great-things"

³⁶ [1:11] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(E) "and shall give gladness and joy and lengthening-of-days" (see 1:12)

³⁷ [1:12] most LXX, Lat / LXX(253), Syr, Syro-Hex omit "and shall give gladness"

³⁸ [1:12] LXX, Lat / Syr "joy and perpetual life"

³⁹ [1:12] most LXX (including 248), Lat / some LXX, Suro-Hex 1 add

⁴⁰ [1:13] LXX / Lat "Fear of Yahweh"

⁴¹ [1:13] LXX, Lat / Syr "onto the last of his days"

⁴² literally "of an end of his"

⁴³ [1:13] most LXX / LXX(V) "shall find favor"

⁴⁴ [1:14] most LXX ("To fear") / LXX(E), Syr, Lat "Fear of"

⁴⁵ [1:14] most LXX, Lat / LXX(V) "God"

⁴⁶ [1:14] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "she was created"

⁴⁷ [1:14] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁴⁸ [1:14] LXX / Lat add

⁴⁹ [1:15] LXX / Syr "She is with faithful humans, and she has been established from an *earlier* age" / Lat (see below)

⁵⁰ [1:15] LXX / Lat replaces verse 15 with "Fear of Yahweh is religiousness of knowledge. // Religiousness shall keep and shall justify (the) heart; it shall give joy and gladness. // It shall go well with him who fears Yahweh, and in the days of his end he shall be blessed."

⁵¹ [1:16] LXX (lit. "remain(ing)-full" / Lat "plentitude" / Syr "beginning"

⁵² [1:16] LXX / Syr add "the multitude of" / Lat reads "and the plentitude is from that *wisdom's* fruits"

⁵³ [1:17] most LXX, Lat, Syr / some LXX "their"

⁵⁴ [1:17] LXX / Syr "of wisdom" / Lat "from generations"

⁵⁵ [1:17] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX "their"

⁵⁶ [1:17] LXX, Syr / Lat "treasures"

⁵⁷ [1:17] most LXX, some Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248), some Lat, some Sah add

⁵⁸ [1:18] LXX, Lat / Syr "beginning"

⁵⁹ [1:18] most LXX / LXX(S1) "reflourishing peace and health till a *future* age" / Lat "replenishing peace and fruit of salvation" / Syr "increasing peace and life and health"

⁶⁰ [1:18] most LXX, some Lat, Syr / LXX(248), some Lat, some Sah add

⁶¹ [1:18] LXX(248,253), Syr, Syro-Hex, Sah / LXX(AESV), Lat add

⁶² [1:18] LXX, Syr / Lat add

and she heightened *the* glory of *those who* possess her.

and your heart was full of deceit and fallacy.²² }

20 To fear Yahweh *is* a root of wisdom;
and her branches *are* lengthening-of-days.²
In wisdom's treasures is intelligence and religiousness of knowledge,
but wisdom is a curse to sinners.³

21 Fear of Yahweh pushes-away sinful-actions;⁴
but while it remains-near, it shall turn-away anger.⁵

Blessed is the man who mediates in it,
for wisdom is better to him than all treasures.

Blessed is the man who draws close to it,
and who occupies himself with her instructions.

She prepares for him a perpetual crown,
and perpetual righteousness among the holy ones.

He rejoices over her, and she rejoices over him,
and she does not reject him to all eternity.

The messengers of God rejoice over him,
and they tell forth all the glory of Yahweh.

This whole book is full of life,
blessed is the man who listens to it and does according to it.

Hear my, all of you* who fear God,
listen to and mark my words.

He who shall inherit life,
as a perpetual heritage and a great joy—

Listen to all my words and do them,
and you shall be inscribed in the book of life.

Love the fear of Yahweh,
and establish your heart in it, so you shall have nothing to fear.

Draw near to her, and do not weary,
so you shall find life for your spirit.

And when you near,
do it as a hero and as a mighty one.⁶

22 Unrighteous fury⁷ shall not be able to be pronounced-righteous
for the shift⁸ of his⁹ fury *is* a falling for him.

23 A long-suffering *man* shall hold himself against *it*¹⁰ till an *opportune* season,
and afterward gladness shall give-up to him.

24 He shall conceal his accounts till an *opportune* season,
and *the lips* of many¹¹ *men* shall describe-in-detail his intelligence.

25 In wisdom's treasures *are* parables¹² of experience;
but reverence-of-God *is* an abomination to a sinner.¹³

26 After you desire wisdom, thoroughly-keep instructions,¹⁴
and Yahweh shall supply her to you.

27 For fear of Yahweh *is* wisdom and discipline;
and faith and meekness *are* his good-pleasure.
And he shall fill up his treasures.¹⁵

28 My son,¹⁶ May you not refuse-to-be-persuaded-by-means-of¹⁷ the fear of
Yahweh when you are in need.¹⁸
and may you not come-to him in a double heart.

29 May you not be made to act-hypocritical in *the faces*¹⁹ of humans;
and be paying-attention in *what you say* from your lips.

30 Do not be heightening yourself forth in-order-that you might not fall
and may lead dishonor upon your soul;

31 and Yahweh shall reveal all²⁰ your hidden *things*,
and he shall throw you down in *the* midst of a congregation,

32 because you came²¹ to *the* fear of Yahweh

CHAPTER 2

About Fruit²³

1 { {O child, if you come-to²⁴ to be being enslaved to²⁵ Yahweh,²⁶
make-ready²⁷ your soul into a test.

2 Make your heart straight²⁸ and persevere,
and may you not hasten in a season of calamity.^{29 30}

3 Be glued to³¹ him,³² and may you not depart-from *him*,³³
in-order-that you may be grown onto your last *days*.³⁴

4 Readily³⁵ Receive all whatsoever might be led-upon you,
and be-longsuffering in changing *things* of humiliation,³⁶

5 because gold is being proved in a fire,
and acceptable humans in a furnace-of³⁷ humiliation.
In sickness and poverty, be having your faith upon him.³⁸

6 Have-faith in him³⁹ and he shall take-the-part-in *helping* you;
and⁴⁰ make-straight your ways and hope onto him.⁴¹
Serve his fear, and grow-old in it.⁴²

7 *The ones of you* who* fear Yahweh, await his mercy,
and may you not be deviating in-order-that you might not fall.⁴³

8 *The ones of you* who* fear Yahweh, have-faith in him,
and your wage may never misstep *and be lost*.⁴⁴

9 *The ones of you* who* fear Yahweh, hope into good *things*,⁴⁵
and into gladness of a *future* age and mercy.⁴⁶
Because his equivalent-repayment it is a perpetual gift with joy.⁴⁷

The ones of you* who are fearing Yahweh, be loving him,
and your hearts shall be illuminated.⁴⁸

10 *All of you**, look-in into ancient generations and see:
Who put their faith-in Yahweh and was put-to-shame?

Or who remained-in his fear and was left-behind-in *the dust*?
Or who called-on him for himself and he overlooked⁴⁹ him?

11 Due-to-the-fact-that Yahweh *is* piteous and merciful, longsuffering and
much-merciful,⁵⁰
and he forgives sins, and he saves in a season of tribulation.⁵¹

12 Woe to hearts *which are* terrified⁵² and to felonous lips and to hands having
been drooped,⁵³

and to a sinner *who is* stepping-on upon two *different* paths!
13 Woe to a heart having been drooped, because it does not have-faith⁵⁴ in
God;⁵⁵

due to this, it shall not be sheltered!

14 Woe to *all of you**, to the *ones* having lost *their* endurance,
who have fully-relinquished the straight ways and have diverted in
depraved ways!¹

²¹ [1:32] some LXX / some LXX, Syr "you did not come" / LXX(248,253), Syro-Hex "you did not come in truth" / Lat "you came maliciously"

²² [1:32] LXX / Lat add

²³ [2:1] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(248) add

²⁴ may also be translated "if you may come-to"

²⁵ [2:1] LXX, Lat / Syr "to the fear of"

²⁶ [2:1] LXX / Syr, Lat "God"

²⁷ [2:1] LXX, Lat ("make-ready") / Syr "You shall deliver"

²⁸ [2:2] LXX / Lat "Depress your heart"

²⁹ literally "a bringing-on" (as in something being brought upon someone)

³⁰ [2:2] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "Make your heart...calamity"

³¹ [2:3] LXX / Lat "Sustain with sustenance"

³² [2:3] LXX, Syr / Lat "god"

³³ [2:3] LXX / Syr "may you not let her go" / Lat "join yourself with god, and sustain"

³⁴ [2:3] most LXX / Syr "in-order-that you may be wise in your ways" / LXX(S1) "and you shall be grown

onto your last days" / Lat "in-order-that your life may increase in the last [lit. "new"] day"

³⁵ [2:4] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248,253), Syro-Hex add

³⁶ [2:4] LXX (lit.) "be long-suffering in things-which-are-exchanged of humiliation" / Syr "be long-suffering in disease and poverty" / Lat "be sustaining in pain and have patience in your humiliation"

³⁷ [2:5] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(E) omit "a furnace of"

³⁸ [2:5] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(S2,253), Syro-Hex add

³⁹ [2:6] LXX / Syr, Lat "God" / LXX(253) "Yahweh"

⁴⁰ [2:6] most LXX / LXX(S1,253), Syr, Syro-Hex, Lat add

⁴¹ [2:6] LXX(253), Syr, Syro-Hex "and he shall make-straight your ways"

⁴² [2:6] LXX, Syr, Syro-Hex / Lat add

⁴³ [2:7] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(253) places verse 7 after verse 9.

⁴⁴ [2:8] LXX, Lat / Syr "and he shall not withhold your reward"

⁴⁵ [2:8] LXX / Syr "into his benefits" / Lat "into him"

⁴⁶ [2:9] Syr "salvation"

⁴⁷ [2:9] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(S2,253), Syro-Hex add

⁴⁸ [2:9] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁴⁹ [2:10] LXX, Lat / Syr "he did not hear"

⁵⁰ [2:11] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(S2,70,248,253), Syro-Hex add

⁵¹ [2:11] LXX ("and he forgives...tribulation") / Syr "and he hears in a season of tribulation, and he hears all them who do his will" / Lat "and he forgives in a season of tribulation the sin of all them who seek him in truth"

⁵² [2:12] LXX, Syr / Syro-Hex, Lat "double"

⁵³ [2:12] LXX, Syr / Lat "and to felonous lips and to hands which work-evil"

⁵⁴ [2:13] LXX, Lat / Syr "to a heart that does not have-faith"

⁵⁵ [2:13] LXX, Syr / Lat add

¹ [1:19] LXX(AESV,248,253), Lat, Syro-Hex, Sah / Syr "She is a strong staff and a glorious stay"

² [1:20] LXX, Vul / Syr "Her roots are perpetual life, and her flowers are lengthening-of-days."

³ [1:20] LXX / Lat, Syr add

⁴ [1:21] most LXX, Syr / LXX(70,248,253), Syro-Hex1, Lat add

⁵ [1:21] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248,253), Syro-Hex1 add

⁶ [1:21] LXX, Lat / Syr add these 12 verses and omit verses 22-27.

⁷ [1:22] most LXX / LXX(70,248,253), Syro-Hex "A wrathful man" / Lat "For he who is without fear"

⁸ [1:22] most LXX / LXX(S1), Lat "anger"

⁹ [1:22] most LXX (lit. "of the fury of him") / LXX(S1) "of the fury"

¹⁰ [1:23] most LXX / LXX(N,248,253), Lat "hold himself up" (less lit. "tolerate it")

¹¹ [1:24] most LXX, Lat / LXX(EV) "faithful"

¹² [1:25] LXX(S,70,248,253), Syr, SyroHex "most LXX "parable"

¹³ [1:25] most LXX / LXX(70,253), SyroHex "to sinners" / Lat omit "In wisdom's...to a sinner"

¹⁴ [1:26] LXX / Lat "justice"

¹⁵ [1:27] LXX / Lat add

¹⁶ [1:28] LXX, Lat / Syr add

¹⁷ [1:28] most LXX, Syr / LXX(S), Lat "refuse-to-have-faith in"

¹⁸ [1:28] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248,253), Syro-Hex add

¹⁹ [1:29] LXX(253), Syr, Syro-Hex, Lat / most LXX "mouths" (corruption at Hebrew level)

²⁰ [1:31] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248,253), Syro-Hex add

And what shall *all of you** do whenever Yahweh might be overseeing?

- 15 The *ones who* fear Yahweh shall not refuse-to-be-persuaded-by words of his;²
and the *ones who* love him shall keep-together his ways.³
- 16 The *ones who* fear Yahweh shall seek his good-pleasure,⁴
and the *ones who* love him shall be filled-up *full* of⁵ the⁶ law.
- 17 The *ones who* fear Yahweh shall made-ready their hearts,
and they shall humble their souls before his face.⁷
The *ones who* fear Yahweh, shall keep his instructions,
and they shall have patience until his inspection.⁸
- 18 saying,⁹ We shall fall-in for ourselves into Yahweh's¹⁰ hands,
and not into hands of humans.¹¹
- 19 For as *is* his greatness, so *is* his mercy,
and as *is* his name, so *are* his works.¹²
The *one who* fears God, shall increase possessions,
and his seed shall be blessed after him.¹³ }

CHAPTER 3

- 1 { {Wisdom's children *are an assembly of righteous ones;*
and their nation *is obedience and love.*¹⁴
*O children, hear the judgment of your father;*¹⁵
and do so¹⁶ in-order-that *all of you** might be saved.¹⁷
- 2 For Yahweh glorified a father on the *basis of his children;*
and he confirmed a mother's judging on the *basis of sons.*¹⁸
- 3 The *man who* honors his father is atoning for sins,¹⁹
- 4 and the *man who* glorifies his mother *is as the man who is storing-up-treasures.*
- 5 The *man who* honors a father shall be gladdened by children,²⁰
and in a day of his prayer-to *God*, he shall be listened-to.
- 6 The *man who* glorifies his father shall lengthen-his-days;
and the *man who is listening to Yahweh* } shall totally-glorify²¹ his mother.²²
- 7 { {And the *man who* fears Yahweh honors his father,²³
and is enslaved to his parents as masters. }²⁴
- 8 My son,²⁵ totally-glorify your father and mother²⁶ in authoritative-saying
and in deed,²⁷
so-that all of the blessings²⁸ from him²⁹ shall overtake³⁰ you.
- 9 For³¹ A father's blessing shall found³² a root,³³
and a mother's curse shall uproot a plant.³⁴
- 10 You shall not be glorified in your father's degradation,
because *his degradation*³⁵ is not glory to you!

¹ [2:14] LXX, Syr / Lat add

² [2:15] most LXX (LXX(S1) "the words of his") / LXX(A) "shall seek good-pleasure of him" (accidentally copied vfrom verse 2:16) / Syr "shall not hate words of his" / Lat "shall not be unfaithful to God"

³ [2:15] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(S2) "instructions" / LXX(253) omit all of verse 15.

⁴ literally "seek good-pleasure of him"

⁵ [2:16] LXX, Lat / Syr "shall learn"

⁶ [2:16] LXX / Lat, Syr "his"

⁷ [2:17] LXX / Syr "and he who forsakes him destroys his own soul" / Lat "and in his sight they shall sanctify their souls"

⁸ [2:17] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁹ [2:18] most LXX, Syr / LXX(253), Lat add

¹⁰ [2:18] most LXX / LXX(248), Lat "God's"

¹¹ [2:18] Syr / LXX, Lat add

¹² [2:18] Syr / LXX, Lat, Syro-Hex omit "and as *is* his name, so *are* his works"

¹³ [2:19] LXX, Lat / Syr add

¹⁴ [3:1] LXX, Syr / Lat add

¹⁵ [3:1] LXX(253), Syr, Syro-Hex, Lat / most LXX "hear me, the father" / LXX(Aldine) "*O children, hear a judgment, the father*" / LXX(70) "*O children, hear the father for a judging*"

¹⁶ literally "in-this-manner"

¹⁷ [3:1] LXX, Lat / Syr "might live the life which is perpetual"

¹⁸ [3:2] LXX, Lat ("sons") / Syr "her children"

¹⁹ [3:3] LXX / Syr "The *man who* honors his father, his sins are forgiven" / Lat "He who loves God obtains forgiveness for sins, and he shall continue himself from them; in a day of prayer he shall be heard-out."

²⁰ [3:4] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(V) adds, repeating verse 4, "and the *man who* glorifying his mother *is as the man who is storing-up treasures*"

²¹ [3:6] Heb(A), Syr / most LXX "refresh" / LXX(70,253), Syro-Hex "refresh from anguish" / Lat "refrigerate"

²² [3:6] Heb(A)(fragmented), LXX, Lat / Syr "*who is giving rest to his mother shall receive reward from God*"

²³ [3:7] Heb(A), most LXX, Syr / LXX(70,248,253), Lat, Syro-Hex add

²⁴ [3:7] Heb(A), Syr / LXX, Lat add

²⁵ [3:8] Heb(A), Syr / LXX, Lat omit "My son"

²⁶ [3:8] Heb(A), most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248) add

²⁷ [3:8] Heb(A) / LXX "in work and account"

²⁸ [3:8] Heb(A), Syr / LXX, Lat "that a blessing"

²⁹ [3:8] Heb(A), Syr / most LXX add "from him" / LXX(248,253) add "from them" / Lat add "from God"

³⁰ [3:8] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "come-upon"

³¹ [3:9] Heb(A), Lat / LXX add

³² [3:9] Heb(A) / LXX "establishes" / Lat "makes-firm"

³³ [3:9] Heb(A) ("a root") / LXX "houses of children" / Lat "houses of sons" / Syr "habitations"

³⁴ [3:9] Heb(A) ("a plant") / LXX, Lat "foundations"

³⁵ [3:10] Heb(A) / LXX "for your father's dishonor" / Lat "for it is not glory to you, but confusion"

- 11 A man's³⁶ glory *is* his father's glory;³⁷
and he *who* slights a mother causes sin to multiply.³⁸
- 12 My son,³⁹ strengthen yourself *in the* glory of your father.⁴⁰
and you shall not forsake⁴¹ him all of *the* days of your life.⁴²
- 13 And also if his knowing shall lack, do not forsake him;⁴³
and you shall not humiliate⁴⁴ him all of *the* days of his life.⁴⁵
- 14 For⁴⁶ A father's righteousness⁴⁷ shall not be forgotten;⁴⁸
and its exchange of sins shall be planted.⁴⁹
- 15 In a day of your constraint,⁵⁰ it shall be remembered to you,⁵¹
and it shall be⁵² as warmth⁵³ upon frost your iniquity shall dissolve.⁵⁴
- 16 He *who* forsakes⁵⁵ his⁵⁶ father *is as*⁵⁷ he *who* reviles;⁵⁸
and he *who* slights⁵⁹ his mother *is* he *who* vexes his Creating *one*.⁶⁰
- 17 My son,⁶¹ in all your works go in humility,⁶²
and you shall be loved more-than he *who* gives gifts.⁶³
- 18 My son,⁶⁴ Make your soul⁶⁵ very-little to the extent that you are great,
and you shall find compassions⁶⁶ before *the* face* of a god*.⁶⁷
- 19 Many are high and over-glorious;
instead, he reveals his mysteries to meek men.⁶⁸
- 20 For great is the power of the Lord;
he is glorified by the humble.
- 21 What is too sublime for you, do not seek,
into things beyond your strength, do not search.
- 22 In what is committed to you, attend to;
for what is hidden is not your concern.
- 23 And in what is too much for you, do not meddle,
because you have *already* been shown *something* much more-than you.⁶⁹
- 24 Because many *are* the considerations of a human's sons,
and reasonings *which are bad are* leading *them* astray.
- 25 Where *there is* no pupil *for the eye*, light shall lack,
and where *there is* no knowledge, wisdom shall lack.⁷⁰
- 26 A stubborn *man* will fare badly in the end,
and he who loves danger will perish in it.⁷¹
- 27 A stubborn *man* will be burdened with sorrow;
a sinner⁷² will heap up sin upon sin.
- 28 For the affliction of the proud *man* there is no cure;
he is the offshoot of an evil plant.
- 29 *The* heart of a wise *man* appreciates parables of wise *men*,⁷³

³⁶ [3:11] Heb(A) / LXX "human's"

³⁷ [3:11] Heb(A) / LXX "honor"

³⁸ [3:11] Heb(A) / LXX "and a mother in glory *is* a reproach to children" / Lat "and a father without honor *is* the disgrace of a son" / Syr "and he who dishonors a mother..."

³⁹ [3:12] Heb(A) / LXX "O child" / Lat "O son" / some LXX omit

⁴⁰ [3:12] Heb(A), Syr / LXX "take-part-in *helping* your father in his old-age"

⁴¹ [3:12] Heb(A), Syr / LXX, Lat "grieve"

⁴² [3:12] Heb(A), Syr / many LXX, Lat "him in his life" / LXX(N,70,248) "him in your life"

⁴³ [3:12] Heb(A) (lit. "do not forsake to him") / LXX "be having concession"

⁴⁴ [3:13] Heb(A) / LXX "dishonor" / Lat "spurn"

⁴⁵ [3:13] Heb(A), Syr / LXX, Lat "him in all your strength"

⁴⁶ [3:14] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat add

⁴⁷ [3:14] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "act-of-mercy" (possibly in the sense of "alms")

⁴⁸ [3:14] Heb(C), LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "not be wiped out"

⁴⁹ [3:14] Heb(A-margin), Syr / Heb(A) "and...be crushed" / Heb(C) "and in exchange of his humility, it shall stand" / LXX "and in-place of sins, it shall be built-up-toward you" / Lat "for good shall be restituted to you for your mother's sin, and you shall be built-up in justice"

⁵⁰ [3:15] Heb(A), Lat / LXX "In a day of your constraint" / Heb(C) "In that day"

⁵¹ [3:15] Heb(AC) / LXX "shall be reminded of you"

⁵² [3:15] Heb(A), LXX / Heb(C) add

⁵³ [3:15] Heb(A) / Heb(C) "dryness" / LXX, Lat "fair-weather"

⁵⁴ [3:15] Heb(C) / LXX, Lat "frost so your sins shall be dissolved" / Heb(A) "frost for *the act* to cause your iniquity to rest" (as in "to cease")

⁵⁵ [3:16] Heb(C), LXX, Lat / Heb(A), Syr "depises"

⁵⁶ [3:16] Heb(AC) / LXX, Lat "a"

⁵⁷ [3:16] Heb(C), LXX / Heb(A) "because" (needs to be placed before "He *who*" for the translation)

⁵⁸ [3:16] Heb(C), LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "is...he who acts-arrogantly" / Lat "is of what evil fame"

⁵⁹ [3:16] Heb(A) / LXX "he who provokes-to-anger" / Syr "he who contemns" / Lat "he who exasperates" / Heb(C) "he shall drag off"

⁶⁰ [3:16] Heb(A) / Heb(C) "is he who slights a god" / LXX, Syr, Lat "has been cursed by Yahweh"

⁶¹ [3:17] Heb(AC) / LXX "O child" / Lat "O son"

⁶² [3:17] Heb(C) / Heb(A) "in your riches go-around in humility" / LXX "in meekness lead-forth-to-completion your works" / Lat "in meekness perfect your works"

⁶³ [3:17] Heb(A), Syr(?) / Heb(B) "loved more-than a giver of a gift" / LXX "loved by acceptable humans" / Lat "loved more than humans of glory"

⁶⁴ [3:18] Heb(A), LXX, Lat / Heb(C) add

⁶⁵ [3:18] Heb(AC) ("your soul") / LXX, Lat "yourself"

⁶⁶ [3:18] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "favor"

⁶⁷ [3:18] Heb(A), Lat / LXX "Yahweh"

⁶⁸ [3:19] Heb(AC), most LXX / LXX(S2,248), Syr, Syro-Hex add

⁶⁹ [3:23] Heb(A) / LXX "for many things of intelligence of humans have been indicated to you"

⁷⁰ [3:25] Heb(A), LXX(II), Syr [LXX(II) "make no claims" / Syr "do not give persuasive advice" / LXX(II) omit "Where...pupil...wisdom shall lack"

⁷¹ [3:26] Heb(A) "and he who loves what is good will be brought along by it"

⁷² [3:27] LXX / Heb(A) "madman" / Syr "impudent"

⁷³ [3:29] Heb(A), Syr / LXX omit "of wise men"

- and an ear *which* is-attentive shall rejoice toward wisdom.
- 30 Water quenches a flaming fire,
and alms atone for sins.
- 31 He who does a kindness is remembered afterward;¹
when he falls, he finds a support.

CHAPTER 4

- 1 My son, do not rob the poor *man* of his livelihood;²
and do not force the eyes of the needy to turn away.³
- 2 May you not grieve⁴ *the* spirit of⁵ a hungry soul,
and may you not provoke a *man* in a state-of-being-at-a-loss to anger.⁶
- 3 Do not exasperate the downtrodden;
nor delay to give to the needy.
- 4 Do not reject a beggar in distress;
nor avert your face from the poor.
- 5 Do not turn your eyes from the needy,⁷
and do not give a place *for someone*⁸ to curse you;
- 6 for if in *the* bitterness of spirit of his soul he curse you,⁹
his Maker¹⁰ will hear his prayer.
- 7 Endear your soul¹¹ to the assembly of the poor;¹²
before a ruler¹³ bow your head.
- 8 Turn an ear to a poor *man*,
and return his greeting with courtesy.¹⁴
- 9 Deliver the oppressed from the hand of the oppressor;
do not let a spirit of justice be repugnant to you;¹⁵
- 10 Become as a father to the fatherless,
and a replacement of a master¹⁶ to their mother;
thus will you be like a son to the Most High,
and he will be more tender to you than a mother.¹⁷
- 11 Wisdom teaches¹⁸ her sons,
and she admonishes all¹⁹ those who seek her.
- 12 He who loves her has loved²⁰ living *things*;²¹
and those who seek her out win her favor.
- 13 And²² he who holds her fast shall find²³ glory from Yahweh;²⁴
and he shall dwell in Yahweh's blessing.²⁵
- 14 Ministering *ones* of her *are* ministering *ones* of holiness;
and those who love her²⁶ Yahweh loves.
- 15 He *who* hears her²⁷ shall judge *in* truth²⁸
and he *who* gives-ear to her encamps in my chambers from *her* house.
- 16 {{If he might have-faith-in *her*, he shall set her down-for-an-inheritance,
and his generations shall be in retaining *of her*.}}²⁹
- 17 Because she walks with him as a stranger,
and at first she puts him to the test;
{{fear and terror she shall lead-on upon him}}³⁰
and she shall try him in her discipline;
with her precepts she puts him to the proof,
until his heart³¹ is fully with me.

¹ [3:31] LXX / Heb(A) "The kindness a person does crossed his path as he goes"

² [4:1] LXX / Heb(A), Syr "do not mock the life of the poor man"

³ [4:1] LXX / Heb "and do not make-faint a needy soul and a bitter soul"

⁴ [4:2] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "scorn"

⁵ [4:2] Heb / LXX omit "a spirit of"

⁶ [4:2] LXX / Heb "And do not be concealing from a pounded soul"

⁷ [4:4-5] LXX / Heb(A), Syr omit "do not avert your face...needy"

⁸ [4:5] Heb / LXX "place to a human"

⁹ [4:3] Heb(A) / LXX "do not add more trouble to a heart that is provoked to anger"

¹⁰ [4:6] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "Rock"

¹¹ [4:7] Heb / LXX "yourself"

¹² [4:7] LXX, Lat add

¹³ [4:7] most LXX / some LXX "before rulers" / Heb(A) "before the city's ruler" / Syr "before the city's rulers"

¹⁴ [4:8] Heb / LXX "and answer him with peaceable words"

¹⁵ [4:9] Heb(A) / LXX "May you not be faint-hearted in your judgment"

¹⁶ [4:10] Heb / LXX, Lat "man"

¹⁷ [4:10] Heb(A) "would; and he will be kindly to you, and will deliver you from the pit"

¹⁸ [4:11] Heb(A), Syr / LXX "heightens"

¹⁹ [4:11] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat omit "all"

²⁰ [4:12] Heb(A) ("has loved") / LXX "loves"

²¹ [4:12] Heb(A) / LXX "life"

²² [4:12] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat omit "And"

²³ [4:12] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "inherit"

²⁴ [4:13] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat omit "from Yahweh"

²⁵ [4:13] Heb(A) / LXX "and he who is going-into *it*, Yahweh blesses"

²⁶ [4:14] LXX / Syr "his tent"

²⁷ literally "hears to her"

²⁸ [4:15] Heb(A), Syr / LXX "judge nations" (variation on Hebrew level)

²⁹ [4:16] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) omit "If one trusts her...inherit her."

³⁰ [4:17] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) omit "Fear and dread she brings upon him"

³¹ [4:17] Heb / LXX "soul"

- 18 And³² She shall return; she shall bring him happiness
and she shall reveal her secrets to him.
- 19 But³³ If he shall turn-away, she shall abandon him
and she shall deliver him into the hands of despoilers.³⁴
- 20 My son,³⁵ watch your time well; guard yourself from evil,
and bring no shame upon your soul.
- 21 There is a sense of shame laden with guilt,
and a shame that merits honor and respect.
- 22 Show no favoritism against your own soul;
let no one intimidate you to your own downfall.
- 23 Do not refrain from speaking at the proper time,³⁶
and do not hide away your wisdom;³⁷
- 24 for it is through speech that wisdom becomes known,
and knowledge through the tongue's rejoinder.
- 25 Never gainsay the truth,³⁸
but rather be ashamed of your ignorance.³⁹
- 26 Do not be ashamed to acknowledge your guilt,⁴⁰
and do not struggle against the rushing stream.
- 27 Do not abase your soul⁴¹ before an impious *human*,⁴²
nor refuse to do so before rulers.
- 28 Even to the death fight for truth,⁴³
and Yahweh your God will battle for you.
- 29 Do not be surly in your speech,
nor lazy and slack in your deeds.
- 30 Do not be a lion⁴⁴ at home,
nor estranged and fearsome at work.⁴⁵
- 31 Do not let your hand be open to receive,
but clenched when it is time to give.

CHAPTER 5

- 1 Do not rely on your wealth;
do not say: "I have the power."
Do not walk after your heart or your eyes,
by walking after the desire of your soul.⁴⁶
- 2 Do not rely on your soul and⁴⁷ strength
in following the desires of your heart.
- 3 Do not say: "Who can prevail against me?"
for Yahweh will exact the punishment.⁴⁸
- 4 Do not say: "I have sinned, yet what has befallen me?"
for Yahweh⁴⁹ bides his time.
Do not say: "Yahweh is merciful,
and all my sins he will blot out."⁵⁰
- 5 Do not be overconfident of forgiveness,⁵¹
adding sin upon sin.
- 6 Do not say: "Great is his mercy;
he will forgive⁵² my many sins."
For mercy and anger alike are with him;
upon the wicked alights his wrath.
- 7 Do not delay your conversion to Yahweh,
do not put it off from day to day;
for suddenly his wrath flames forth;
at the time¹ of vengeance, you will be destroyed.

³² [4:18] Heb / LXX, Lat add

³³ [4:19] Heb, LXX / Lat add

³⁴ [4:11-19] LXX / Heb(A), Syr has the segment from "He who obeys...despoilers" in first person.

³⁵ [4:20] Heb(A), Lat / LXX, Syr omit "My son"

³⁶ [4:23] Heb(A) / LXX "at a time of salvation"

³⁷ [4:23] some LXX, Heb, Syr, Lat / most LXX omit "and do not hide away your wisdom"

³⁸ [4:25] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "gainsay God"

³⁹ [4:25] LXX / Heb(A) "rather humble yourself before God" / Syr "rather keep yourself away from your own folly"

⁴⁰ [4:26] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "to draw back from guilt"

⁴¹ [4:27] Heb / LXX "yourself"

⁴² [4:27] Heb / LXX, Lat actually add "human"

⁴³ [4:28] LXX, Syr / Heb(A), Lat "righteousness"

⁴⁴ [4:30] Heb(C), LXX / Heb(A), Syr "dog"

⁴⁵ [4:30] Heb(A) / LXX "nor conceiving-vain-fancies in your domestics"

⁴⁶ [5:1] Heb(A) add

⁴⁷ [5:2] Heb(A) / LXX add

⁴⁸ [5:3] Heb(A) / LXX "for the Lord will surely avenge you" / some Greek, Lat "for the Lord will surely avenge" / other Greek "for the Lord will surely avenge your pride"

⁴⁹ [5:4] Heb(C) / Heb(A), Syr "God" / most Greek "the Lord" / LXX(O), Lat "the Most High"

⁵⁰ [5:4] Heb(A) add

⁵¹ [5:5] Heb / LXX "atonement"

⁵² [5:6] Heb / LXX "he (or "it") will atone for"

8 Do not rely upon deceitful wealth,
for it will be no help on the day of wrath.²

9 Do not winnow in every spirit,³
and do not start off in every direction.
so it is with the double-tongued sinner.⁴

10 Be consistent in your thoughts;
steadfast be your words.

11 Be swift to hear,
and let your life be in truth,⁵
and long of spirit to answer.⁶

12 If you have the knowledge, answer your neighbor;
if not, put your hand over your mouth.

13 Honor and dishonor through talking!⁷
A human's tongue can be his downfall.

14 Do not be called a detractor;⁸
do not use your tongue for slandering a neighbor;⁹
for shame has been created for the thief,
and the reproach of his neighbor¹⁰ for the double-tongued.

15 Do not say anything harmful,¹¹ in small or great matters;

6.1 do not be a foe instead of a friend;
a bad name and disgrace you will acquire:
"That for a bad man¹² with a double tongue!"

CHAPTER 6

2 Do not fall into the hand of your soul,
lest, like fire, it¹³ consume your strength;

3 your leaves it will eat, your fruits destroy,
and you will be left a dry tree,

4 for a fierce soul destroys its master
and makes him the sport of his enemies.

5 Pleasant speech multiplies friends and soothes enemies,¹⁴
and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings.

6 Let men¹⁵ who are your acquaintances be many,
but one master¹⁶ in a thousand your confidant.

7 When you gain a friend, first test him,
and do not be too ready to trust him.

8 For one sort of friend is a friend when it suits him,
but he will not be with you in time of distress.

9 Another is a friend who becomes an enemy,
and tells of the quarrel to your shame.

10 Another is a friend, a boon companion,
who will not be with you when sorrow comes.

11 When things go well, he is your other self,
and lords it over your servants;¹⁷

12 but if you are brought low,
he turns against you and avoids meeting you.

13 Keep away from your enemies;
be on your guard with your friends.

14 A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;¹⁸
he who finds one finds a treasure.

15 A faithful friend is beyond price,
no sum can balance his worth.

16 A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,¹⁹
such as he who fears the Lord finds;

17 for he who fears the Lord behaves accordingly,²⁰

and his friend will be like himself.
and as his name, so are his deeds.²¹

18 My son, from your youth embrace discipline;
thus will you find wisdom with graying hair.²²

19 As though plowing and sowing,²³ draw close to her;
then await her bountiful crops.
For in cultivating her you will labor but little,
and soon you will eat of her fruits.

20 How irksome she is to the unruly!
the fool cannot abide her.

21 She will be like a burdensome stone to test him,
and he will not delay in casting her aside.

22 For discipline is like her name,
she is not accessible to many.

23 Listen, my son, and heed my advice;
do not refuse my counsel.

24 Put your feet into her fetters,
and your neck under her yoke.²⁴

25 Stoop your shoulders and carry her
and do not be irked at her bonds.

26 With all your soul²⁵ draw close to her;
with all your strength keep her ways.²⁶

27 Search her out, discover her;
seek her and you will find her.

Then when you have her,
do not let her go;

28 thus afterward you will find rest in her,
and she will become your joy.

29 Her fetters will become for you a strong protection,
and her collar a golden robe.

30 Her yoke²⁷ is a golden ornament,
and her bonds are a cord of purple.

31 You will wear her like a golden robe,
and carry her like a splendid crown.²⁸

32 My son, if you wish, you can be taught;
if you apply your soul, you will be shrewd.

33 If you are willing to listen, you will learn;
if you give heed, you will be wise.

34 Frequent the company of the elders;
whoever is wise, stay close to him.²⁹

35 Be eager to hear every godly³⁰ discourse;
let no wise saying escape you.

36 If you see a man of prudence, seek him out;
let your feet wear away his doorstep!

37 Reflect on the precepts of Yahweh,
and let his commandments be your constant meditation.

38 Then he will enlighten³¹ your mind,
and he will grant the wisdom you desire.

CHAPTER 7

1 Do no evil, and evil will not overtake you;
2 avoid wickedness, and it will turn aside from you.

3 My son,³² Do not sow in the furrows of injustice,
lest you harvest it sevenfold.

4 Do not seek authority from Yahweh,
nor from the king a place of honor.

5 Do not parade your righteousness before the Lord,¹

¹ [5:7] Heb(C), LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "on the day"

² [5:8] LXX "calamity"

³ [5:9] Heb / LXX "wind"

⁴ [5:9] LXX add

⁵ [5:11] some Greek add

⁶ [5:11] Heb / LXX "and be vocalizing an answer in longsuffering"

⁷ [5:13] Heb(A) / LXX, Syr "through one who talks"

⁸ [5:14] Heb (or "double-tongued") / LXX "slanderer"

⁹ [5:14] LXX / Heb(A) add

¹⁰ [5:14] Heb(A) / LXX, Syr "and harsh reproach"

¹¹ [5:15] Heb, Syr / LXX "Do not remain ignorant"

¹² [6:1] Heb / LXX "for the sinful man"

¹³ [6:5] Heb / LXX "your soul"

¹⁴ [6:5] Lat add

¹⁵ [6:6] Heb / LXX, Lat omit "men"

¹⁶ [6:6] Heb / LXX, Lat omit "master"

¹⁷ [6:11] LXX / Heb(A), Syr "when things go badly, he will depart from you"

¹⁸ [6:14] LXX / Heb(A), Syr "friend"

¹⁹ [6:16] LXX, Syr (lit. "is medicine of life") / Heb(A) "is a bundle of life"

²⁰ [6:17] Heb(A) omit "for he who fears the Lord behaves accordingly"

²¹ [6:17] Heb(A) add

²² [6:18] Heb(C) (fragmented), LXX / Heb(A) omit "My son...graying hair."

²³ [6:19] LXX / Heb(A,C) "As though glowing and reaping" / Syr "Like the sower and like the reaper"

²⁴ [6:23-24] LXX / Heb(A) omit "Listen, my son...yoke."

²⁵ [6:26] Syr "heart"

²⁶ [6:26] LXX / Heb(A) omit "With all your soul...ways."

²⁷ [6:30] DSS / LXX "Upon her"

²⁸ [6:31] DSS / LXX "a crown of gladness"

²⁹ [6:34] LXX / Heb(A) omit "Frequent...to him."

³⁰ [6:35] LXX / Heb(A) omit "godly"

³¹ [6:37] DSS / LXX "will confirm"

³² [7:3] LXX add

- and do not flaunt your wisdom before the king.
- 6 Do not seek to become a judge if you do not have strength to root out crime, or you will show favor to the ruler and mar your integrity.
- 7 Do not be guilty of any evil before the city's populace, nor disgrace yourself before the assembly.
- 8 Do not plot to repeat a sin; not even for one will you go unpunished.
- 9 Do not say: "He will appreciate my many gifts; the Most High will accept my offerings."²
- 10 Do not be impatient in prayers, and do not neglect the giving of alms.
- 11 Do not laugh at a mortal *who* is in bitterness of his spirit;³ for there is the *one who is* humbling and heightening.
- 12 Do not plot⁴ mischief against your brother, nor against your friend and companion.
- 13 Do not delight in telling lie after lie, for it never results in good.
- 14 Do not thrust yourself into the deliberations of princes,⁵ and do not repeat the words of your prayer.
- 15 Do not hate laborious tasks, nor farming, which was ordained by the Most High.⁶
- 16 Do not esteem yourself better than guys of *your* people;⁷ remember, his wrath will not delay.
- 17 Humble your pride⁸ very much; because *the* hope⁹ of a mortal¹⁰ is a fire and¹¹ a worm.¹²
Do not hasten to say: "Disaster!"
Roll to God* and be-pleased-with his way.¹³
- 18 Do not barter a friend for money, nor a dear brother for the gold of Ophir.
- 19 Do not dismiss¹⁴ a sensible woman; a gracious *woman* is more precious than corals.¹⁵
- 20 Do not mistreat a servant who faithfully serves, nor a laborer who devotes his soul *to you*.
- 21 Let a wise servant be dear to you as your own soul; do not refuse him his freedom.
- 22 If you have a quadruped, look after them; if they are dependable, keep them.
- 23 If you have sons, chastise them; bend their necks from childhood.¹⁶
- 24 If you have daughters, keep them chaste, and do not be indulgent to them.
- 25 Giving your daughter in marriage ends a great task; but give her to a discerning fellow.
- 26 If you have a woman in-accordance-with *your* soul,¹⁷ do not let her be hated by you; but where there is ill-feeling, do not trust her.
- 27 With all your heart honor your father; do not forget your mother's birthpangs.
- 28 Remember, of these parents you were born; what can you give them for all they gave you?
- 29 With all your soul,¹⁸ fear God, revere his priests.
- 30 With all your strength, love your Creator, do not forsake his ministers.
- 31 Honor God and respect the priest; give him his portion as you have been commanded: First fruits and contributions,

¹ [7:5] LXX / Heb(A) "king"

² [7:9] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) omit "Do not say: "He will appreciate...offerings."

³ [7:11] Heb / LXX "soul"

⁴ [7:12] Heb(A) / LXX (translating the alternate meaning of the same Hebrew word) "plow"

⁵ [7:14] Heb(A), Syr / LXX "elders"

⁶ [7:15] LXX / Heb(A) places "Do not hate...Most High" between "...accept my offerings." & "Do not be impatient..." / Syr omit it altogether

⁷ [7:16] Syr / LXX "Do not number yourself among the multitude of sinners"

⁸ [7:17] Heb / LXX, Syr "soul" / Lat, PirqueAboth(?) "spirit"

⁹ [7:17] Heb(AC), PirqueAboth / LXX "avenging" / Lat "vindication"

¹⁰ [7:17] Heb(AC), PirqueAboth / LXX "of an impious man" / Lat "of the flesh of an impious man"

¹¹ [7:17] Heb(AC), PirqueAboth / LXX, Lat add

¹² [7:17] Heb(A), PirqueAboth, LXX ("a worm") / Lat "worms" / Heb(B) "for a worm"

¹³ [7:17] LXX, Syr, Lat / Heb(A) add

¹⁴ [7:19] Heb / LXX "not deprive yourself of"

¹⁵ [7:19] Heb / LXX "gold"

¹⁶ [7:23] LXX / Heb(A,C), Syr "; choose wives for them while they are young."

¹⁷ [7:26] Heb, Syr / LXX add

¹⁸ [7:27-28] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) omit "honor your father...your soul?" probably due to scribal error

due sacrifices and holy offerings.

- 32 And extend your hand to a *man* in-want, that your blessing may be complete.
- 33 Be generous to all the living, and do not withhold your kindness from the dead.
- 34 Do not avoid those who weep, but mourn with those who mourn.
- 35 Do not neglect to lift *up someone's* heart,¹⁹ for these things you will be loved.
- 36 In whatever you do, remember your last days, and you will never sin.

CHAPTER 8

- 1 Do not contend with an influential man,²⁰ lest you fall into his power.
- 2 Do not quarrel with a rich man, lest he pay out the price of your downfall; for gold has dazzled many, and perverts the character of princes.
- 3 Do not dispute with a man of railing speech, do not heap wood upon his fire.
- 4 Do not be too familiar with an unruly man, lest he speak ill of your ancestors.
- 5 Do not shame a man who is turning away from a sin; remember, we all are guilty.
- 6 Do not insult a mortal *who is* old, because some of us, too, will be counted among elderly *men*.
- 7 Do not rejoice when a *man* dies; remember, we are all to die.
- 8 Do not spurn the discourse of the wise, but acquaint yourself with their proverbs; from them you will acquire the training to serve in the presence of princes.
- 9 Do not reject the tradition of elders which they have learned from their fathers; from it you will obtain the knowledge how to answer in time of need.
- 10 Do not kindle the coals of a sinner, lest you be consumed in his flaming fire.
- 11 Do not let an impious *man* intimidate you; it will set him in ambush against you.
- 12 Do not lend to one more powerful than yourself; and whatever you lend, count it as lost.
- 13 Do not go surety beyond your means; think any pledge a debt you must pay.
- 14 Do not contend at law with a judge, for he will settle it according to his whim.²¹
- 15 Do not travel with a ruthless *man*, lest he weigh you down with calamity; for he will go his own way straight, and through his folly you will perish with him.
- 16 Do not provoke a quarrel with a quick-tempered master, nor ride with him through the desert, for bloodshed is nothing to him; when there is no one to help you, he will destroy you.

- 17 Do not take counsel with a fool, for he can keep nothing to himself.

- 18 Do not do anything before a stranger that should be kept secret, for you know not what it will engender.

- 19 Do not totally-reveal your heart to all flesh, and do not banish your happiness.²²

¹⁹ [7:35] Heb / LXX "to be looking-after an ill human"

²⁰ [7:1] LXX / Heb(A), Syr "contend with a man more mighty than you"

²¹ [7:14] Heb(A) / LXX "Do not... for they will judge him according to his opinion" / Syr "Do not sit with a wicked judge in lawsuit, lest you give judgment with him according to his whim" /

²² [8:19] Heb / LXX "and do not let him return a favor to you"

CHAPTER 9

- 1 Do not be jealous of *the* woman of your bosom,
lest you teach her to do evil against you.
- 2 Do not give your soul to a woman,
to trample upon your dignity.
- 3 Do not be intimate with a strange woman,
lest you fall into her snares.
- 4 Do not dally with a female singer,
lest you be caught in her wiles.¹
- 5 Do not entertain any thoughts against an unmarried-woman,
lest you be enmeshed in damages for her.
- 6 Do not give your soul to whores,
lest you surrender your inheritance.
- 7 Do not gaze about the lanes of the city
and do not wander through its squares;
- 8 avert your eyes from a comely woman;
do not gaze upon the beauty of another's woman—
through a woman's beauty many perish,
for lust for it burns like fire.
- 9 Do not dine with a mistress;²
and do not encircle with her *while* intoxicated,³
lest your heart⁴ shall turn to her
and you shall go down in blood⁵ to a grave.
- 10 You [must-not] discard an old friend,
because the new one cannot equal him.
A new friend is like new wine which you drink
with pleasure only when it has aged.
- 11 Do not envy a sinner's fame,
for you do not know what disaster awaits him.
- 12 Do not rejoice at a proud *man's* success;
remember he will not reach death⁶ unpunished.
- 13 Keep far from the man who has power to kill,
and you will not be filled with the dread of death.
But if you approach him, do not offend him,
lest he take away your life;
know that you are stepping among snares
and walking over a net.
- 14 As best you can, take your neighbors' measure,
and associate with the wise.
- 15 Be intimate with the learned;
let all your conversation be about the law of Yahweh.
- 16 Have righteous men for your table companions;
let your glory be in the fear of God.

CHAPTER 10

- 17 Skilled artisans are esteemed for their deftness;
but the skilled sage is the ruler of his people.
- 18 Being-feared in the city is *a* man of a railing tongue,
and he who talks rashly is hated.
- 10.1 A wise magistrate lends stability to⁷ his people,
and *the* leadership of a prudent *man* is well ordered.
- 2 As the people's judge, so are his ministers;
as the head of a city, its inhabitants.
- 3 A wanton king destroys his people,⁸
but a city grows through the wisdom of its princes.
- 4 Sovereignty over the earth is in the hand of the Lord,
and he raises up on it *the* man of the hour.
- 5 Sovereignty over every fellow is in the hand of God,⁹
who imparts his majesty to the ruler.^{10 11}
- 6 No matter the wrong, do no violence to your neighbor,
and do not walk the path of arrogance.
- 7 Odious to *the* Lord and to men¹² is arrogance,

¹ [9:4] Syr "lest she destroy you by association with her"

² [9:9] Heb / LXX "with a woman under-a-man"

³ [9:9] Heb / LXX "and may you not make-engagemetns with her in wine"

⁴ [9:4] Heb / LXX "soul"

⁵ [9:9] Heb / LXX "down by your spirit"

⁶ [9:12] Heb / LXX "reach *the* Netherworld"

⁷ [10:1] LXX "magistrate instructs"

⁸ [10:3] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) "destroys the city"

⁹ [10:5] Heb / LXX "*the* Lord"

¹⁰ [10:5] Heb / LXX "scribe"

¹¹ [10:2-5] Heb(A) places these verses in a different order: "A wanton..." / "As the people's..." / "Sovereignty over every man..." / "Sovereignty over the earth..."

- and the sin of oppression they both hate.
- 8 Dominion is transferred from one people to another
because of violence and arrogance and wealth.¹³
Nothing is more wicked than one who loves money,
for such a person puts his own soul up for sale.¹⁴
- 9 Why is dust and ash proud?
Even during life a *man's* body decays;
- 10 a slight illness—the doctor jests,
a king today—tomorrow he is dead.
- 11 When a human dies, he inherits corruption;
worm and gnats and creepers.¹⁵
- 12 The beginning of pride is a human's stubbornness
in withdrawing his heart from his Maker;
- 13 for pride is the reservoir of sin,
a source which runs over with vice;
because of it God sends unheard-of afflictions
and brings *men* to utter ruin.
- 14 The thrones of the arrogant God overturns
and establishes the lowly in their stead.
- 15 The roots of the proud¹⁶ nations God plucks up,¹⁷
to plant the humble in their place:
- 16 He breaks down their stem to the level of the ground,
then digs their roots from the earth.
- 17 God sweeps away the traces of the proud
and effaces the memory of them from the earth.
- 18 Insolence is not allotted to a mortal,
nor stubborn anger to one born of woman.
- 19 What *kind of seed can be* being-honored?
A mortal's seed.
What *kind of seed is* being-honored?
The one fearing the Lord.
What *kind of seed can be* being-disgraced?
A mortal's seed.¹⁸
What *kind of seed is* being-disgraced?
The one transgressing an instruction.¹⁹
- 20 Among brothers their leader is in honor;
he who fears the Lord is in honor among his people.
- 21 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of acceptance;
effrontery and pride are the beginning of rejection.²⁰
- 22 Be it tenant or wayfarer, alien or pauper,
his glory is the fear of Yahweh.
- 23 It is not right to despise a *man* who is wise but poor,
nor proper to honor every man *who is* a sinner.
- 24 The prince, the ruler, the judge are in honor;
but none is greater than he who fears the Lord.
- 25 When elevated²¹ *men* serve a sensible slave,
a wise *man*²² does not complain.
- 26 Do not flaunt your wisdom in managing your affairs,²³
and do not boast in your time of need.
- 27 Better the worker who has plenty of everything
than the boaster who is without bread.
- 28 My child, glorify your soul in meekness;
prize yourself as you deserve.
- 29 Who will acquit him who condemns²⁴ his own soul?
who will honor him who discredits his own soul?²⁵
- 30 A poor *man* is honored for his wisdom
and a rich man is honored for his wealth.
- 31 Honored in poverty, how much more so in wealth!
dishonored in wealth, in poverty how much the more!

¹² [10:7] Heb / LXX, Lat "humans"

¹³ [10:8] LXX add

¹⁴ [10:8] some LXX add here (or after verse 9a)

¹⁵ [10:11] Heb / LXX "; creepers and beasts and worms"

¹⁶ [10:15] others omit "proud"

¹⁷ [10:15] LXX, Syr / Heb(A) omit "The roots...plucks up"

¹⁸ [10:19] LXX, Lat / Heb(A) omit "What *kind of seed is* being-honored...Lord" (by scribal error)

¹⁹ [10:19] Heb / LXX Syr, Lat "instructions"

²⁰ [10:21] Heb(A), LXX(I), Syr, Lat / LXX(II) add

²¹ [10:25] Heb / LXX, Lat "free"

²² [10:25] Heb, Lat / LXX actually add "man"

²³ [10:26] Heb(A), LXX / Heb(B) "make"

²⁴ [10:29] Heb / LXX "who sins against"

²⁵ [10:29] Heb, Lat / LXX "discredits his own life"

CHAPTER 11

- 1 A poor *man*'s wisdom lifts his head high
and sets him among princes.
- 2 Do not praise a human for his looks;
and do not despise an ugly¹ human for his appearance.
- 3 Least is the bee among flying-creatures,
but she reaps the choicest of all harvests.
- 4 Do not mock the worn cloak
and do not jibe at any *man*'s bitter day:
because strange *are* Yahweh's deeds,
and his work *is* hidden from a human.²
- 5 The oppressed often rise to a throne,
and some that none would consider wear a crown.
- 6 The exalted often fall into utter disgrace;
the honored are given into enemy hands.
- 7 Before investigating, find no fault;
examine first, then criticize.
- 8 Before hearing, answer not,
and interrupt no one in the middle of his speech.
- 9 Do not dispute about what is not your concern;
take no part in the strife of the arrogant.
- 10 My son, why increase your cares,
since he who is avid for wealth will not be blameless?
Even if you chase after it, you will never overtake it;
however you seek it, you will not find it.
- 11 One may toil and struggle and drive,
and fall short all the more.
- 12 Another goes his way a weakling and a failure,
with little strength and great misery—
yet the eyes of Yahweh look favorably upon him;
he raises him free of the vile dust,
- 13 lifts up his head and exalts him
to the amazement of the many.
- 14 Good and evil, life and death,
poverty and riches, are from Yahweh.
- 15 Wisdom and understanding and knowledge of affairs are from Yahweh,
love and virtuous paths are from Yahweh.
- 16 Error and darkness were made for sinners at their birth,
and evil abides with evildoers.³
- 17 Yahweh's gift remains with the pious;
his favor brings continued success.
- 18 A man may become rich through a miser's life,
and this is his allotted reward:
- 19 when he says: "I have found rest,
now I will feast on my possessions,"
he does not know how long it will be
till he dies and leaves them to others.
- 20 My son,⁴ hold fast to your duty,⁵ busy yourself with it,
grow old while doing your task.
- 21 Do not admire how sinners live,
but trust in Yahweh and wait for his light;⁶
for it is easy in Yahweh's eyes,
suddenly, in an instant, to make a poor *man* rich.
- 22 A god's⁷ blessing *is in*⁸ a righteous *man*'s lot,
and in due time his hopes bear fruit.
- 23 Do not say: "What do I need?
What further pleasure can be mine?"
- 24 Do not say: "I am self-sufficient.
What harm can come to me now?"
- 25 The day of prosperity makes one forget adversity;

¹ [11:2] Heb(A,B) add

² [11:4] Heb / LXX "humans" / Lat "them"

³ [11:15-16] LXX(I), Heb(B), most Lat / Heb(A), LXX(II), Syr, late Lat add verse here [[reading according to LXX(II) / Heb(A) reads "Wisdom and understanding and knowing how to speak are from Yahweh, sin and virtuous paths are from Yahweh, folly and darkness were made for sinners [LXX(II) add "at their birth], and evil abides [LXX(II) "grows old"] with evildoers"]]

⁴ [11:20] Heb(A), Syr / LXX, Lat omit "My son"

⁵ [11:20] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "covenant"

⁶ [11:21] Heb(A), some Lat / LXX, most Lat "for your labor"

⁷ [11:22] Heb, Lat / LXX "lord's"

⁸ [11:22] Heb / LXX add

- the day of adversity makes one forget prosperity.
- 26 For it is easy with Yahweh *on the day of a human's* end,
to repay a human according to his deeds.⁹
- 27 A moment's affliction brings forgetfulness of past delights;
when a human dies, his life is revealed.
- 28*10 Do not be considering a fellow¹¹ happy before *his* death,¹²
because¹³ a man is being recognized in *his* end.¹⁴
- 29 Do not bring every man into your house,
for many are the snares¹⁵ of the crafty one;
- 30 though he seem like a flying-creature confined in a cage,
yet like a spy he will observe your weakness,¹⁶
like a wolf in ambush for prey.
The peddler waits in ambush like a bear,
for the house of scoundrels.¹⁷
- 31 The talebearer turns good into evil;
with a spark he sets many coals afire.
- 32 And a man of worthlessness lies in wait for blood,
and he plots against your choicest possessions.
- 33 Avoid a bad *man*, for he breeds only evil,
lest you incur a lasting stain.
- 34 Lodge a stranger with you, and he will subvert your course,¹⁸
and estrange you from your own household.

CHAPTER 12

- 1 If you do good, know for whom you are doing it,
and your kindness will have its effect.
- 2 Do good to a righteous *man* and reward will be yours,
if not from him, from Yahweh.¹⁹
- 3 No good comes to him who gives comfort to the wicked,
nor is it an act of mercy that he does.
- 4 Give to a good *man*,
and refuse the sinner.
- 5 Refresh the downtrodden,
give nothing to the proud.
Do not give him arms for combat,
lest he use them against yourself;
for you will receive twice as much evil in time of need²⁰
for every good deed you do for him.
- 6 The Most High²¹ himself hates sinners,
and he inflicts punishment upon the wicked,
and he keeps them for the day of vengeance.²²
- 7 Give to a pious *man*,
and refuse the sinner.²³
- 8 A friend is not known in prosperity;²⁴
in adversity an enemy will not remain concealed.
- 9 When a *man* is successful even his enemy is friendly;²⁵
in adversity even his friend disappears.
- 10 Never trust your enemy,
for his wickedness is like corrosion in bronze.
- 11 Even though he acts humbly and peaceably toward you,
stand *watch* over your heart²⁶ and be-caused-to-fear²⁷ from him.
Rub him as one polishes a brazen mirror,
and you will find that there is still corrosion.²⁸
- 12 Do not let him stand near you,
lest he oust you and take your place.
Do not let him sit at your right hand,
lest he then demand your seat,
and in the end you appreciate my advice,

⁹ [11:26] Heb(A) omit "For it is wasy...deeds." / Syr omit "The blessing of the Lord...his deeds."

¹⁰ Judean War 79:15(5:461)

¹¹ [11:28] Heb / LXX, Josephus "considering no-one"

¹² [11:28] Heb, Josephus / LXX "end"

¹³ [11:28] Heb / LXX "and"

¹⁴ [11:28] Heb / LXX "children" (which is a possible interpretation of the Hebrew)

¹⁵ [11:29] LXX / Heb(A) "wounds"

¹⁶ [11:30] Heb / LXX "downfall"

¹⁷ [11:30] Heb(A) add

¹⁸ [11:34] Heb(A) / LXX "will upset you with commotion"

¹⁹ [12:2] most LXX "from the Most High" / LXX(O), Lat "from the Lord" / Syr "from his Lord"

²⁰ [12:5] LXX / Heb(A), Syr add

²¹ [12:6] LXX / Heb(A) ". God"

²² [12:6] LXX(II) add

²³ [12:7] LXX add

²⁴ [12:8] others (LXX) "punished"

²⁵ [12:9] Heb / LXX "grieved"

²⁶ [12:11] Heb / LXX "soul"

²⁷ [12:11] Heb / LXX "and guard yourself"

²⁸ [12:11] LXX / Heb(A) "Treat him as one who would breach a confidence, // so that he may not be able to harm you, // and be sure that in the end envy will still be there."

when you groan with regret, as I warned you.

- 13 Who pities a snake charmer when he is bitten,
or anyone who goes near a living-creature with a tooth?¹
- 14 So is it with the companion of the proud *man*,
who is involved in his sins:
- 15 While you stand firm, he makes no bold move;
but if you slip, he cannot hold back.
- 16 An enemy speaks sweetly with his lips,
but in his heart he schemes to plunge you into the abyss.
Though your enemy has tears in his eyes,
if given the chance, he will never have enough of your blood.
- 17 If evil comes upon you, you will find him at hand;
feigning to help, he will trip you up,
- 18 then he will nod his head and clap his hands
and hiss repeatedly, and show his true face.

CHAPTER 13

- 1 He who touches pitch blackens his hand;
he who associates with an impious *man* learns his ways.
- 2 Bear no burden too heavy for you;
go with no one greater or wealthier than yourself.
How can the earthen pot go with the metal cauldron?
When they knock together, the pot will be smashed.
Or why should a rich *man* associate with a poor *man*?²
- 3 A rich *man* does wrong and boasts of it,
and a poor *man* is wronged and begs forgiveness.
- 4 As long as the rich *man* can use you, he will enslave you,
but when you are exhausted, he will abandon you.
- 5 As long as you own anything he will be with you,
and without regret he will impoverish you.
- 6 When he needs something from you he will cajole you,
and with smiles he will win your confidence;
he will speak fair words to you and ask what you need,
and embarrass you with gifts of delicacies.
- 7 Then twice or three times he will terrify you,
and finally laugh you to scorn.
When later he sees you he will pass you by,
and shake his head over you.
- 8 Guard against being presumptuous;
do not be humiliated when you are enjoying yourself.³
- 9 When invited by a *man* of influence, keep your distance;
then he will urge you all the more.
- 10 Do not be bold with him lest you be rebuffed,
but do not keep too far away lest you be forgotten.
- 11 Do not engage freely in discussion with him,
do not trust his many words;
for by prolonged talk he will test you,
and though smiling he will probe you.
- 12 Mercilessly he will make a laughingstock of your soul,⁴
and will not refrain from injury or chains.
- 13 Be on your guard and take care
never to accompany men of⁵ violence.
- 14 If you hear these things in your sleep, wake up!
With your whole life, love the Lord,
and call on him for your salvation.⁶
- 15 All the flesh loves its *own* species,
and every human the *one* like himself.
- 16 All flesh is drawn to its *own* species;
and a human associates with his *own* species.
- 17 Is a wolf ever allied with a lamb?
So it is with the sinner and the pious.
And so for the rich *man* keeping close to the poor *man*.⁷
- 18 Can there be peace between the hyena and the dog?
Or can there be peace between the rich and the poor?
- 19 Lion's prey are the wild asses of the desert;
so too the poor are feeding grounds for the rich.

- 20 A proud *man*⁸ abhors lowliness,
and a rich *man* abhors a poor *man*.
- 21 When a rich *man* stumbles he is supported by a friend;
when a poor *man* trips he is pushed down by a friend.⁹
- 22 Many are the supporters for a rich *man* when he speaks;
though what he says is odious, it wins approval.
When a poor¹⁰ *man* speaks they make sport of him;
he speaks wisely and no attention is paid him.
- 23 A rich *man* speaks and all are silent,
his wisdom they extol to the clouds.
A poor *man* speaks and they say: "Who is that?"
If he slips they cast him down.
- 24 Wealth is good when there is no sin;
but poverty is evil by the standards of the proud.
- 25 A mortal's heart changes his face*,
either for good or for evil.
and a glad heart makes a cheerful countenance.¹¹
- 26 The sign of a good heart is a cheerful countenance;
the toiling schemer is withdrawn and perplexed.¹²
- 14.1 Happy a mortal whose mouth brings him no grief,
who is not stung by remorse for sin.
- 2 Happy a man¹³ whose conscience does not reproach his *own* soul,
who has not lost hope.

CHAPTER 14

- 3 Wealth ill becomes the mean *man*;
and of what use is gold to the miser?
- 4 What he denies his *own* soul, he collects for someone else,
and in his possessions a stranger will revel.
- 5 To whom will he be generous who is stingy with his *own* soul¹⁴
and does not enjoy what is his own?
- 6 No one is more bad than he who is bad with his *own* soul;¹⁵
he punishes his own badness.
- 7 {{If ever he is generous, it is by mistake;¹⁶
and in the end he displays his greed.
- 8 The miser with an eye is a wicked man;
turning-away persons and overlooking souls.}}¹⁷
- 9 In the bad *man*'s eyes his share is insufficient;
but his stinginess withers a soul.
- 10 A bad *man*'s eye is rapacious for bread,
but on his own table he sets it stale.
- 11 My son, if you have anything, do good to yourself,¹⁸
and enjoy it as best you can.
- 12 Remember that death does not tarry,
nor has the decree¹⁹ of the Netherworld been shown to you.
- 13 Before you die, be good to your friend,
and give him a share in what you possess.
- 14 Do not deprive yourself of present good things,
let no choice portion escape you.
- 15 Will you not leave your riches to others,
and your earnings to be divided by lot?
- 16 Give, and take, and pamper your soul,
for there are no joys to seek in the Netherworld.
- 17 All flesh grows old, like a garment;
the age-old decree²⁰ is: All must die.
- 18 As with the leaves that grow on a vigorous tree:
one falls off and another sprouts—
So with the generations of flesh and blood:
one dies and another is born.
- 19 All their works will perish in decay,
and his handiwork will follow after him.

⁸ [13:20] LXX / Heb(A) "Pride" / Syr omit "A proud man...abhor the poor."

⁹ [13:21] LXX / Heb(A) "pushed off from friend to friend"

¹⁰ [13:21] LXX "humble"

¹¹ [13:26] Heb, LXX / others add

¹² [13:26] Heb(A) / LXX "and the finding of parables is a wearisome toil of the mind" / Syr "and a multitude of discourses are the thoughts of sinners"

¹³ [14:2] Heb / LXX omit "a man"

¹⁴ [14:5] Heb / LXX "with himself"

¹⁵ [14:6] Heb / LXX "with himself"

¹⁶ [14:7] Syr / LXX "it is through forgetfulness"

¹⁷ [14:7-8] LXX / Heb(A) omit "If ever he is generous...ruin on himself." / Syr omit "In the miser's opinion...ruin on himself."

¹⁸ [14:11] LXX / Heb(A) "if you have anything serve your soul; if you have anything, do good to yourself" / Syr "if you have anything serve yourself"

¹⁹ [14:12] Heb, Syr / LXX "covenant"

²⁰ [14:17] Heb / LXX "covenant"

¹ [12:13] Heb / LXX "near beasts"

² [13:2] LXX / Heb(A), Syr add

³ [13:8] others "humiliated in your folly"

⁴ [13:12] Heb(A) / LXX(I) "Cruel is he who does not keep words to himself" / LXX(II), Origen, Lat(similar)

⁵ "Mercilessly he will store up your words as a threat against your life"

⁶ [13:13] Heb / LXX, Lat omit "men of"

⁷ [13:13] some LXX add

⁸ [13:17] Heb(A) add

- 20 Happy a mortal who meditates on¹ wisdom,
and reflects on knowledge;
21 who ponders her ways in his heart,
and understands her paths;
22 who pursues her like a scout,
and lies in wait at all² her entryways;
23 who peeps through her windows,
and listens at her doors;
24 who encamps near her house,
and fastens his tent pegs next to her walls;
25 who pitches his tent beside her,
and lives as her welcome neighbor;
26 who builds his nest in her leafage,
and lodges in her branches;
27 who takes shelter with her from the heat,
and dwells in her home.

CHAPTER 15

- 1 He who fears Yahweh will do this;
he who is practiced in the law will come to wisdom.
2 She will meet him like a mother,
like a young woman³ she will embrace him,
3 nourish him with the bread of understanding,
and give him the water of learning to drink.
4 He will lean upon her and not fall,
he will trust in her and not be put to shame.
5 She will exalt him above his fellows;
and she will open his mouth in the midst of the assembly.
6 He will find gladness and joy,
and she will endow him with an everlasting name.
7 Guys of vanity⁴ shall not attain to her,
and sensible humans shall meet her;⁵
and men of haughtiness⁶ shall not see her.
because she is a long ways-away from pride and deceit.⁷
8 She is far from impious *men*,
and she is not to be spoken of by men of a lie.⁸
9 Unseemly is praise on a sinner's lips,
for it is not accorded to him by God.
10 But praise is offered by the wise *man*'s tongue;
its rightful steward will proclaim it.
11 Do not say: "It was God's doing that I fell away";
for he does not do⁹ what he hates.
12 Do not say: "It was he who made me stumble";
for he has no need of men of harm.
13 Yahweh hates abominable wickedness,¹⁰
he does not let it befall those who fear him.
14 In the beginning,¹¹ God created a human,
and he made him subject to his own free choice.
And he puts him into the hand of his kidnappers.¹²
15 If you choose you can keep his commandment;¹³
it is loyalty¹⁴ to do his¹⁵ will.
and if you believe in him you too will live.¹⁶
16 Fire and water are set before you;
to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.
17 Life and death are before a human's face*,
and whichever he chooses will be given him.
18 Immense is the wisdom of Yahweh;
he is mighty in power, and all-seeing.
19 God's eyes see his deeds,
and he understands a man's every deed.

¹ [14:20] others "who dies in"

² [14:22] LXX, Lat, Syr / Heb(A) add

³ [15:2] Heb / LXX "a woman of virginity"

⁴ [15:7] Heb ("Guys of vanity") / LXX "Unintelligent humans" / Lat "Stupid humans"

⁵ [15:7] Heb, LXX / Lat add

⁶ [15:7] Heb / LXX "and sinful humans" / Lat "and stupid humans"

⁷ [15:7] Heb, LXX / Lat add

⁸ [15:7] Lat (for entire verse) "Lying men lie shall not be mindful of her; but truthful men shall be found in her, and they shall have succession, even all-the-way to (the) inspection of (G)od."

⁹ [15:11] Heb(A) / LXX "for you ought not do"

¹⁰ [15:13] Heb(A) / LXX "hates all abominations"

¹¹ [15:14] Heb(A,B[mg]), LXX / Heb(B) "It was he, from the first"

¹² [15:14] LXX / Heb(A,B) add

¹³ [15:15] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr "keep the commandments"

¹⁴ [15:15] Heb(B) / Heb(A,B[mg]) "understanding"

¹⁵ [15:15] Heb(A,B[mg]) / Heb(B) "God's"

¹⁶ [15:15] LXX / Heb(A,B) add / Syr add and also omit "it is loyalty to do his will"

- 20 He does not command a mortal to sin,
and he does not give strength to a man for a lie,
and he does not have-compassion upon *someone who makes vanity*.¹⁷

CHAPTER 16

- 1 Do not desire a brood of worthless¹⁸ children,
nor rejoice in wicked offspring.
2 Although they be many, do not exult them
if they do not have the fear of Yahweh.
3 Do not count on their length of life,
do not have hope in their future.
For you will groan in untimely mourning,
and will know of their sudden end.¹⁹
For one can be better than a thousand,²⁰
rather die childless than have godless children!
4 Through one wise *man*²¹ a city can be filled with people;
through a clan of rebels it becomes desolate.
5 Many such things has my eye seen,
even more than these has my ear heard.
6 Against a sinful band fire is enkindled,
upon a godless people wrath flames out.
7 He did not forgive the leaders of old²²
who rebelled long ago in their might;
8 he did not spare about the sojourn of Lot
the *ones* who were being abominable in²³ their pride;
9 nor did he spare the doomed people
who were uprooted because of their sin;
All these things he did to the hard-hearted nations,
and he was not appeased by the multitude of his holy ones.²⁴
10 nor the 600,000 foot soldiers
who perished for the impiety of their hearts.
Chastising, sparing, striking, healing,
the Lord persisted in mercy and discipline.²⁵
11 And if there had been but one stiff-necked *man*,
it were a wonder had he gone unpunished.
For mercy and anger alike are with him who remits and forgives,
though his wrath alights upon the wicked.
12 Great as his mercy is his punishment;
and he judges men, each according to his deeds.
13 A criminal does not escape with his plunder;
God does not leave a righteous²⁶ *man*'s hope unfulfilled.
14 Whoever does good has his reward,
which each receives according to his deeds.
15 The Lord hardened Pharaoh so that he did not recognize him,
in order that his works might be known under the heavens.
16 His mercy is manifest to the whole of creation,
and he divided his light and darkness with a plumb line.²⁷
17 Do not say: "I am hidden from God;
in heaven who remembers me?
Among so many people I cannot be known;
what is my soul in the world of spirits of all the sons of the human?"²⁸
18 Behold, *the heavens, the heavens of the heavens,*
the earth and the abyss tremble at his visitation;
the whole world past and present is in his will.²⁹
19 the roots of the mountains, the earth's foundations,
at his mere glance, quiver and quake.
20 Therefore, of me, he will take no thought;
who will concern himself with my ways?
21 If I sin, no eye will see me;
if all in secret I am disloyal, who is to know?³⁰
22 Who tells him about righteous deeds

¹⁷ [15:20] Heb / "give a relaxing to no-one to be sinning"

¹⁸ [16:1] Heb / LXX "unprofitable"

¹⁹ [16:3] some LXX add

²⁰ [16:3] Heb(A,B) "For one who does the will [B add "of God"] is better than a thousand."

²¹ [16:4] Heb(B), LXX / Heb(A) "Through one childless person who fears Yahweh"

²² [16:7] Heb(A,B) / LXX "the ancient giants"

²³ [16:8] Heb / LXX "whom he abhorred due to"

²⁴ [16:9] some LXX add

²⁵ [16:10] LXX(II) add

²⁶ [16:13] Heb / LXX "pious"

²⁷ [16:15-16] LXX(I), Lat / Heb(A), LXX(II), Syr add

²⁸ [16:17] LXX, Saadia / Heb(A), Syr add

²⁹ [16:18] LXX(II) add

³⁰ [16:21] Heb, Syr / LXX (uncertain) "Like a tempest that no one can see, so most of his works are concealed."

- and who will await them? For the decree¹ is far off,
and a scrutiny for all comes at the end.²
- 23 Such is a heart of senseless *men*,
 and only a fellow *who is* foolish knave will think this.
- 24 Listen to me, my son,³ take my advice,
 apply your mind to my words,
- 25 while I pour-out a weighed spirit,⁴
 and impart accurate knowledge.⁵
- 26 In *the act* for God to create⁶ his works from *the head*,⁷
 and from *the time* of their making,⁸ he enjoined their portions.⁹
- 27¹⁰ {{the ornamented their¹¹ works into a *future* age,
 and their principalities¹² into their generations.¹³
 Neither did they hunger, neither did they labor, neither did they become-
 weak¹⁴ in his works.¹⁵
 and they did not fail from their works.¹⁶
- 28 Each *one* did not crowd-out¹⁷ his neighbor,
 and they shall not refuse-to-be-persuaded-by his word till a *future* age.
- 29 And with these *things*, Yahweh looked-on into the earth,
 and he filled it up *full* of his good *things*.¹⁸
- 30 He covered its face with *the soul* of every living-creature,¹⁹
 and into it *is* their returning.²⁰}}

CHAPTER 17

- 1 {{God²¹ created a human out of earth,²²
and he made him according-to his image.²³
 and he again returned²⁴ him into it
and he vested him according-to his virtue.²⁵
- 2 He gave to them a number of days²⁶ and a season.²⁷
 and he gave to them authority of all²⁸ the *things* upon it.²⁹
- 3 By his wisdom.³⁰ He dressed them³¹ *with* strength according-to himself,³²
 and he made them according-to his-own³³ image
- 4 He put the fear of them upon all flesh,³⁴
 and in his likeness³⁵ *for them* to be dominating³⁶ beasts and flying-
 creatures.
- 5 They took the using of the five operations of the Lord,
but a sixth he granted to them: a mind,
and the seventh: rationalization, an interpreter of his operations.³⁷
- 6 He created out of him a helpmate similiar to himself.³⁸
 He created for them³⁹ a tongue and eyes;
 ears and a heart he gave to them⁴⁰ to be thoroughly-comprehending.

¹ [16:22] Heb / LXX "covenant"

² [16:22] LXX(II) add

³ [16:24] Heb(A), Syr omit "my son"

⁴ [16:25] Heb (lit. "a spirit in weight") / LXX "I show-forth discipline in station"

⁵ [16:25] LXX / Heb(A) "words, I will pour out by measure the spirit that I have, and impart knowledge in a careful way"

⁶ [16:26] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "In the judging of Yahweh" (this is a scribal error that happened on a Greek level, although no manuscripts preserve the original reading, which would match Heb(A))

⁷ [16:26] Heb(A) / LXX, Lat "beginning"

⁸ [16:26] LXX, Lat / Heb(A) breaks off here, leaving only, "upon their lives..."

⁹ [16:26] LXX / Syr "laws"

¹⁰ The original Hebrew for most verses from 18:31-26:17 have been lost, only extant in various daughter translations, such as Greek, Latin, Syriac, etc.

¹¹ [16:27] LXX(S,253), Syr, Lat / most LXX "his"

¹² may also be translated "beginnings"

¹³ [16:27] most LXX, Lat / LXX(70,106,248) ", in his hand are their beginnings from generation to generation"

¹⁴ [16:27] LXX(S), Syr / most LXX, Lat omit "neither did they become-weak"

¹⁵ [16:27] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,106,248) add

¹⁶ [16:27] LXX, Lat / Syr "strength"

¹⁷ [16:28] LXX (more literally "tribulation-out"), Lat "narrow" / Syr "hate"

¹⁸ [16:29] LXX, Lat / Syr "he blessed it with all its fruits"

¹⁹ [16:30] LXX, Syr (Syr "filled" for "covered") / Lat "The soul of every-living creature has denuded before his face"

²⁰ [16:30] LXX, Lat (literally "turning-away") / Syr "and gathered within it are all his works"

²¹ [17:1] Syr, Lat / LXX "Yahweh"

²² [17:1] LXX, Lat / Syr "dust"

²³ [17:1] LXX, Syr / Lat add

²⁴ literally "turned-away"

²⁵ [17:1] LXX / Lat add

²⁶ [17:2] Syr, Lat / LXX "them days of number"

²⁷ [17:2] Syr / LXX, Lat add

²⁸ [17:2] most LXX, Lat / LXX(70), Syr add

²⁹ [17:2] LXX / Lat "earth"

³⁰ [17:3] LXX, Lat[17:1] / Syr add

³¹ [17:3] LXX, Syr / Lat (from 17:1) "him"

³² [17:3] LXX / Lat[17:1] "according to his virtue" / Syr "and covered them with fear" [Note: Lat omits the first clause of verse 3 and places it before 17:2.]

³³ [17:3] most LXX / LXX(AS) "his-own"

³⁴ [17:4] most LXX, Lat, Syr [Syr "them" instead of "him"] / some LXX "He puts his eye on their hearts"

³⁵ [17:4] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

³⁶ [17:4] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "for them to be dominating"

³⁷ [17:4] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

³⁸ [17:6] LXX, Syr / Lat add

³⁹ [17:6] Syr ("He created for them") / LXX, Lat "A through-deliberation, and" (misreading at VH level)

⁴⁰ [17:6] LXX, Lat / Syr "he granted as their portion"

- 7 He filled them up *with* experience of intelligence,
 and he indicated good *things* and bad *things* to them.
- 8 He put his eye⁴¹ upon⁴² their hearts,
 to show the great *things* of his works to them,
and he gave them to boast of his marvels throughout the ages.⁴³
- 9 in-order-that they might be narrating the great *things* of his works;
 10 and they shall praise *the* name of holification.
- 11 He added to them experience,
 and gave-a-lot to them: a law of life,
so that they may know that they who are alive are now mortal.⁴⁴
- 12 He erected⁴⁵ a covenant of an age with them,
 and he indicated his judgments to them.
- 13 Their eyes saw *the great state* of glory,
 and their ears heard *the* glory of his voice.
- 14 And he spoke to them, "All of you*, pay-attention to⁴⁶ every unrighteous
thing";
 and he gave-instructions to them, to each *one*, about *their* neighbor.
- 15 Their ways are in-view of him through everything,
 they shall not be hidden from his eyes.
- 16 Their ways are directed toward evil from their youth,
and they are unable to make their hearts fleshly
in place of their stony hearts.
For in the division of the nations of the whole earth,⁴⁷
- 17 He appointed⁴⁸ *someone who is* being-a-leader to each nation,
 and Israel *is* Yahweh's portion.
- 18 Whom, being his firstborn, he cares for with chastisement,
and allotting him the light of his love, he does not neglect him.⁴⁹
- 19 All their works are clear⁵⁰ as the sun in his⁵¹ view,
 and his eyes are constant upon their ways.⁵²
- 20 Their unrighteousnesses⁵³ were not hidden from him,
 and all their sins⁵⁴ are *standing*⁵⁵ opposite Yahweh.
- 21 But the Lord, who is merciful and knowing how they are formed,
spared them, and neither neglected them nor abandoned them.⁵⁶
- 22 A man's⁵⁷ acts-of-mercy⁵⁸ *is* as a seal with him,⁵⁹
 and he shall keep-together a human's favor⁶⁰ as a pupil,
 apportioning a change-of-mind to his sons and daughters.⁶¹
- 23 After these *things*, he shall rise himself up-and-out⁶² and he shall
 equivalently-repay them,
 and he shall repay their equivalent-repayment⁶³ into their *own* head,
and he shall convert them into the more-interior parts of the earth.⁶⁴
- 24 Nevertheless, they are changing-their-mind; he gave a way-back-up,⁶⁵
 and he exhorted they *who are* failing endurance.⁶⁶
And he has destined to them the lot of truth.⁶⁷
- 25 Therefore,⁶⁸ Be turning-around onto Yahweh and leave-off sins,
 beseech in-accordance-with *his* face, and diminish a stumbling-block.
- 26 Be leading-back upon *the Highest one* and be turning-away from
 unrighteousness,
 and exceedingly hate an abomination;
for he himself will lead out of darkness into the light of health.⁶⁹
- 27 Who shall give-praise to the Highest one in the Netherworld⁷⁰ in heart,⁷¹
 in-place of they *who are* living and giving a confessing-in-turn?

⁴¹ [17:8] most LXX, Lat / LXX(254), Syr-Hex(marg) "fear" / Syr omit "He put...hearts"

⁴² [17:8] LXX, Lat / some LXX "He put the fear of him into" // Syr omit "With wisdom and knowledge... upon their hearts."

⁴³ [17:8] most LXX / LXX(II) add

⁴⁴ [17:11] LXX(II) add

⁴⁵ literally "stood"

⁴⁶ literally "from"

⁴⁷ [17:15] most LXX / LXX(II), Lat add

⁴⁸ literally "stood-down"

⁴⁹ [17:18] most LXX, Lat / LXX(70,248) add

⁵⁰ [17:19] LXX / Lat "works are clear" / Syr "works stand"

⁵¹ [17:19] LXX / Lat "God's"

⁵² [17:19] LXX, Lat / Syr "and all their thoughts are manifest before him"

⁵³ [17:20] LXX / Lat "testaments"

⁵⁴ [17:20] LXX, Lat / Syr "all the sins of humans"

⁵⁵ [17:20] LXX ("are standing") / Syr "are inscribed" / Lat "are"

⁵⁶ [17:21] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

⁵⁷ [17:22] LXX, Lat ("a man's") / Syr "all men's"

⁵⁸ maybe in the sense of "alms" (which literally means "mercy" in Latin)

⁵⁹ [17:22] LXX, Lat / Syr "is sealed and deposited with him"

⁶⁰ [17:22] LXX / Syr "and a human's favor is kept-together" / Lat "and it shall keep-together a human's favor"

⁶¹ [17:23] LXX, Lat / Syr "he shall reveal himself"

⁶² [17:23] LXX / Lat "retribution" / Syr "debts"

⁶³ [17:23] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁶⁴ [17:24] LXX / Lat "a way of righteousness" / Syr "a change-of-mind"

⁶⁵ [17:24] LXX, Lat / Syr "and he shall destroy all who cause harm to the righteous ones"

⁶⁶ [17:24] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁶⁷ [17:25] most LXX, Lat / LXX(248) add

⁶⁸ [17:26] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

⁶⁹ [17:27] LXX / Syr "in the world" / Lat is altered for these verses (likely deliberately)

⁷⁰ [18:27] most LXX, Syr / LSS(70,248) add

⁷¹ [18:27] most LXX, Syr / LSS(70,248) add

- 28 A confessing-forth is being-lost¹ from a dead *human* as he *who* is not-even existing;
 he *who* lives and *is* healthy shall praise Yahweh.²
 And you shall be glorified in his mercies.³
- 29 How great *is* the act-of-mercy of Yahweh our god,⁴
 and his propitiation⁵ of the *ones who* turn-around onto him holily.⁶
- 30 For not all *things* are being-able to be in humans,
 because a human's son is not immortal.
 And they have taken-pleasure in the vanity of malice.⁷
- 31 What *is* lit-more-fully than the sun? And this is being-eclipsed.
 And flesh and blood shall ponder a wicked *thing*.⁸
- 32 He is overseeing the power of the height of a heaven,
 and all humans *are* earth and ash.}}

CHAPTER 18

- 1 {{The *one who* is living into the age created⁹ the all *things* commonly by word in order.¹⁰
- 2 Yahweh alone shall be pronounced-righteous,¹¹
 and there is no other except him.¹²
- 3 steering the world in the span of his hand,
 and all *things* obey his will;
 for he *is* king of all *things* in his might,
 enjoining among¹³ them holy *things* from profane *things*.¹⁴
- 4 Who is sufficient¹⁵ to message-out his works,
 and who shall track-out¹⁶ his great *things*?
- 5 Who shall number-out for himself the power of his greatness,¹⁷
 or who shall add-to the *act* to describe-in-detail his¹⁸ mercies?¹⁹
- 6 He is not *able* to lessen nor-even to add-to,
 and he is not *able* to explore the marvelous *things* of Yahweh.²⁰
- 7 Whenever a human might completely-finish, then he is beginning;
 and whenever he might cease himself, then he shall be caused-to-be-at-a-loss.
- 8 What *is* a human, and what *is* his use?²¹
 What *is* his good *thing*, and what *is* his bad *thing*?
- 9 The number of a human's days *is* much
 if it reaches a hundred years;
 and the sleep of such a man is beyond the calculation of all.²²
- 10 As a drop of water²³ from the sea, and as²⁴ a grain²⁵ of sand,
 this-is-how these few years²⁶ are in a day of an age.²⁷
- 11 Due to this, Yahweh became-longsuffering on the basis of them,
 and he poured-out his mercy upon them.
- 12 For He saw the presumption of their heart, that *it is* evil, and he recognized²⁸
 their turning-upside-down,²⁹ that *it is* wicked.
 Due to this, he multiplies his propitiation in them,³⁰
 and he shows the way of righteousness³¹ to them.
- 13 A human's mercy *is* upon his own kin,³²
 but Yahweh's³³ mercy *is* upon all flesh,³⁴
 convicting and disciplining and teaching them.³⁵

¹ may also be translated "is caused-to-be-lost"

² [18:28] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "A confessing...Yahweh"

³ [17:28] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁴ [17:29] most LXX / Lat "of god" / LXX(248) "of Yahweh our god"

⁵ [17:29] LXX / Lat "and his propitiation of" / Syr "and he propitiates"

⁶ [17:29] most LXX, Lat / LXX(248) add

⁷ [17:30] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁸ [17:31] Syr (for entire verse) "When the sun, having run its course through the bright day, has sunk, it becomes dark; so also a human, who, being flesh and blood, does not control his inclination."

⁹ [18:1] LXX, Lat / Syr "tried/proved"

¹⁰ [18:1] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(254) add

¹¹ [18:2] most LXX, Lat / LXX(70,248) "alone is righteous"

¹² [18:2] most LXX, Syr / LXX(70,248) add / Lat instead add "and he remains an invincible king in eternal" literally "in"

¹³ [18:2-3] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248) add

¹⁴ [18:4] Syr, Lat / most LXX "To no-one has he made-forth" / LXX(248) "To whom he has made-forth"

¹⁵ [18:4] LXX / Lat "investigate" / Syr "number"

¹⁶ may also be translated "his power of greatness" (lit. "power of greatness of him")

¹⁷ [18:5] most LXX, Lat / LXX(E) "Yahweh's"

¹⁸ [18:5] most LXX, Lat / LXX(E) "works" / LXX(307) "great-things"

¹⁹ [18:5-6] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "Who shall number-out...Yahweh"

²⁰ [18:8] LXX / Lat "and what is his favor?" Syr "and what is his loss and what is his gain?"

²¹ [18:9] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248) add

²² [18:9] LXX, Lat / Syr "as when one fills a bottle"

²³ [18:9] LXX(70,248), Syr, Lat / most LXX omit "as"

²⁴ [18:10] LXX(N,253), Syr / most LXX, Lat "pebble"

²⁵ [18:10] most LXX, Lat / LXX(248), Syr "how a thousand"

²⁶ [18:10] LXX, Lat / Syr "years of this world are not as one day in the world of the righteous."

²⁷ [18:12] LXX / Syr "For he recognized" / Lat "He saw the presumption...evil, and he recognized"

²⁸ [18:12] LXX / Lat "subversion" / Syr "end"

²⁹ [18:12] Syr, Lat / LXX omit "in them"

³⁰ [18:12] Syr / Lat "equity" / LXX omit "and he shows to them"

³¹ [18:13] Syr / LXX, Lat "his neighbor"

³² [18:13] LXX / Syr, Lat "God's"

³³ [18:13] LXX, Lat ("flesh") / Syr "his works"

³⁴ [18:13] LXX, Lat / Syr add

³⁵ [18:13] LXX, Lat / Syr add

- and, as a shepherd, turning his flock around.
- 14 He is showing-mercy-to the *ones who* are expecting discipline,³⁶
 and to the *ones who* are hastening-down upon³⁷ his judgments.
- 15 O child,³⁸ may you not give a blemish in good *things*,³⁹
 and grief of words⁴⁰ in every *act* of giving.⁴¹
- 16 Is not-surely dew⁴² a relief⁴³ for burning-heat?
 In-this-same-manner, so does a good account or an *act* of giving.
- 17 Behold, *is* not an account above a good gift?
 And both *are* from a man having been bestowed-with-favor.⁴⁴
- 18 A stupid *man* shall reproach unthankfully,⁴⁵
 and an *act* of giving of a bewitching⁴⁶ *man* is melting-out⁴⁷ eyes.
- 19 Prior to the *act* to utter, be learning,
 and before an illness, be treating yourself.
- 20 And Before giving judgment, be probing-out yourself,⁴⁸
 and in an hour of inspection⁴⁹ you shall find a propitiation and it shall help you.⁵⁰
- 21 Prior for you to fall,⁵¹ be humbled⁵² with self-restraint,⁵³
 and in a season of⁵⁴ sinful-actions, show a conversion.⁵⁵
 Do not delay to forsake sins,
 do not neglect it till you are in distress.
 Do not set a time for abandoning sin;
 remember that death will not delay.⁵⁶
- 22 May you not be impeded of the *act* to repay⁵⁷ vows in-good-season,⁵⁸
 and may you not be careless until you are in trouble.
 May you not put off the time of turning from your sins,⁵⁹
 and may you not wait⁶⁰ till death to be pronounced-righteous.⁶¹
 Since God's wage remains in eternity.}}⁶²
- 23 Prior to pray, make yourself ready;
 do not be becoming as a human *who* is trying Yahweh.⁶³
- 24 {{Be caused-to-remember fury in days⁶⁴ of end,
 and a season of avenging in the turning-away of his face.
- 25 Be caused-to-remember a season of famine⁶⁵ in a season⁶⁶ of saturation,⁶⁷
 destitution and indigence in days of riches.
- 26 From morning⁶⁸ till evening a season is thrown-into-a-different-position,
 and all⁶⁹ *things* are quick while standing opposite Yahweh.
- 27 A wise human shall be moved-with-reverence in everything,⁷⁰
 and in days of sins, he shall pay-attention to⁷¹ a mistake.⁷²
 And the stupid *man* is not observing the opportunity.⁷³
- 28 Every intelligent⁷⁴ *man* taught⁷⁵ wisdom and discipline,⁷⁶

³⁶ [18:14] LXX ("He...discipline") / Syr "Blessed are the *ones who* are expecting his mercy" / Lat "He has mercy on he *who* excepts the teaching of mercy"

³⁷ [18:14] LXX, Lat / Syr "who are accepting"

³⁸ [18:15] LXX / Lat "son"

³⁹ [18:15] LXX, Lat (Lat "complaint" for "blemish") / Syr "not hinder he who does a good deed to his neighbor"

⁴⁰ literally "accounts"

⁴¹ [18:15] LXX [LXX(248)] "request" for "giving" / Lat "And after you give anything, may you not give grief of evil words" / Syr "and do not look askance on him who gives"

⁴² [18:16] LXX, Lat / Syr "rain"

⁴³ literally "resting-up"

⁴⁴ [18:17] LXX, Lat / Syr "from a holy man"

⁴⁵ [18:18] LXX, Lat ("unthankfully") / Syr "before he does a thankful act"

⁴⁶ [18:18] LXX / Lat "undisciplined" / Syr "evil"

⁴⁷ [18:18] LXX ("is melting-out") / Lat "makes to be melting"

⁴⁸ [18:20] most LXX, Lat / Syr "And before sorrow comes upon you, pray" / LXX(248) "Before judgment, prepare yourself by well-doing"

⁴⁹ [18:20] LXX (lit. "oversight") / Lat "in the sight of God"

⁵⁰ [18:20] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁵¹ [18:21] Syr / LXX "to become-ill" Lat "for langor"

⁵² [18:21] LXX, Lat ("be humbled") / Syr "pray and beseech"

⁵³ [18:21] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

⁵⁴ [18:21] LXX, Lat / Syr "and prior to"

⁵⁵ [18:21] LXX, Lat (lit. "a turn-back") / Syr "give alms"

⁵⁶ [18:21] Syr / all others omit "Do not delay to forsake...will not delay."

⁵⁷ literally "to give-back"

⁵⁸ [18:22] LXX ("repay" lit. "give-back") / Lat "to pray unceasingly" / Syr "to cause your sins to pass away"

⁵⁹ [18:22] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁶⁰ literally "remain"

⁶¹ [18:22] LXX, Lat / Syr "and remember that death does not delay"

⁶² [18:22] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁶³ [18:23] LXX / Lat "God"

⁶⁴ [18:23] most LXX / LXX(S), Lat "in a day"

⁶⁵ [18:25] LXX ("a season of famine") / Lat "poverty"

⁶⁶ [18:25] most LXX / LXX(A,254), Syr "in days"

⁶⁷ literally "remaining-full"

⁶⁸ literally "from from-morning"

⁶⁹ [18:26] most LXX / LXX(70,248), Lat "these"

⁷⁰ [18:27] most LXX, Lat / Syr "A wise human is concerned in these things" / LXX(248) omit

⁷¹ literally "from"

⁷² [18:27] LXX / Syr "he shall fear no evil" / Lat "shall stretch away from inactivity"

⁷³ [18:27] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,247) add [247 omit "not"]

⁷⁴ [18:28] LXX, Lat / Syr "wise"

⁷⁵ [18:28] Syr / LXX, Lat "knew"

⁷⁶ [18:28] most LXX, Lat / LXX(70,248) add

- and they who know her must confess-forth.¹
- 29 *Men who are intelligent in their accounts,*² they themselves made themselves wise,
and they showered-up precise proverbs unto life.³
Better is confidence in one lord,
than to cling with a dead heart to a dead thing.⁴
- 30 My son,⁵ Do not be going *to follow* behind your *soul's*⁶ desires,
and be preventing yourself from your longings.⁷
- 31 If-at-any-time you might supply your soul *with* good-pleasures of desire,
it shall make you an object-of-rejoicing-over of } } he *who* hates
{ {you} }.⁸
- 32 Have no joy in the pleasures of a moment
which bring on poverty redoubled.
- 33 Do not become *someone who is* a glutton and imbibing,⁹
and with nothing in your purse,
for you will be plotting against your own life.¹⁰
- 19.1 He *who* does this¹¹ shall not become-rich;
and he *who* wastes the little he has will be stripped bare.
- 2 Wine and women make the heart reckless,
{ {and the *man* being glued to whores shall be more daring.¹²
- 3 The *man who* quickly has-faith-put-in them¹³ is light in the heart,
and the *one who is* sinning¹⁴ shall make-mistakes into his soul.¹⁵
- 4 Rottenness and worms shall inherit him, } }¹⁶
and a strong soul shall destroy its master.¹⁷
He who is hasty to give credit is light of heart; he shall be lessened,
and he who sins against his own soil shall be despised.¹⁸

CHAPTER 19

- 5 { {The *one who is* being gladdened with wickedness¹⁹ shall be pronounced-guilty,²⁰
but one who resists pleasures crowns his life.
He who controls his tongue will live without strife.²¹
- 6 and the *man who* repeats²² a bad utterance is being lessened.
- 7 May you never-at-any-time repeat an account,
and may not-even-one *thing* never be lessened.
- 8 Do not be narrating²³ *something* among²⁴ *someone who is* friendly and inimical;
and unless it is a sin to you,²⁵ do not be revealing *it*.
- 9 For he has heard you, and he guards himself *against* you,
and, in season, he will hate you.
- 10 You have heard an account against your neighbor,²⁶ let it die-off-along with you,²⁷
be being-encouraged, it will never rip you *apart*.
- 11 A stupid *man* will travail from *the* face of an account,
as the *woman* bringing-forth-a-child from *the* face of a baby.
- 12 As²⁸ a missile having been pitched in a thigh of flesh,
so is an account in *the* tummy of a stupid *man*.
- 13 Convict a²⁹ friendly *person*—perhaps he did not do *it*;
and if he did do something—perhaps he might not add-to *it*.
- 14 Convict the neighbor³⁰—perhaps he did not speak *it*;

¹ [18:28] Syr / LXX, Lat “and he shall give a confessing-forth to the *onewho* found her.”

² [18:29] LXX, Lat (may also be translated “rationalizations”) / Syr “teaching”

³ [18:29] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

⁴ [18:29] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(248) add

⁵ [18:30] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁶ [18:30] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁷ [19:30] LXX (lit. “from your reaching-outs”) / Lat “from your will” / Syr “from its desire”

⁸ [18:31] Heb / LXX “of your enemies” / Lat “of enemies”

⁹ [18:33] Heb / LXX “Do not be a destitute *man*, making-engagements *from* out of loaning”

¹⁰ [18:33] LXX(II) add

¹¹ [19:1] Heb / LXX “A worker *who is* addicted-to-intoxication”

¹² [19:2] Heb(C) omit “and the *man* being glued to whores is more daring”

¹³ [19:4] LXX, Syr omit “in them”

¹⁴ [19:4] two LXX(II) “and the incontinent *man*”

¹⁵ [19:4] Syr “heart. // The one who condemns himself, who will acquit?” / LXX swaps verses 3 and 4

¹⁶ [19:4] LXX, Lat / Heb(C), Syr omit “Rottenness...him”

¹⁷ [19:3] Heb(C) / LXX “and a daring soul will be lifted-out” / Lat “and he shall be extolled in a greater example, and his soul shall be taken-away out of *the* number” / Syr omit

¹⁸ [19:4] Lat add

¹⁹ [19:5] LXX “heart”

²⁰ [19:5] LXX / Syr “be brought to destruction” / Lat “be denoted”

²¹ [19:5-6] LXX(II), ClemAlex add

²² [19:6] Syr / LXX, Lat “hates”

²³ literally “leading-through”

²⁴ literally “in”

²⁵ [19:8] LXX / Syr, Lat “and if you have a fault”

²⁶ [19:10] LXX / Lat add

²⁷ [19:10] LXX (“with you”) / Syr “in your heart” / Lat “in you”

²⁸ [19:12] Syr / LXX, Lat omit “As”

²⁹ [19:13] LXX, Lat / Syr “your”

³⁰ [19:15] LXX(ES,253), Syr, Syro-Hex, Lat / most LXX “Convict a friendly *person*”

- and if he has spoken, in order that he might not repeat *it*.
- 15 Convict a³¹ friendly *person*, for many-times slander comes-to-be,
and do not be having-faith *in* every account.
- 16 There is a *man who* slips and *it is* not from *his* soul;
and who did not sin with³² his tongue?
- 17 Convict your³³ neighbor prior to the *act* to threaten *him*,³⁴
and give a place to *the* law³⁵ of *the* highest-one, becoming without-
wrath.³⁶
- 18 Fear of Yahweh is the beginning of acceptance,³⁷
but wisdom from him acquires a loving.
- 19 Knowledge of Yahweh's instructions is a discipline of life;
but the ones who do the things pleasing to him shall reap-fruit of a tree
of immortality.³⁸
- 20 Because³⁹ The words of prophecy and⁴⁰
All wisdom is fear of⁴¹ Yahweh,
and in it is to fear God,⁴²
and in all wisdom is *the* making of a law,
and knowledge of his all-power.⁴³
- 21 A domestic who says to the master, “As it pleases you, I shall not do.”
even-if he does these things afterward, provokes-to-anger the one who
nourishes him.⁴⁴
- 22 And *the* experience of wickedness is not wisdom,⁴⁵
and sensibleness is not whereat the deliberation of sinners.
- 23 There is a craftiness,⁴⁶ and this is an abomination,⁴⁷
and there is a senseless *man who* is free from sin.⁴⁸
- 24 Better a fearful *man who* is worsted in intelligence,
than a *man who* is exceeding in sensibleness and transgressing a law.
- 25 There is a craftiness that is precise and it is unrighteous,
and there is a *man who* perverts the favor of the *act* to exhibit⁴⁹
judgment,
and there is a wise *man who* judges righteously.⁵⁰
- 26 There is a *man* acting-wickedly who has stooped-over with blackness,
and the things inside him are full of deceit.
- 27 While making his face altogether-secret and making-himself-deaf,
wherever he is not recognized, he shall pre-precde you.
- 28 And if he might be prevented to sin by loss of strength,
if he might find a *proper* season, he shall do-evil.
- 29 A man shall be recognized from *his* appearance,⁵¹
and a mindful *man* shall be recognized from meeting his face.⁵²
- 30 The outfitting⁵³ of a man, and laughter of teeth, and strides⁵⁴ of a human,
shall issue-a-message of the things about him. } }

CHAPTER 20

- 1 { {There is a conviction which is not ripe,⁵⁵
and there is a *man who* is being-quiet and he is sensible.
- 2 How beautiful *it is* to convict than to be infuriating oneself.
- 3 and the *one who* confesses-in-turn shall be prevented from loss.
- 4 As *the* desire of a eunuch to devirginize a young-man,
so is the *man who* is making judgments in force. } }
- 5 One *man* is silent and is thought wise,
another is talkative and is disliked.
- 6 One *man* is silent because he has nothing to say;
another is silent, biding his time.
- 7 A wise human is silent until the right time comes,
but a boasting fool ignores the proper time.

³¹ [19:15] LXX, Lat / Syr “your”

³² literally “in”

³³ [19:17] most LXX / LXX(S,70,248), Lat “a”

³⁴ [19:17] LXX, Lat (“prior to...him”) / Syr “for he has oppressed many”

³⁵ [19:17] LXX / Lat “fear” / Syr “and do not believe every word of his” (for “and give...highest-one”)

³⁶ [19:17] most LXX / LXX(70,248) add

³⁷ literally “a taking-towards”

³⁸ [19:18-19] most LXX / LXX(70,248), Lat add

³⁹ [19:20] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁴⁰ [19:20] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁴¹ [19:20] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(E,248) “is from”

⁴² [19:20] LXX / Lat, Syr add

⁴³ [19:20] most LXX / LXX(70,248) add

⁴⁴ [19:20] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(70,248) add

⁴⁵ [19:22] LXX, Lat / Syr “There is no wise man who is wicked.”

⁴⁶ [19:23] LXX(70,253) / most LXX “wickedness” / Lat “crafty resolve”

⁴⁷ [19:23] LXX / Lat “and *it* itself is iniquitous” / Syr “, which creates sins”

⁴⁸ [19:23] Syr / LXX, Lat “who is lessening himself with wisdom”

⁴⁹ literally “shine-out”

⁵⁰ [19:25] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(248) add

⁵¹ literally “seeing”

⁵² literally “from a meeting of his face”

⁵³ literally “gowning”

⁵⁴ usually translated “platforms”

⁵⁵ literally “hourly”

8 {{The *man who* increases in accounts shall be abhorred;
and the *man who* puts himself in-authority shall be hated.
How good it is to have a change-of-mind when rebuked,
for this is how you will flee deliberate sin!¹

9 There is a good-way in evil things to a man;
and there is a find which leads into loss.

10 There is a giving which shall not be-advantageous,
and there is a giving which is the twofold equivalent-repayment.

11 There is a loss for-sake of glory,
and there is glory which lifted a head from humiliation.

12 There is a man who buys many things for² a little,
and he pays-for them sevenfold.}}

13 A wise man makes his soul³ popular by a few⁴ words,
but fools pour out their blandishments in vain.

14 {{The giving of a senseless man shall not be-advantageous to you,
and likewise with the envious who give under compulsion,⁵
for in his eyes his one gift is equal to seven.⁶

15 He shall give a few things, and he shall reproach many things,
and he shall open-up his mouth as a preacher.

Today he shall loan today, and tomorrow he shall request it back;
hateful is the human such as this to God and to humans.⁷

16 A stupid man shall state: I surely do not possess a man friendly to me,
and there is not favor for my good things.

The ones eating his bread are base with a tongue,

17 How-many-times and so-much they shall ridicule him for themselves!

For he has not honestly received what he has,
and what he does not have is unimportant to him.⁸

18 A slip from the ground rather than one from a tongue;
this-is-how the falling of bad things shall be-there according-to effort.

19 A human who is favorless, a myth which is unseasonable,
it shall be-constant in the mouth of undisciplined men.⁹

20 A parable from the mouth of a stupid man shall be rejected-after-being-
proved,
for he may never speak it in its proper season.

21 There is a man who is being prevented to be sinning from indigence,
and he shall not be poked-down in his resting-up.

22 There is a man who is causing his soul to-be-lost on-account of shame,
and he shall cause it to-be-lost from his senseless face.

23 There is a man who makes-a-profession to a friendly man in-favor of shame,
and he acquired him for an enemy as-a-gift.

24 A lie is a wicked blemish in a human,
it shall be-constant in the outh of undisciplined men.

25 A thief is to be picked rather than the one who is being-constant with a lie,
but both shall inherit utter loss.

26 The custom of a human who is lying is dishonor,
and his shame is constately with him.

27 The wise man shall lead himself forward in discourses,¹⁰
and a sensible human shall be-pleasing to great-men.

28 The man who works a plot of earth shall heighten his heap,
and the man who is-pleasing to great-men shall make-atonement for
unrighteousness.

29 Presents-to-strangers and gifts blind¹¹ eyes of wise men,¹²
and, as a muzzle in the mouth, they veer-from acts-of-convicting.}}

30 Wisdom having been hidden and treasure which is disappearing—
what profit is there is both?

31 Better a man¹³ who hides his stupidity from sight,
than a man¹⁴ who hides his wisdom from sight.

32 {{Unwearied endurance in seeking the Lord,

is better than a masterless charioteer of one's own life.}}¹⁵

CHAPTER 21

1 {{O child, you sinned; may you not add-to no-more,
and beseech about your former actions.

2 Be fleeing from a sin as from the face of a serpent,
for it shall bite you for itself if-at-any-time you might come-to it;
its teeth are teeth of a lion,
doing-away-with souls of humans.

3 Every lawlessness is as a two-edged long-sword;
with its smite, there is no healing.

4 A strike-down of astonishment and outrage shall desolate riches,
this-is-how a house of an arrogant man shall be desolated.

5 A beseeching of a destitute man comes out of his mouth until it reaches his
ears,
and his judgment comes according-to effort.

6 He who hates an act-of-convicting is in a track of a sinner,
and the man who fears Yahweh shall turn-around in his heart.

7 The man powerful in tongue is known from-a-distance,
but the mindful man has come-to-know in the act for him to be slipping.

8 The man who builds his house with¹⁶ another's monies
is as a man who congregates the stones into his mound.¹⁷

9 A congregation of lawless men is tow having been congregated;
and their complete-finish is a flame of a fire.

10 A way of sinners is having been leveled out of stones,
and onto its last is a hole of the Netherworld.

11 The man who observes a law prevails-over his thoughts,
and complete-finish of fear of Yahweh is wisdom.

12 He who is not crafty shall not be disciplined,
but there is a craftiness which multiplies bitterness..

13 A wise man's wisdom shall be multiplied as a flood,
and his deliberation, as a spring of life;

14 A stupid man's mind¹⁸ is as a container¹⁹ having been crushed,
and it shall not grasp any²⁰ knowledge.

15 If-at-any-time an experienced man might hear an account of wisdom,
he shall praise it, and he shall add²¹ upon them;
The indulging²² man heard them, and he become-displeased with²³ them,
and he turned them away behind his back.

16 A stupid man's exposition is as a small-burden in the way,
but favor shall be found upon an intelligent man's lip.

17 A sensible man's mouth shall be sought in an assembly,
and his accounts shall be thoroughly-comprehended in heart.

18 As a house having been made-to-disappear,²⁴ so is wisdom to a stupid man;
and an intelligent²⁵ man's wisdom is coals of fire.²⁶

19 Fetters on²⁷ feet is discipline of a mindless man,
and as a handcuff on his right hand.

20 A stupid man heightens his voice in laughter,
but a crafty²⁸ man shall scarcely tranquilly smile.

21 As a golden ornament²⁹ is discipline to a sensible man,
and as an armlet is on his right arm.}}

22 A stupid man steps boldly into a house,
but the well-bred man remains outside.

23 A boor peeps through a doorway of a house,
but a man having been disciplined will keep his glance cast down.

24 {{It is the lack-of-discipline of a human to listen-to something alongside a
door;
but the sensible man shall be weighed down with dishonor by it.

¹ [20:8] LXX(II) add

² literally "of"

³ [20:13] Heb / LXX "himself"

⁴ [20:13] Heb(C) / LXX omit "a few"

⁵ [20:14] LXX(II) add

⁶ [20:14] Syr, Lat / LXX "for his eyes are many in-place of one"

⁷ [20:15] LXX / others add

⁸ [20:17] most LXX / LXX(II) add

⁹ [20:19] LXX / Syr omit "it shall be...men"

¹⁰ literally "accounts"

¹¹ literally "blind-from"

¹² [20:29] Syr / many LXX add "of wise men" / Lat, Bohairic instead add "of judges"

¹³ [20:31] Heb / LXX, Lat "human"

¹⁴ [20:31] Heb / LXX, Lat "human"

¹⁵ [20:32] most LXX / some LXX add

¹⁶ literally "in"

¹⁷ [21:8] LXX(II), Syr / LXX(I) "winter/storm"

¹⁸ [21:14] Syr, Lat / LXX "inward-parts"

¹⁹ [21:14] Lat "jar"

²⁰ literally "every"

²¹ literally "add-to"

²² [21:15] LXX / Syr "fool"

²³ [21:15] LXX / Syr "he laughs at"

²⁴ [21:18] LXX / Syr "As a prison"

²⁵ [21:18] LXX(S1) / most LXX, Syr, Lat "unintelligent"

²⁶ [21:18] Syr / LXX "unable-to-stand-up-to-examination accounts" / Vul "indescribable accounts"

²⁷ literally "in"

²⁸ [21:20] LXX / Syr, Lat "wise"

²⁹ [21:21] LXX / Syr "bracelet"

- 25 *The lips of impious¹ men shall narrate what is not their concern,² but accounts of sensible men shall be stood in balance.}}³*
- 26 *The heart of stupid men is in their mouth, and a mouth of wise men's is in⁴ their hearts.*
- 27 *{{An impious man, in the act to be cursing his adversary, is cursing his own soul.*
- 28 *The whispering man is defiling his own soul, and he will be hated in a sojourning.}}*

CHAPTER 22

- 1 *{{A hesitant man was tossed-together⁵ with a stone having been soiled; and everyone shall hiss-forth over his dishonor.⁶*
- 2 *A hesitant man was tossed-together⁷ with dung of little-pieces-of-extremity; everyone⁸ who picks him up shall shake-out a hand.*
- 3 *There is a father's shame in the birthing of an undisciplined son, but a daughter comes-to-be at a loss.*
- 4 *A sensible daughter shall inherit her man, and the girl who brings-down-shame results-in the grief of he who birthed her.⁹*
- 5 *The bold woman brings-down-shame upon her father and her man; and she shall be dishonored by both.*
- 6 *Like musicians in a time of mourning is unseasonable narrating, but whips and discipline are of wisdom in every season.*
- 7 *Children who are brought up in a good life, veil over the ignoble birth of their own parents.*
- 8 *Children who are disdainfully and boorishly haughty besmirch the nobility of their own kindred.¹⁰*
- 9 *The man who teaches a stupid person is like he who glues-together clay, like arising-forth a man who is lying-fast-asleep out of a deep slumber.*
- 10 *The man who narrates to a stupid persons is like he who narrates to someone who is being-drowsy, and upon its completion he shall say, "What is that?"}}*
- 11 *Weep over a dead man, for his light vanished; and weep over a stupid man, for intelligence vanished. Weep sweetly over a dead man, because he rested himself up, but the life of a stupid man is more wicked than¹¹ death.*
- 12 *{{Seven days of mourning for¹² a dead man, but for¹³ a stupid and impious man, all the days of his life .*
- 13 *May you not multiply a discourse¹⁴ with a senseless man, and do not be going with an unintelligent man, for he will treat you with total and callous disregard;¹⁵ guard yourself from him, in order that you might not be having labor, and might never be defiled in his {{SHAKING}}; deviate from him and you shall find a resting-up, and you may never show-indifference in his loss-of-mind.*
- 14 *What shall be weighed heavier than¹⁶ lead, and what name is given to him other¹⁷ than "stupid"?*
- 15 *Sand and salt and a mass of iron are easier to bear-up-under than a human who is unintelligent.*
- 16 *As a crossbeam having been bound-in a wooden frame into a building shall not be dissipated in a total-shake;¹⁸ so a heart having been established upon a thorough-design of deliberation shall not become-terrified in a proper season.*
- 17 *A heart having been set onto a mindest of intelligence, is as a silty ornamentation of a colonnaded-covered wall.*

- 18 *As pieces-of-gravel¹⁹ being laid upon an area up-in-the-air may never endure standing-opposite a gust of wind, so a terrified heart bent upon a stupid thorough-design²⁰ may never endure standing-opposite every fear.*
- 19 *The man who pokes an eye shall lead-down tears, and he who pokes a heart shines-forth its feeling.²¹*
- 20 *He who throws a stone onto flying-creatures scares them away, and the man who is reproaching a friendly man shall dissipate a friendship.}}*
- 21 *If-at-any-time you might pull a long-sword against²² a friendly man, may you not be-without-hope, for there is a way-back-up.*
- 22 *If-at-any-time you might open-up your mouth against²³ a friendly man, may you not be moved-with-reverence, for there is a reconciliation.²⁴ {{Nevertheless, an action of cause-for-reproach, and of arrogance, and of a revealing of a mystery, and of a deceitful smite, in these things, every friendly man shall flee for himself from you.*
- 23 *Obtain faith with your²⁵ neighbor while he is in destitution, in-order-that you might be unitedly filled-full in his good things; for there should never be any despising of a man's appearance or admiration of a rich man who is stupid.²⁶ in a season of tribulation be continuing with him, in-order-that you might be-a-co-heir in his inheritance.*
- 24 *As before a fire starts there is vapor of a furnace²⁷ and smoke;²⁸ so verbal-abuse comes before bloods.*
- 25 *I shall not be-ashamed to shelter a friendly man, and may I never be hidden from his face.*
- 26 *And if bad things shall happen to me on-account²⁹ of him, everyone who³⁰ hears of it shall guard himself from him.}}*

CHAPTER 23

- 27 *{{Who shall give a guard upon my mouth, and upon my lips a crafty seal, in-order-that I may not fall by³¹ them, and my tongue may not cause me to-be-lost?*
- 23.1 *O Yahweh, O Father and Master of my life, may you not leave me behind in³² their deliberation,³³ may you not dismiss me to fall in them!*
- 2 *Who shall stand whips up upon my thorough-designs, and discipline of wisdom upon my heart, in-order-that they might not spare on-the-basis-of my ignorant-actions, and it might never be drooping their sinful-actions, so-that my ignorances might not be multiplied, and my sins be increased; and I shall fall for myself opposite of the opponents, and my enemy shall rejoice-over me? For these things, the hope of your mercy is remote.³⁴*
- 4 *O Yahweh, O Father and God of my life, may you not leave me behind in³⁵ their deliberation!³⁶*
- 5 *May you not given to me haughtiness³⁷ of eyes; always remove vain hopes from your servant, and turn-away desire from me, and always sustain him who wishes to serve you.³⁸*
- 6 *Do not let the longing³⁹ of the tummy and intercourse overtake me, and may you not deliver me over to a shameless soul.*

Disciple of the Mouth¹

¹⁹ [22:18] LXX(AE,70,248 margin, 254), Lat / LXX(SV) "palisades"

²⁰ may also be translated "upon a thorough-design of a stupid man"

²¹ literally "sensing"

²² literally "onto"

²³ literally "onto"

²⁴ may also be translated "interchange"

²⁵ literally "the"

²⁶ [22:23] some LXX add

²⁷ [22:24] LXX / Syr "starts comes billowing smoke"

²⁸ [22:24] Syr / LXX, Lat add

²⁹ usually translated "for-sake"

³⁰ literally "every the man"

³¹ literally "from"

³² literally "behind-in in"

³³ [23:1] Syr, Lat / LXX places "may you not...deliberation" in verse 23:4

³⁴ [23:3] most LXX / LXX(II) add

³⁵ literally "behind-in in"

³⁶ [23:4] Syr, Lat / LXX places "may you not leave me behind in their deliberation" before "may you not dismiss me to fall in them!" (23:1b)

³⁷ literally "lift-in-mid-air"

³⁸ [23:5] LXX(II), Clement of Alexandria add and read "always remove...servant, and turn aside improper desire from me, and always...serve you."

³⁹ literally "reaching-out"

¹ [21:21] some LXX / most LXX "of foreign men" / Vul "of imprudent men" / Syr "of a wicked man"

² [21:25] some LXX / most LXX "describe in these things" / Syr "describe according to his whim" / Lat "narrate stupid words"

³ may also be translated "yoke"

⁴ [21:26] LXX omit "in"

⁵ literally "thrown-together"

⁶ [21:1] LXX / Syr "everyone shall flee from its stench"

⁷ literally "thrown-together"

⁸ literally "every the man"

⁹ [22:4] LXX / Syr omit "A sensible daughter...birthed her."

¹⁰ [22:7-8] most LXX / some LXX add

¹¹ literally "is wicked above"

¹² literally "of"

¹³ literally "of"

¹⁴ literally "account"

¹⁵ [22:13] LXX(II) add

¹⁶ literally "above"

¹⁷ literally "instead"

¹⁸ literally "a shake-together"

- 7 Hear, *O* children, *the* discipline of my² mouth,
and the *man who* guards it may never be conquered.³
- 8 In his *own* lips, a sinner shall be overtaken;
and a verbally-abusive and arrogant *man* shall be impeded in them.
- 9 May you not accustom your mouth with an oath,
and may you not be altogether-accustomed with *the* act-of-naming of the
holy *one*.
- 10 For even-as a domestic *who is* being probed-out constantly
shall not be lessened⁴ from a welt,
so even the *man who* swears and names⁵ the name of Yahweh⁶
may never be cleansed⁷ from a sin. } }
- 11 A man of-many-oaths shall be filled-full of lawlessnesses;⁸
and a whip⁹ shall not stand itself away from his house.
{If he might swear by mistake,¹⁰ his sin *is* upon him;
and-if he might overlook¹¹ it, he sinned doubly.
And if he swore through empty *purpose*, he shall not be pronounced-
righteous,
for his house shall be filled-full of calamities.¹²
- 12 *There is* a saying having been compared with¹³ death;¹⁴
let it not be found in Jacob's inheritance.
For all these *things* shall be kept away from pious *men*,
and they¹⁵ shall not roll-in in sins.
- 13 May you not altogether-accustom your mouth for lewd lack-of-discipline,
for an account of sin is in it.
- 14 Be caused-to-remember your father and mother
when¹⁶ you sit-together up *the* midst of great-men,
lest-perhaps you might forget before-the-face of them,
and you might be made-stupid in your customary-practice,
and you shall wish that you had not been birthed,¹⁷
and you shall curse the day of your *mother's* delivery.
- 15 A human having been altogether-accustomed to accounts of cause-for-
reproach,
may never be disciplined in all his days.
- 16 Two types¹⁸ of *humans* multiply sins,
and the third shall lead anger upon *himself*:
- 17 A warm soul *which is* as a fire *which is* burning;
it may never be extinguished till *whenever* it might be swallowed-
down.¹⁹
- A human *who is* a sexually-immoral-individual in *the* body of his flesh;
he may never cease himself till *whenever* a fire might burn-forth.
Every loaf of bread *is* sweet to a human *who is* a sexually-immoral-
individual,
he may never abate till *whenever* he might come-to-*his*-end.
- 18 A human *who* transgresses from his couch,
saying in his soul, "Who sees me?
Darkness *is* circling me and the walls cover me,
and no-one sees me; why am I fearing?²⁰
The Highest *One* shall never be caused-to-remember my sins."²¹
- 19 And *the* eyes of humans *are* his fear.²¹
And he did not know that Yahweh's eyes
are ten-thousand-times more-fully-lit than a sun,
looking-upon all ways of humans,
and contemplating into parts hidden-from *view*.

- 20 Prior to the *act* for all the *things* to be created, it has been known to him,
and so it *still is* after the *act* for *them* to be completely-finished.
- 21 This *man* shall be avenged in *the* broadways of a city,
and on *on* a day which he did not preconceive it, he shall be seized.
- 22 This is even how it *is when there is* a woman *who* left²² her²³ man,
and *who* stands-beside *her* an heir *from* out of another *man*.
- 23 For firstly, she indeed refused-to-be-persuaded in²⁴ *the* Highest *One's* law,
and, secondly, she committed-wrong against²⁵ her man of *her* youth,²⁶
and, in the third *place*, in sexual-immorality, she had-adultery-committed to
her,
and she stood-beside *her* children *from* out of another man.
- 24 This *woman* shall be lead-out into an assembly,
and an inspection shall be²⁷ onto her children.
- 25 Her children shall not give-over into *taking* fruit,
and her branches shall not bring forth fruit.
- 26 She shall leave-behind her remembrance into a curse;
and her reproach shall not be wiped-out.
- 27 And all *who* dwell on earth shall know,
and all the rest in the world shall recognize.²⁸
that not-even-one *thing is* better than the fear of God,²⁹
and not-even-one *thing* sweeter than to pay-attention to his³⁰
instructions.
It is a great glory to follow after God,³¹
and for you to be received by him is length of days. } }³²

CHAPTER 24

- 1 {{The wisdom shall praise her soul and she shall be honored in God,³³
and she shall boast in *the* midst of her people.³⁴
- 2 In *the* assembly³⁵ of *the* Highest *One*,³⁶ she shall open-up her mouth,
and *standing* opposite his hosts,³⁷ she shall boast of herself.
And in *the* middle of her own populace she shall be exalted,
and she shall be admired in *the* hofified plentitude.
And in *the* multitude of *the* elected *ones*, she shall have laud,
and she shall be blessed among blessed *ones*, saying.³⁸
- 3 "From *the* Highest *One's* mouth, **I** came-out,
and, as a mist, I veiled a *plot* of earth.
- 4 In highest *places*, **I** set-down-a-tent
and my throne in a pillar of a cloud.³⁹
- 5 Heaven's vault, I encircled alone,⁴⁰
and in a deep *place* of abysses,⁴¹ I walked-around.
- 6 In *the* surges of *the* sea, and in all the earth, I have stood.⁴²
and in every people and nation, I become-leader.⁴³
- 7 With all these, I sought a resting-up;
and in whose inheritance shall I be courted?
- 8 "Then the Creator of **all** *things* gave-instructions to me,
and the *one who* created me rested my tent,
and he spoke, "Set-down-a-tent in Jacob,
let your-inheritance be *set-down*⁴⁴ in Israel."⁴⁵
- 9 Before the *first* age from *the* beginning, he created me,
and till a *future* age, I may never fail.⁴⁶
- 10 I performed-public-service before his face in a holy tent,
and in-this-manner¹ I was established in Zion.

²² [23:22] LXX, Lat / Syr "who sinned against"

²³ literally "the"

²⁴ [23:23] LXX / Lat "she has become unbeliever in" / Syr "she lies against"

²⁵ [23:23] LXX, Lat (lit. "she make-a-mistake into") / Syr omit "she make-a-mistake"

²⁶ [23:23] LXX, Lat / Syr add

²⁷ [23:24] LXX, Lat (lit. "oversight" for "inspection") / Syr "and her sins shall be remembered"

²⁸ [23:27] Syr / LXX "(27) And the *ones* who were left-behind shall recognize"

²⁹ [23:27] Syr, Lat, LXX(55,157,254) / most LXX "Yahweh"

³⁰ [23:7] Syr / most LXX, Lat "Yahweh's" / LXX(55,248,253,254) "God's"

³¹ [23:27] LXX(70,248), some Lat / some LXX, many Lat "Yahweh"

³² [23:27] most LXX / LXX(70,248), Lat add

³³ [24:1] LXX, Syr / Lat add

³⁴ [24:1] LXX, Lat / Syr "of the peopole of God"

³⁵ [24:2] LXX / Lat "assemblies"

³⁶ [24:2] LXX, Lat / Syr "of God"

³⁷ [24:2] Syr / LXX, Lat "power"

³⁸ [24:2] LXX, Syr / Lat add

³⁹ [24:4] LXX, Lat / Syr "throne upon the pillars of the clouds"

⁴⁰ [24:5] LXX, Lat / Syr ". Together with him, I dwelled in heaven"

⁴¹ [24:5] LXX / Lat "in a depth of an abyss" / Syr "in the roots of Tehom"

⁴² [24:6] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁴³ [24:6] LXX(S2), Syr, Lat / most LXX "I acquired" (corruption at Greek level)

⁴⁴ [24:8] LXX, Lat / Syr ", establish yourself"

⁴⁵ [24:8] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(248) "Jerusalem"

⁴⁶ literally "leave-to-go-out"

¹ [23:7] most LXX, Syr / LXX(V,70,248,254), Lat add

² [23:7] one LXX, Syr / most LXX, Lat "a"

³ [23:7] Emendation / LXX "never conqueror" / Syr "never suffer shame"

⁴ [23:10] LXX, Lat / Syr "freed"

⁵ [23:10] LXX, Lat / Syr "who lies and swears"

⁶ [23:10] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(A,S2,55,157,254) add

⁷ [23:10] LXX, Lat / Syr "freed"

⁸ [23:11] LXX, Lat / Syr "shall acquire sins"

⁹ [23:11] LXX / Lat "strike" / Syr "strife"

¹⁰ [23:11] Syr / LXX "might make-a-mistake" / Lat "might frustrate"

¹¹ [23:11] LXX / Lat "dissemble"

¹² literally "leadings-on" (as in, things being brought/lead upon him)

¹³ [23:12] LXX(70,253), Syro-Hex (lit. "thrown-beside-against with") / most LXX "thrown-around-against with" / Lat "contrary to"

¹⁴ [23:12] LXX / others "words clothed about with death"

¹⁵ [23:12] LXX, Lat / Syr "he"

¹⁶ [23:14] Syr / LXX, Lat "for"

¹⁷ literally "and you shall want if not were birthed"

¹⁸ literally "forms"

¹⁹ literally "drunk-down"

²⁰ [23:18] Syr / LXX, Lat "I being-moved-with-reverence"

²¹ [23:18-19] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "The Highest...humans"

- 11 Likewise,² he rested me³ in a city *which* has been loved,⁴
and my authority *is* in Jerusalem.
- 12 I rooted⁵ in a people *which* has been glorified,
in Yahweh's portion of his⁶ inheritance Israel.⁷
And in the plentitude of holy-ones was my detention.⁸
- 13 "I was heightened as a cedar in Lebanon,
and as a cypress in *the* mountain of Hermōn;
- 14 I was heightened as a palm-tree in En-Gedi,⁹
and as a growth of a rose in Jericho,
and as an attractive olive-tree in a plain;
and I was heightened as a wide-leafed-tree growing beside the water.¹⁰
- 15 As cinnamon, or aspalathus I have given a smell¹¹ of spices
and as elect myrrh, I gave-over a sweet-odor;
as galbanum and onycha and stacte,
and as a vapor of frankincense in a tent.
- 16 "I stretched-out my branches¹² as a terebinth,
and my branches *are* branches of glory and of favor.
- 17 I budded favor as a vine,
my flowers *are* fruit of glory and of riches.
- 18 I am the mother of beautiful love, of fear,
of knowledge, and of holy hope;
Being eternal, I am given to all my children,
to those who are named by him.¹³
In me is every gift of life and truth,
in me is all hope of life and of virtue.¹⁴
- 19 Come¹⁵ toward me, all you*, the *ones who* desire,
and may you* be filled-up from my products.¹⁶
- 20 For the remembrance¹⁷ of me *is* above the honey,
and my inheritance *is* above *the* honey of a honeycomb.
- 21 The *ones who* eat me shall still hunger,
and the *ones who* drink me shall still thirst.
- 22 The *one who* obeys¹⁸ me shall not be shamed,¹⁹
and the *one who* works in me shall not sin.²⁰
- 23 All these *things are the* book of a covenant of the highest god,
a law which Moses instructed to us,
for an inheritance to *the* congregation of Jacob and promises to Israel.²¹
He has laid David, his boy, to be raising-up²² a most-fortitudinous king out
of him,
and sitting in the throne of honor always-eternal.²³
- 24 Do not grow weary; be strong in the Lord,
and cling to him, in order that he may strengthen you;
Cling to him; Yahweh the Almighty is the one and only God,
and apart from him there is no savior.²⁴
- 25 The *one who* fills-full wisdom as Pishon,
and as Ciddekel²⁵ in days of young *things*.²⁶
- 26 The *one who* fills-up intelligence as Perath,²⁷
multiplies²⁸ as the Jordan in days of reaping.²⁹
- 27 The *one who* pours-forth³⁰ discipline as Nile,³¹
and³² as Gihon in days of harvest.³³

¹ [24:11] LXX, Lat / Syr "and moreover"

² [24:11] LXX, Lat / Syr "Like me"

³ [24:11] LXX / Syr, Lat, Eth "I rested"

⁴ [24:11] most LXX, Syr / LXX(248), Lat, Eth "made-holy"

⁵ [24:12] LXX, Lat / Syr "I was magnified"

⁶ [24:12] LXX / Syr, Lat "my"

⁷ [24:12] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁸ [24:12] LXX, Syr / Lat add

⁹ [24:14] LXX / others "tree on the beaches"

¹⁰ [24:14] LXX(70,157,248), Syr, Lat / most LXX omit "beside the water"

¹¹ [24:15] LXX(N,248,253), Syr, Syro-Hex / other LXX add

¹² [24:16] LXX, Lat / Syr "I fixed my roots"

¹³ [24:18] most LXX / LXX(II) add / Lat add only "I am the mother...holy hope"

¹⁴ [24:18] Lat add "In me...of virtue."

¹⁵ literally "Come-to"

¹⁶ [24:19] LXX / Lat "generatings" / Syr "good fruits"

¹⁷ [24:20] LXX / Lat "spirit" / Syr "instruction"

¹⁸ literally "listens-under"

¹⁹ [24:22] LXX / Lat "be confounded" / Syr "fail"

²⁰ [24:22] LXX, Lat / Syr "and none of his works will be destroyed"

²¹ [24:22] LXX / Lat add

²² literally "exciting"

²³ [24:23] LXX, Syr / Lat add

²⁴ [24:24] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(70,248) add

²⁵ [24:25] Emendation based on conjectural Hebrew / LXX, Lat "Tigris"

²⁶ [24:25] LXX, Lat / Syr "of its fruits"

²⁷ [24:26] Emendation based on conjectural Hebrew original / LXX, Lat "Euphrates"

²⁸ [24:26] LXX / Lat add

²⁹ [24:26] LXX, Lat / Syr "Nisan"

³⁰ [24:27] Syr / LXX "shines-forth" / Lat "sends"

³¹ [24:27] Syr / LXX, Lat "light" (incorrect reading of the Hebrew)

- 28 The first *man* did not completely-finish *coming* to know her,
and in-this-manner the last *man* did not explore her.
- 29 For a thought of her was multiplied from *the* sea,
and the deliberation of her from a great abyss.
- 30 And- **I**, as a passage from³⁴ a river,
and as a channel came-out into a garden,
- 31 spoke, "I shall give-drink to my orchard,
and I shall intoxicate my plot";
and behold the pasage became *made* into a river to me,
and my river became *made* into a sea.
- 32 Still I shall illuminate discipline as dawn,
and I shall shine them forth till *they reach* into *lands* long-away.
- 33 Still I shall pour-out taught-*material* as prophecy
and I shall leave it behind into generations of ages.}}

CHAPTER 25

- 1 {{In three *things* I was delighted,
for they are lovely to God and to humans:³⁵
harmony of brothers, and friendship of the neighbors,
and a woman and a man carrying themselves around together.
- 2 But³⁶ three sights my soul hated,
and I become-disgusted exceedingly with their life:
an destitute *man who is* arrogant, and a rich *man who is* a liar,
an old-man *who is* an adulterer, lessening himself in intelligence.
- 3 You have not congregated in *your* age-of-youth,
and how would you find *something* in your old-age?
- 4 How lovely³⁷ to gray-hairs *is* judging
and to elderly *men* to recognize deliberation!
- 5 How lovely³⁸ *is* wisdom of old-men,
and thorough-design and deliberation to *men* having been glorified!
- 6 *The* crown of old-men *is* much-trial,
and their boast *is the* fear of Yahweh.
- 7 *There are* nine preconceptions I consider-happy in heart,
and the tenth I shall state upon *my* tongue:}}
a human *who is* being gladdened over his children,
and he who lives to see his enemies' downfall.
- 8 Happy is a master who dwells with a sensible woman,
and he who does not plow like a donkey yoked with an ox.³⁹
Happy is he who does not sin with his tongue,
and he who does not serve his inferior.
- 9 {{Happy *is he* who found a friend⁴⁰
and the *one who* narrates into ears *which* hear.
and the *one who* finds wisdom;
instead, he is not above the *one who* fears Yahweh.
- 11 Fear of Yahweh surpassed⁴¹ above everything;
the *one* grasping it, who shall be likened to *him*?
- 12 Fear of Yahweh is the beginning of loving him,
and fidelity is the beginning of clinging to him.}}⁴²
- 13 Every stroke, and not as *a* stroke of a heart;
and⁴³ every bad-thing, and not as a bad-thing of a woman.
- 14 {{Every calamity,⁴⁴ and not as a calamity of they *who* hate,
and every avenging, and not as an avenging of enemies.
- 15 No venom⁴⁵ *is worse than*⁴⁶ a serpent's venom,⁴⁷
and no fury *is worse than* a woman's⁴⁸ fury.
- 16 I shall think-it-well to dwell-together with a lion or with a dragon,
than to dwell-together with a woman *who is* wicked.}}
- 17 Wickedness changes a woman's looks,⁴⁹

³² [24:27] LXX(248,254), Syro-Hex, Lat, Syr / most LXX omit "and"

³³ [24:27] LXX, Lat / Syr "Nisan"

³⁴ [24:30] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "a passage from"

³⁵ [25:1] Syr, Lat / LXX "In three *things* I was made-lovely [lit. "made-hourly"] and I stood-up lovely [lit. "hourly"] opposite Yahweh and humans"

³⁶ [25:2] LXX / Lat omit "But"

³⁷ literally "hourly"

³⁸ literally "hourly"

³⁹ [25:8] Heb(C), Syr / LXX omit "and he who does not plow...ox"

⁴⁰ [25:9] Lat, Syr / LXX "found sensibleness"

⁴¹ literally "threw-over"

⁴² [25:12] most LXX / some LXX, Lat add

⁴³ [25:13] Heb / LXX, Lat add

⁴⁴ literally "leading-on"

⁴⁵ [25:15] Syr / LXX, Lat "head" / VH would be either "head" or "venom"

⁴⁶ literally "above" (also later in verse)

⁴⁷ [25:15] Syr / LXX, Lat "head" / VH would be either "head" or "venom"

⁴⁸ [25:15] Syr / LXX, Lat "an enemy's"

⁴⁹ [25:17] Syr "The wickedness of a woman turns her man's face green"

- and makes her sullen as a female bear.¹
- 18 When her master sits² among his neighbors,
a bitter sigh escapes him unawares.³
- 19 *There is scarce any evil as a woman's evil;*
she shall fall to *the* lot of a sinner!
- 20 Like a sandy hill to *the* feet of an elderly *man*
is a railing woman to a quiet man.
- 21 Do not stumble through a woman's beauty,
and do not be greedy for her wealth;⁴
- 22 harsh is the slavery, great⁵ the shame,
when a woman supports her master.⁶
- 23 Depressed mind, saddened face, broken heart—
this from a wicked woman.
Feeble hands and quaking knees—
from a woman who brings no happiness to her master.
- 24 In a woman was sin's beginning,
and because of her we all die.
- 25 {{May you not give an exit-way to water,
but—neither outspokenness to a woman *who is* wicked.
For as the bursting forth of water goes on and increases,
in-this-manner a wicked woman continues to sin.⁷
- 26 If she does not go according-to your hands,
chop her off from your flesh.
Give to her, and send her away from your house.}}⁸

CHAPTER 26

- 1 Happy *is* a master of a good woman,
and twice-lengthened are his days.
- 2 A worthy woman brings joy to her master,
peaceful and full is his life.
- 3 A good woman *is* a good portion,
which will be given to him who fears Yahweh.
- 4 {{But *be* he rich and destitute, *his* heart *is* good;
his face *is* cheerful in every season.
- 5 From three *things* my heart was moved-with-reverence,
and on-the-basis-of the fourth I beseeched to *his* face.
For slander of a city, and for an assembly of a crowd,
and for a false-charge—every toiling *for them is worse* than⁹ death.
- 6 Pain of heart and mourning *is* a woman *who is* a zealot against¹⁰ *another*
woman,
and a whip of a tongue communes-in *all things*.
- 7 A woman *who is* wicked *is* a yoke being shook;
the *man who* grasps *is* as the *one who* clutches a scorpion.
- 8 A woman *who is* addicted-to-intoxication *is* great anger,
and she shall not completely-cover her indecency.
- 9 Sexual-immorality of a woman *is* in the liftings-up¹¹ of eyes;
and in her eyelids, she shall be known.
- 10 Make a firm guard over a headstrong¹² woman.¹³
in-order-that she may not, after she found a relaxing, make-use-of
herself.
- 11 Guard yourself behind *her* shameless eye,
and may you not marvel if she might do-something-wrong against you.¹⁴
- 12 as a thirsting traveler shall open-up his¹⁵ mouth,
and shall drink for himself from every water of the proximity,¹⁶
she shall sit herself *down* standing-opposite every peg,
and she shall open-up *her* quiver opposite every missile.}}

¹ [25:17] Heb(C), most LXX / one LXX "as sackcloth" / Syr "as the color of sackcloth" / Lat "as a bear and as sackcloth"

² [25:18] Heb, Syr / LXX "her man loses heart"

³ [25:18] LXX / others "and listening he bitterly sighs"

⁴ [25:21] Heb, Syr / LXX "and may you not yearn-after a woman"

⁵ [25:22] LXX / Syr "dire"

⁶ [25:22] Heb / LXX "man"

⁷ [25:25] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁸ [25:26] most LXX / LXX(248), Syr add / Syr further add "to her" and "from your house"

⁹ literally "above"

¹⁰ literally "an anti-zealot onto"

¹¹ literally "lift-in-mid-air"

¹² literally "not-turned-aside"

¹³ [26:10] Syr / LXX, Lat "daughter"

¹⁴ literally "might make-a-mistake into you"

¹⁵ literally "the"

¹⁶ literally "draw-near-together"

- 13 A woman's grace shall delight her man,
and her experience shall fatten his bones.
- 14 {{A woman *who is* silent *is* Yahweh's giving,
and *there is* not a *better* exchange *than* a soul having been disciplined.}}
- 15 A shamefaced and faithful¹⁷ woman is the choicest of blessings,
her self-restrained soul is priceless.
- 16 Like the sun rising in Yahweh's heavens,
the beauty of a good woman is the radiance of her home.}}
- 17 Like the light which shines above the holy lampstand,
are her beauty of face and graceful figure.
- 18 {{Pillars made-of-gold *are* upon a silver footing,¹⁸
and lovely¹⁹ feet *are* upon stable heels.²⁰
- 19 O child, keep-altogether healthy *the* summit of your stature,
and may you not give your strength to foreign *men*.
- 20 After you searched-for a lot of good-land of every plain,
be sowing your-own seed, having been perused-by-means-of your
high-birth;
- 21 in-this-manner, *while* your products *are* being-around you,
and *while* they *are* having outspokenness of *their* high-birth, they will
become-great.
- 22 A woman *who is* hired shall be accounted equal to spittle,²¹
but a woman under-a-man shall be accounted a tower of death to the
ones who make-use-of *her*.²²
- 23 A woman *who is* impious shall be given *as* a portion to a lawless *man*,
but a pious woman shall be given to the *man who* fears Yahweh.
- 24 A woman *who is* indecent shall wear-down²³ dishonor,
but a daughter *who is* with-decency shall be inverted even for the man.
- 25 A woman *who is* headstrong²⁴ shall be accounted as a bitch,
but the woman having shame shall fear Yahweh.
- 26 The woman *who* honors her-own man shall be shown²⁵ wise by all *persons*,
but the woman *who* dishonors *him* in arrogance shall be known²⁶ *to be*
impious by all *persons*.
Happy *is* the man of a good woman;
for the number of his years shall be two-times.
The strife of a woman *is* seen even in her gentleness,
and it shall be shown as a slight flush²⁷
- 27 But a woman *who is* mega-voiced and full-of-tongue
shall be perceived as a trumpet of²⁸ wars *which puts* enemies into a veer;
but *the* soul of every human *who is* like this,
shall lead-the-course-of-the-life-of his²⁹ soul in the instability of war.³⁰ ³¹
- 28 On-the-basis-of two *things*, my heart has been grieved,
and on-the-basis-of the third, my fury came-on:
A man *who is* a rich man³² lacking due-to indigence,
and men *who are* intelligent if they might be treated-as-feces,
and a man *who* puts-out³³ from righteousness onto sin,
Yahweh shall make him ready *to be* tossed into a long-sword.}}

CHAPTER 27

- 29 {{A merchant shall scarcely pick himself out from a mistake,
and a peddler shall not be pronounced-righteous from a sin.
- 27.1 Many *men* sinned in-favor of *something* diverse,³⁴
and the *man who* seeks to multiply shall turn *his* eye away.
- 2 A peg shall be pitched up *the* midst of joints of stones,
and a sin shall be crushed up *the* midst of selling and a buy.
- 3 If you may not grasp in *the* fear of Yahweh by effort,
your³⁵ house shall be quickly¹ turned-upside-down

¹⁷ [26:15] one LXX "A modest and faithful" / Lat "A holy and modest"

¹⁸ literally "stepping"

¹⁹ literally "hourly"

²⁰ [26:18] LXX(S,248) / LXX(AV) "upon busts of *something* stable" / Lat "upon plants of a stable woman" / Syr "in the ordering of her house"

²¹ [26:22] LXX(70,248) / Syr "nothing"

²² [26:22] LXX(70,248) / Syr "who cleave to her"

²³ literally "rub-down"

²⁴ [26:25] LXX(70,248) (literally "not-turned-aside") / Syr "shameless"

²⁵ [26:26] LXX(70,248) / Syr "accounted"

²⁶ [26:26] LXX(248), Syr / LXX(70) "accounted"

²⁷ [26:26] LXX / Syr further add "A complaint... slight flush."

²⁸ [26:27] LXX(70), Syr / LXX(248) omit "a trumpet of"

²⁹ literally "the"

³⁰ [26:27] LXX(248), Syr / LXX(70) omit "but *the* soul...of war"

³¹ [26:18-27] most LXX, Lat / LXX(70,248), Syr, Arab (supported by Clement of Alexandria's quotation of verse 26:22 & Antonius and Maximus of 26:24,27) add this entire section (translated from a Hebrew original)

³² [26:28] Syr / LXX, Lat "a warrior"

³³ translated this way if being used as a technical nautical term, otherwise translated "lead-back"

³⁴ [27:1] LXX / others "for a trifle"

³⁵ [27:3] Lat / LXX, Syr "his"

- 4 An extrem-pile thoroughly-remains² in *the* shaking³ of a sieve,
so *do* a human's feces in his accounting.}}
5 As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace,
so in his conversation is a testing of a human.
6 The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had;
so too does a human's speech disclose the bent of his heart.
7 {{May you not praise a man before his accounting,
for this *is* a testing of humans.
- 8 If you may pursue the right *thing*, you shall apprehend *it*,
and you shall dress yourself *with* it as *with* foot-reaching glory.
9 Flying-creatures shall lodge⁴ with the *ones* like them,
and truth shall revisit with the *ones who* work it.
10 A lion sits-in *wait* for a trap-for-a-beast,
so *does* a sin, working unrighteous *things*.
11 A pious *man's* narrating through everything *is* wisdom,
but the senseless *man*, as a moon, is being changed.
12 Guard⁵ your time⁶ while going into the midst of unintelligent *men*,
but be being-constant while going into the midst of men *who are*
thoroughly-comprehending.
13 A narrating of stupid *men*⁷ *is* a digust,
and their laughter *is* in indulgence of sin.
14 Their oath-filled utterance⁸ shall make *one's* hairs stand-up,
and their fight *is* a barrier to *one's* outer-ears.
15 A fight of arrogant *men is* an outpouring of blood,
and their verbal-abuse *is* a toiling sound.⁹
- 16 The *man who* reveals *someone's* mysteries causes trust¹⁰ to-be-lost,
and he may never find a friendly *man close* to his soul.
17 Have-affection-for a friendly *man* and be caused-to-have faith with him;
but if you may reveal his mysteries, may you not track¹¹ *him* down
behind him;
18 for exactly-as a human causes his inheritance¹² to-be-lost,
so you caused the friend of your¹³ neighbor to-be-lost.
19 And as you released a flying-creature out of your hand,
so you discharged your¹⁴ neighbor and you shall not recapture¹⁵ him;
20 may you not pursue him, because he departed a long-ways-away,
and he fled-out as a gazelle out of a snare.
21 Because it is possible to bind-up¹⁶ a wound, and *there is* a reconciliation of
verbal-abuse,
but the *man who* reveals *someone's* mysteries is-without-hope.
- 22 He *who* thoroughly-nods with *his* eyes is artificing bad *things*,
and no-one shall stand-away from him for them.¹⁷
23 While standing opposite your eyes, his mouth shall be-sweet,
and he shall extraordinarily-marvel over your accounts;
but afterward he shall pervert his mouth,
and he shall give an impediment in your accounts.
24 I hate many *things*, and nothing like him,¹⁸
and Yahweh shall hate and curse¹⁹ him.
25 The *man who is* throwing a stone into a height is throwing *it* upon his own
head,
and a deceitful smite shall distribute wounds.²⁰
26 The *man who* excavates a hole shall fall for himself into it,
and the *man who* stands a snare shall conqueror himself in it.
27 The *man who* does wicked *things* shall be rolled into it,
and he may never recognize from-where it came to him.
- 28 Mockery and cause-for-reproach *are* with an arrogant *man*,

¹ literally "be in quickness"

² usually translated less literally "continues"

³ literally "quaking"

⁴ literally "release-down"

⁵ literally "keep"

⁶ literally "season"

⁷ [27:13] LXX, Syr / Lat "of sinners"

⁸ literally "utterance of-many-oaths"

⁹ literally "hearing"

¹⁰ literally "faith"

¹¹ literally "pursue"

¹² [27:18] Syr / some LXX "dead" / other LXX "enemy" / Lat "friend"

¹³ literally "the"

¹⁴ literally "the"

¹⁵ literally "trap"

¹⁶ literally "bind-down"

¹⁷ [27:22] most LXX / some LXX " , whoever knows him will give him a wide berth."

¹⁸ literally "and I do not liken to him"

¹⁹ [27:24] LXX, Lat / Syr add

²⁰ [27:25] LXX / Syr " , and the *man who* strikes in secret shall be given over to destruction"

- and the avenging shall sit-in *wait* for him as a lion.
29 The *ones* being gladdened with a falling of pious *men* shall conqueror
themselves with a snare,²¹
and anguish shall completely-consume them before their death.
30 Wrath and anger, and these *things* are abominations,
and a man *who is* a sinner shall be self-restrained of these *things*.
28.1 The *man who is* avenging shall find an avenging from Yahweh,
and, while thoroughly-keeping record of their sins, he shall thoroughly-
keep *them in memory*.}}

CHAPTER 28

- 2 {{Forgive your neighbor's unrighteous-deed,
and then, after you beseech, your sins shall be released.
3 Does a human keep anger against²² a human
and seek a healing from Yahweh?
4 Upon a human like himself he does not have mercy,
and he is beseeching about his own sins?
5 If he, while himself being flesh, thoroughly-keeps wrath,
who shall make-atonement for his sins?
6 Be caused-to-remember your last days, and cease yourself from being a man
who is bearing-enmity;
be caused-to-remember destruction and death, and cease yourself from
sin,²³
7 Be cause-to-remember instructions and may you not be-wrathful to your²⁴
neighbor;
be cause-to-remember the Highest *One's* covenant, and look-past
ignorance.
- 8 Abstain from a fight and you shall lessen sins,
for human *who is* having-a-furious-demeanor shall burn-forth a fight;
9 and a man *who is* a sinner shall disturb friendly *men*,
and shall throw slander in up the midst of *men who are* being-at-peace.
10 According-to the woodland, so shall the fire be burned-forth,
and according-to the obstinacy,²⁵ so shall the fight be grown.²⁶
According-to the strength²⁷ of the human, so shall be his fury,
and according-to the riches, so shall he heighten his wrath.
11 Pitch and resin²⁸ burn-forth a fire,
and a fight hastening-down pours-out blood.
- 12 If you may blow into a spark, it shall be burned-forth into a flame,
and if you may spit on it, it shall be extinguished;²⁹
and both *things each* go-out of your mouth.³⁰
13 All of you*, curse whispery and doubled-tongued *men*,
for they caused many *men who are* being-at-peace to-be-lost.
14 A third tongue shook many *men*,
and it set them at-a-distance from nation into nation,
and it pulled-down cities which were fortified,
and it turned-upside-down houses of great-men.
15 A third tongue threw-out virtuous³¹ women from their homes,
and it bereaved them of their exertions.³²
16 The *man who is* paying-attention to it may never find a resting-up,
but-neither shall he put-down-a-tent with tranquility.³³
- 17 A smite of a whip makes a welt,
but a smite of a tongue shall break-off bones.
18 Many *men* fell by³⁴ the mouth of a saber,
and not as many as the *ones* having fallen due-to a tongue.
19 Happy *is* the *man who is* being sheltered from her,
who did not come-through in her fury;
who did not draw her yoke
and was not bound in her bonds;
20 for her yoke *is* a yoke which *is* iron
and her bonds *are* bonds of-bronze!
21 Her death *is* a wicked death,

²¹ [27:29] Syr "Traps and snares seize those who delight in them"

²² literally "with"

²³ [28:6] Syr / LXX, Lat "and remain-in instructions!"

²⁴ literally "the"

²⁵ literally "firming"

²⁶ [28:10] LXX(70,248), Syr / LXX "burned-forth"

²⁷ [28:10] LXX, Lat / Syr "to the honor of the hands"

²⁸ [28:11] Syr / LXX "Quarreling hastening itself down"

²⁹ [28:12] most LXX, Lat, Syr / LXX(248) omit "and if you may spit...extinguished"

³⁰ [28:12] LXX, Lat / Syr "things are from you"

³¹ literally "manly"

³² [28:15] LXX, Lat / Syr "riches"

³³ [28:16] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "The *man who is* paying...tranquility"

³⁴ literally "in"

- and *even* more advantageous is the Netherworld.
- 22 She may never overpower pious *men*,
and they shall not be burned in her flame.
- 23 The *ones who are* leaving-behind Yahweh shall fall-in for themselves into
her,
and she shall be burned-forth in them, and she may never be
extinguished.
She shall be commissioned-upon them as a lion,
and as a leopard, she shall injure them.
- 24 See! Shut *up* your properties *all* around with thorns,
and make a door and a bar¹ for² your mouth;³
- 25 bind-up⁴ your silver-piece and the gold-piece,
and make a yoke and a balance⁵ for⁶ your accounts.
- 26 Be paying-attention, lest-somehow you might slip in her,⁷
lest you might standing-opposite *someone is sitting-in ambush*,⁸
and your case will become incurable, leading to death. }⁹

CHAPTER 29

- 1 {{The *man who* does mercy¹⁰ shall loan *money* to his¹¹ neighbor,
and the *man who* grows-strong with his hand keeps instructions.
- 2 Loan *money* to your¹² neighbor in the season of his need,
and again pay-back your neighbor at¹³ the *proper* season;
- 3 confirm *your* account and be caused-to-have-faith in him,
and you shall find your *own* need in every season.
- 4 Many *men* ask for a loan,¹⁴
and they afford labor to the *ones who* helped them.
- 5 Till *the time* when he may take, he shall affectionately-kiss his hand,
and he shall humble *his* voice over the monies of his¹⁵ neighbor;
and in a season of giving-back, he shall prolong¹⁶ *his* time,
and he shall give-back discourses¹⁷ of indifference and shall incriminate
the season to *repay*.
- 6 If *the lender* may be-strong *enough*, he shall scarcely fetch the half of *it* for
himself,
and he shall account it as a find;
but if not, *the borrower* defrauded him of his monies,
and he acquired an enemy as-a-gift;
curses and verbal-abuses, he shall give-back to him,
and he shall give-back to him dishonor instead of glory.
- 7 Therefore, Many *men* turned *borrowers* away, not in-favor of wickedness;¹⁸
they were moved-with-reverence to be freely¹⁹ defrauded.
- 8 Nevertheless, be-longsuffering on *the-basis-of* a humble *man*,
and may you not keep him waiting²⁰ on *the-basis-of* an act-of-mercy.²¹
- 9 In-favor of an instruction, take-part-in *helping* a poor-person,
and, according-to his indigence, may you not turn him away empty.²²
- 10 Lose a silver-piece due-to a brother and a friendly *man*,
and may it not be corroded under the stone resulting-in²³ *its utter* loss.
- 11 Put your treasure *in place* according-to *the* instructions of *the Highest One*,
and it shall be more advantageous than the gold-piece.
- 12 Lock-together an act-of-mercy²⁴ in your secret-chambers,
and this shall pick you forth out of every evil-treating;
- 13 above a round-shield of might and above a spear of weight,
it shall war in-behalf of you standing-opposite an enemy.
- 14 A good man shall pledge himself for his²⁵ neighbor,

¹ [28:24] most LXX, Syr? / LXX(70,248) "doors and bars"

² literally "to"

³ [28:25] LXX, Syr – following Syr verse order, while LXX places "and make...mouth" after "28:25b" / Lat "injure them. // And when they are hedged in when thorns, // lest they should receive words of envious detraction."

⁴ literally "bind-down"

⁵ literally "station"

⁶ literally "to"

⁷ [28:26] LXX / Lat "in your tongue" / Syr omit

⁸ [28:26] LXX, Lat / Syr "opposite your enemy"

⁹ [28:26] Lat add

¹⁰ possibly in the sense of alms (which is the Latin word for "mercy")

¹¹ literally "the"

¹² literally "the" (also later in verse)

¹³ literally "into"

¹⁴ [29:4] Syr / LXX, Lat "Many men conclude a loan as a find"

¹⁵ literally "the"

¹⁶ literally "draw-alongside"

¹⁷ literally "shall give-back accounts"

¹⁸ [29:7] others ";, because of wickedness"

¹⁹ literally "as-a-gift"

²⁰ literally "not prolong him"

²¹ may be translated "alm", which is the Latin word for "mercy"

²² [29:9] LXX / Syr "and if there is a loss, do not bring it to mind"

²³ literally "into"

²⁴ may be translated "alm", which is the Latin word for "mercy"

²⁵ literally "the"

- and the *one* having *lost* a sense of shame shall leave him behind-in *the dust*.
- 15 May you not forget *the* favors of *your* sponsor,
for he gave his soul in-behalf of you.
- 16 A sinner shall upend *the good things* of *his* sponsor,
17 and a *man* unthankful in *his* mindset shall leave *someone who* rescued
him behind-in *the dust*.
- 18 A sponion caused many *men who* guided to-be-lost,
and she shook them *about* as surges of a sea;
she sent powerful men away-from-*their*-home,
and they were misled in foreign nations.
- 19 A sinner *who* fell-in into a sponion, transgressing Yahweh's instructions,²⁶
and *who* pursues sins²⁷ shall himself fall-in into judgments.
- 20 Take-part-in *helping*²⁸ your²⁹ neighbor according-to your power,
and be paying-attention to yourself, lest you may fall-in.
- 21 Life's chief³⁰ is water and bread and a robe,
and a house *which* covers indecency.
- 22 Better a destitute *man's* lifetime under *the* shelter of planks,
than bright meats among foreign *men*.³¹
- 23 On *the basis of something* small and great, be having good-pleasure,
and you may never hear a cause-of-reproach of *your* sojourn.³²
For there is one who humbles and exalts.³³
- 24 A wicked life *it is* to go out of *one* house into *another* house,
and where you shall sojourn, you shall not open-up *your* mouth.
- 25 You shall entertain-strangers and you shall give-drink resulting-in³⁴
unthankful *things*,
and besides, on *the basis of* these *things*, you shall hear bitter *words* for
yourself:
- 26 "Come-beside *me*, *O* sojourner, ornament a table,
and, if something *is* in your hand, morsel *it* out for me!
- 27 Come-out, *O* sojourner,³⁵ from *the* face of glory,
My brother³⁶ has been-welcomed-as-a-stranger, *there is* need of the
house!"³⁷
- 28 These *things are* weighty to human *who* has sensibleness:
rebuking of a house,³⁸ and cause-of-reproach of a *money* lender.
Give very freely to a poor man, and feed him from what you have at hand;
if he is naked, clothe him; in-this-manner you shall be lending to God,
and he shall replay you sevenfold. }³⁹

CHAPTER 30

- 1 {{The *man who* loves his son shall be-consistent-with whips to him,
in-order-that he may be gladdened at⁴⁰ his last *days*.
- 2 The *man who* disciplines his son shall receive-gratification on *the basis of*
him,
and he shall boast on *the basis of* him up *the* midst of *those* known to
him,
- 3 The *man who* teaches his son shall provoke the enemy to jealousy,
and he himself shall leap-for-joy on *the basis of* him opposite *his* friends.
- 4 His father came-to-his-end, *it shall be* as if he did not die-off,
for he left-behind after him *someone* alike to himself.
- 5 In this life, he saw and he was gladdened,
and in his end, he was not grieved.
- 6 He left-behind a avenging *man* in-the-view of *his* enemies,
and a *man* giving-back-equivalent favor to his⁴¹ friends.
- 7 He *who* spoils a son⁴² shall bind-up⁴³ his wounds,
and his bowels shall be disturbed on *the basis of* every cry.
- 8 A horse *which is* uncurbed steps-out hard,
and a son having been unfastened steps-out leaping-forward.
- 9 Pamper a child and he shall utterly-astound you,

²⁶ [29:19] most LXX / LXX(70,248), Syr, Lat add

²⁷ [29:19] Syr / LXX "who pursues work-contracts" (like "work-takes") / Lat "who undertakes many things"

²⁸ [29:20] LXX / Syr "Be a sponsor" / Lat "Recoup"

²⁹ literally "the"

³⁰ may also be translated "beginning"

³¹ [29:22] LXX (lit. "in foreign men") / Syr "in exile" / Lat "in a place abroad without a housing-place"

³² [29:23] LXX(S2,248) / Lat "and you shall hear your reproach for being a guest" / Syr "and no-one shall see what he does in his house" / most LXX omit

³³ [29:23] most LXX, Syr, Lat / LXX(253), Syro-Hex add

³⁴ literally "into"

³⁵ [29:27] LXX / Syr, Lat omit "O sojourner"

³⁶ literally "The brother to me"

³⁷ [29:27] LXX, Lat / Syr omit "there is need of the house"

³⁸ [29:28] two Lat "are rebuke as a parasite"

³⁹ [29:28] LXX, Lat / Syr add

⁴⁰ literally "upon/onto"

⁴¹ literally "the"

⁴² [30:7] LXX(A,S2,248), Syr / LXX(S1,V,Sah,Eth,Lat) "sons"

⁴³ literally "bind-down"

- play-together with him and he shall grieve you.
- 10 May you not laugh-together with him, in-order-that you may not be made to sorrow-together *with him*,
and you shall grind your teeth onto *your* last *days*. } }
- 11 You must not let him rule¹ in his youths,
and you must not close your eyes to his follies.²
- 12 Bend him to the yoke when he is young,³
thrash his sides while he is still small,
lest he become stubborn, disobey you,
and leave you breathing out your soul.⁴
- 13 Discipline your son, make heavy his yoke,⁵
lest his folly humiliate you.
- 14 Better a poor *man* strong and robust,
than a rich *man* with wasted frame.
- 15 More precious than gold is health and well-being,
a good spirit⁶ than coral.
- 16 No treasure greater than a healthy body;
no happiness, than a joyful heart!
- 17 Death is preferable to a bitter life,
and unending sleep⁷ to constant illness.⁸
- 18 Dainties set before one who cannot eat
are like the offerings placed before a tomb.⁹
- 19 What good is an offering to an idol
that can neither taste nor smell?
So it is with he who is punished by the Lord,
20 who groans at the good things his eyes behold;
like the eunuch,
who groans when embracing a young-woman!¹⁰
so is he who does right under compulsion,¹¹
who is confirmed when abiding with an unmarried-woman,
and Yahweh will require it at his hand.¹²
- 21 Do not give your soul *over* into grief,
do not torment yourself with brooding.
- 22 Gladness of heart *is* a human's life,
and a leap-of-joy a man's length-of-days.
- 23 Distract¹³ your soul, renew your courage,
drive resentment far away from you;
for worry has brought death to many,
nor is there anything to be gained from resentment.
- 24 Envy and anger shorten one's life,
worry brings on premature old age.
- 25 One who is cheerful and gay while at table
benefits from his food.

CHAPTER 31

- 1 Keeping watch over riches wastes the flesh,
and the care of wealth drives away rest.
- 2 Concern for one's livelihood banishes slumber;
and a serious illness carries off repose.¹⁴
A faithful comrade drives away reproach,
and the friend who keeps secrets is as loved as a soul.¹⁵
- 3 A rich *man* labors to pile up wealth,
and his only rest is wanton pleasure;
- 4 a destitute *man* toils for a meager subsistence,
and if ever he rests, he finds himself in want.
- 5 The lover of gold will not be free from sin,
for he who pursues wealth is led astray¹⁶ by it.
- 6 Many have been ensnared by gold,
though destruction lay before their eyes;
but their possessions were unable to deliver them from disaster,
or to save them on the day of wrath.¹⁷

¹ [30:11] Heb(B) / LXX "May you not give authority to him"

² [29:11] Heb(B), LXX(II), Lat, Syr / most LXX omit "and do not close your eyes to his follies"

³ [30:12] LXX(II), Heb(B) / LXX(I), others omit "Bend him to the yoke when he is young."

⁴ [30:12] LXX(II), Heb(B) / LXX(I), others omit "and leave you breathing out your soul"

⁵ [30:13] Heb / LXX "son, take pains with him"

⁶ [30:15] Heb / LXX "a stout body"

⁷ [30:17] LXX / others omit "unending sleep"

⁸ HEBREW TEXT MENTIONS SOMETHING ABOUT 'THE NETHERWORLD HERE

⁹ [30:18] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) "before an idol"

¹⁰ [30:20] LXX(I), Lat, Syr, Heb(B) / LXX(II) omit "like the eunuch...young-woman!"

¹¹ [30:20] LXX(I) / LXX(II), Syr, Heb(B) add

¹² [30:20] Heb(B), Syr add

¹³ [30:23] LXX "Delude"

¹⁴ [31:2] LXX / others "and repose carries off a serious illness"

¹⁵ [31:2] Heb(B) / LXX omit "A faithful comrade...as a soul."

¹⁶ [31:5] Heb, Syr / LXX "pursues destruction will be filled"

- 7 it is a stumbling block to those who are avid for it,
a snare for every fool.
- 8 Happy a rich *man* found without fault,
who does not turn aside after gain!
- 9 Who is he, that we may praise him?
He, of all his kindred, has done wonders,
- 10 for he has been tested by gold and come off safe,
and this remains his glory;
he could have sinned but did not,
could have done evil but would not,
- 11 so that his possessions are secure because of this,¹⁸
and the assembly recounts his praises.¹⁹
- 12 Discipline [...] bread and wine together [...].²⁰
If you are seated at the table of the great,²¹
do not bring a greedy gullet to his table,
nor cry out, "How much food there is here!"
- 13 Remember that gluttony is evil.
No creature is greedier than the eye:
therefore it weeps for any cause.²²
- 14 Recognize that your neighbor feels as your soul²³ does,
and keep in mind your own dislikes:
15 toward what he eyes, do not put out a hand;
nor reach when he does for the same dish.²⁴
- 16 Eat what is set before you like a well brought-up person,²⁵
and do not be greedy, lest you be despised.
- 17 Be the first to stop, as befits good manners;
do not gorge yourself, lest you give offense.
- 18 If there are many with you at table,
do not be the first to reach out your hand.
- 19 Does not a little suffice for a well-bred mortal?
When he lies down, it is without discomfort.
- 20 Distress and anguish and loss of sleep,
and restless tossing for the glutton!
Moderate eating ensures sound slumber
and a clear soul next day on rising.
- 21 If perforce you have eaten too much,
once you have emptied your stomach, you will have relief.
- 22 Listen to me, my son, and do not scorn me;
later you will find my advice good.
In whatever you do, be moderate,²⁶
and no sickness will befall you.
- 23 On a *man* generous with food, blessings are invoked,
and this testimony to his goodness is lasting;
- 24 he who is miserly with food is denounced in public,
and this testimony²⁷ to his stinginess is lasting.
- 25 And also do not gain-power for yourself on the wine,
for new-wine²⁸ has caused many to fall.
- 26 As a furnace examines *the* work of a smith,²⁹
so *does* the wine in-regard-to *the* strife of scorners.
As a discerner examines *one* work from *another* work,
so *does* an intoxicating-drink in-regard-to striving scorners.³⁰
- 27 Who *does not know that* the wine is very life*³¹ for a mortal,
if he shall drink in moderation.
Who *has* life* who lacks the wine
which was created from *the* beginning for joy to humans?³²
- 28 Leaping-for-joy of heart, and gladness of soul,
is self-sufficient wine being drunk in *the proper* time.
- 29 Pain of *the* head, bitterness³³ of soul,

¹⁷ [31:6] Syr add

¹⁸ [31:11] LXX / others add

¹⁹ [31:11] Heb(B) / LXX "his pious deeds"

²⁰ [31:12] Heb(B) (fragmented) / LXX omit "Discipline...together"

²¹ [31:12] Heb, Syr / LXX "at a great table"

²² [31:13] Heb(B), Syr ". God hates the eye's greed; was ever any creature greedier? That is why it shifts with everything it sees, and sends tears streaming down the face."

²³ [31:15] Heb / LXX "yourself"

²⁴ [31:14] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) "basket"

²⁵ [31:16] Heb / LXX "like a man"

²⁶ [31:22] Heb, Syr / LXX "industrious"

²⁷ [31:24] Heb(B[mgl]), LXX / Heb(B[txt]) "knowledge"

²⁸ [31:25] Heb / LXX "wine"

²⁹ [31:26] Heb / LXX "tests the hardening of steel by dipping"

³⁰ [31:26] Heb / LXX (entire verse) "A furnace proves steel in dipping, in-the-same-manner, wine *proves* hearts of arrogant *men* in a fight"

³¹ [31:27] Heb(B) / LXX "is like life" / Syr "is like the waters of life"

³² [31:27] Heb / LXX add

³³ [31:29] LXX / Syr "poverty"

- is much wine being drunk in irritation and conflict.
- 30 Increasing foaming-wine¹ is a snare for a fool;²
it lessens his strength and multiplies his wounds.
- 31 Do not rebuke your neighbor in a drinking-party of the wine,
and do not put him to shame while he is merry;
use no harsh words with him
and do not distress him in the presence of others.

CHAPTER 32

- 1 If you are chosen to preside at dinner, do not be puffed up,
and take no prominent place among the rich,³
but with the guests be as one of themselves;
take care of them first before you sit down;
- 2 when you have fulfilled your duty, then take your place,
to share in their joy
and win praise for your hospitality.
- 3 Being older, you may talk; that is only your right,
but temper your wisdom, and may you not⁴ disturb the singing.
- 4 When the wine is present,⁵ do not pour out discourse.
And why stop the music in order to pour out discourse?⁶
And why flaunt your wisdom at the wrong time?
- 5 Like a seal upon a purse full of gold,
is a song to God at a drinking-party of the wine.⁷
Like a jewel of carnelian in a setting of gold
is a right song at a drinking-party of the wine.
Like a necklace of gold set with garnets and sapphires,
so are lovely and beautiful words at a drinking-party of the wine.⁸
- 6 Like a gold mounting with an emerald seal
is string music with the delightfulness of new-wine.
- 7 Young man, speak only when necessary,
when they have asked you more than once;
- 8 be brief, but say much in those few words,
be as a wise man, taciturn.
- 9 When standing between elderly men do not be forward,
and with officials do not be too insistent.
- 10 Like the lightning that flashes before a storm
is the esteem that shines on modesty.⁹
- 11 When it is time to leave, do not tarry;
be off for home!
- 12 There take your ease, and there enjoy doing as you wish,
but without sin or words of pride.
- 13 Above all, give praise to your Creator,
who showers his favors upon you.¹⁰
- 14 He who seeks God¹¹ must accept discipline;
and those who rise early to seek him¹² will find favor.
- 15 He who studies the law masters it,
but the hypocrite finds it a trap.
- 16 He who fears Yahweh has sound judgment;
out of his soul he draws forth a clear plan.
- 17 The sinner turns aside reproof
and distorts the law to suit his purpose.
- 18 A wise man will not neglect direction;
the proud and insolent¹³ man is deterred by nothing.¹⁴
- 19 Do nothing without counsel,
and then you need have no regrets.
- 20 Do not go on a way that is set with snares,
and do not stumble on the same obstacle twice.¹⁵
- 21 Do not be overconfident even on smooth roads,
22 and be careful on all your paths.¹⁶
- 23 Guard¹⁷ your soul in whatever you do,
for in this way you will keep the commandments.¹⁸

¹ [31:30] Heb / LXX "intoxication"

² [31:30] Heb ? LXX "is fury of a senseless man leading into a stumbling-block"

³ [31:1] Syr add

⁴ [32:3] Hebrew, LXX / Chrysostom omit "not"

⁵ [32:4] Heb(B) / LXX "Where listening is in order"

⁶ [32:4] Heb(B) / LXX omit "And why...discourse"

⁷ [32:4] Heb(BF) / LXX omit "Like a seal...the wine"

⁸ [32:4] Heb(BF) / LXX omit "Like a necklace...the wine"

⁹ [32:10] Syr omit "Like the lightning...modesty."

¹⁰ [32:13] Heb / LXX ", and makes you intoxicated from his good-things"

¹¹ [32:14] Heb / LXX "who fears the Lord"

¹² [32:14] LXX omit "to seek him"

¹³ [32:18] Heb / LXX "alien"

¹⁴ [32:18] others add "and after acting", "with him", "without counsel"

¹⁵ [32:20] Heb / LXX "stumble on stony ground"

¹⁶ [32:22] Heb, Syr / LXX "and beware of your children"

¹⁷ [32:23] Heb, Syr / LXX "Have-faith in"

- 24 He who keeps the law preserves his own soul,¹⁹
and he who trusts in Yahweh will not be put to shame.

CHAPTER 33

- 1 Evil shall not harm a man who is fearful of Yahweh;
through trials, again and again he is safe.
- 2 He who hates the law is without wisdom,
and is tossed about like a boat in a storm.
- 3 A prudent man²⁰ trusts in Yahweh's word,
and the law is dependable for him as a divine oracle.²¹
- 4 Prepare your words and you will be listened to;
draw upon your training, and then give your answer.
- 5 Like the wheel of a cart is the mind of a fool;
his thoughts revolve in circles.
- 6 A fickle friend is like the stallion that neighs,
no matter who the rider.
- 7 Why is one day more important than another,
when it is the sun that lights up every day?
- 8 It is due to Yahweh's wisdom that they differ;
it is through him that the seasons and feasts come and go.
- 9 Some he dignifies and sanctifies,
and others he lists as ordinary days.
- 10 And all humans are from ground,
and a human²² was created out of earth.
- 11 In his great knowledge Yahweh makes them unlike;
and he has them walk in different paths.
- 12 Some he blesses²³ and makes great,
some he sanctifies and draws to himself.
Others he curses and brings low,
and expels them from their place.
- 13 Like clay in the hands of a potter,
to be molded according to his pleasure,
so are humans in the hand of their Creator,
to be assigned by him their function.²⁴
- 14 As evil contrasts with good, and death with life,
so are sinners in contrast with the pious
and darkness with the light;²⁵
- 15 see now all the works of the Most High:
they come in pairs, the one the opposite of the other.
- 16 And-I stayed-alert²⁶ last,
as someone gleaning behind the vintage;
17 since in Yahweh's blessing I proceeded;
and as someone harvesting I filled a wine press,
18 I would inform you that I have not toiled only for myself,
but for every seeker after wisdom.
- 19 Listen to me, O leaders of the multitude;
O rulers of the assembly, give ear!
- 20 Let neither son nor woman, brother nor friend,
have power over you²⁷ as long as you live.
- 21 While breath of life is still in you,
do not let every flesh have dominion over you.
Do not give to another your wealth,
lest then you have to plead with him;²⁸
- 22 far better that your children plead with you
than that you should look to their generosity.
- 23 Keep control over all your affairs;
let no one tarnish your glory.
- 24 When your few days reach their limit,
at a season of an end, distribute your inheritance.
- 25 Fodder and whip and loads for an ass;
the yoke and harness and the rod of his master.¹

¹⁸ [32:23] Heb(B), LXX / Heb(C) omit "Guard yourself...commandments."

¹⁹ [32:24] Heb / LXX "who believes the law heeds the commandments"

²⁰ [33:3] Heb / LXX, Lat "human"

²¹ [33:2-3] LXX, Heb(B)(frag) / Heb(C) omit "The prudent man...oracle." / Syr omit "He who hates...oracle."

²² [33:10] Emendation based on Hebrew original / LXX, Lat transliterate "and Adam"

²³ [33:9] Heb(E), Syr / LXX "exalts"

²⁴ [33:13] Heb(E) / LXX "to be requited according as he judges them" / Syr "to raise him up among all his works"

²⁵ [33:14] LXX / Heb(E) add / Syr also add, but omit "sinners in contrast with the pious"

²⁶ literally "become-without-sleep"

²⁷ [33:20] Heb(E) omit "over you"

²⁸ [33:20] Heb(B), Syr / LXX places "Do not give...with him" after "as long as you live."

- 26 Food, correction and work for a slave;
and for a wicked slave, punishment in the stocks.
- 27 Make a slave work and he will look for his rest;²
let his hands be idle³ and he will seek to be free.
- 28 Force him to work that he be not idle,⁴
29 for idleness is an apt teacher of mischief.⁵
- 30 Put him to work, for that is what befits him;⁶
if he becomes unruly, load him with chains.
But never lord it over any human,
and do nothing unjust.
- 31 If you have but one slave, treat him like yourself,
for you have acquired him with your life's blood.
- 32 If you have but one slave, deal with him as a brother,⁷
for you need him as you need your *own* soul.
- 33 If you mistreat him and he runs away,
in what direction will you look for him?

CHAPTER 34

- 1 Empty and false are the hopes of the senseless,
and fools are borne aloft by dreams.
- 2 As a *man* who grasps for shadows or chases the wind,
is the one who puts trust⁸ in dreams.
- 3 What is seen in dreams is to reality
what the reflection of a face is to the face itself.
- 4 Can *something* unclean produce the clean?
can the liar ever speak the truth?
- 5 Soothsayings, and auguries, and dreams are all vain;
what you already expect, the mind depicts.
- 6 Unless it be a vision specially sent by the Most High,
do not fix your heart on it;
7 for dreams have led many astray,
and those who believed in them have perished.
- 8 The law is fulfilled without fail,
and perfect wisdom is found in the mouth of the faithful *man*.
- 9 An educated man gains wide knowledge;
the *one* of experience speaks sense.
- 10 One never put to the proof knows little,
11 whereas with travel a *man* adds to his resourcefulness.
- 12 I have seen much in my travels,
learned more than ever I could say.
- 13 Often I was in danger of death,
but by these attainments I was saved.
- 14 A spirit of *those who are* filling themselves with fear of Yahweh will live
for itself,
15 for they put their hope on the *One who is* saving them;
16 he who fears Yahweh is never alarmed, never afraid;
for Yahweh is his hope.
- 17 Happy the soul that fears Yahweh!
18 In whom does he trust, and who is his support?
- 19 The eyes of Yahweh are upon those who love him;
he is their mighty shield and strong support,
a shelter from the heat, a shade from the noonday sun,
a guard against stumbling, a help against falling.
- 20 He buoys up the spirits, brings a sparkle to the eyes,
gives health and life and blessings.⁹
- 21 If one sacrifices ill-gotten goods, the offering is tainted.¹⁰
22 The presents¹¹ from the lawless are not acceptable.
- 23 The Most High does not approve the gifts of the godless,
nor for their many sacrifices does he forgive their sins.
- 24 Like a *man* who slays a son in his father's presence
is he who offers sacrifice from the possessions of the poor.
- 25 The bread of charity is life itself for the needy;
he who withholds it is a human of bloods.

¹ [33:25] Heb(E) / LXX "harness are a cure for stubbornness"

² [33:27] LXX(II) / LXX(I) "Work at discipline and you will find rest" / Heb(E), Syr "Make a slave work and give him no rest, that he may not seek rest"

³ [33:27] LXX / Syr "if you lift up his head" / Heb(E) "if you lift up his head, he will play you false"

⁴ [33:28] LXX / Heb(E), Syr "that he rebel not"

⁵ [33:28] LXX / Heb(E), Syr "idleness does much mischief"

⁶ [33:30] LXX / Syr "As may suit him, give him authority in your house"

⁷ [33:31] most LXX / some LXX "as yourself"

⁸ [34:2] Syr / LXX "who pays heed to"

⁹ [34:20] LXX / Syr "blessings"

¹⁰ [34:21] LXX / others "is made in mockery"

¹¹ [34:22] LXX(II), Lat, Syr / LXX(I) "mockeries"

- 26 He slays his neighbor who deprives him of his living;
27 he sheds blood who denies the laborer his wages.
- 28 If one *man* builds up and another tears down,
what do they gain but trouble?
- 29 If one *man* prays and another curses,
whose voice will Yahweh hear?
- 30 If a *man* again touches a corpse after he has bathed,
what did he gain by the purification?
- 31 So with a human who fasts for his sins,
but then goes and commits them again:
who will hear his prayer,
and what has he gained by his mortification?

CHAPTER 35

- 1 To keep the law is a great oblation,
and he who observes the commandments sacrifices a peace offering.
- 2 In works of charity one offers fine flour,
and when he gives alms he presents his sacrifice of praise.
- 3 To refrain from evil pleases Yahweh,
and to avoid unrighteousness is an atonement.
- 4 Do not appear before Yahweh empty-handed,
for all that you offer is in fulfillment of the precepts.
- 5 A righteous *man's* offering enriches the altar
and rises as a sweet odor before the Most High.
- 6 A righteous man's sacrifice is most pleasing,
nor will it ever be forgotten.
- 7 In generous spirit pay homage to Yahweh,
do not be sparing of freewill gifts.
- 8 With each contribution¹² show a cheerful countenance,
and pay your tenths in a spirit of joy.
- 9 Give to the Most High¹³ as he has given to you,
generously, according to your means.
He who gives to the poor makes the Lord his debtor,
and who is the source of recompenses if not he?¹⁴
- 10 For God¹⁵ is one who always repays,
and he will give back to you sevenfold.
- 11 But offer no bribes, these he does not accept!
Do not trust in sacrifice of the fruits of extortion,
- 12 for he is a God of justice,
who knows no favorites.
- 13 Though not unduly partial toward¹⁶ the weak,
yet he hears the cry of the oppressed.¹⁷
- 14 He is not deaf to the wail of the orphan,
nor to the widow when she pours out her complaint;
- 15 do not the tears that stream down her cheek
cry out against him who causes them to fall?¹⁸
- 16 He who serves God willingly is heard;
his petition reaches the heavens.
- 17 The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds;
it does not rest till it reaches its goal.¹⁹
- 18 nor will it withdraw till the Most High²⁰ responds,
judges justly and affirms the right.
- 19 The Lord²¹ indeed will not delay,
and like a warrior,²² will not be still
till he breaks the backs of the merciless
and wreaks vengeance upon the proud;
- 21 till he destroys the haughty root and branch,
and smashes the scepter of the wicked;
- 22 till he requites a mortal according to his deeds,
and repays a human according to his thoughts;
- 23 till he defends the cause of his people,

¹² [35:11] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) "With all that you do"

¹³ [35:12] LXX / Heb(B) "to him"

¹⁴ [35:13] LXX / Heb(B), Syr add

¹⁵ [35:13] Heb(B) / LXX "For the Lord"

¹⁶ [35:16] Heb(B) / LXX "against"

¹⁷ [35:16] Heb(B), LXX / Syr omit "Though not unduly...oppressed."

¹⁸ [35:19] LXX / Heb(B) "against her homelessness"

¹⁹ [35:17-20] Instead of "Do not the tears...goal" Syr has "he hears the bitter feelings of the poor, and their prayer tilts the clouds downward. The prayer of the poor ascends above the clouds, and enters before the Lord of majesty."

²⁰ [35:21] LXX / Heb(B) "till God"

²¹ [35:22] LXX, Syr, Heb(B-margin) / Heb(B) "God"

²² [35:22] Heb(B) / LXX "and with them"

and gladdens them by his mercy.¹
24 Welcome is his mercy in time of distress
as rain clouds in time of drought.

CHAPTER 36

1 Come to our aid, O Sovereign² God of the universe,
2 and put all the nations in dread of you!
3 Raise your hand³ against the heathen,
that they may realize your power.
4 As you have used us to show your holiness to them,
so now use them⁴ to show your glory to us.
5 Thus they will know you,⁵ as we know,
that there is no God but you, O Lord.⁶
6 Give new signs and work new wonders;
show forth the splendor of your right hand and arm;⁷
7 rouse your anger, pour out wrath,
humble the enemy, scatter the foe.
8 Hasten the day, and remember the appointed time;⁸
when your mighty deeds are to be proclaimed.
9 Let raging fire consume the fugitive,
and your people's oppressors meet destruction;⁹
10 crush the heads of the hostile rulers,
who say, "There is no one besides me!"¹⁰
11 Gather all the tribes of Jacob,
that they may inherit the land as of old,
12 show mercy, O Lord,¹¹ to the people called by your name;
Israel, whom you have named¹² your first-born.
13 Take pity on your holy city,
Jerusalem, your dwelling place.¹³
14 Fill Zion with your majesty,¹⁴
your temple with your glory.¹⁵
15 Give a testimony of your deeds of old;
fulfill the prophecies spoken in your name,
16 reward those who have hoped in you,
and let your prophets be proved true.
17 Hear, O Lord,¹⁶ the prayer of your servants,
according to your goodwill toward¹⁷ your people;
thus it will be known to the very ends of the earth
that you are the Lord,¹⁸ the God of the ages.
18 The throat¹⁹ can swallow any food,
yet some foods are more agreeable than others;
19 as the palate tests meat by its savor,
so does a keen mind insincere words.
20 A deceitful character causes grief,
but an experienced human can turn the tables on him.
21 A woman will accept every male for a husband,
but one daughter will be better than another daughter.²⁰
22 A woman's beauty makes a man's face light up,
and it surpasses all else that charms the eye;
23 and if, in addition, her speech is soothing,²¹
the man's lot is beyond that of a human's sons.

¹ [35:25] LXX / Heb(B) "his saving help" / Syr "his recompense"

² [36:1] Heb(B) / LXX add

³ [36:3] LXX, Syr, Heb(B-margin) / Heb(B) omit "your hand"

⁴ [36:4] LXX, Syr, Heb(B-margin) / Heb(B) "us"

⁵ [36:5] Heb(B) / LXX "And let them know you"

⁶ [36:5] Heb(B) / LXX add

⁷ [36:7] LXX, Syr, Heb(B-margin) / Heb(B) "show forth the splendor of your hand and strengthen your arm and your hand."

⁸ [36:10] others "remember your oath"

⁹ [36:11] LXX / Syr "In anger and in fire destroy the enemy, and all the rulers and princes of the nations." / Heb(B) omit altogether ("Let...destruction")

¹⁰ [36:12] LXX / Syr "put an end to the crown of the enemy, who says, 'There is none like me!'" / Heb(B)

¹¹ "Put an end to the head of the temples of Moab [B-margin "enemy"], who says 'There is none like me!'"

¹² [36:17] Heb(B), Syr / LXX add

¹³ [36:17] others "have likened to"

¹⁴ [36:18] Heb / LXX "your rest"

¹⁵ [36:19] Heb, Syr / LXX "with the celebration of your wondrous deeds"

¹⁶ [36:19] Heb, Syr / LXX, Lat "people"

¹⁷ [36:22] Heb(B), Syr / LXX add

¹⁸ [36:22] Heb, two LXX / Lat, most LXX "according to the blessing of Aaron for"

¹⁹ [36:22] Heb(B), Syr / LXX add

²⁰ [36:23] Heb(B) / LXX "belly"

²¹ [36:26] LXX / Syr omit "A woman...daughter."

²² [36:28] Heb(B) (lit. "there is healing of tongue") / LXX "If there is on her tongue mercy and meekness [LXX(II) add "and healing"]"

24 He who gets a woman gets his best possession,²²
a helper²³ and a pillar of support.²⁴
25 A vineyard with no hedge will be overrun;
he with no woman becomes a homeless wanderer.²⁵
26 For²⁶ Who will trust an armed band
that shifts from city to city?
Or a man who has no nest,
but lodges where night overtakes him?

CHAPTER 37

1 Every friend declares his friendship,
but there are friends in name only.
2 Is it not a sorrow unto death
when your friend *who is* like your *own* soul²⁷ becomes your enemy?
3 Alas, my companion! *he says*²⁸ Why were you created²⁹
to blanket the earth with deceit?
4 A false friend will share your joys,
but in time of trouble he stands afar off.
5 A true friend will fight with you against the foe,
against your enemies he will be your shield-bearer.
6 Do not forget your comrade during the battle,³⁰
and do not neglect him when you distribute your spoils.³¹
7 Every counselor points out a way,³²
but some counsel ways of their own.
8 Guard your soul from a counselor,
and find out first of all what he wants.
For he may be thinking of his *own* soul;
why should the profit fall to him?³³
9 He may tell you how good your way will be,
and then stand by to watch your misfortune.
10 Seek no advice from one who regards you with hostility;³⁴
from those who envy you, keep your intentions hidden.
11 Do not speak to a woman about her rival,
and to a coward about war,
to a merchant about business,
and to a buyer about value,
to a miser about generosity,³⁵
and to a cruel man about mercy,
to a lazy man about work,
to a seasonal laborer about the harvest,
to an idle slave about a great task:
pay no attention to any advice they give.³⁶
12 Instead, associate with a religious man,
whom you are sure keeps the commandments;
whose mind is like your mind,³⁷
and will feel for you if you fall.
13 Then, too, heed³⁸ your own heart's counsel;
for what have you that you can depend on more?
14 For A mortal's heart³⁹ can tell him his situation
better than seven watchmen in a lofty tower.
15 Most important of all, pray to God
to set your feet in the path of truth.
16 A word is the source of every deed;
a thought, of every act.
17 The root of all conduct is the mind;
18 four branches it shoots forth.⁴⁰
Good and evil, death and life,

²² [36:29] Heb / LXX "woman enters upon a possession"

²³ [36:29] LXX / Heb "a fortified city"

²⁴ [36:29] Heb / LXX "rest"

²⁵ [36:30] Heb / LXX "woman wanders about and sighs"

²⁶ [36:26] Heb, Lat / LXX add

²⁷ [37:2] Heb / LXX omit "like your *own* soul"

²⁸ [37:3] Heb(D) add "he says" / Heb(B) add "that he should have said"

²⁹ [37:3] LXX / Heb(B,D) "your enemy? ...Why was I created" / Syr "the enemy and the wicked, why were they created?"

³⁰ [37:6] Heb / LXX "comrade in your soul"

³¹ [37:6] Heb / LXX "him in your wealth"

³² [37:7] Heb(B) / Heb(B[mg], D) "counselor says, 'Look!'" / LXX "counselor praises counsel"

³³ [37:8] Heb / LXX "lest he take chances against your interest"

³⁴ [37:10] LXX / Lat "from your father-in-law"

³⁵ [37:11] Heb / LXX "gratitude"

³⁶ [37:11] LXX / Heb omit "to an idle slave...they give."

³⁷ [37:12] Heb / LXX "whose soul is in-accordance with your soul"

³⁸ [37:13] Heb / LXX "establish"

³⁹ [37:14] Heb / LXX "soul"

⁴⁰ [37:17] Heb / LXX "As a clue to changes of heart, four kinds of destiny appear"

their absolute mistress is the tongue.
19 A man may be wise, making many wise,
 and *yet* be useless to his own soul.
20 And though a man be wise, if his words are rejected,
 he will be deprived of all enjoyment,¹
21 for the Lord has withheld the gift of grace,
 since he is lacking in all wisdom.²
22 When a man is wise to his own soul,
 the fruits of his knowledge will be praiseworthy;³
23 when a man is wise to his people's advantage,
 the fruits of his knowledge are enduring:
24 limited are the days of one man's life,
 but the life of Israel is days without number.⁴
25 One wise to his *own* soul⁵ has full enjoyment,
 and all who see him praise him;⁶
26 one wise for his people wins a heritage of honor,⁷
 and his name endures forever.

27 My child, while you are living, govern your soul,
 so that you allow it not what is bad for you;
28⁸ because not all *things* are good⁹ to every *person*,
 and not every soul chooses every kind of *thing*.
29 Do not be drawn after every enjoyment,
 neither become a glutton for choice foods,
30 for sickness comes with overeating,
 and gluttony brings on biliousness.
31 Through lack of self-control many have died,
 but the abstemious *man* prolongs his life.

CHAPTER 38

1 Hold a healer in honor, for he is essential to you,
 and God it was who established his profession.
2 For a healer is gaining-wisdom from God,¹⁰
 and the king provides for his sustenance.
3 His knowledge makes a healer distinguished,
 and lets him stand before princes.¹¹
4 God¹² makes the earth yield healing herbs
 which a discerning fellow should not neglect.
5 Was not the water sweetened by a twig
 that a mortal might learn his power?
6 He gave knowledge to a mortal¹³
 to glory in his mighty works,¹⁴
7 through which a healer¹⁵ eases pain
8 and a druggist prepares his medicines;
 this is how his creative work continues without cease
 in its efficacy on the surface of the earth.

9 My son, when you are ill, do not delay,
 but pray to God, who will heal you:
10 Flee wickedness; let your hands be just,
 cleanse your heart of every sin;
11 offer your sweet-smelling sacrifice and a memorial,
 a portion of choice flour, as much as you can afford.¹⁶
12 Then give a healer his place for the Lord created him;
 do not let him leave; for you need him too.
13 There are times when recovery lies in his hands,
14 and he too beseeches the Lord
 that his diagnosis¹⁷ may be correct
 and his treatment bring about a cure.
15 He who is a sinner toward his Maker
 will be defiant toward a healer.¹⁸

¹ [37:20] Heb(D) / LXX "Though a skillful speaker may be hated, he will be deprived of all food"

² [37:21] LXX / Heb(D), Syr omit "for the Lord...wisdom."

³ [37:22] others "trustworthy"

⁴ [37:25] Heb(B, D), LXX / Syr omit "limited are the days...without number."

⁵ [37:24] Heb / LXX "A wise man"

⁶ [37:24] Heb(B, C, D) / LXX places "One wise...praise him" after "knowledge are enduring"

⁷ [37:26] others "confidence"

⁸ 1 Corinthians 6:12, 1 Corinthians 10:23

⁹ [37:28] Heb / LXX, 1Corinthians6:12 "for not all *things* are being-beneficial"

¹⁰ [38:2] Heb / LXX "For a healing is from the Highest-One"

¹¹ [37:3] Heb(B) / Heb(B[mgl]) "kings" / LXX "nobles"

¹² [38:4] Heb / LXX "the Lord" / Lat "(The) Highest-One"

¹³ [38:6] Heb / LXX, Lat "humans"

¹⁴ [37:6] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) "his might"

¹⁵ [38:7] Heb / LXX "which he"

¹⁶ [38:11] Heb, LXX(?) / Lat omit "as much as you can afford"

¹⁷ [38:14] Heb / LXX "rest"

¹⁸ [38:15] Heb(B) / Heb(B[mgl]) "will be delivered into the hands of the healer" / LXX "may he fall into the hands of a healer" / Syr "he will be given into the hands of the healer"

16 My son, shed tears for one who is dead
 with wailing and bitter lament.
 As is only proper, prepare the body,
 do not absent yourself from his burial:
17 Weeping bitterly, mourning fully,
 pay your tribute of sorrow, as he deserves,
 one or two days, to prevent slander;
 then compose yourself after your grief,
18 for grief can bring on an extremity¹⁹
 and heartache destroy one's health.
19 In affliction, grief persists;
 the curse that rankles makes for a wretched life.²⁰
20 Do not turn your thoughts to him again;
 cease to recall him; think rather of the end.
21 Do not recall him, for there is no hope of his return;
 it will not help him, but will do you harm.²¹
22 Remember that his²² fate will also be yours;
 for him²³ it was yesterday, for you today.
23 With the departed dead, let memory fade;
 rally your courage, once his soul²⁴ has left.

24 The scribe's profession increases his wisdom for himself;²⁵
 whoever is free from toil can become a wise *man*.

25 How can he become learned who guides the plow,
 who thrills in wielding the goad like a lance,
 who guides the ox and urges on the bullock,
 and whose every concern is for cattle?
26 His care is for plowing furrows,
 and he keeps a watch on the beasts in the stalls.

27 So with every engraver and designer who,
 laboring night and day,
 fashions carved seals,
 and whose concern is to vary the pattern.
 His care is to produce a vivid impression,
 and he keeps watch till he finishes his design.

28 So with the smith standing near his anvil,²⁶
 forging crude iron.
 The heat²⁷ from the fire sears²⁸ his flesh,
 yet he toils away in the furnace heat.
 The clang of the hammer deafens²⁹ his ears,
 his eyes are fixed on the tool he is shaping.
 His care is to finish his work,
 and he keeps watch till he perfects it in detail.

29 So with the potter sitting at his labor,
 revolving the wheel with his feet.
 He is always concerned for his products,
 and turns them out in quantity.
30 With his hands he molds the clay,
 and with his feet softens it.
 His care is for proper coloring,
 and he keeps watch on the fire of his kiln.

31 All these *men* are skilled with their hands,
 each one an expert at his own task;
32 without them no city could be lived in,
 and wherever they stay, they need not hunger.³⁰
 But they are not sought out for the council of the people,
33 nor are they prominent in the assembly;³¹
 they do not occupy the judge's bench,

¹⁹ [38:18] Heb(B) / LXX "on death"

²⁰ [38:19] LXX "In affliction...life." / Syr "For thus the sad heart, rather than death, breaks the poor with cares and brings grief; because the life of the poor becomes the heart's curse" / Heb(B) omit altogether

²¹ [38:21-22] LXX / Heb(B) places "Do not recall...harm" after "Remember...for you today."

²² [38:22] Heb / LXX "my"

²³ [38:22] Heb / LXX "me"

²⁴ [38:23] Heb / LXX "spirit"

²⁵ [38:24] Heb(B) Syr [Syr add "for himself"] / LXX "The scribe's wisdom *is acquired* in the opportunity of leisure"

²⁶ [38:28] LXX / Syr "furnace"

²⁷ [38:28] LXX (lit. "breath") / Syr "flame"

²⁸ [38:28] Lat / LXX "melts"

²⁹ [38:28] Emendation / LXX "renews"

³⁰ [38:32] Syr / LXX "and they neither sojourn nor walk around"

³¹ [38:32] some LXX, Syr / most LXX omit "But they are not sought...assembly"

nor can they set forth decisions or judgments,
they cannot expound the instruction of wisdom,¹
nor are they found among the rulers.²

- 34 Yet they maintain God's ancient handiwork,
and their concern is for³ the exercise of their skill.

CHAPTER 39

How different a *man* who gives his soul over to the fear of God,⁴
and makes thorough-comprehension in a law of the Most High!

- 1 He explores the wisdom of all ancient *men*,
and occupies himself with the prophecies;
2 he treasures the discourses of famous men,
and goes to the heart of involved sayings;
3 he studies obscure parables,
and is busied with the hidden meanings of the sages.
- 4 He is in attendance on the great,
and has entrance to the ruler.
He travels among the peoples of foreign lands
to learn what is good and evil among humans.
- 5 His care is to rise early to seek Yahweh, his Maker,
to petition the Most High,
to open his lips in prayer,
to ask pardon for his sins.
- 6 If-at-any-time Yahweh the Great might want,
he will be filled with a spirit of intelligence;
he will pour forth his words of wisdom,
and in prayer-to God he will confess-forth to Yahweh.
- 7 He himself will guide his counsel and experience,
and he will be made-to-thoroughly-comprehend the *things* hidden-from
humans.
- 8 He himself will show-forth the discipline of his teaching,
and he will boast in a law of Yahweh's covenant.
- 9 Many will praise his intelligence;
and his fame⁵ can never be effaced;
unfading will be his remembrance,
and his name will live into generations of generations;
- 10 the congregation⁶ will speak of his wisdom,
and the assembly will sing his praises.
- 11 While he lives he is one out of a thousand,
and when he dies his renown will not cease.
- 12 Once more I will set forth my theme
to shine like the moon in its fullness!
- 13 Listen, my faithful children: open up your petals,
like roses planted near running waters;
14 send up the sweet odor of incense,
break forth in blossoms like the lily.
Raise your voices in a hymn of praise;
bless Yahweh for all he has done!
- 15 Proclaim the greatness of his name,
loudly sing his praises,
with music on the harp and all stringed instruments;
sing out with joy as you proclaim:
- 16 All of the works of God are good;
in its own time every need is supplied.
No cause to say, "What is the purpose of this?"
for in God's time all things will be sought after.⁷
- 17 At his word the waters become still as in a flask;
he had but to speak and the reservoirs were made.
- 18 He has but to command and his will is done;
nothing can limit his achievement.
- 19 *The* deed of all flesh is opposite him,
and not a thing escapes his eyes.
- 20 His gaze spans all the ages;
is there any counting what he achieves?
To him there is nothing small or insignificant,

¹ [38:33] Syr / LXX "instruction and justice"

² [38:33] LXX "found using parables"

³ [38:34] Heb / LXX "their prayer is in"

⁴ [38:34] LXX / Syr add

⁵ [39:9] Syr / LXX omit "his fame"

⁶ [39:10] Heb(B) / LXX "nations"

⁷ [39:17] LXX / Syr is different here / Heb(B) omit "NO one can say...sought after" altogether

and nothing resists or surprises him.⁸

- 21 No cause *then* to say, "What is the purpose of this?"
Everything is chosen to satisfy a need.
- 22 His blessing overflows as the canal;
and as the river, it saturates⁹ the surface of the earth.
- 23 Again, his wrath expels the nations
and turns a fertile land into a salt marsh.¹⁰
- 24 For the virtuous his paths are level,
to the haughty they are steep;
- 25 from the beginning, he provided good things for the good,
but for the wicked good things and bad.¹¹
- 26 Chief of all needs for human life
are water and fire, iron and salt,
the heart of the wheat, milk and honey,
the blood of the grape, and oil, and cloth;
- 27 for the good all these are good,
but for the wicked they turn out evil.
- 28 There are spirits created to punish,
which in their fury can dislodge mountains;¹²
when destruction must be, they hurl all their force
and appease the anger of their Maker.
- 29 Fire and hail, famine, pestilence;
these too were created for punishment;¹³
- 30 a living-creature with a tooth,¹⁴ a scorpion, a viper,
and the avenging sword to exterminate the wicked:
all these were created to meet a need,
and are kept in his storehouse for the proper time;¹⁵
- 31 in doing his bidding they rejoice,
in their assignments they do not disobey his command.
- 32 So from the first I took my stand,
and wrote down as my theme:
- 33 the works of the Lord are all of them good;
every need when it comes he fills.
- 34 No cause then to say, "This is not as good as that";
for each shows its worth at the proper time.
- 35 So now with full joy of heart proclaim
and bless the name of the Holy One.¹⁶

CHAPTER 40

- 1 God* has divided great work,¹⁷
and a heavy yoke upon a human's¹⁸ sons;
from the day one leaves his mother's womb
to the day he returns to¹⁹ the mother of all the living,²⁰
- 2 his thoughts, the fear in his heart,
and his troubled forebodings until *the day of their end*—²¹
- 3 whether he sits on a lofty throne
or grovels in dust and ashes,
- 4 whether he bears a crown and head ornament²²
or is wrapped in the coarsest of cloaks—²³
- 5 are of wrath and envy, trouble and dread,
terror of death, fury and strife.
Even when he lies on his bed to rest,
his cares at night disturb his sleep.
- 6 So short is his rest it seems like none,
till in his dreams he struggles as he did by day,
terrified by what his soul's²⁴ eye sees,
like a fugitive being pursued;
- 7 as he reaches safety,¹ he wakes up astonished

⁸ [39:20] Heb(B) / LXX omit "is there any count...insignificant" / Syr omit "His gaze...ages" & "and nothing resists...him"

⁹ [39:22] Heb / LXX "made-intoxicated"

¹⁰ [39:23] Heb(B) (erroneously) "into salt"

¹¹ [39:25] Heb, Lat / LXX "sinners bad things"

¹² [39:28] Heb, Syr / LXX "can scourge mightily"

¹³ [39:29] DSS(frag), Heb(B) / LXX ". Also in his storehouse, kept for the proper time, are fire and hail, famine, disease"

¹⁴ [39:30] Heb / LXX "; teeth of beasts"

¹⁵ [39:30] DSS(frag), Heb(B) / LXX omit "all these were...proper time"

¹⁶ [39:35] Heb(B) / LXX "of the Lord"

¹⁷ [40:1] Heb ("God...work") / LXX, Lat "Great occupation has been created for every human"

¹⁸ [40:1] Heb (translated) / LXX, Lat transliterate "upon Adam's"

¹⁹ [40:1] other LXX, Lat "they are buried in"

²⁰ [40:1] Heb / LXX omit "the living"

²¹ [40:2] Heb(B) omit "his thoughts...he dies"

²² [40:4] Heb(B) / LXX "bears purple and a crown" / Syr "bears a crown"

²³ [40:4] Heb(B) (lit. "a garment of hair") / Syr "a garment of poverty"

²⁴ [40:6] Heb / LXX "heart"

that there was nothing to fear.
8 *So it is* with all flesh, from a human till livestock,
 and for sinners seven times more.
9 Plague and bloodshed, fiery heat and drought,²
 plunder and ruin, famine³ and death:
10 for the wicked, these were created evil,
 and because of them destruction hastens.⁴
11 All that is of earth returns to earth,
 and what is from above returns above.⁵
12 All that comes from bribes or injustice will be wiped out,
 but loyalty remains for ages.⁶
13 Wealth out of wickedness is like a wadi in spate:
 like a mighty stream with lightning and thunder,
14 which, in its rising, rolls along the stones,
 but suddenly, once and for all, comes to an end.
15 The offshoot of violence will not flourish,
 for the root of unclean *men* is on a sheer rock;⁷
16 or they are like reeds on the riverbank,
 withered before all other plants;
17 but goodness, like eternity, will never be cut off,⁸
 and righteousness endures forever.
18 Wine and intoxicating-drink will sweeten life,⁹
 but better than either is finding a treasure.
19 A child or a city will preserve one's name,
 but better than either, attaining wisdom.
 Sheepfolds and orchards bring flourishing health;¹⁰
 but better than either, a devoted woman.
20 Wine and intoxicating-drink¹¹ delight the soul,
 but better than either, the love of friends.¹²
21 The flute and the harp offer sweet melody,
 but better than either, a pure¹³ tongue.
22 Charm and beauty delight the eye,
 but better than either, the flowers of the field.
23 A friend, a neighbor, are timely guides,
 but better than either, a prudent woman.¹⁴
24 A brother, a helper, for times of stress;
 but better than either, charity that rescues.
25 Gold and silver make one's way secure,
 but better than either, sound judgment.
26 Wealth and vigor build up confidence,
 but better than either, fear of God.
 Fear of Yahweh leaves nothing wanting;
 he who has it need seek no other support.
27 Fear of God is like a delight¹⁵ of blessing;
 its canopy, all that is glorious.
28 My son, do not live the life of a beggar,
 better to die than to beg;
29 when one has to look to another's table,
 his life is not really a life.
 His neighbor's delicacies bring revulsion of soul
 to one who understands inward feelings.
30 In the soul¹⁶ of the shameless man begging is sweet,
 but within him it burns like fire.

CHAPTER 41

1 O death! how bitter the thought of you
 for a man¹⁷ living at peace in his home,¹⁸
 for the man unruffled and always successful,

who still can enjoy life's pleasures.¹⁹
2 O death! how welcome your sentence
 to the weak²⁰ man²¹ who is failing in strength,
 the man who is tottering and always rebuffed,
 devoid of sight, and with vanished hope.
3 Do not fear death's decree for you;²²
 remember, it embraces those before you, and those after.
4 This is the end²³ for all flesh from God;
 why then should you reject the will of the Most High?
 Whether one has lived ten years, a hundred, or a thousand,²⁴
 in the Netherworld he has no claim on life.
5 A reprobate line are the children of sinners,
 and witless offspring are in the homes of the wicked.
6 Their dominion is lost to sinners' children,
 and reproach abides with their descendants.
7 Children curse their wicked father,
 for they suffer disgrace through him.
8 Woe to you, O sinful men,
 who forsake the law of the Most High.
9 If you have children, calamity will seize them;
 you will beget them only for groaning.
 When you stumble, there is lasting joy;
 at death, you become a curse.²⁵
10 Whatever is of nothing returns to nothing,
 so too the godless from void to void.
11 A human's body is a fleeting thing,
 but a virtuous name will never be blotted out.²⁶
12 Have a care for your name, for it will stand by you
 better than precious treasures²⁷ in the thousands;
13 the boon of life is for limited days,
 but a good name, for days without number.
14 ²⁸Hidden wisdom and unseen treasure—
 of what use is either?
15 Better is a man who hides his folly
 than a man who hides his wisdom.
16 My children, listen to instruction concerning shame
 and be ashamed according to my judgment.
Therefore, show respect for my words,²⁹
 For not every kind of shame becomes shameful,ness,
 nor is every kind of reproach to be preferred.³⁰
17 Be ashamed of sexual immortality before father and mother,
 and of falsehood before prince and ruler;
18 of flattery before lord and mistress;
 and of crime before the public assembly;
 of disloyalty before friend and companion,
19 and of theft from the place where you settle.
 Be ashamed of breaking an oath or agreement,³¹
 and of stretching out your elbow when you dine;
20 of refusing to give when asked;
 and of turning away the face of your relative;
21 of defrauding another of his appointed share;
 and of failing to return a greeting;
 of looking upon a strange woman;
 and of contemplating a woman *who is* under-a-man;
22 of trifling with your servant-girl,
 and of violating her bed;
 of speaking words of reproach before friends,
 and of following up your gifts with insults;
42.1 of repeating what you hear,

¹ [40:7] Heb(B) (lit. "in the time of his deliverance") / LXX "in the time of his need"

² [40:4] Heb(B) / LXX "bloodshed, wrath and the sword"

³ [40:9] LXX / Heb(B) "evil"

⁴ [40:9-10] Heb(B), LXX have these verses / Syr omit "Plague...destruction." / LXX "evil, and because of him the flood came"

⁵ [40:11] Heb, Syr / LXX, Latin "and what is from the waters returns to the sea"

⁶ [40:12] DSS(frag), LXX / Heb(B) omit "All that comes...for ages."

⁷ [40:15] DSS, Heb(B[img]) / B[txt] "on a rocky crag"

⁸ [40:17] Heb / LXX "but favor is like a garden with blessings"

⁹ [40:18] Heb / LXX "Life is sweet for a self-reliant man and worker"

¹⁰ [40:19] DSS, Heb(B), Syr / LXX omit "but better...health" (possibly by scribal error)

¹¹ [40:20] Heb(B) / "Wine and musical things" / Syr "Old wine"

¹² [40:20] Heb / LXX "wisdom"

¹³ [40:21] Heb(B) / LXX "pleasant"

¹⁴ [40:23] Heb, Syr / LXX "a woman with a man"

¹⁵ [40:27] Heb (or possibly as a proper name "Eden") / LXX "garden"

¹⁶ [40:30] Heb / LXX "mouth"

¹⁷ [41:1] Heb / LXX, Lat "human"

¹⁸ [41:1] DSS, Heb(B) / LXX, Syr "amid his possessions"

¹⁹ [41:1] DSS, Heb(B) / LXX "enjoy food"

²⁰ [41:2] Heb(B) "sorrowful"

²¹ [41:2] Heb / LXX, Lat "human"

²² [41:3] DSS, LXX / Syr "Do not fear death, for it is your portion"

²³ [41:4] DSS, Syr / LXX "decree" / Heb(B) "portion"

²⁴ [41:4] DSS, LXX / Heb(B) reverses "ten" & "a thousand"

²⁵ [41:9] LXX [some LXX] "[If you multiply, it is for destruction] and if you are born, you will be born for a curse, and if you die, you will be apportioned a curse."

²⁶ [41:11] Heb / LXX "People grieve over the death of the body, but the bad name of sinners will be blotted out"

²⁷ [41:12] Heb(B[img]), one Lat (lit. "treasures of desire") / Heb(B[txt]) "treasures of wisdom" / LXX "great treasures of gold" / Syr "treasures of deceit"

²⁸ [41:13-22] follows DSS verse order (13,14b,15,14a,16b,17,18,19,21a,21b,20,21,20b,22a,22b,22c,22c) /

Syr omit 41:13-42:8, except for parts of 41:19-20

²⁹ [41:16] DSS / others add

³⁰ [41:16] DSS / LXX "and not everything is confidently esteemed by everyone"

³¹ [41:19] DSS / LXX "and before the truth of God and the covenant"

and of betraying secrets—
these are the things you should rightly avoid as shameful
and you will find favor in the sight of everyone.

CHAPTER 42

- But do not be ashamed of the following things,
lest you sin through human partiality:
- 2 *Do not be ashamed* of the law of the Most High and his precepts,
or of rendering judgment to acquit the wicked;
 - 3 of sharing the expenses of a business or a journey,
or of dividing an inheritance or property;
 - 4 of accuracy of scales and balances,
or of tested measures and weights;¹
of acquiring much or little,
 - 5 or of bargaining in dealing with a merchant;
of constant training of children,
or of beating the sides of a disloyal servant;²
 - 6 of a seal to keep a wicked woman at home,
or of a key placed where there are many hands;
 - 7 of numbering every deposit,
or of recording all that is given or received;
 - 8 of chastisement of the silly and the foolish,
or of the tottering old gray-beard occupied with sexual immorality.
This is how you will be truly refined,
and a man *who is* discreet before *the face** of all life.
 - 9 A daughter is a treasure that keeps her father wakeful,
and worry over her drives away rest:
lest she pass her prime in an unmarried-state,³
or when she is married, lest she be hated;
 - 10 while in an unmarried-state, lest she be seduced,
or, in her master's house, lest she prove unfaithful;
lest she conceive in her father's home,
or be sterile in that of her man.
 - 11 My son, keep a close watch on your unmarried-daughter,⁴
lest she make you the sport of your enemies,⁵
a byword in the city, a reproach among the people,
an object of derision in public gatherings.⁶
See that there is no lattice in her room,
no place that overlooks the approaches to the house.⁷
 - 12 Do not let her parade her beauty before any male,
and do not let her converse in a house of women;
 - 13 for just as moths come from garments,
so a woman's wickedness comes from *another* woman.
 - 14 Better a man's evil than a woman's indulgence,
and a frightened daughter than any disgrace.
 - 15 Now will I recall the works of God;⁸
and I will describe what I have seen.
At the word of the Lord were his works brought into being;
and an act of his grace is his doctrine.⁹
 - 16 As the rising sun is clear to all,
so the glory of the Lord fills all his works;
 - 17 yet even God's holy ones must fail
in recounting all his marvelous works,¹⁰
though the Lord has given his hosts,
the strength to stand firm before his glory.
 - 18 He plumbs the abyss and penetrates the heart;
he understands their secrets.
The Most High possesses all knowledge,
and sees *in advance* what is to come upon the age;¹¹
 - 19 he makes known the past and the future,
and reveals the deepest secrets.
 - 20 No understanding does he lack;
no single thing escapes him.
 - 21 Perennial is his almighty wisdom;

he is one and the same from all eternity,
with nothing added, nothing taken away;
no need of a counselor for him!

- 22 How beautiful are all his works!
even to the spark and the fleeting vision!
- 23 All of them live and abide¹² forever;
and each one is preserved to meet a particular need.¹³
- 24 All of them come in pairs, one from another,¹⁴
yet none of them has he made in vain,
- 25 for each in turn, as it comes, is good;
can one ever see enough of their splendor?

CHAPTER 43

- 1 The beauty of the celestial heights and the pure firmament,
the firm heavens manifest its glory.
- 2 The orb of the sun, resplendent at its rising:
what a fearsome¹⁵ work of the Most High!
- 3 At noon it seethes the surface of the earth,
and who can bear its scorching heat?
- 4 Like a blazing furnace of solid metal,
it sets the mountains aflame with its rays;¹⁶
by its fiery darts the land is consumed;
the eyes are dazzled by its light.
- 5 Great indeed is the Lord who made it,
at whose orders it urges on its steeds.
- 6 The moon, too, that marks the changing times,
governing the seasons, their lasting sign;
- 7 by it¹⁷ *we know* the appointed seasons, and from it the feast days;¹⁸
this light-giver which wanes in its course.
- 8 The new moon, as its name suggests, renews itself;¹⁹
how fearsome in this change!²⁰
A signal for the host of the waterskins in the heights,
it paves the firmament with its brilliance.
- 9 The beauty of *the* heavens are the glory of the stars;
sparkling adornments in the heights of God.
- 10 At the orders²¹ of the Lord²² they keep their appointed place
and never relax in their watch.²³
- 11 Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker,
for majestic indeed is its splendor;
- 12 it spans the heavens with its glory,
this bow bent by the mighty²⁴ hands of God.²⁵
- 13 His rebuke marks out the path for the lightning,²⁶
and speeds the arrows of his judgment to their goal.
- 14 At it the storehouse is opened,
and the clouds hurry forth like flying-creatures.
- 15 In his majesty he gives the clouds their power
and breaks off the hailstones.
- 16 *The* thunder of his voice makes the earth writhe;
before his might the mountains quake.
- 17 A word from him drives on the south wind,
the angry north-wind, *the* hurricane and *the* storm.²⁷
He sprinkles the snow like fluttering flying-creatures;
it comes to settle like swarms of locusts.
- 18 Its shining whiteness blinds the eyes,
the mind is baffled by its steady fall.
- 19 He scatters frost like salt;
it shines like blossoms on the thornbush.
- 20 He blows the coolness of a spirit of *the* north-wind,²⁸

¹ [42:4] DSS / LXX omit "or of tested measures and weights"

² [42:5] DSS / Heb(B) omit "of constant training...servant"

³ [42:9] DSS / Heb(B) "lest she commit adultery"

⁴ literally "unmarried-woman"

⁵ [42:11] LXX / Syr "lest you make a bad name for yourself" / DSS, Heb(B) are too fragmentary

⁶ [42:11] Heb / LXX "to shame before the great multitude"

⁷ [42:11] Heb / LXX omit "See that...house."

⁸ [42:15] others "the Lord"

⁹ [42:15] DSS / Syr "and all his creatures do his will" / some LXX "and judgment happens by his good will" / most LXX omit

¹⁰ [42:17] DSS, LXX / Heb(B[mg]) "recounting the marvels of his mighty words" / Syr "recounting the mighty works of his marvels"

¹¹ [42:18] DSS / LXX "he sees the sign of the age"

¹² [42:23] DSS, LXX, (Syr similar) / Heb(B) "God lives and abides"

¹³ [42:23] DSS / LXX "forever for every need, and all are obedient" / Heb(B) also has "obedient" at the end

¹⁴ [42:24] DSS, Syr / LXX "All things come in pairs, one opposite the other" / Heb(B) "all things are different, one from the other"

¹⁵ [43:2] MT (literally "being-feared") / LXX "marvelous" / Lat "admirable"

¹⁶ [43:4] NRS translates "A man tending a furnace works in burning heat, but three times as hot is the sun scorching the mountains" (other manuscripts replace "tending" with "blowing upon")

¹⁷ [43:7] DSS / Heb(B) "them" / LXX, Syr "the moon"

¹⁸ [43:7] DSS / Heb(B) "the appointed season and prescribed times" / LXX "the sign of the feast day" / Syr "the signs of the feast days"

¹⁹ [43:8] DSS / LXX "The month is named after the moon"

²⁰ [43:8] Heb(B[txt]) (lit. "being-feared" / LXX, Syr "it is growing marvelously in its changing")

²¹ [43:10] DSS / LXX, Syr "orders"

²² [43:10] DSS / Heb(B) "the appointed season and prescribed times" / LXX "the Holy One"

²³ [43:10] LXX "they...watch" / DSS, Heb(B) "it keeps its appointed place, and it never relaxes in their watches"

²⁴ [43:12] DSS / LXX omit "mighty"

²⁵ [43:12] DSS / LXX "hands of the Most High"

²⁶ [43:13] DSS, Heb(B) / LXX "By his command he sends the driving snow"

²⁷ [43:17] Heb / LXX "and a gust of the north and a concourse of spirit"

²⁸ [43:20] Heb / LXX "blow a cold wind, a north wind"

that turn the ponds to lumps of ice.
 He freezes over every body of water,
 and clothes each pool with a coat of mail.

21 When the mountain growth is scorched with heat,
 and the flowering meadows as though by flames,
 22 the dripping clouds restore them all,
 and the scattered dew enriches the parched land.

23 His is the plan that calms the deep,
 and plants the islands in the sea.

24 Those who go down to the sea tell part of its story,
 and when we hear them we are thunderstruck;
 25 there *are* wonders, miracles *which are* his works:
 species of every living *creature* and Rahab's¹ powers.

26 For him *each* messenger shall succeed,
 and at his bidding shall accomplish his will.

27 More than this we need not add;
 let the last word be, he is all in all!

28 Let us praise him the more, since we cannot fathom him,
 for greater is he than all his works;

29 Yahweh is awesome indeed,
 and wonderful is his power.

30 Lift up your voices to glorify Yahweh,
 though he is still beyond your power to praise;
 extol him with renewed strength, and weary not,
 though you cannot reach the end.

31 For who can see him and describe him?
 or who can praise him as he is?²

32 Beyond these, many things lie hid;
 only a few of his works have I³ seen.

33 It is Yahweh who has made all things,
 and he gives wisdom to those who fear him.⁴

CHAPTER 44

1 Let me now sing the praises of pious men,⁵
 our ancestors, each in his own time:

2 The Most High⁶ apportioned to them⁷ great glory,
 and his greatness from the days of old.

3 Subduers of the land in kingly fashion,
 men of renown for their might,
 or counselors in their prudence,
 or seers of all things in prophecy;

4 resolute princes of the folk,
 and governors with their staves;
 authors skilled in composition,
 and framers of epigrams and pointed maxims;⁸

5 composers of melodious psalms,
 or discourses on lyric themes;

6 men of durability and solidly established
 and at peace in their own estates—

7 all these were glorious in their time,
 each illustrious in his day.

8 Some of them have left behind a name
 and *persons* recount their praiseworthy deeds;

9 but of others there is no memory,
 for when they ceased, they ceased,
 and they are as though they had not lived,
 they and their children after them.

10 And yet these *are* men of mercy,
 whose virtues have not been forgotten;

11 their wealth remains in their families,
 their heritage with their descendants;

12 through God's covenant with them their family endures,
 their posterity, for their sake.

13 And for all time their progeny will endure,
 their glory⁹ will never be blotted out;

14 their bodies are peacefully laid away,
 but their name lives on and on.

¹ [43:25] LXX "and a sea-monster's"

² [43:31] LXX / Heb(B) omit "For you can see... as he is?"

³ [43:32] Heb(B) / LXX "we"

⁴ [43:11-33] DSS, Heb(B) ["to the pious"], LXX / Syr omit "Behold the rainbow!...fear him."

⁵ [44:1] DSS / others "Let us now praise famous men"

⁶ [44:2] DSS / others "the Lord"

⁷ [44:2] DSS / LXX "created"

⁸ [44:4] DSS / LXX omit "and framers...maxims"

⁹ [44:13] DSS, LXX, Syr / Heb(B) "righteousness"

15 The assembly declares¹⁰ their wisdom,
 and the congregation proclaims their praise.

16 CENOCH walked with Yahweh and was taken up,
 that succeeding generations might learn by his example.¹¹

17 NOAH, was found righteous and perfect;
 in the time of devastation he kept the race alive.¹²
 Because of his worth there were survivors,
 and with a sign to him the deluge ended;

18 a lasting agreement was made with him,
 that all flesh will never be destroyed.

19 ABRAHAM, father of many peoples,
 kept his glory without stain:

20 he observed the precepts of the Most High,
 and entered into an agreement with him;
 in his own flesh he incised the ordinance,
 and when tested he was found loyal.

21 For this reason, God promised him with an oath
 that in his seed the nations *of the earth*¹³ would be blessed,
 that he would make him¹⁴ numerous as the grains of dust,¹⁵
 and exalt his seed like the stars;¹⁶
 that he would give them an inheritance from sea to sea,
 and from the River¹⁷ to the ends of the earth.

22 And he renewed the same promise¹⁸ for ISAAC,
 because of his father Abraham.

The covenant with all his ancestors was confirmed,
 23 and the blessing rested upon the head of JACOB.
 God acknowledged him as the firstborn,¹⁹
 and gave him his inheritance.
 He fixed the boundaries for his tribes,
 and their division into twelve.
 From him was to spring a man²⁰
 who won the favor of all:

CHAPTER 45

1 Loved by God and men, MOSES,
 whose memory is held in benediction.²¹

2 He made him equal in honor to the holy ones,
 and the Lord strengthened him with fearful powers;²²

3 by his words he wrought swift miracles²³
 and sustained him in the king's presence.
 He gave him the commandments for his people,
 and revealed to him his glory.

4 For his trustworthiness and meekness
 God selected him from all flesh.

5 He permitted him to hear his voice,
 and led him into the cloud,
 where, face to face, he gave him the commandments,
 the law of life and understanding,
 that he might teach his precepts to Jacob,
 his judgments and decrees to Israel.

6 He raised up also, like Moses in holiness,
 his brother AARON, of the tribe of Levi.

7 He made him perpetual in his office
 when he bestowed on him the priesthood of his people;
 he established him in honor²⁴
 and crowned him with lofty majesty.

8 He clothed him with splendid apparel,
 and adorned him with the glorious vestments:

¹⁰ [44:15] DSS / LXX "Peoples declare"

¹¹ [44:16] Heb(B) / LXX "...taken up, an example of a change-of-mind to all generations" / Syr omit "Cenoch...example." / DSS also omit, but contains a blank line here instead.

¹² [44:17] Heb / LXX "was taken in exchange"

¹³ [44:21] Heb(B), LXX / Syr add

¹⁴ [44:21] Heb(B), LXX / Syr "make his seed"

¹⁵ [44:21] Heb(B) / LXX "as the dust of the earth" / Syr "as the sands of the seashore"

¹⁶ [44:21] Heb(B), LXX / Syr "and that he would set his seed above all other nations"

¹⁷ [44:21] Heb(B), LXX / Syr "Euphrates"

¹⁸ [44:22] Heb(B[mg]), LXX / Heb(B[txt]) "And he raised up a son"

¹⁹ [44:23] Heb(B[mg]) / Heb(B[txt]), LXX "him with a blessing."

²⁰ [44:23] Heb(B), LXX / Lat, Syr, Eth "men"

²¹ [45:1] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr "memory is a blessing"

²² [45:2] Heb(B[mg]), LXX, Syr / Heb(B[txt]) "him in the heights"

²³ [45:3] Heb / LXX "he caused signs to cease"

²⁴ [45:7] LXX / Heb(B) "he ministered to him in his glory"

9 breeches and tunic and robe
 with pomegranates around the hem,
 and a rustle of bells round about,¹
 through whose pleasing sound at each step
 he would be heard within the inner-sanctum,
 and the children of his race would be remembered;
 10 the sacred vestments of gold, of violet,
 and of crimson, wrought with embroidery;
 the breastpiece for decision, the ephod and cincture
 11 with scarlet yarn, the work of the weaver;
 precious stones with seal engravings on the breastpiece
 in golden settings, every precious stone,² the work of the jeweler,
 to commemorate in incised letters
 each of the tribes of Israel;
 12 on his turban the diadem of gold,
 its plate wrought with the insignia of holiness,
 majestic, glorious, renowned for splendor,
 a delight to the eyes, beauty supreme.
 13 Before him, no one was adorned with these,
 nor may they ever be worn by any
 except his sons and them alone,
 generation after generation, for all time.
 14 His cereal offering is wholly burnt
 with the established sacrifice twice each day;³
 15 for Moses ordained him
 and anointed him with the holy oil,
 in a lasting covenant with him and with his family,
 as permanent as the heavens,
 that he should serve God in his priesthood
 and bless his people in his name.
 16 He chose him from all men
 to offer holocausts and choice offerings,
 to burn sacrifices of sweet odor for a memorial,
 and to atone for Israel's sons.⁴
 17 He gave to him his laws,
 and authority and⁵ judgments:
 to teach the testimonies to his people,
 and the ritual to Israel's sons.
 18 And men of other families were inflamed against him,
 and they were jealous of him in the desert,
 the followers of Dathan and Abiram,
 and the band of Korah in their defiance.
 19 But Yahweh saw this and became angry,
 he destroyed them in his burning wrath.
 He brought down upon them a miracle,
 and consumed them with his flaming fire.
 20 Then he increased the glory of Aaron
 and bestowed upon him his inheritance:
 the sacred offerings he allotted to him,
 with the showbread as his portion;
 21 the oblations of Yahweh are his food,
 a gift to him and his descendants.
 22 But he holds no land among the people
 nor shares with them their heritage;
 for Yahweh himself is his⁶ portion,
 his inheritance in the midst of Israel.
 23 PHINEHAS too, the son of Eleazar,
 was the courageous third of his line
 when, zealous for the God of all,
 he met the crisis of his people,
 in goodness of eagerness of his soul;
 and he atoned for the children of Israel.
 24 Therefore on him, God again conferred the right,
 in a covenant of friendship, to provide for the inner-sanctum and of his
people,⁷
 so that he and his descendants should possess
 the chief-priesthood forever.
 25 For even his covenant with David,
 the son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah,

was an individual heritage through one son alone;
 but the heritage of Aaron is for all his descendants.

And now bless Yahweh
 who has crowned you with glory!⁸
 26 May he grant you wisdom of heart
 to govern his people in righteousness,
 lest their welfare should ever be forgotten,
 or your authority, throughout all time.

CHAPTER 46

1 JOSHUA, son of Nun, was a valiant leader,
 assistant to Moses in the prophetic office,
 formed to be, as his name implies,⁹
 the great savior of God's chosen ones,
 to wreak vengeance upon the enemy
 and to win the inheritance for Israel.
 2 What glory was his when he raised his arm,
 to brandish his javelin against the city!
 3 And who could withstand him
 when he fought the battles of Yahweh?
 4 Did he not stop the sun by his power,
 so that one day became two?
 5 He called upon the Most High God
 when his enemies beset him on all sides,
 and God Most High gave answer to him
 in hailstones of tremendous power,
 6 which he rained down upon the hostile army
 until on the slope he destroyed the foe;
 that all the doomed nations might know
 that Yahweh was watching over his people's battles.
 And because he was a devoted follower of God
 and in Moses' lifetime showed himself loyal,
 he and CALEB, son of Jephunneh,
 when they opposed the congregation,¹⁰
 averted God's anger from the people
 and suppressed the wicked complaint—
 8 because of this, they were the only two spared
 from the 600,000 infantry,
 to lead the people into their inheritance,
 the land flowing with milk and honey.
 9 And the strength he gave to Caleb
 remained with him even in his old age
 until he won his way onto the summits of the land;
 his family too received an inheritance,
 10 that all the people of Jacob might know
 how good it is to be a devoted follower of Yahweh.
 11 The JUDGES, too, each one of them,
 whose hearts were not deceived,
 who did not abandon God:
 may their memory be ever blessed,
 12 their bones return to life from their resting place,
 and their names receive fresh luster in their children!
 13 Beloved of his people, dear to his Maker,¹¹
 dedicated from his mother's womb,
 consecrated to Yahweh as a prophet,¹²
 was SAMUEL, the judge and priest.¹³
 At God's word he established the kingdom
 and anointed princes to rule the people.
 14 By the law of Yahweh he judged the nation,
 when he visited the encampments of Jacob.¹⁴
 15 As a trustworthy prophet he was sought out
 and his words proved him a true seer.
 16 He, too, called upon God, the Mighty One,¹⁵
 when he was hard pressed with enemies on every side,
 and offered him a suckling lamb;

¹ [45:9] LXX / Heb(B) places "and a rustle of bells around about" before "with pomegranates..."

² [45:11] LXX / Heb(B) add "on the breastpiece" & "every precious stone"

³ [45:9-14] Heb(B), LXX / Syr omit "with pomegranates around...each day"

⁴ [45:16] Heb / LXX, Lat "for your people"

⁵ [45:17] Heb / LXX "authority in covenants of"

⁶ [45:22] others "your"

⁷ [45:24] Heb(B) / LXX add

⁸ [45:26] Heb / LXX omit "And now...glory"

⁹ [46:1] LXX / Heb(B) "be in his time"

¹⁰ [46:7] others "enemy"

¹¹ [46:13] Heb(B) / LXX "Beloved of the Lord"

¹² [46:13] Heb(B) / LXX omit "dedicated from...prophet"

¹³ [46:13] Heb(B) / LXX "a prophet of the Lord"

¹⁴ [46:14] Emendation / Heb(B), LXX, Syr "and the Lord watched over Jacob"

¹⁵ [46:16] LXX add

17 then Yahweh thundered forth from *the* heavens,
and the tremendous roar of his voice was heard.
18 He brought low the rulers of the enemy¹
and destroyed all the lords of the Philistines.
19 When Samuel approached the end of his life,
he testified before Yahweh and his anointed prince,
“No bribe or secret gift have I taken from any human!”
and no one dared gainsay him,
and even to the time of his decease he was found prudent
in the sight of the Lord and of all the living.²
20 Even when he lay buried, his guidance was sought;
he made known to the king his fate.
And from the grave he raised his voice as a prophet,
to put an end to the wickedness of the people.³

CHAPTER 47

1 After him came NATHAN
who served in the presence of David.
2 Like the choice fat of the sacred offerings,
so was DAVID in Israel.
3 He made sport of lions as though they were kids,
and of bears, like lambs of the flock.⁴
4 As a youth he slew the giant
and wiped out the people’s disgrace,
when his hand let fly the slingstone
that crushed the pride of Goliath.
5 Since he called upon the Most High God,
who gave strength to his right arm
to defeat the skilled warrior
and raise up the might of his people,
6 therefore the women sang his praises
and ascribed to him tens of thousands.
When he assumed the royal crown, he tallied
7 and subdued enemies on every side.
He destroyed his opponents, *the* Philistines,
and shattered their power till our own day.
8 With his every deed he offered thanks to the Holy One,
the Most High, proclaiming his glory;
he sang praise with all his heart, and loved his Maker
and daily had his praises sung;⁵
9 he added beauty to the feasts
and solemnized the seasons of each year
10 with string music before the altar,
providing sweet melody for the psalms
so that when the Holy Name was praised,
before daybreak the inner-sanctum would resound.
11 Yahweh forgave him his sins
and exalted his strength forever;
he conferred on him the rights of royalty
and established his throne in Israel.⁶
12 Because of his merits he had as his successor
a wise son, who lived in security;⁷
13 SOLOMON reigned during an era of peace,
for God made tranquil all his borders.
He built a house to the name of God,
and established a lasting inner-sanctum.
14 How wise you were when you were young,
overflowing with instruction, like the canal⁸ in flood!
15 Your soul covered the whole earth,
and, like a sea, filled it with knowledge.
16 Your fame reached distant coasts,⁹
and their peoples came to hear you;¹⁰
17 with song and story and riddle,
and with your answers, you astounded the nations.
18 You were called by that glorious name

¹ [46:18] Heb / LXX “rulers of the people of Zor”

² [46:19] LXX / Heb(B) add

³ [46:20] Emendation / LXX “to the wickedness of the people” / Syr “to sins”

⁴ [47:3] LXX / Heb(B) “like bulls of Bashan”

⁵ [47:9] LXX(II) / LXX(I) omit “and daily has his praises sung”

⁶ [47:11] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) “throne over Jerusalem”

⁷ [47:12] Heb / LXX “in a broad place”

⁸ [47:14] Heb / LXX “like a river”

⁹ [47:16] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) omit “Your fame reached distant coasts”

¹⁰ [47:16] Syr / LXX “and you were loved for your happy estate” / Heb(B) omit altogether

which was conferred upon Israel.
You gathered gold like so much iron,
you heaped up silver as though it were lead;
19 but you gave your loins to women
and gave them dominion over your body.
20 You brought dishonor upon your reputation,
shame upon your marriage,
wrath upon your descendants,
and they were¹¹ grieved at your folly;
21 thus two governments came into being,
when in Ephraim kingship was usurped.
22 But God does not withdraw his mercy,
nor permit even one of his promises to fail.
He does not uproot the posterity of his chosen one,
nor destroy the offspring of his friend.
So he gave to Jacob a remnant,
to David a root from his own family.
23 Solomon finally slept with his fathers,¹²
and left behind him one of his sons,
expansive in¹³ folly, limited in sense, REHOBOAM,
who by his policy made the people rebel;
until one arose who should not be remembered,
the sinner¹⁴ who led Israel into sin,
who brought ruin to Ephraim
24 and caused them to be exiled from their land.¹⁵

CHAPTER 48

25 Their sinfulness grew more and more,
and they lent themselves to every evil,¹⁶
48.1 till like a fire there appeared the prophet
whose words were as a flaming furnace.
2 Their staff of bread he shattered,¹⁷
in his zeal he reduced them to straits;
3 by God’s word he shut up *the* heavens
and three times brought down fire.
4 How awesome are you, ELIJAH!
Whose glory is equal to yours?
5 You raised up a dead *man*
from the Netherworld, by the will of Yahweh.
6 You sent kings down to destruction,
and nobles, from their beds of sickness.
7 You heard threats at Sinai,
at Horeb, avenging judgments.
8 You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance,
and a prophet¹⁸ as your¹⁹ successor.
9 You were taken aloft in a whirlwind,
in a chariot with fiery horses.²⁰
10 You are destined,²¹ it is written, in time to come
to put an end to wrath before the day of Yahweh,²²
to turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons,
and to reestablish the tribes of Jacob.
11 Blessed is he who will have seen you before he dies!²³
for we too will surely live.²⁴
12 When Elijah was enveloped in the whirlwind,
ELISHA was filled with his spirit.
He wrought twice as many signs
and marvels with every utterance of his mouth.²⁵
During his lifetime he did not quake at anyone,
and not any flesh was able to rule his spirit.²⁶
13 Nothing was beyond his power;

(Malachi 4:5-6)

¹¹ [47:20] others “and I was”

¹² [47:23] LXX / Heb(B) “slept in despair”

¹³ [47:23] Heb(B), Syr / LXX “the people’s”

¹⁴ [47:23] Heb(B), Syr / LXX “rebel. Also Jeroboam the son of Nebat”

¹⁵ [47:23] Heb(B), Syr / LXX omit “and caused them to be exiled from their land”

¹⁶ [47:25] Heb(B) / LXX “, till vengeance came upon them”

¹⁷ [48:2] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr “furnace, who [Syr “furnace, and he”] brought down on them a famine”

¹⁸ [48:8] Heb(B) / LXX “and prophets”

¹⁹ [48:8] Heb / LXX “his”

²⁰ [48:9] LXX / Syr “, by fiery captors, *into the heavens*”

²¹ [48:10] Heb / LXX “are for reproofs”

²² [48:10] Syr / LXX “to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury”

²³ [48:11] LXX “Blessed are those who saw you and were adorned with your love,”

²⁴ [48:11] LXX / Syr “, but he will not die, but will certainly live” / Lat “, for we live our lives only, but after death our fame will not be such as *his*”

²⁵ [48:12] Heb, Syr / LXX omit “He wrought...mouth”

²⁶ [48:12] Heb / LXX “and no-one oppressed him”

from where he lay buried, his dead body prophesied.
14 In life he performed wonders,
 and after death, marvelous deeds.
15 Despite all this the people did not change *their* mind,
 nor did they give up their sins,
 until they were rooted out of their land
 and scattered all over the earth.
15 But Judah remained, a tiny people,
 with its rulers from the house of David.
16 Some of these did what was right,
 but others were extremely sinful.

17 HEZEKIAH fortified his city
 and had water brought into it;
 with iron¹ tools he cut through the rock
 and he built reservoirs for water.²
18 During his reign Sennacherib led an invasion
 and sent his adjutant from Lachish;³
 He shook his fist at Zion
 and blasphemed God in his pride.
19 The people's hearts melted within them,
 and they were in anguish like that of childbirth.
20 But they called upon the Most High God⁴
 and lifted up their hands to him;
 he heard the prayer they uttered,⁵
 and saved them through ISAIAH.
21 God struck the camp of the Assyrians
 and he routed them with a heavy-smite.⁶
22 For Hezekiah did what was right
 and held fast to the paths of David,
 as ordered by the illustrious prophet Isaiah,
 who saw the truth in visions.
23 In his lifetime he turned back the sun
 and prolonged the life of the king.
24 By his powerful spirit he looked into the future
 and consoled the mourners of Zion;
25 he foretold what should be till the end of time,
 hidden things yet to be fulfilled.

CHAPTER 49

1 The name⁷ of JOSIAH is like blended incense,
 made lasting by a skilled perfumer.
 Precious is his memory,⁸ like honey to the taste,
 like music at a drinking-party of the wine.
2 For he grieved over our betrayals,
 and destroyed the abominable idols.
3 He turned to God with his whole heart,
 and, though times were evil, he practiced virtue.
4 Except for David, Hezekiah and Josiah,
 they all were wicked;
 they abandoned the law of the Most High,
 these kings of Judah, right to the very end.
5 So he gave over their power to others,
 their glory to a foolish⁹ foreign nation
6 who burned the holy city¹⁰
 and left its streets desolate,
7 as JEREMIAH had foretold; for they had treated him badly
 who even in the womb had been made a prophet,
 to root out, pull down, and destroy,
 and then to build and to plant.¹¹
8 EZEKIEL beheld the vision of the Glory,
 and described the different creatures of the chariot.¹²
9 He also referred to JOB,

¹ [48:17] LXX / Heb(B) "bronze"

² [48:17] Syr omit "with iron tools...for water."

³ [48:18] Heb(B), LXX / some others add

⁴ [48:20] Heb(B) / LXX "upon the Lord who is Merciful"

⁵ [48:20] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr "; and the Holy One [Syr "and God"] quickly heard them from heaven"

⁶ [48:21] Heb(B) / LXX "and his messenger wore them out"

⁷ [49:1] Heb(B) / LXX "memory"

⁸ [49:1] Heb(B) / LXX "precious is it"

⁹ [49:5] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr omit "foolish"

¹⁰ [49:6] Heb(B) / LXX "the chosen city of the inner-sanctum"

¹¹ [49:7] Syr omit "to root out...to plant"

¹² [49:8] Heb(B) / LXX "vision of the Glory, which he showed him upon the chariot with the cherubs"

who always persevered in the right path.¹³

10 Then, too, the TWELVE PROPHETS
 (may their bones return to life from their resting place!)
 gave new strength to Jacob
 and saved him by their faith and hope.

11 How can we fittingly praise ZERUBBABEL,
 who was like a signet ring on God's right hand;
12 and JESHUA, the son of Jozadak?

In their time they built the altar;¹⁴
 and they erected the holy inner-sanctum,¹⁵
 destined for everlasting glory.

13 Extolled be the memory of NEHEMIAH!
 He rebuilt our ruined walls,
 restored our shattered defenses,
 and set up gates and bars.¹⁶

14 Few have¹⁷ ever been created on earth like CENOCH,
 for he was taken up bodily.

15 Was ever a fellow born like JOSEPH?
The leader of his brothers, the support of the people,¹⁸
 Even his dead body was provided for.

16 Glorious,¹⁹ too, were SHEM and SHETH and ENOS;²⁰
 but beyond that of any living being was the splendor of ADAM.

CHAPTER 50

1 The greatest among his brothers, the glory of his people,²¹
 was SIMON the priest, son of Johanan,
 in whose time²² the house of God was renovated,
 in whose days the inner-sanctum was reinforced.

2 In his time also the wall was built
 with powerful turrets for the temple enclosures;²³
3 in his time the reservoir was dug,
 the pool with a vastness like the sea's.

4 He protected his people against brigands
 and strengthened his city against the enemy.
5 How splendid he was as he appeared from the tent,²⁴
 as he came from within the veil!²⁵

6 Like a star shining²⁶ among the clouds,
 like the full moon at the holyday season;²⁷
7 like the sun shining upon the inner-sanctum,
 like the rainbow appearing in the cloudy sky;

8 like the blossoms²⁸ on the branches in springtime,
 like a lily on the banks of a stream;
 like the trees of Lebanon in summer,

9 like the fire of incense at the sacrifice;
 like a vessel of beaten gold,
 studded with precious stones;

10 like a luxuriant olive tree thick with fruit,
 a plant whose branches run with oil;²⁹

11 vested in his magnificent robes,
 and wearing his garments of splendor,
 as he ascended the glorious altar
 and lent majesty to the court of the inner-sanctum.

12 When he received the sundered victims
 from the priests while he stood before the sacrificial wood,
 his brothers ringed him about like a garland,

¹³ [49:9] Heb(B) / LXX "For God remembered his enemies with storm, and did good to those who directed themselves in the right path."

¹⁴ [49:12] Heb(B), Syr / LXX "house"

¹⁵ [49:12] others "holy people"

¹⁶ [49:13] Heb(B) / LXX places "and set up gates and bars" before "restored our..."

¹⁷ [49:14] Heb, Syr / LXX "No one has"

¹⁸ [49:15] Heb, Syr / LXX add

¹⁹ [49:16] LXX / Heb(B) "Provided for" (instead of "Glorious")

²⁰ [49:16] Heb / LXX "Shem and Seth were honored by people"

²¹ [50:1] Heb, Syr / LXX omit this line

²² [50:1] Heb(B) / LXX "life"

²³ [50:2] Heb(B) / LXX "In his time the elevation for the courtyard was built, the lofty eminence for the sacred enclosure"

²⁴ [50:5] Heb(B) / Syr "when he appeared from the Temple" / LXX "when the people gathered around him"

²⁵ [50:5] Syr / Heb(B) "came from the house of the veil!" / LXX "came from the inner-sanctum!"

²⁶ [50:6] Heb(B) / LXX "like the morning star"

²⁷ [50:6] Heb(B) / LXX "moon when it is full"

²⁸ [50:8] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr "roses"

²⁹ [50:10] Heb(B), Syr / LXX "fruit, like a cypress towering in the clouds;"

like a stand of cedars on Lebanon;
13 all the sons of Aaron in their dignity
 clustered around him like poplars,
 with the offerings to Yahweh in their hands,
 in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel.
14 Once he had completed the services at the altars¹
 with the arranging of the sacrifices for the Most High,
15 and had stretched forth his hand for the cup,
 to offer blood of the grape,
 and poured it out at the foot of the altar,
 a sweet-smelling odor to the Most High God,²
16 the sons of Aaron would sound a blast,
 the priests, on their trumpets of beaten metal;
 a blast to resound mightily
 as a reminder before the Most High.
17 Then all the people with one accord
 would quickly fall prostrate to the ground
 in adoration before the Most High,
 before the Holy One of Israel.
18 Then hymns would re-echo,
 and over the throng sweet strains of praise resound.³
19 All the people of the land would shout for joy,
 praying to the Merciful One,
 as the chief-priest completed the services at the altar
 by presenting to God the sacrifice due;
20 then coming down he would raise his hands
 over all the congregation of Israel.
 The blessing of Yahweh would be upon his lips,
 the name of Yahweh would be his glory.
21 Then again the people would lie prostrate
 to receive from him the blessing of the Most High.
22 And now, bless the God of all,⁴
 who has done wondrous things on earth;
 who fosters a human's growth from his mother's womb,
 and fashions them according to his will!
23 May he grant you⁵ wisdom⁶ of heart
 and may peace abide among you;
24 may his goodness toward Simeon be lasting;
 may he fulfill for him the covenant with Phinehas
 so that it may not be abrogated for him
 or for his descendants, as long as heavens are above.⁷
25 My soul loathes two nations,
 the third is not even a people:
26 those who live in Seir⁸ and Philistia,
 and the degenerate folk who dwell in Shechem.
27 Wise instruction, appropriate proverbs,⁹
 I have written in this book,¹⁰
 I, Jeshua, son of Eleazar, son of Sirach the Jerusalemite.¹¹
 as they gushed forth from my heart's understanding.
28 Happy a man who meditates upon these things,
 wise a *man* who takes them to heart!
29 If he puts them into practice, he can cope with anything,
 for the fear¹² of Yahweh is his path.¹³

CHAPTER 51A

1 I give you thanks, O God of my father;¹⁴
 I praise you, O God my savior!¹⁵
 I will make known your name, refuge of my life;

¹ [50:14] others "altars"

² [50:15] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) omit "and had stretched...Most High God" (by scribal error)

³ [50:18] others "sweet melody throughout the house"

⁴ [50:22] LXX / Heb(B) "blessed the Lord, the God of Israel"

⁵ [50:23] Heb(B) / LXX "us"

⁶ [50:23] Heb(B) / LXX "joy"

⁷ [50:23-24] Heb(B) / LXX "heart//and may there be peace in our days//in Israel, as in the days of old.//May his goodness remain constantly with us//and may he save us in our days."

⁸ [50:26] Heb, Lat / LXX "live on the mountain of Samaria"

⁹ [50:27] Syr "All the proverbs of the wise and their riddles"

¹⁰ [50:27] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) omit "I have written in this book"

¹¹ [50:27] LXX add

¹² [50:29] Heb(B), LXX, Syr / others "light"

¹³ [50:29] LXX / Heb(B) "life" / Syr "is exalted above everything" (Instead of "If...path", Syr reads "The height of the fear of the Lord is exalted above everything; hold on to it, my son, and do not let it go.")

¹⁴ [51:1] Heb(B) / LXX "O Lord and King"

¹⁵ [51:1] Heb(B), LXX / Syr "; and I praise your name each day"

you have been my helper against my adversaries.

2 You have redeemed my soul from death,¹⁶
 and kept back my body from the pit,
 from the clutches of the Netherworld you have snatched my feet;
 you have delivered me, in your great mercy
3 from the scourge of a slanderous tongue,
 and from lips that went over to falsehood;
 from the snare of those who watched for my downfall,
 and from the power of those who sought my soul.
4 From many a danger you have saved me,
 from flames that hemmed me in on every side,
 from the midst of unremitting fire,
 from the deep belly of the Netherworld,¹⁷
5 from an unclean tongue and painters of lies,
 from the arrows of slanderous tongues.
6 I was at the point of death,
 my soul was nearing the lowest *region of the* Netherworld;
7 I turned every way, but there was no one to help me,
 I looked for one to sustain me, but could find no one.
8 But then I remembered the mercies of Yahweh,
 his kindness¹⁸ through ages past;
 for he saves those who take refuge in him,
 and rescues them from every evil.
9 So I raised my voice from the very earth,
 from the gates of the Netherworld,¹⁹ my cry.
10 I called out: "O Lord, you are my father,²⁰
 you are my champion and my savior;
 do not abandon me in time of trouble,
 in the midst of storms and dangers.
11 I will ever praise your name
 and be constant in my prayers to you."

Thereupon Yahweh heard my voice,²¹

he listened to my appeal;
12 and he ransomed me from every bad *thing*,
 and he totally-delivered me in a day of constraint.
 Upon this *reason*, I thanked him and I praised him;
 and I blessed Yahweh's name.

CHAPTER 51B²²

Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the God of glory,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the guardian of Israel,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the creator of the universe,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the redeemer of Israel,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to him who gathers the dispersed of Israel,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to him who builds his city and his inner-sanctum,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to him who makes a horn to sprout forth for the house of David,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to him who has chosen for his priests the sons of Zadok,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the shield of Abraham,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the rock of Isaac,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to the mighty one of Jacob,
 for his mercy endures forever.
 Give thanks to him who has chosen Zion,
 for his mercy endures forever.

¹⁶ [51:2] Heb / LXX omit "You have redeemed my soul from death"

¹⁷ [51:5] LXX / Heb "of the abyss"(?)

¹⁸ [51:8] others "work"

¹⁹ [51:9] Heb / LXX "death"

²⁰ [51:10] Heb / LXX "the Father of my Lord"

²¹ [51:11] Heb(B) / LXX omit "Thereupon Yahweh heard my voice"

²² [51:12b] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr omit this entire hymn

Give thanks to the king over kings of kings,
for his mercy endures forever.
He has lifted up the horn of his people,
be this his praise from all his faithful ones,
from the children of Israel,
the people close to him. Praise Yahweh!

CHAPTER 51C¹

13 When I was still young and innocent,
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer,
facing the temple, I asked for her.²

14 She came to me in her beauty,³
and until the end I will seek her out.

15 As the blossoms yielded to ripening grapes,
the heart's joy,
my feet kept to the level path
because from earliest youth I was familiar with her.

16 In the short time I inclined my ear and received her,⁴
I met with great captivation.⁵

17 Since in this way I have profited;⁶
to my teacher I will give grateful praise.⁷

18 I became resolutely devoted to her—
I persistently strove for the good,²
and I will never be put to shame.⁸

19 My soul burned with desire for her,
never turning my soul back.
I became preoccupied with her,
and never wearied extolling her.

My hand spread her gate
and I came to know her secrets.⁹

20 For her I purified my hands;¹⁰
in cleanness I attained to her.

At first acquaintance with her, I gained understanding
such that I will never forsake her.

21 My whole being¹¹ was stirred to seek her;¹²
therefore I have made her my¹³ prize possession.

22 Yahweh has granted me my lips as a reward,
and my tongue will declare his praises.

23 Come aside to me, you untutored,
and take up lodging in the¹⁴ house of instruction.

24 How long will you be deprived of wisdom's food,¹⁵
how long will you let your souls endure such bitter thirst?

25 I open my mouth and speak of her:¹⁶
gain, at no cost, wisdom¹⁷ for yourselves.

26 Submit your neck to her¹⁸ yoke,
that your soul may accept her teaching.
For she is close to those who seek her,
and to the one who gives his soul to find her.¹⁹

27 See for yourselves! I have labored only a little,
but have found much rest.²⁰

28 Acquire but a little instruction;
you will win silver and gold²¹ through her.²²

29 Let your soul rejoice in his mercy,
and be not ashamed to give him praise.

30 Work at your tasks in due season,
and in his own time God will give you your reward.

Blessed be Yahweh forever,
and praised be his name from generation to generations.²³

This is the extent of the words of Simeon, the son of Jeshua, who is called son of Sirach. The Wisdom of Simeon, the son of Jeshua, the son of Eleazar, the son of Sirach. May the name of Yahweh be blessed from now to eternity.²⁴

¹ This Psalm was found amongst the DSS as a separate composition. / Heb omit it / LXX includes it as part of Sirach.

² [51:13] DSS / LXX add

³ [51:14] DSS / LXX "Before the inner-sanctum I asked for her"

⁴ [51:16] DSS / LXX add

⁵ [51:17] DSS / LXX "instruction"

⁶ [51:17] DSS / LXX "I made progress in her" / Heb(B), Syr "I have taken her yoke"

⁷ [51:18] DSS / LXX "to Him who gives wisdom I will give glory"

⁸ [51:18] DSS / LXX add

⁹ [51:19] DSS / LXX (for this entire verse) "My soul grappled with wisdom, and in my conduct I was strict; I spread out my hands to the heavens, and lamented my ignorance of her."

¹⁰ [51:20] Heb / LXX "I guided my soul into her"

¹¹ [51:21] Heb(B), Syr, most LXX (Lit. "my internal organs") / some LXX "My heart"

¹² [51:21] LXX / Heb(B), Syr "to look upon her"

¹³ [51:21] Heb(B), Syr / LXX "made a"

¹⁴ [51:23] LXX, Syr / Heb(B) "my"

¹⁵ [51:24] Heb(B) / LXX, Syr "of these things"

¹⁶ [51:25] Heb(B), Syr / LXX omit "of her"

¹⁷ [51:25] Heb(B), Syr / LXX omit "wisdom"

¹⁸ [51:26] Heb / others "the"

¹⁹ [51:26] Heb(B) / LXX omit "and to the one...her"

²⁰ [51:27] LXX add

²¹ [51:28] Heb(B), Syr / LXX "Acquire instruction with a large sum of silver, and you will gain much gold."

²² [51:28] LXX / Heb(B), Syr "me"

²³ [51:30] LXX / Heb(B), Syr add

²⁴ [51:30] Heb(B) add "This is far...eternity." / LXX instead add "Wisdom of Jeshua, son of Sirach" / oldest Syr instead add "Thus far the words of Joshua, the son of Simeon, who is called the son of Sirach. The end of the writing of the Wisdom of the son of Sirach." / most Syr "The writing of the son of Sirach is finished. [one further add "in the time of the Maccabees."]" (also, OL, two early Armenian omit chapters 44-51)