

- ¹⁷ A handicraft is praised
because of the craftsperson's skill,
and the one who leads a people
is wise in speech.
- ¹⁸ Talkative people are feared in their city,
and people who are reckless in speech
will be hated.
- ¹ Wise judges will instruct their people,
and an intelligent person's rule
will be orderly.
- ² As the people's judges are,
so will their officials be,
and as the ruler of a city is,
so also are all of its inhabitants.
- ³ An uneducated king will ruin his people,
and a city is founded
on the intelligence of its rulers.
- ⁴ Authority over the earth
belongs to the Lord,
and he will identify the person
who is right for the time.
- ⁵ A people's success belongs to the Lord,
and he will give glory
to the legal expert.
- ⁶ Don't become angry with your neighbor over every wrong,
and don't do anything that offers
a flagrant insult.
- ⁷ Arrogance is hateful to God and people,
and injustice is wrong to both.
- ⁸ Sovereignty passes from
nation to nation
because of injustice, pride, and money.
- ⁹ How can dust and ashes be arrogant?
Even when they are alive,
human bodies are decaying.
- ¹⁰ A long illness mocks a doctor;
today's king will die tomorrow.
- ¹¹ When people are dead,
they inherit maggots, vermin,
and worms.
- ¹² Human arrogance begins when people rebel against the Lord,
and their hearts rebel
against the one who made them.