

Ecclesiasticus, or the Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach (Common English Bible), 9:17-10:12

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.