

PROVERBS 29: 1 He who is often rebuked and stiffens his neck will be destroyed suddenly, with no remedy.

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We must not despise correction. The prudent king. The flatterer. The just judge. Contend not with a fool. The prince who opens his ears to reports. The poor and the deceitful. The pious king. The insolent servant. The humiliation of the proud. Of the partner of a thief. The fear of man. The Lord the righteous Judge.

Verse 1

Hardeneth his neck - Becomes stubborn and obstinate.

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PROVERBS 29: 2 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

PROVERBS 29: 3 Whoever loves wisdom brings joy to his father; but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

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Verse 3

But he that keepeth company - רעה roeh, he that feedeth harlots, יאבד yeabed, shall utterly destroy his substance. Has there ever been a single case to the contrary?

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PROVERBS 29: 4 The king by justice makes the land stable, but he who takes bribes tears it down.

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Verse 4

He that receiveth gifts - This was notoriously the case in this kingdom, before the passing of the Magna Charta, or great charter of liberties. Hence that article in it, Nulli vendemus justitiam; "We will not sell justice to any." I have met with cases in our ancient records where, in order to get his right, a man was obliged almost to ruin himself in presents to the king, queen, and their favourites, to get the case decided in his favor.

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PROVERBS 29: 5 A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet.

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Verse 5

Spreadeth a net for his feet - Beware of a flatterer; he does not flatter merely to please you, but to deceive you and profit himself.

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PROVERBS 29: 6 An evil man is snared by his sin, but the righteous can sing and be glad.

PROVERBS 29: 7 The righteous care about justice for the poor. The wicked aren't concerned about knowledge.

PROVERBS 29: 8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.

PROVERBS 29: 9 If a wise man goes to court with a foolish man, the fool rages or scoffs, and there is no peace.

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#### Verse 9

Whether he rage or laugh - Coverdale translates, "Yf a wyse man go to lawe with a foole, whether he deale with him frendly or roughly he geteth no rest."

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PROVERBS 29: 10 The bloodthirsty hate a man of integrity; and they seek the life of the upright.

PROVERBS 29: 11 A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control.

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#### Verse 11

A fool uttereth all his mind - A man should be careful to keep his own secret, and never tell his whole mind upon any subject, while there are other opinions yet to be delivered; else, if he speak again, he must go over his old ground; and as he brings out nothing new, he injures his former argument.

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PROVERBS 29: 12 If a ruler listens to lies, all of his officials are wicked.

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#### Verse 12

If a ruler hearken to lies - Wherever the system of espionage is permitted to prevail, there the system of falsity is established; for he who is capable of being a spy and informer, is not only capable of telling and swearing lies, but also of cutting his king's or even his father's throat. I have seen cases, where the same spy received pay from both parties, and deceived both.

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PROVERBS 29: 13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both.

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#### Verse 13

The poor and the deceitful man - It is difficult to fix the meaning of תַּכְּחִים techachim, which we here render the deceitful man. The Targum has, "The poor and the man of Little Wealth." The Septuagint, "The usurer and the Debtor." The Vulgate, "The poor and Creditor." Coverdale, "The poor and the Lender." Others, "The poor and the Rich;" "The poor and the Oppressors." I suppose the meaning

may be the same as in Pro 22:2 (note): "The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all." Where see the note.

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PROVERBS 29: 14 The king who fairly judges the poor, his throne shall be established forever.

PROVERBS 29: 15 The rod of correction gives wisdom, but a child left to himself causes shame to his mother.

PROVERBS 29: 16 When the wicked increase, sin increases; but the righteous will see their downfall.

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#### Verse 16

When the wicked are multiplied - That, in the multiplication of the wicked transgression is increased, requires no proof; but an important doctrine attaches to this. On this account wicked nations and wicked families are cut off and rooted out. Were it not so righteousness would in process of time be banished from the earth. This will account for many of the numerous instances in which whole families fail.

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PROVERBS 29: 17 Correct your son, and he will give you peace; yes, he will bring delight to your soul.

PROVERBS 29: 18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but one who keeps the law is blessed.

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#### Verse 18

Where there is no vision - My old MS. Bible, following the Vulgate, translates: When prophecy shall failen, the people shall ben to scatered. Where Divine revelation, and the faithful preaching of the sacred testimonies, are neither reverenced nor attended, the ruin of that land is at no great distance.

But he that keepeth the law, happy is he - Go how it may with others, he shall be safe. So our Lord: "Blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it."

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PROVERBS 29: 19 A servant can't be corrected by words. Though he understands, yet he will not respond.

PROVERBS 29: 20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

PROVERBS 29: 21 He who pampers his servant from youth will have him become a son in the end.

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#### Verse 21

He that delicately bringeth up his servant - Such persons are generally forgetful of their obligations, assume the rights and privileges of children, and are seldom good for any thing.

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PROVERBS 29: 22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a wrathful man abounds in sin.

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Verse 22

An angry man stirreth up strife - His spirit begets its like wherever he goes.

And a furious man aboundeth in transgression - His furious spirit is always carrying him into extremes, and each of these is a transgression.

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PROVERBS 29: 23 A man's pride brings him low, but one of lowly spirit gains honour.

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Verse 23

A man's pride shall bring him low - A proud man is universally despised, and such are often exposed to great mortifications.

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PROVERBS 29: 24 Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy of his own soul. He takes an oath, but dares not testify.

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Verse 24

Hateth his own soul - נפשו naphsho, his life, as the outraged law may at any time seize on and put him to death.

He heareth cursing - אלה alah, the execration or adjuration, (for all culprits were charged, as before God, to tell the truth), ולא יגד velo yagpid, but He will not tell it. He has no fear of God, nor reverence for an oath, because his heart is hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

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PROVERBS 29: 25 The fear of man proves to be a snare, but whoever puts his trust in the LORD is kept safe.

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Verse 25

The fear of man bringeth a snare - How often has this led weak men, though sincere in their general character, to deny their God, and abjure his people! See the case of Peter; and learn from this, O reader, that where the mighty have been slain, thou wilt fall, unless thou call on the Strong for strength, and for courage to use it. Be not ashamed of Jesus nor of his people, nor of his cross. Glory in this, that thou knowest him, art joined to them, and art counted worthy to bear it.

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PROVERBS 29: 26 Many seek the ruler's favour, but a man's justice comes from the LORD.

Verse 26

Many seek the ruler's favor - To be screened from the punishment determined by the law; but should he grant the favor sought, and pardon the criminal, this takes not away his guilt in the sight of God, from whom all just judgment proceeds.

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PROVERBS 29: 27 A dishonest man detests the righteous, and the upright in their ways detest the wicked.

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Verse 27

And he that is upright in the way - "But as for those that be in the right waye, the wicked hate them." - Coverdale.

To this verse the Vulgate adds the following: Verbum custodiens filius extra perditionem erit; "The son that keeps the word shall not fall into perdition." This is not in all copies of the Vulgate: but it was in that from which my old MS. Bible was made, where it is thus translated: The sone keping the worde schal ben out of perdicyon. I believe verbum here is intended for the Divine word; the revelation from God.