

¹My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,²Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.³Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.⁴Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.⁵Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.⁶Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:⁷Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,⁸Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.⁹How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?¹⁰Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:¹¹So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.¹²A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.¹³He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;¹⁴Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.¹⁵Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.¹⁶These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,¹⁹A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.²⁰My

son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:²¹ Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.²² When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.²³ For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:²⁴ To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.²⁵ Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.²⁶ For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?²⁸ Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?²⁹ So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.³⁰ Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;³¹ But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.³² But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.³³ A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.³⁴ For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.³⁵ He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.