



Bible*
Excerpts from the Old Testament
(900-350 BCE)

First Book of Samuel (800-600 BCE)

2:7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.
2:8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

Second Book of Samuel (800-600 BCE)

12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.
12:2 The rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds:
12:3 But the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.
12:4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.
12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die:
12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

First Book of the Kings (600 BCE)

3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.
3:6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.
3:7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I *am but* a little child: I know not *how* to go out or come in.
3:8 And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.
3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?
3:10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.
3:11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;
3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee,

neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

3:13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

3:14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

3:15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, *it was* a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

Book of Job (600-400 BCE)

20:5 That the triumphing of the wicked *is* short, and the joy of the hypocrite *but* for a moment?

20:15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.

20:19 Because he hath oppressed *and* hath forsaken the poor; *because* he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;

20:20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.

20:21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.

20:28 The increase of his house shall depart, *and his goods* shall flow away in the day of his wrath.

20:29 This *is* the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

27:13 This *is* the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, *which* they shall receive of the Almighty.

27:14 If his children be multiplied, *it is* for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

27:15 Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep.

27:16 Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay;

27:17 He may prepare *it*, but the just shall put *it* on, and the innocent shall divide the silver. 27:18 He buildeth his house as a moth, and as a booth *that* the keeper maketh.

27:19 The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he *is* not.

34:19 *How much less to him* that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all *are* the work of his hands.

34:20 In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.

36:15 He delivereth the poor in his affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression.

36:19 Will he esteem thy riches? *no*, not gold, nor all the forces of strength.

Book of Psalms

10:1 Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? *why* hidest thou *thyself* in times of trouble?

10:2 The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

10:3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhorreth.

37:16 A little that a righteous man hath *is* better than the riches of many wicked.

39:6 Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up *riches*, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

49:6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

49:7 None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

49:8 (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

49:9 That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption.

49:10 For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

49:16 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

49:17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

52:7 Lo, *this is* the man *that* made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, *and* strengthened himself in his wickedness.

62:10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart *upon them*.

73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

73:4 For *there are* no bands in their death: but their strength *is* firm.

73:5 They *are* not in trouble *as other* men; neither are they plagued like *other* men.

73:6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them *as* a garment.

73:7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

73:8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression: they speak loftily.

73:9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

73:10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full *cup* are wrung out to them.

73:11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

73:12 Behold, these *are* the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase *in* riches.

The Proverbs (900-600 BCE)

1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

1:11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

1:12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: 1:13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

1:14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

1:16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

1:18 And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

1:19 So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

11:28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

13:6 Righteousness keepeth *him that is* upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches.

13:8 The ransom of a man's life *are* his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

14:20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich *hath* many friends.

14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

16:19 Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

21:26 He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

22:1 A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.

22:2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD *is* the maker of them all.

22:9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

22:16 He that oppresseth the poor to increase his *riches*, *and* he that giveth to the rich, *shall* surely *come* to want.

23:4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

27:24 For riches *are* not for ever: and doth the crown *endure* to every generation?

28:6 Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his* ways, though he *be* rich.

28:8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

28:11 The rich man *is* wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

28:22 He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

30:9 Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.

Ecclesiastes, the Preacher (900 BCE or 350 BCE)

5:9 Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king *himself* is served by the field.

5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

5:11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good *is there* to the owners thereof, saving the beholding *of them* with their eyes?

5:12 The sleep of a labouring man *is* sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (626-585 BCE)

5:21 Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

5:25 Your iniquities have turned away these *things*, and your sins have withholden good *things* from you.

5:26 For among my people are found wicked *men*: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.

5:27 As a cage is full of birds, so *are* their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich.

5:28 They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

5:29 Shall I not visit for these *things*? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

17:11 As the partridge sitteth *on eggs*, and hatcheth *them* not; *so* he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

51:12 Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.

51:13 O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, *and* the measure of thy covetousness.

Micah (750 BCE)

2:1 Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

2:2 And they covet fields, and take *them* by violence; and houses, and take *them* away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

The Wisdom of Solomon (900 BCE)

5:8 What hath pride profited us? or what good hath riches with our vaunting brought us?

8:5 If riches be a possession to be desired in this life; what is richer than wisdom, that worketh all things?

The Wisdom of Jesus, son of Sirach

8:2 Be not at variance with a rich man, lest he overweigh thee: for gold hath destroyed many, and perverted the hearts of kings.

11:18 There is that waxeth rich by his wariness and pinching, and this his the portion of his reward:

11:19 Whereas he saith, I have found rest, and now will eat continually of my goods; and yet he knoweth not what time shall come upon him, and that he must leave those things to others, and die.

13:18 What agreement is there between the hyena and a dog? and what peace between the rich and the poor?

13:19 As the wild ass is the lion's prey in the wilderness: so the rich eat up the poor.

13:20 As the proud hate humility: so doth the rich abhor the poor.

18:25 When thou hast enough, remember the time of hunger: and when thou art rich, think upon poverty and need.

22:23 Be faithful to thy neighbour in his poverty, that thou mayest rejoice in his prosperity: abide stedfast unto him in the time of his trouble, that thou mayest be heir with him in his heritage: for a mean estate is not always to be contemned: nor the rich that is foolish to be had in admiration.

31:1 Watching for riches consumeth the flesh, and the care thereof driveth away sleep.

31:8 Blessed is the rich that is found without blemish, and hath not gone after gold.

31:9 Who is he? and we will call him blessed: for wonderful things hath he done among his people.

* Excerpted from text of the King James translation of the Bible found on-line at:
<http://www.ebible.org/bible/kjv/>