Food and Drink in Proverbs

General Advice
15:15 All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.
15:17 Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it.
27:22 Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle
along with crushed grain, but the folly will not be driven out.
28:21 To show partiality is not good—yet for a piece of bread a person may do wrong.
30:17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother
will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.
30:33 For as pressing milk produces curds,
and pressing the nose produces blood, so pressing anger produces strife.

Learn from Ant
6:6 Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise.
7 Without having any chief or officer or ruler,
8 it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest.
30:25 the ants are a people without strength, yet they provide their food in the summer;

Metaphor for Speaking
13:2 From the fruit of their words good persons eat good things,
but the desire of the treacherous is for wrongdoing.
18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.
25:25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Advice for Eating
23:6-8 Do not eat the bread of the stingy;
do not desire their delicacies; for like a hair in the throat, so are they.
"Eat and drink!" they say to you; but they do not mean it.
You will vomit up the little you have eaten, and you will waste your pleasant words.
23:20 Do not be among winebibbers, or among gluttonous eaters of meat;
27:18 Anyone who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,
and anyone who takes care of a master will be honored.

Eating With Rulers
23:1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you,
2 and put a knife to your throat if you have a big appetite.
3 Do not desire the ruler's delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

Sufficiency
30:8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need,
The Way of Honey
24:13 My child, eat honey, for it is good,
    and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.
25:16 If you have found honey, eat only enough for you,
    or else, having too much, you will vomit it.
25:27 It is not good to eat much honey, or to seek honor on top of honor.
27:7 The sated appetite spurns honey, but to a ravenous appetite even the bitter is sweet.

Perils of Strong Drink
20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,
    and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
21:17 Whoever loves pleasure will suffer want;
    whoever loves wine and oil will not be rich.
23:29-35 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining?
    Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?
30 Those who linger late over wine, those who keep trying mixed wines.
31 Do not look at wine when it is red,
    when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly.
32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.
33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind utter perverse things.
34 You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea,
    like one who lies on the top of a mast.
35 "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it.
    When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

31:4-7 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine,
    or for rulers to desire strong drink;
5 or else they will drink and forget what has been decreed,
    and will pervert the rights of all the afflicted.
6 Give strong drink to one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;
7 let them drink and forget their poverty, and remember their misery no more.

Prophetic Type Wisdom
1:31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.
4:17 For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.
13:23 The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.
28:3 A ruler who oppresses the poor is a beating rain that leaves no food.

Advice for the Wealthy/ Middle Class
3:9 Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.
11:26 The people curse those who hold back grain,
    but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it.
12:9 Better to be despised and have a servant, than to be self-important and lack food.
12:11 Those who till their land will have plenty of food,
    but those who follow worthless pursuits have no sense.
14:4 Where there are no oxen, there is no grain; abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.
20:13 Do not love sleep, or else you will come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.
20:17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet, but afterward the mouth will be full of gravel.
22:9 Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.
27:23 Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds;
24 for riches do not last forever, nor a crown for all generations.
25 When the grass is gone, and new growth appears, and the herbage of the mountains is gathered,
26 the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field;
27 there will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household and nourishment for your servant-girls.
28:19 Anyone who tills the land will have plenty of bread, but one who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Sharing Food with Others
11:25 A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.
25:21 If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat; and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink;

The “Other” Woman
5:1 My child, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding,
2 so that you may hold on to prudence, and your lips may guard knowledge.
3 For the lips of a loose woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;
4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
5 Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol.
6 She does not keep straight to the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.
5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.
6:26 for a prostitute's fee is only a loaf of bread, but the wife of another stalks a man's very life.
7:21 With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.
22 Right away he follows her, and goes like an ox to the slaughter, or bounds like a stag toward the trap
23 until an arrow pierces its entrails. He is like a bird rushing into a snare, not knowing that it will cost him his life.
9:2 She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.
9:5 "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.
9:17 "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."
30:20 This is the way of an adulteress: she eats, and wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wrong."
The Woman of Worth – Proverbs 31
31:14 She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.
   15 She rises while it is still night
       and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls.
   16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
31:27 She looks well to the ways of her household,
       and does not eat the bread of idleness.
31:31 Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
       and let her works praise her in the city gates.

FRUIT
11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but violence takes lives away.
12:12 The wicked covet the proceeds of wickedness,
       but the root of the righteous bears fruit.
12:14 From the fruit of the mouth one is filled with good things,
       and manual labor has its reward.
13:2 From the fruit of their words good persons eat good things,
       but the desire of the treacherous is for wrongdoing.
18:20 From the fruit of the mouth one's stomach is satisfied;
       the yield of the lips brings satisfaction.
27:18 Anyone who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,
       and anyone who takes care of a master will be honored.

Woman Wisdom
3:13 Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding,
   14 for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.
   15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
   16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
   17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
   18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
       those who hold her fast are called happy.
   19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

9:1 Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.
   2 She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.
   3 She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,
   4 "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says,
   5 "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.
   6 Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.