

# PROVERBS



# Contents



# PROVERBS

1 The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, who reigned in Israel; <sup>2</sup> to know wisdom and instruction, and to perceive words of understanding; <sup>3</sup> to receive also <sup>1</sup> hard saying, and to understand true justice, and how to direct judgment; <sup>4</sup> that he might give subtlety to the simple, and to the young man <sup>2</sup> discernment and understanding. <sup>5</sup> For by the hearing of these a wise man will be wiser, and man of understanding will gain direction; <sup>6</sup> and will understand a parable, and a dark speech; the saying of the wise also, and riddles. <sup>7</sup> The fear of the Lord is the <sup>3</sup> beginning of wisdom; and there is good understanding to all that practise it: and piety toward God is the beginning of discernment; but the ungodly will set at nothing wisdom and instruction. <sup>8</sup> Hear, my son, the instruction of your father, and reject not the rules of your mother. <sup>9</sup> For you shall receive for your head a crown of graces, and a chain of gold round your neck. <sup>10</sup> My son, let not ungodly men lead you astray, neither consent you to them. <sup>11</sup> If they should exhort you, saying, Come with us, partake in blood, and let us unjustly hide the just man in the earth: <sup>12</sup> and let us swallow him alive, as Hades would, and remove the memorial of him from the earth: <sup>13</sup> let us seize on his valuable property, and let us fill our houses with spoils: <sup>14</sup> but do you cast in your lot with us, and let us all provide a common purse, and let us have one pouch: <sup>15</sup> go not in the way with them, but turn aside your foot from their paths: <sup>4</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>5</sup> For their feet run to do evil, and are swift to shed blood. <sup>17</sup> for nets are not without cause spread for birds. <sup>18</sup> For they that are concerned in murder store up evils for themselves; and the overthrow of transgressors is evil. <sup>19</sup> These are the ways of all that perform lawless deeds; for by ungodliness they destroy their own life. <sup>20</sup> Wisdom sings aloud in passages, and in the broad places speaks boldly. <sup>21</sup> And she makes proclamation on the top of the walls, and sits by the gates of princes; and at the gates of the city boldly says, <sup>22</sup> So long as the simple cleave to justice, they shall not be ashamed: but the foolish being lovers of haughtiness, having become ungodly have hated knowledge, and are become subject to reproofs. <sup>23</sup> Behold, I will bring forth to you the utterance of my breath, and I will instruct you in my speech. <sup>24</sup> Since I called, and you<sup>o</sup> did not listen; and I spoke at length, and you<sup>o</sup> gave no heed; <sup>25</sup> but you<sup>o</sup> set at nothing my counsels, and disregarded my reproofs; <sup>26</sup> therefore I also will laugh at your destruction; and I will rejoice against you when ruin comes upon you: <sup>27</sup> yes when dismay suddenly comes upon you, and your overthrow shall arrive like a tempest; and when tribulation and distress shall come upon you, or when ruin shall come upon you. <sup>28</sup> For it shall be that when you<sup>o</sup> call upon me, I will not listen to you: wicked men

<sup>1</sup> + 1:3 Gr. turnings, q.d. knotty words. See Heb.

<sup>2</sup> + 1:4 Or, discretion.

<sup>3</sup> + 1:7 Or, sum, or, top.

<sup>4</sup> + 1:15 For ver16, see Appendix

<sup>5</sup> + 1:16 this verse is not in the text. The Alexandrine text is shown here