

Proverbs

Contents

PROVERBS

1The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, who reigned in Israel; ² to know wisdom and instruction, and to perceive words of understanding; ³ to receive also ¹ hard sayings, and to understand true justice, and how to direct judgment; ⁴ that he might give subtlety to the simple, and to the young man ² discernment and understanding. ⁵ For by the hearing of these a wise man will be wiser, and the man of understanding will gain direction; ⁶ and will understand a parable, and a dark speech; the sayings of the wise also, and riddles.

7The fear of the Lord is the ³ 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 nought wisdom and instruction. ⁸ Hear, my son, the instruction of thy father, and reject not the rules of thy mother. ⁹ For thou shalt receive for thine head a crown of graces, and a chain of gold round thy neck.

10My son, let not ungodly men lead thee astray, neither consent thou to them. ¹¹ If they should exhort thee, saying, Come with us, partake in blood, and let us unjustly hide the just man in the earth: ¹² and let us swallow him alive, as Hades would, and remove the memorial of him from the earth: ¹³ let us seize on his valuable property, and let us fill our houses with spoils: ¹⁴ but do thou cast in thy lot with us, and let us all provide a common purse, and let us have one pouch: ¹⁵ go not in the way with them, but turn aside thy foot from their paths: ⁴ ¹⁷ for nets are not without cause spread for birds. ¹⁸ For they that are concerned in murder store up evils for themselves; and the overthrow of transgressors is evil. ¹⁹ These are the ways of all that perform lawless deeds; for by ungodliness they destroy their own life.

20Wisdom sings aloud in passages, and in the broad places speaks boldly. ²¹ 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, ²² 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. ²³ Behold, I will bring forth to you the utterance of my breath, and I will instruct you in my speech.

¹ + **1:3 Gr.** turnings, q. d. knotty words. See Heb.

² + **1:4 Or,** discretion.

³ + **1:7 Or,** sum, or, top.

⁴ + **1:15** For ver 16, see Appendix.

24 Since I called, and ye did not hearken; and I spoke at length, and ye gave no heed; ²⁵ but ye set at nought my counsels, and disregarded my reproofs; ²⁶ therefore I also will laugh at your destruction; and I will rejoice against you when ruin comes upon you: ²⁷ yea 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. ²⁸ For it shall be that when ye call upon me, I will not hearken to you: wicked men shall seek me, but shall not find me. ²⁹ For they hated wisdom, and did not choose the word of the Lord: ³⁰ neither would they attend to my counsels, but derided my reproofs. ³¹ Therefore shall they eat the fruits of their own way, and shall be filled with their own ungodliness. ³² For because they wronged the simple, they shall be slain; and an inquisition shall ruin the ungodly. ³³ But he that hearkens to me shall dwell in ⁵ confidence, and shall rest securely from all evil.

2 My son, if thou wilt receive the utterance of my commandment, and hide it with thee; ² thine ear shall hearken to wisdom; thou shalt also apply thine heart to understanding, and shalt apply it to the instruction of thy son.

3 For if thou shalt call to wisdom, and utter thy voice for understanding; ⁴ and if thou shalt seek it as silver, and search diligently for it as for treasures; ⁵ then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord gives wisdom; and from his presence come knowledge and understanding, ⁷ and he treasures up salvation for them that walk uprightly: he will protect their way; ⁸ that he may guard the righteous ways: and he will preserve the way of them that fear him. ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment; and shalt direct ⁶ all thy course aright.

10 For if wisdom shall come into thine understanding, and discernment shall seem pleasing to thy soul, ¹¹ good counsel shall guard thee, and holy understanding shall keep thee; ¹² to deliver thee from the evil way, and from the man that speaks nothing faithfully.

13 Alas for those who forsake right paths, to walk in ways of darkness; ¹⁴ who rejoice in evils, and delight in wicked perverseness; ¹⁵ whose paths are crooked, and their ⁷ courses winding; ¹⁶ to remove thee far from the straight way, and to estrange thee from a righteous purpose. My son, let not evil counsel overtake thee, ¹⁷ of her who has forsaken the instruction of her youth, and forgotten the covenant of God. ¹⁸ For she has fixed her house

⁵ + 1:33 Gr. hope. See Ps. 16.

⁶ + 2:9 Lit. all good a les.

⁷ + 2:15 Lit. wheel tracks. Compare Heb. 12. 13.