

PROVERBS

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1 The 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 saying, and to understand true justice, and how to direct judgement; 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 man of understanding will gain direction; ⁶ and will understand a parable, and a dark speech; the saying of the wise also, and riddles. ⁷ The fear of the Lord is the ³ beginning of wisdom; and there is good understanding to all that practise it: and piety towards God is the beginning of discernment; but the ungodly will set at nothing wisdom and instruction. ⁸ Hear, my son, the instruction of your father, and reject not the rules of your mother. ⁹ For you shall receive for your head a crown of graces, and a chain of gold round your neck. ¹⁰ My son, let not ungodly men lead you astray, neither consent you to them. ¹¹ If they should exhort you, 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 you cast in your 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 your foot from their paths: ⁴ ¹⁶ ⁵ For their feet run to do evil, and are swift to shed blood. 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. ²⁰ Wisdom 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. ²⁴ Since I called, and you^o did not listen; and I spoke at length, and you^o gave no heed; ²⁵ but you^o set at nothing 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 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. ²⁸ For it shall be that when you^o call upon me, I will not listen to you: wicked men

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 ver16, see Appendix

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