

# 1

## THE PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

- <sup>1</sup> These are the proverbs of Solomon,  
David's son, king of Israel.
- <sup>2</sup> Their purpose is to teach people  
wisdom and discipline,  
to help them understand the insights of the wise.
- <sup>3</sup> Their purpose is to teach people  
to live disciplined and successful lives,  
to help them do what is right, just, and fair.
- <sup>4</sup> These proverbs will give insight to the simple,  
knowledge and discernment to the young.
- <sup>5</sup> Let the wise listen to these proverbs  
and become even wiser.  
Let those with understanding receive guidance
- <sup>6</sup> by exploring the meaning in  
these proverbs and parables,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.
- <sup>7</sup> Fear of the Lord is the foundation  
of true knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

## A FATHER'S EXHORTATION: ACQUIRE WISDOM

- <sup>8</sup> My child, listen when your father corrects you.  
Don't neglect your mother's instruction.
- <sup>9</sup> What you learn from them  
will crown you with grace and  
be a chain of honor around your neck.
- <sup>10</sup> My child, if sinners entice you,  
turn your back on them!
- <sup>11</sup> They may say, "Come and join us.



Let's hide and kill someone!  
Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent!  
<sup>12</sup> Let's swallow them alive, like the grave;  
let's swallow them whole,  
like those who go down to the pit of death.  
<sup>13</sup> Think of the great things we'll get!  
We'll fill our houses with all the stuff we take.  
<sup>14</sup> Come, throw in your lot with us;  
we'll all share the loot."  
<sup>15</sup> My child, don't go along with them!  
Stay far away from their paths.  
<sup>16</sup> They rush to commit evil deeds.  
They hurry to commit murder.  
<sup>17</sup> If a bird sees a trap being set,  
it knows to stay away.  
<sup>18</sup> But these people set an ambush for themselves;  
they are trying to get themselves killed.  
<sup>19</sup> Such is the fate of all  
who are greedy for money;  
it robs them of life.

**WISDOM SHOUTS IN THE STREETS**

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom shouts in the streets.  
She cries out in the public square.  
<sup>21</sup> She calls to the crowds along the main street,  
to those gathered in front of the city gate:  
<sup>22</sup> "How long, you simpletons,  
will you insist on being simpleminded?"

How long will you mockers relish your mocking?  
How long will you fools hate knowledge?  
<sup>23</sup> Come and listen to my counsel.  
I'll share my heart with you  
and make you wise.  
<sup>24</sup> "I called you so often, but you wouldn't come.  
I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.  
<sup>25</sup> You ignored my advice  
and rejected the correction I offered.  
<sup>26</sup> So I will laugh when you are in trouble!  
I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—  
<sup>27</sup> when calamity overtakes you like a storm,  
when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone,  
and anguish and distress overwhelm you.  
<sup>28</sup> "When they cry for help, I will not answer.  
Though they anxiously search for me,  
they will not find me.  
<sup>29</sup> For they hated knowledge  
and chose not to fear the Lord.  
<sup>30</sup> They rejected my advice  
and paid no attention when I corrected them.  
<sup>31</sup> Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit  
of living their own way,  
choking on their own schemes.  
<sup>32</sup> For simpletons turn away from me—to death.  
Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.  
<sup>33</sup> But all who listen to me will live in peace,  
untroubled by fear of harm."





## 2

**THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM**

- <sup>1</sup> My child, listen to what I say,  
and treasure my commands.
- <sup>2</sup> Tune your ears to wisdom,  
and concentrate on understanding.
- <sup>3</sup> Cry out for insight,  
and ask for understanding.
- <sup>4</sup> Search for them as you would for silver;  
seek them like hidden treasures.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you will understand  
what it means to fear the Lord,  
and you will gain knowledge of God.
- <sup>6</sup> For the Lord grants wisdom!  
From his mouth come knowledge  
and understanding.
- <sup>7</sup> He grants a treasure of  
common sense to the honest.  
He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.
- <sup>8</sup> He guards the paths of the just  
and protects those who are faithful to him.
- <sup>9</sup> Then you will understand  
what is right, just, and fair,  
and you will find the right way to go.
- <sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your heart,  
and knowledge will fill you with joy.
- <sup>11</sup> Wise choices will watch over you.
- Understanding will keep you safe.
- <sup>12</sup> Wisdom will save you from evil people,  
from those whose words are twisted.
- <sup>13</sup> These men turn from the right way  
to walk down dark paths.
- <sup>14</sup> They take pleasure in doing wrong,  
and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.
- <sup>15</sup> Their actions are crooked,  
and their ways are wrong.
- <sup>16</sup> Wisdom will save you  
from the immoral woman,  
from the seductive words of  
the promiscuous woman.
- <sup>17</sup> She has abandoned her husband and  
ignores the covenant she made before God.
- <sup>18</sup> Entering her house leads to death;  
it is the road to the grave.
- <sup>19</sup> The man who visits her is doomed.  
He will never reach the paths of life.
- <sup>20</sup> So follow the steps of the good,  
and stay on the paths of the righteous.
- <sup>21</sup> For only the godly will live in the land,  
and those with integrity will remain in it.
- <sup>22</sup> But the wicked will be removed from the land,  
and the treacherous will be uprooted.







- <sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.
- <sup>28</sup> If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."
- <sup>29</sup> Don't plot harm against your neighbor, for those who live nearby trust you.
- <sup>30</sup> Don't pick a fight without reason, when no one has done you harm.
- <sup>31</sup> Don't envy violent people or copy their ways.
- <sup>32</sup> Such wicked people are detestable to the Lord, but he offers his friendship to the godly.
- <sup>33</sup> The Lord curses the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the upright.
- <sup>34</sup> The Lord mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble.
- <sup>35</sup> The wise inherit honor, but fools are put to shame!



# 4

## A FATHER'S WISE ADVICE

- <sup>1</sup> My children, listen when your father corrects you.  
Pay attention and learn good judgment,
- <sup>2</sup> for I am giving you good guidance.  
Don't turn away from my instructions.
- <sup>3</sup> For I, too, was once my father's son,  
tenderly loved as my mother's only child.
- <sup>4</sup> My father taught me,  
"Take my words to heart.  
Follow my commands, and you will live.
- <sup>5</sup> Get wisdom; develop good judgment.  
Don't forget my words or turn away from them.
- <sup>6</sup> Don't turn your back on wisdom,  
for she will protect you.  
Love her, and she will guard you.
- <sup>7</sup> Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!  
And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.
- <sup>8</sup> If you prize wisdom, she will make you great.  
Embrace her, and she will honor you.
- <sup>9</sup> She will place a lovely wreath on your head;  
she will present you with a beautiful crown."
- <sup>10</sup> My child, listen to me and do as I say,  
and you will have a long, good life.

