

THE PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

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

A FATHER'S EXHORTATION: ACQUIRE WISDOM

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

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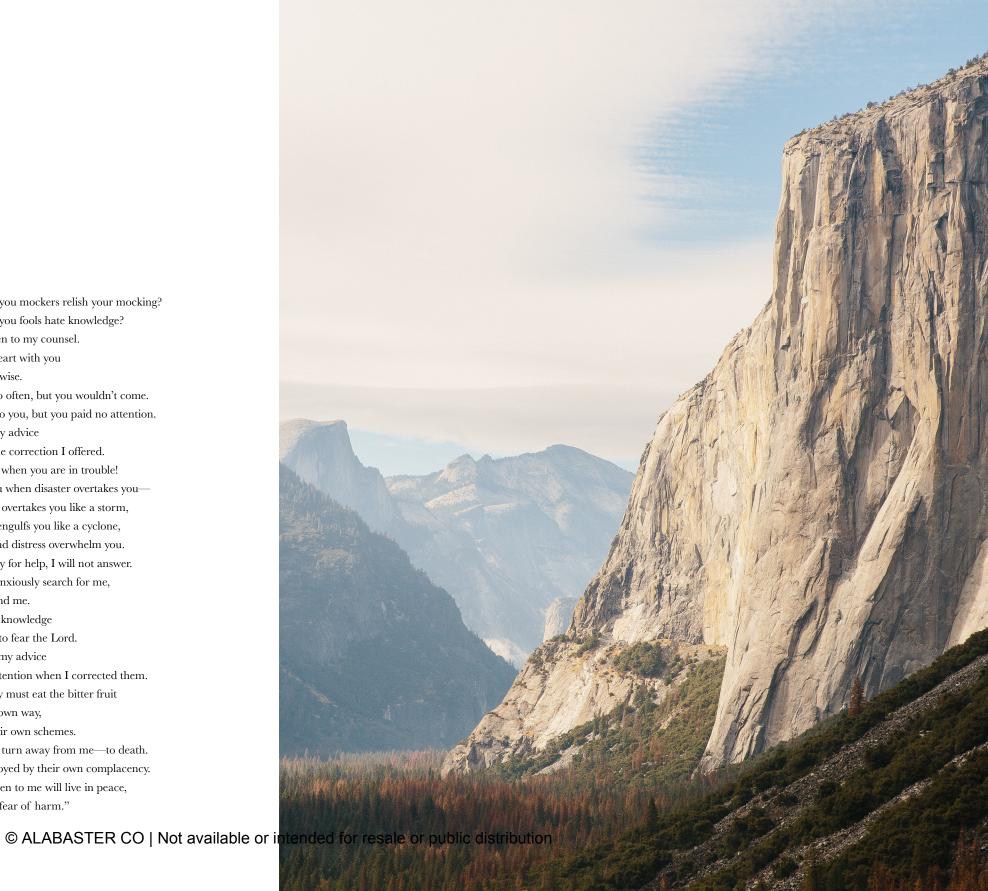
Let's hide and kill someone! Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent!

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

WISDOM SHOUTS IN THE STREETS

- ²⁰ Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square.
- ²¹ She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate:
- ²² "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?
- ²³ Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise.
- ²⁴ "I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.
- ²⁵ You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered.
- ²⁶ So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you-
- ²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you.
- ²⁸ "When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.
- ²⁹ For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord.
- ³⁰ They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them.
- ³¹ Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.
- ³² For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.
- ³³ But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm."



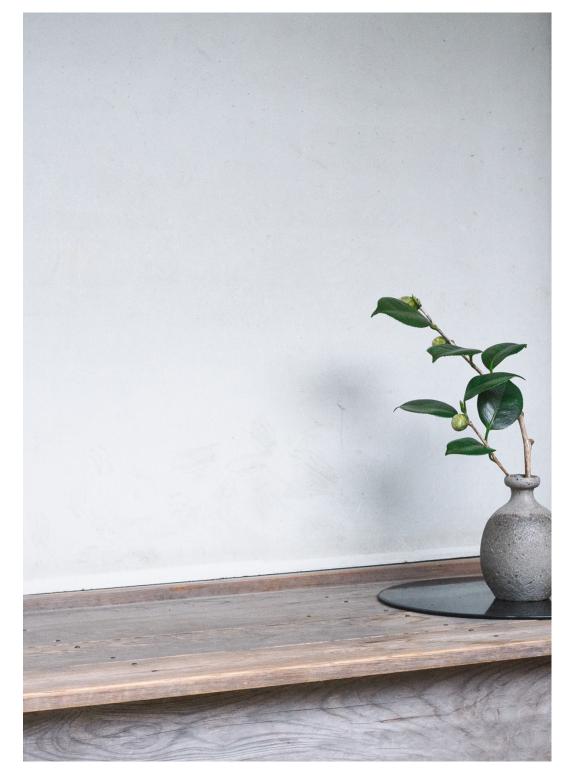
ALABASTER | BOOK OF PROVERBS

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THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM

- ¹ My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands.
- ² Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.
- ³ Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding.
- Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures.
- Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God.
- For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest.
 He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.
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- Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go.
- For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.
- Wise choices will watch over you.

- Understanding will keep you safe.
- Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose words are twisted.
- These men turn from the right way to walk down dark paths.
- They take pleasure in doing wrong, and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.
- Their actions are crooked, and their ways are wrong.
- Wisdom will save you from the immoral woman, from the seductive words of the promiscuous woman.
- She has abandoned her husband and ignores the covenant she made before God.
- Entering her house leads to death; it is the road to the grave.
- 19 The man who visits her is doomed.
 He will never reach the paths of life.
- So follow the steps of the good, and stay on the paths of the righteous.
- For only the godly will live in the land, and those with integrity will remain in it.
- ²² But the wicked will be removed from the land, and the treacherous will be uprooted.



CHAPTER 3



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

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A FATHER'S WISE ADVICE

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

