

**Proverbs Collection I: A Father's Instruction – Part 1 (c. 969t – 932t BC)**

## Proverbs 1–3

**Title**

1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

**Preamble and Purpose**

- 2 To know wisdom and instruction,  
To discern the sayings of understanding,
- 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior,  
Righteousness, justice and equity;
- 4 To give prudence to the naive,  
To the youth knowledge and discretion,
- 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning,  
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,
- 6 To understand a proverb and a figure,  
The words of the wise and their riddles.

**Foundation of Wisdom**

- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**A Call to Listen and Obey**

- 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction  
And do not forsake your mother's teaching;
- 9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head  
And ornaments about your neck.

**Resist the Invitation of the Gang**

- 10 My son, if sinners entice you,  
Do not consent.
- 11 If they say, "Come with us,  
Let us lie in wait for blood,  
Let us ambush the innocent without cause;
- 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol,  
Even whole, as those who go down to the pit;
- 13 We will find all *kinds* of precious wealth,  
We will fill our houses with spoil;
- 14 Throw in your lot with us,  
We shall all have one purse,"
- 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them.  
Keep your feet from their path,
- 16 For their feet run to evil  
And they hasten to shed blood.
- 17 Indeed, it is useless to spread the *baited* net  
In the sight of any bird;
- 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood;  
They ambush their own lives.
- 19 So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence;

It takes away the life of its possessors.

### **Wisdom Will Mock Those Who Mocked Her**

- 20 Wisdom shouts in the street,  
She lifts her voice in the square;
- 21 At the head of the noisy *streets* she cries out;  
At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings:
- 22 “How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?  
And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing  
And fools hate knowledge?”
- 23 “Turn to my reproof,  
Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you;  
I will make my words known to you.
- 24 “Because I called and you refused,  
I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;
- 25 And you neglected all my counsel  
And did not want my reproof;
- 26 I will also laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when your dread comes,
- 27 When your dread comes like a storm  
And your calamity comes like a whirlwind,  
When distress and anguish come upon you.
- 28 “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;  
They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,
- 29 Because they hated knowledge  
And did not choose the fear of the LORD.
- 30 “They would not accept my counsel,  
They spurned all my reproof.
- 31 “So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way  
And be satiated with their own devices.
- 32 “For the waywardness of the naive will kill them,  
And the complacency of fools will destroy them.
- 33 “But he who listens to me shall live securely  
And will be at ease from the dread of evil.”

### **A Call to Seek Wisdom**

- 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words  
And treasure my commandments within you,
- 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom,  
Incline your heart to understanding;
- 3 For if you cry for discernment,  
Lift your voice for understanding;
- 4 If you seek her as silver  
And search for her as for hidden treasures;

### **Wisdom Will Give You Knowledge of God**

- 5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD  
And discover the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the LORD gives wisdom;

From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.

- 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
*He is* a shield to those who walk in integrity,  
8 Guarding the paths of justice,  
And He preserves the way of His godly ones.

#### **Wisdom Will Give You Discernment for Living**

- 9 Then you will discern righteousness and justice  
And equity *and* every good course.  
10 For wisdom will enter your heart  
And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;  
11 Discretion will guard you,  
Understanding will watch over you,

#### **Wisdom Will Guard You from the Wicked**

- 12 To deliver you from the way of evil,  
From the man who speaks perverse things;  
13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness  
To walk in the ways of darkness;  
14 Who delight in doing evil  
And rejoice in the perversity of evil;  
15 Whose paths are crooked,  
And who are devious in their ways;

#### **Wisdom Will Protect You from the Adulteress**

- 16 To deliver you from the strange woman,  
From the adulteress who flatters with her words;  
17 That leaves the companion of her youth  
And forgets the covenant of her God;  
18 For her house sinks down to death  
And her tracks *lead* to the dead;  
19 None who go to her return again,  
Nor do they reach the paths of life.

#### **Wisdom Will Enable You to Live Righteously**

- 20 So you will walk in the way of good men  
And keep to the paths of the righteous.  
21 For the upright will live in the land  
And the blameless will remain in it;  
22 But the wicked will be cut off from the land  
And the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

#### **God Addresses You as His Child**

- 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching,  
But let your heart keep my commandments;  
2 For length of days and years of life  
And peace they will add to you.  
3 Do not let kindness and truth leave you;  
Bind them around your neck,

- Write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 So you will find favor and good repute  
In the sight of God and man.
- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.
- 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
- 8 It will be healing to your body  
And refreshment to your bones.
- 9 Honor the LORD from your wealth  
And from the first of all your produce;
- 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty  
And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- 11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD  
Or loathe His reproof,
- 12 For whom the LORD loves He reproves,  
Even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights. [[Heb 12:5–11](#)]

### **The Many Benefits of Wisdom**

- 13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom  
And the man who gains understanding.
- 14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver  
And her gain better than fine gold.
- 15 She is more precious than jewels;  
And nothing you desire compares with her.
- 16 Long life is in her right hand;  
In her left hand are riches and honor.
- 17 Her ways are pleasant ways  
And all her paths are peace.
- 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her,  
And happy are all who hold her fast.
- 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth,  
By understanding He established the heavens.
- 20 By His knowledge the deeps were broken up  
And the skies drip with dew.
- 21 My son, let them not vanish from your sight;  
Keep sound wisdom and discretion,
- 22 So they will be life to your soul  
And adornment to your neck.
- 23 Then you will walk in your way securely  
And your foot will not stumble.
- 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
- 25 Do not be afraid of sudden fear  
Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;
- 26 For the LORD will be your confidence  
And will keep your foot from being caught.

**Heed the Commands of Wisdom**

- 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,  
When it is in your power to do *it*.
- 28 Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back,  
And tomorrow I will give *it*,”  
When you have it with you.
- 29 Do not devise harm against your neighbor,  
While he lives securely beside you.
- 30 Do not contend with a man without cause,  
If he has done you no harm.
- 31 Do not envy a man of violence  
And do not choose any of his ways.
- 32 For the devious are an abomination to the LORD;  
But He is intimate with the upright.

**Humility and Submission—the Prerequisites of Wisdom**

- 33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked,  
But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.
- 34 Though He scoffs at the scoffers,  
Yet He gives grace to the afflicted. [[Jam 4:6](#); [1 Pet 5:5](#)]
- 35 The wise will inherit honor,  
But fools display dishonor.

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