

## 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

2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

4 To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

#### A Call to Listen and Obey

8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

9 For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

#### Resist the Invitation of the Gang

10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

18 And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

19 So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

#### Wisdom Will Mock Those Who Mocked Her

20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

#### A Call to Seek Wisdom

2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

#### Wisdom Will Give You Knowledge of God

5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

**Wisdom Will Give You Discernment for Living**

9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.  
10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;  
11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

**Wisdom Will Guard You from the Wicked**

12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;  
13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;  
14 Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;  
15 Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

**Wisdom Will Protect You from the Adulteress**

16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;  
17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.  
18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.  
19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

**Wisdom Will Enable You to Live Righteously**

20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.  
21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.  
22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

**God Addresses You as His Child**

3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:  
2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.  
3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:  
4 So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.  
5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.  
8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.  
9 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:  
10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.  
11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:  
12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth. [[Heb 12:5-11](#)]

**The Many Benefits of Wisdom**

13 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.  
14 For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.  
15 She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.  
16 Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour.  
17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace.  
18 She *is* a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.  
19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.  
20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.  
21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:  
22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.  
23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.  
24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: *yea*, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.  
25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.  
26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

**Heed the Commands of Wisdom**

27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*.  
28 Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.  
29 Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.  
30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.  
31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

32 For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous.

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

33 The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. [[Jam 4:6](#); [1 Pet 5:5](#)]

35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

*Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.*