

## Proverbs

### Proverbs 1

1. The proverbs of Solomon ben-David, King of Israel.
2. To know wisdom and correction; to understand words of understanding;
3. to receive correction; to gain insight in righteousness, and judgment, and equity;
4. to give prudence to the simple-minded, to the young man, knowledge and discretion;
5. – a wise man will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding will acquire good counsels –
6. to understand a proverb and a riddle, sayings of wise men and their enigmas.
7. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Fools despise wisdom and correction.
  
- ¶8. Hear, my son, the correction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother,
9. for they will be a wreath of grace for your head and pendants for your neck.
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 wait in secret for the innocent man without cause.
12. Let us swallow them up alive like sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the pit.
13. All precious substance will we find; we will fill our houses with spoil.
14. Cast in your lot among us! We will have one purse together.”
15. My son, do not walk in the way with them; withhold your foot from their pathway,
16. for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.
17. (Surely, in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird.)
18. But they lie in wait for their own blood. They wait in secret for their own souls.
19. Thus are the paths of all who get gain by violence; it takes the soul of its owners.
  
- ¶20. True Wisdom cries aloud outside, she gives forth her voice in the marketplaces.
21. She calls out at the head of bustling streets, at the openings of gates. In the city, she declares her words:
22. “How long, O you simple-minded, will you love simpleness, and scorners take pleasure in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?
23. Turn at my reproof. Behold, I will pour out my Spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.
24. Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one regarded it,
25. you disdained all my counsel, and did not want my reproof,
26. I will also laugh at your calamity. I will mock when your terror comes,
27. when your terror comes like a devastating *storm* and your calamity strikes like a tornado, when distress and anguish come upon you.
28. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me early, but they will not find me,
29. forasmuch as they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD.
30. They would not receive my counsel; they spurned all my reproof.
31. Therefore, they will eat of the fruit of their own way, and they will be sated with their own devices,
32. for the apostasy of the simple-minded will kill them, and the prosperity of fools will destroy them.
33. But he who hears me will dwell safely and be at peace, without dread of evil.

### Proverbs 2

1. My son, if you will receive my words, and treasure up my commandments with you,

2. inclining your ear to wisdom, *and* applying your heart to understanding –
3. yes, if you cry out for discernment *and* lift your voice for understanding,
4. if you look for her as for silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures,
5. then you will understand the fear of Jehovah, and find the knowledge of God.
6. For Jehovah gives wisdom; out of his mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.
7. He treasures up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a buckler to those who walk blamelessly,
8. guarding the paths of judgment, and keeping the way of His saints.
9. Then you will understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity – every good pathway!
10. For wisdom will enter into your heart, and knowledge will be a delight to your soul.
11. Discretion will keep you, understanding will guard you,
12. delivering you from the evil way, from men who speak perverse things,
13. who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,
14. who are glad to do evil – they rejoice in perverse deeds of an evil man –
15. whose paths are twisted, and they are devious in their ways,
16. to deliver you from the strange woman, from the foreign woman who uses smooth words,
17. she who forsakes the husband of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God.
18. Surely, her house goes down to death, and her ways, to the shades.
19. None who go in to her will return, and they will not attain to the paths of life.
20. So that you may 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 land, and the treacherous shall be rooted out of it.

#### Proverbs 3

- ¶1. My son, do not forget my law, and let your heart keep my commandments,
2. for they will add to you length of days, and years of life, and peace.
3. Do not let mercy and truth forsake you. Bind them upon your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,
4. and find favor and good success 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 direct your paths.
7. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
8. It will be a healing for your flesh, and a refreshing for your bones.
9. Honor the LORD with your substance and with the firstfruits of all your increase,
10. and your storehouses will be filled with plenty, and your winepresses will burst forth with new wine.
11. My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of His correction,
12. for whom the LORD loves, He corrects, even as a father the son in whom he delights.
13. Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who obtains understanding.
14. Indeed, its merchandise is better than merchandise bought with silver, and its fruit is better than gold's.
15. It is more precious than rubies, and anything you desire cannot be compared to her.
16. Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
17. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her pathways are peace.
18. It is a tree of life for those who lay hold on it, and those who hold it tight will be happy.
19. The LORD, by wisdom, laid the foundation of the earth; he has set up the heavens by understanding;
20. By His knowledge, depths were broken open, and clouds drip dew.
21. My son, do not let them leave your sight - keep sound wisdom and discretion,
22. and it will be life unto your soul and grace to your neck.
23. Then you will walk securely in your way, and your foot will not be injured.
24. When you lie down, you will not be in dread; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

25. Do not be afraid of sudden dread or the destruction of the wicked when it comes,
26. for Jehovah will be with your confidence (against your stupidity), and He will keep your foot from captivity.
27. Do not withhold good from its owners when it is in your hands ' power to do so.
28. Do not say to your friends, "Leave and come back, and tomorrow I will give it", but it is there with you.
29. Do not devise evil against your friend or he who dwells securely beside you.
30. Do not strive with man without cause, when he has done you no harm.
31. Do not be envious of the violent man, and do not choose any of his ways.
32. For he who is devious is an abomination to Jehovah, but His fellowship is with the upright.
33. The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He will bless the habitation of the righteous.
34. Though He will scorn the scorers, He will grant grace to the lowly.
35. The wise will inherit glory, but rebellious fools, dishonor.

#### Proverbs 4 (Aaron)

- ¶1. Yield, children, to a father's discipline, and incline your ear that you may become acquainted with understanding,
2. for I give you good instruction. Do not forsake my law!
3. When I was a tender son to my father, and an only son before my mother,
4. he instructed me, and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast to my words; keep my commandments and live.
5. Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.
6. Do not forsake it and it will protect you. Love it and it will watch over you.
7. Wisdom is the principal thing; get wisdom! Yea, in all your getting, get understanding!
8. Esteem it, and it will exalt you. It will bring you honor when you embrace it.
9. It will put a wreath of grace on your head; it will bestow on you a glorious crown.
10. Listen, my son, and receive my words and the years of your life will be many.
11. Along the road of wisdom, I have guided you. I have led you along the pathways of righteousness.
12. When you walk, your step will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.
13. Seize upon instruction! Do not let go. Guard it, for it is your life.
14. On the path of the wicked, do not start, and do not go in the way of evil men.
15. Leave it alone. Do not pass over it. Turn aside from it and pass it by.
16. Indeed, they cannot sleep unless they have done evil. Sleep is taken from them unless they cause (someone) to stumble,
17. for they eat bread of wickedness, and wine of violent men, they drink.
18. But the pathway of the righteous is like a bright light, it goes and it shines, leading toward the established day.
19. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know by what they are made to stumble.
20. My son, attend to my words. To my sayings, incline your ears.
21. Do not let them depart from your sight. Guard them in the midst of your heart,
22. for they are life to those who find them, and to all its flesh, healing.
23. Above all else, guard your heart, for out of it are the issues of life.
24. Put a froward mouth away from you , and perverse lips put far away from you.
25. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids keep straight before you.
26. Smooth out the pathway for your foot, and let all your ways be established.
27. Do not turn to the right or left. Remove your foot from evil.

## Proverbs 5

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## Proverbs 6

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16. These six things does Jehovah hate. Yea, seven are abominations to His soul:
17. an exalted appearance; a deceptive tongue; and hands that shed innocent blood;
18. a heart that engraves wicked thoughts; feet that hurry to run to evil;
19. a false witness that breathes out lies; and he who sows discord among brothers.

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23. For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light, and reproofs of discipline are the way of life.
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26. Indeed, by means of a whorish woman *a man is reduced* to a loaf of brea, and an adulteress hunts for the precious life.
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#### Proverbs 7

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2. Keep my commandments, and live, and my law as the apple of your eye!
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## Proverbs 8

- ¶1. Does not wisdom call? And understanding give his<sup>1</sup> voice?  
2. At the top of high places, along the road, at the crossroads, he stands.  
3. Beside the gates, at the entrance of the cities, at the doors, he cries out,  
4. “Unto you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the children of Adam.  
5. Understand subtlety, you simpletons! And you fools, be of an understanding heart!  
6. Listen! For I speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips *come* right things.  
7. My mouth will speak truth, and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.  
8. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.  
9. All of them are right to the one who understands, and upright to those who find knowledge.  
10. Receive my reproof and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold,  
11. for wisdom is better than rubies, and all that is desirable cannot compare with her.  
12. I, wisdom, dwell with prudence; I uncover knowledge of cunning ways.  
13. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil. I hate pride, haughtiness, an evil manner, and a perverse mouth.  
14. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom. I am understanding. I have strength.  
15. By me, kings rule, and rulers make righteous decrees.  
16. By me, princes and nobles reign, and all who judge rightly.  
17. I love those who love me, and those who seek me will find me.  
18. Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.  
19. My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, and my revenue better than choice silver.  
20. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice,  
21. to cause those who love me to inherit substance; I will fill their storehouses.  
22. The LORD created me the beginning of His way, the first of His works.  
23. I was anointed from eternity, before the beginning, before earth existed.  
24. I was brought forth when there were no depths *of the sea*, when there were no springs abounding with water.  
25. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth.  
26. When He had not made the earth, and the open fields, and the first elements of the world,  
27. when He prepared the heavens, I was there. When He decreed a circle on the face of the deep,  
28. when He established the thin clouds above, when He made strong the fountains of the sea,  
29. when He made His decree for the sea, that the waters should not disobey His word, when He decreed the foundations of the earth,  
30. I was at His side, like a master workman, daily His great delight, always laughing in His presence,  
31. rejoicing in the world, His earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.  
32.  
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34.  
35. For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.  
36. He who fails to come to me damages his own soul; all they that hate me love death.

## Proverbs 9

- ¶ 1. Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars.

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<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew word for wisdom is feminine, and so, it is referred to as “she”. But since the Wisdom of God has now been revealed to be His pre-existent Son (1Cor. 1:24; see also in this chapter, vv. 22–36), it seems more appropriate to use a masculine pronoun.

2. She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; and she has set her table.
3. She has sent forth her maidens; she cries out from the highest places of the city,
4. “Whoever is unwise, let him turn in here.” To him lacking understanding, she says,
5. “Come! Eat of my bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed.
6. Forsake the foolish, and live! And walk in the way of understanding!”
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#### Proverbs 10

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18. He who hides hatred with lying lips, and he who utters slander, is a fool.
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### Proverbs 11

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14. When there is no guidance, people fall, but safety is in a multitude of counsel.
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21. Though hand join in hand, the wicked man shall not be unpunished, but the seed of righteous men shall be delivered.
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24. There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more; but another keeps back what is right, only to want.
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### Proverbs 12

- ¶1. He who loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is brutish.
2. A good man elicits favor from the LORD, but *not* a man of wicked devices ...?
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10. The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel
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16. A fool is known in the day of his wrath, but a prudent man covers over an insult.
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18. A rash talker is like the stabbings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is healing.
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### Proverbs 13

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20. He who walks with the wise becomes wise, but a companion of fools shall suffer harm.
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24. He who spares his rod hates his son, but he loves him who diligently chastens him.
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#### Proverbs 14

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12. There is a way that is right in the sight of man, but its end is the ways of death.
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22. mercy and truth
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29. The man who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is hasty exalts foolishness.
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#### Proverbs 15

- ¶1.
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8. The sacrifice of wicked men is an abomination to Jehovah, but the prayer of the righteous is His delight.
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18. A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger causes strife to cease.
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#### Proverbs 16

- ¶1.
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5. Every haughty heart is an abomination to Jehovah; though hand join in hand, he shall be unpunished.
6. mercy and truth
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25. There is a way that is right in the sight of man, but its end is the ways of death.
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32. He who is slow to anger is better than a mighty man, and he who governs his spirit, thane who takes a city.
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#### Proverbs 17

- ¶1.
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3. A crucible for silver, and a smelting-pot for gold, but Jehovah tries hearts.
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### Proverbs 18

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13. He who responds to a matter before hearing it out, it is folly and shame to him.

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15. The heart of a prudent man gets knowledge, and the ear of wise men seeks out knowledge.

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17. He who *is* first with his cause *seems* right, but his fellow comes and searches him out.

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19. An offended brother is a strong city, with contentions like the bars of a castle.

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22. He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

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### Proverbs 19

¶1. Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his speech, for he is a fool.

2. Surely, it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he who hurries with his feet is sinning.

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11. A man's wisdom makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

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19. A man given to anger will bear punishment, for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
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### Proverbs 20

- ¶1. Wine is an imitator, and strong drink is boisterous.
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3. It is an honor for a man to cease from strife, but every fool will be exposed.
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28. mercy and truth
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### Proverbs 21

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16. A man who wanders out of the way of understanding shall settle down and remain in the congregation of shades.
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24. His name is scorner *who is* proud and haughty, acting in arrogant pride.
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31. A horse is prepared for the day of battle, but salvation belongs to Jehovah.

Proverbs 22

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Proverbs 23

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#### Proverbs 24

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6. Surely, with guidance you should make your war, for in much counsel is safety.
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16. Though a righteous man fall seven times, he rises *again*, but wicked men stumble into evil.
17. When your enemy falls, do not be glad, and when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice.
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#### Proverbs 25

- ¶1.
2. It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, and it is the honor of kings to search it out.

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11. A word spoken at the right moment is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
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21. If someone who hates you is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.
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#### Proverbs 26

- ¶1.
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- 3.
4. Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.
5. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.
- 6.
7. The legs of a lame man are unequal<sup>2</sup>; so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
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<sup>2</sup> Or, weak.

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25. When his voice is gracious, put no trust in him, for there are seven abominations in his heart!
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28. A lying tongue hates those who are harmed by it, and a flattering mouth leads to stumbling.

#### Proverbs 27

- ¶1.
- 2.
3. A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's anger is heavier than them both.
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17. As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.
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#### Proverbs 28

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9. He who turns his ear away from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.
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13. He who conceals his transgressions shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy
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#### Proverbs 29

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18. Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but he who keeps the law is happy.
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### Proverbs 30

- ¶1.
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- 3.

4. . . . Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name? And what is His Son's name?  
Surely you know!
5. Every saying of Jehovah is pure. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Take vanity and lying far from me! Give me neither poverty nor riches. Provide for me my necessary food,
9. lest I be full, and deny *you*, and think, "Who is Jehovah?" or lest I be impoverished and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.
- 10.
- 11.
12. There is a generation that are clean in their own eyes, but they have not been washed from their filthiness.
13. There is a generation – oh, how haughty are their eyes, and lifted up, their eyelids!
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33. For as the churning of milk produced curds, and the wringing of the nose produces blood, so the pressing of anger produces strife.

Proverbs 31

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30. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain, *but* a woman who fears the LORD, she will be praised.

31.