

¹Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?²She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.³She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.⁴Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.⁵O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.⁶Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.⁷For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.⁸All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.⁹They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.¹²I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.¹⁴Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.¹⁵By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.¹⁶By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.¹⁷I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.¹⁸Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.²⁰I lead in the way of

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righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:²¹ That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.²² The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.²⁴ When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:²⁶ While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.²⁷ When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:²⁸ When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:²⁹ When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:³⁰ Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;³¹ Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.³² Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.³³ Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.³⁴ Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.³⁵ For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.³⁶ But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

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