

¹The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;²To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;³To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;⁴To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.⁵A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:⁶To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:⁹For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.¹⁰My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.¹¹If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:¹²Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:¹³We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:¹⁴Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:¹⁵My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:¹⁶For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.¹⁷Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.¹⁸And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.¹⁹So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.²⁰Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the

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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.

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