### Proverbs

## Chapter 1

1These are the proverbs of Solomon, son of David, who reigned over IsraEl.  
  
2To get to be wise and to truly learn,  
 You must understand intelligent words.  
 3[You must see how] words can be shifted and turned,  
 And used to unlock enigmas.  
  
You must also understand true justice…  
 How to make judgments that are straight,  
 4So that all your decisions can be guileless and wise.  
 Yet, you must perceive and reflect like a child.  
  
5Yes, if you’ll listen, the wise will get wiser  
 And receive intelligent guidance.  
 6You’ll understand dark illustrations…  
 The sayings of the wise and enigmas.  
  
7True wisdom starts with the fear of Jehovah;  
 And all who follow that rule  
 Will be understanding and good,  
 Since perception begins with reverence for God.  
 For, those who fail to respect Him,  
 Treat wisdom and learning with contempt.  
  
  
8Hear, O son, the laws of your father,  
 And don’t reject the rules of your mother.  
 9Then, a garland of favor, you’ll get for your head,  
 And a gold chain for your neck.  
  
  
10O son,  
  
Don’t let the godless lead you astray,  
 And don’t follow their ways.  
 11For they’ll offer you comforting words and then say:  
  
 ‘Come with us and we’ll [shed] blood!  
 For we’ll treat the righteous unfairly,  
 Then we’ll hide their bodies under the ground.  
  
 12‘Like the grave, we’ll swallow them down still alive,  
 And remove their memory from the land.  
 13Then we’ll take all their things that have value,  
 And fill our houses with loot.  
 14So, come with us and join what we do,  
 And we’ll each gain large sacks of money!’  
  
15But, don’t ever follow their ways…  
 Turn your feet from their paths!  
 16For their feet always run to do evil,  
 And they’re quick to shed blood.  
  
17Haven’t they wrongfully spread out their traps,  
 As would be done to catch birds…  
 18Then murder to gain evil treasures?  
 19Yes, these are the ways of the unrighteousness;  
 And because of their lack of respect,  
 They’re bringing destruction upon their own lives.  
  
  
20However, the praises of wisdom are sung in the streets…  
 She’s celebrated in all public places.  
 21For she shouts aloud from the tops of the walls,  
 And at city gates, she courageously says:  
  
 22‘As long as the honest have justice,  
 They’ll never be shamed.  
  
 ‘But the insolent fools who crave [what’s not theirs],  
 And those who don’t fear [God]  
 Are the ones who are lacking good sense…  
 23So, they’ll be disciplined.  
  
 ‘{Look!} Now I’ll set free the sayings of my spirit,  
 And to teach you, I’ll be speaking [wise] words.  
  
 24‘Although I called out to you, you didn’t obey…  
 I explained it, but you wouldn’t listen.  
 25You’ve ignored all my council,  
 And to my scolding, you’ve paid no attention.  
 26So I’ll laugh when you’re destroyed,  
 And I’ll shout in joy at your ruin.  
  
 27‘Yes, when troublesome times come upon you,  
 And in a blast, you’re quickly undone…  
 When you’re oppressed and assaulted,  
 28And you feel the need to cry out to me,  
 I won’t listen to you.  
  
 ‘For when evil men search, they can’t find me,  
 29Because they’ve detested what’s wise,  
 And they’ve failed to show fear for Jehovah.  
  
 30‘To my council, they chose not to listen,  
 And when they were scolded, they sneered.  
 31So they’ll have to eat their own fruitage,  
 And ever after, they’ll be disrespected.  
  
 32‘Because they’ve done wrong to the simple,  
 They’ll soon be destroyed…  
 Yes, after they’re tried, they’ll be slaughtered.  
 33But, those who’ve chosen to listen to me  
 Have camped in peace, and never fear what’s bad.’