### Proverbs

## Chapter 8

1If you’ll call out for wisdom,  
 Intelligence will also obey you!  
 2He’s higher than all of the others,  
 And he stands in the midst of all roads.  
  
3He’s the home of the mighty,  
 And in their doorway, he sings:  
 4‘O men, I’ll bring comfort to you,  
 And I’ll sing this aloud to your sons:  
  
 5‘All you guileless should learn to be shrewd,  
 And the unlearned should store it deep in their hearts.]’  
  
6‘So, you should listen to me,  
 For I’m speaking of serious things…  
 From my lips comes something that’s true!  
 7So my throat will be speaking truly,  
 Since those with lying lips, I’ve hated.  
  
8‘Righteous are the sayings that come from my mouth…  
 Nothing in them is crooked or evil.  
 9So the discerning should stand face to face  
 With the one who’s teaching them knowledge.  
  
10‘Seek instruction, not silver…  
 Put knowledge above proven gold!  
 11And wisdom is better than most precious gems…  
 Nothing is worth more than it,  
 12Since wisdom camps with counsel and knowledge!’  
  
‘And as I’m reflecting, I’ll say this:  
  
 13‘Those fearing Jehovah will hate all injustice,  
 As well as insolence and pride,  
 And ways that lead to what’s evil…  
 For He hates the perversions of those who do bad.’  
  
14‘Council and safety are mine!  
 Intelligence and strength are mine also!  
 15For by me, the kings start their reigns,  
 And the mighty write about justice.  
  
16‘By me, the great become sovereigns…  
 Through me, they rule the whole earth.  
 17Those fond of me are always beloved,  
 And those who seek me find favor.  
  
18‘By me, wealth and glory exist,  
 As well as the lands of the just.  
 19So the blest will gather my fruitage  
 Before seeking gold or rare gems…  
 For my reward is better than silver.  
  
20‘I walk in the ways of the righteous  
 And return in the pathways of reason.  
 21I provide for all those who love me,  
 And I fill their treasuries with things that are good.  
  
22‘I’ll proclaim what happens each day,  
 And I’ll speak of the things of the ages.  
 For, by Jehovah I was created,  
 And He made the head of His ways…  
 I’m the one [in charge] of His works.  
  
23‘In the beginning, He made me,  
 Before this age came to be…  
 Before He decreed the creation of lands…  
 24Before He made the abysses,  
 And before the springs gushed with water.  
  
25‘Yes, I was fathered by Him  
 Before the mountains and hills…  
 26Before He made the places to live,  
 Or the ends of man’s home under the skies.  
  
27‘As He was preparing the heavens,  
 I’m the one who presented them to Him.  
 Then He placed His throne on the winds,  
 28And moved clouds above with His strength.  
  
‘Then He made all the springs under the skies,  
 29And set limits for the waters of the seas,  
 So they couldn’t cross over their borders.  
 And when the foundations of the earth were made strong,  
 I’m the one who stood there beside Him.  
  
30‘By Him, all things worked together,  
 And He found joy in them all.  
 Each day that I stood there before Him,  
 In this, I also found much delight.  
 31Then He was pleased when He finished man’s home,  
 And over sons of men, He was happy.’  
  
32Now, listen to me, O my son:  
 Blest are those who are guarding his ways!  
 33Learn from wisdom and you’ll be wise…  
 Don’t cover it over!  
  
Blest is the man who listens to it…  
 The man who guards all its ways…  
 34The one who’s awake at its entrance each day,  
 And that pays close attention at its doors!  
  
35For, those who seek it find life  
 And receive the favor of God!  
 36But, those who are sinning against it  
 Are disrespecting their souls…  
 All who hate it are lovers of death.