**THE**

**BOOK OF PROVERBS**

*This Book is so called, because it consists of wise and weighty sentences: regulating the morals of men: and directing them to wisdom and virtue. And these sentences are also called* PARABLES*, because great truths are often couched in them under certain figures and similitudes.*

**CHAPTER** **1**

*The use and end of the proverbs. An exhortation to flee the company of the wicked: and to hearken to the voice of wisdom.*

**1** The parables of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel,

**2** To know wisdom, and instruction:

**3** To understand the words of prudence: and to receive the instruction of doctrine, justice, and judgment, and equity:

**4** To give subtilty to little ones, to the young man knowledge and understanding.

**5** A wise man shall hear, and shall be wiser: and he that understandeth, shall possess governments.

**6** He shall understand a parable, and the interpretation, the words of the wise, and their mysterious sayings.

**7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**8** My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

**9** That grace may be added to thy head, and a chain of gold to thy neck.

**10** My son, if sinners shall entice thee, consent not to them.

**11** If they shall say: Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood, let us hide snares for the innocent without cause:

**12** Let us swallow him up alive like hell, and whole as one that goeth down into the pit.

**13** We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoils.

**14** Cast in thy lot with us, let us all have one purse.

**15** My son, walk not thou with them, restrain thy foot from their paths.

**16** For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

**17** But a net is spread in vain before the eyes of them that have wings.

**18** And they themselves lie in wait for their own blood, and practise deceits against their own souls.

**19** So the ways of every covetous man destroy the souls of the possessors.

**20** Wisdom preacheth abroad, she uttereth her voice in the streets:

**21** At the head of multitudes she crieth out, in the entrance of the gates of the city she uttereth her words, saying:

**22** O children, how long will you love childishness, and fools covet those things which are hurtful to themselves, and the unwise hate knowledge?

**23** Turn ye at my reproof: behold I will utter my spirit to you, and will shew you my words.

**24** Because I called, and you refused: I stretched out my hand, and there was none that regarded.

**25** You have despised all my counsel, and have neglected my reprehensions.

**26** I also will laugh in your destruction, and will mock when that shall come to you which you feared.

**27** When sudden calamity shall fall on you, and destruction, as a tempest, shall be at hand: when tribulation and distress shall come upon you:

**28** Then shall they call upon me, and I will not hear: they shall rise in the morning and shall not find me:

**29** Because they have hated instruction, and received not the fear of the Lord,

**30** Nor consented to my counsel, but despised all my reproof.

**31** Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and shall be filled with their own devices.

**32** The turning away of little ones shall kill them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

**33** But he that shall hear me, shall rest without terror, and shall enjoy abundance, without fear of evils.