

# Proverbs: Wisdom

Wisdom cries aloud in the open air,  
she raises her voice in public places;  
she calls at the top of the busy street  
and proclaims at the open gates of the city:  
“Simple fools, how long will you be content  
with your simplicity?”

If only you would respond to my reproof,  
I would give you my counsel  
and teach you my precepts.

But because you refused to listen when I called,  
because no one attended  
when I stretched out my hand,  
because you spurned all my advice  
and would have nothing to do with my reproof,

I in my turn will laugh at your doom  
and deride you when terror comes upon you,  
when terror comes upon you like a hurricane  
and your doom descends like a whirlwind

Insolent men delight in their insolence;  
stupid men hate knowledge.

When they call upon me, I will not answer them;  
when they search for me, they shall not find me.

Because they hate knowledge  
and have not chosen to fear the LORD,  
because they have not accepted my counsel  
and have spurned all my reproof,  
they shall eat the fruits of their behavior  
and have a surfeit of their own devices;  
for the simpleton turns a deaf ear and comes to grief,  
and the stupid are ruined by their own complacency.  
But whoever listens to me shall live without a care,  
undisturbed by fear of misfortune.'

### The rewards of Wisdom

My son, if you take my words to heart  
and lay up my commands in your mind,  
giving your attention to wisdom  
and your mind to understanding,  
if you summon discernment to your aid  
and invoke understanding,  
if you seek her out like silver  
and dig for her like buried treasure,  
then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and attain to the knowledge of God,  
for the LORD bestows wisdom  
and teaches knowledge and understanding.  
Out of his store he endows the upright with ability  
as a shield for those who live blameless lives;  
for he guards the course of justice  
and keeps watch over the way of his loyal servants.

Then you will understand what is right and just  
and keep only to the good man's path;  
for wisdom will sink into your mind,  
and knowledge will be your heart's delight.  
Prudence will keep watch over you,  
understanding will guard you,  
it will save you from evil ways  
and from men whose talk is subversive,  
who forsake the honest course  
to walk in ways of darkness,  
who rejoice in doing evil  
and exult in evil and subversive acts,  
whose own ways are crooked,  
whose tracks are devious.

It will save you from the adulteress,  
from the loose woman with her seductive words,  
who forsakes the teaching of her childhood  
and has forgotten the covenant of her God;  
for her path runs downhill towards death,  
and her course is set for the land of the dead.  
No one who resorts to her finds his way back  
or regains the path to life.

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Happy he who has found wisdom,  
and the man who has acquired understanding;  
for wisdom is more profitable than silver,

and the gain she brings is better than gold.  
She is more precious than red coral,  
and all your jewels are no match for her.  
Long life is in her right hand,  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
Her ways are pleasant ways  
and all her paths lead to prosperity.  
She is a staff of life to all who grasp her,  
and those who hold her fast are safe.

In wisdom the LORD founded the earth  
and by understanding  
he set the heavens in their place;  
by his knowledge the depths burst forth  
and the clouds dropped dew.

*Proverbs 1:20-2:19, 3:13-20*  
*Translation from the New English Bible*