

Proverbs 4

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

A Father's Instruction

- 1**Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, And attend to know understanding.
- 2**For I give you good doctrine; Forsake ye not my teaching.
- 3**For I was a son unto my father, Tender and an only one in the sight of my mother.
- 4**And he taught me, and said unto me: 'Let thy heart hold fast my words, Keep my commandments, and live;
- 5**Get wisdom, get understanding; Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth;
- 6**Forsake her not, and she will preserve thee; Love her, and she will keep thee.
- 7**The beginning of wisdom is: Get wisdom; Yea, with all thy getting get understanding.
- 8**Extol her, and she will exalt thee; She will bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.
- 9**She will give to thy head a chaplet of grace; A crown of glory will she bestow on thee.'
- 10**Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; And the years of thy life shall be many.

- 11**I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in paths of uprightness.
- 12**When thou goest, thy step shall not be straitened; And if thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.
- 13**Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go; Keep her, for she is thy life.
- 14**Enter not into the path of the wicked, And walk not in the way of evil men.
- 15**Avoid it, pass not by it; Turn from it, and pass on.
- 16**For they sleep not, except they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.
- 17**For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.
- 18**But the path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, That shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
- 19**The way of the wicked is as darkness; They know not at what they stumble.
- 20**My son, attend to my words; Incline thine ear unto my sayings.
- 21**Let them not depart from thine eyes; Keep them in the midst of thy heart.
- 22**For they are life unto those that find them, And health to all their flesh.
- 23**Above all that thou guardest keep thy heart; For out of it are the issues of life.
- 24**Put away from thee a froward mouth, And perverse lips put far from thee.
- 25**Let thine eyes look right on, And let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
- 26**Make plain the path of thy feet, And let all thy ways be established.
- 27**Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; Remove thy foot from evil.