

**The Book of Proverbs—WISDOM: THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN**  
**Section One: Chapters 1-9: Preparation and Foundation**

**Chapter 7**

**Thread:** The Evangelistic strategy of the Strange Woman

**Key Verses:** vv. 7-20

Here the strange woman is presented as an “evangelist”—indeed, she is a “soul winner”! Can we not see how GOOD it is of God to be taking the time to show us these things? This is the third chapter in a row dealing with these specifics, and each chapter has built upon the other: From her *effects* in chapter 5, to her *children* in 6, we are introduced to *how* she approaches and makes her *converts* here in 7.

**New Testament Link:**

*And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen... and is become the habitation of devils...of every foul spirit...of every unclean and hateful bird. For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication...How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

(Rev.18:2-4)



**Vv.1-5- Preparation by way of exhortation.**

Every chapter so far has had these familiar and continual exhortations of **My son keep my commands—bind, tie, and lay them up in your heart.** This shows the truth of the foundational nature of this section of the book.

~**Lay up-** points to a “moral warehouse” if you will; it is a storing of treasure to draw from throughout life. We will indulge more in chapter 10.

~ **Bind them upon thy fingers... Apple of thine eye-** These are familiar concepts: How many times have we seen “ye old technique” of someone tying a string on their finger so that they would be *reminded* of something? ☺

~**Apple of the eye** is a much used phrase to indicate there is special favor or affection concerning something or someone. However, there is a very interesting relationship between the phrase “**apple of thine eye**” and wisdom in Proverbs.

I am going to submit to you that there is a connection between the “tree of life” and the apple tree. In fact, I might as well let the “cat out of the bag”: I believe the tree of life was the apple tree. In Proverbs, the Apple clearly symbolizes wisdom and her words:

- **A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.** (25:11)
- Wisdom is called “The tree of Life” in 3:18,
- The fruit of the righteous is called a tree of life in 11:30,
- In connection 25:11 above; our wholesome tongues are a tree of life in 15:4...

***We are dealing with a fruit from a tree***—Is this not the tree Adam and Eve were supposed to eat of? Instead their “eye” beheld the other tree and its’ fruit.

- In addition, “The Beloved One” is called “the apple tree” in Song of Solomon 2:3.
- Israel is referred to as the “**apple of mine eye**”, by God in Deut.32:10...
- We know that JESUS is the Israel of God in fulfillment (Hos.11:1 w/ Matt.2:15).
- God had given *life* to the nation of Israel, and now the life is in the Son, the true “apple of God’s eye”...hence, Jesus is the true “Tree of life” (Jno.15:1; 14:6, etc.) with fruit (Gal.5:22-23).

The apple clearly represents *life*—So the old adage says, “An apple a day (life) keeps the Doctor away (sickness)”...interesting isn’t it?

Now consider how backward man is: in their art work they always have Adam and Eve eating what? An *apple* when they fall! Well, it certainly wasn’t the apple they ate for the apple corresponds to the tree of life. Anyway, it’s been “fun”, and this is my “little deal”: hope you’ve enjoyed it!

~**The table of thine heart-** is a beautiful statement reflecting what the God of heaven has always desired concerning man’s receiving of His words. Moses received the law of God on tables of *stone*, written with God’s *own finger*; but the Lord desires to “touch” hearts—no doubt with His finger! He wants to write His words, **not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.** (2 Cor.3:3)—and wisdom is learned in the heart (Psa. 51:6).

~**Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister...my kinswoman: be kept from the strange woman...and her words...**

It is most serious that we know what women are on the Lord’s side. The descriptions of sister and kinswoman are descriptions of a *family*. Our verse then, gives a beautiful picture of how family is to be a support and deterrent to folly. This is two-fold in application:

- **God has designed the earthly as such:** I have my lovely wife, and my beautiful children; I have my sister, my Parents, etc. God’s plan is that we form a tight bond in HIM, keeping and helping each other from the effects of the Strange woman.

- **In the church I have the same as we are the *family of God*.** I have mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, etc. (Mk.10:30.). We must at all costs stick together; it is the unity of the faith and our love for one another that keeps us from the cunning craftiness of the strange woman (Eph. 4:13-16). Let us observe this demonstration...

### Vv.6-23- How she attacks.

Now we begin a detailed account of how the strange woman “evangelizes”, or rather “picks off” her prey; it is in setting of “a lady of the night”! How fitting in light of our New Testament link given up front: The Harlot Woman—Babylon the great, i.e. the world system (Rev. 17 &18)!

- ☑ *She is watching.* She waits for one *void of understanding* to pass her way and then she appears and approaches. So, she knows who lacks wisdom or who may be weak! (1Pet. 5:8).
- ☑ *She literally is a sniper* Her method is *one by one*. This is done in secret and with subtility. This will be *contrasted* with the universal and *open* call of wisdom who has nothing to hide!
- ☑ *This is done in the “night”.* It is the “black” and “dark” of night. The scriptures are filled with references to the evil way corresponding with the *night*. The children of God, however, are liked unto the children of the “day”. Consider Paul in 1 Thess. 5:4-ff, **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness...Ye are children of light, and children of the day... Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others...for they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.** Light vs. Darkness; righteousness vs. wickedness.
- ☑ *The attire of a Harlot-* This shows she definitely has her “own clothes”, but one must think of **internal** in these regards. The righteous should be able to recognize the difference in the “clothing” of the *spirit* at work (Romn.13:14; Gal. 3:27). Indeed, she appears beautiful, but it is only outward for she is “subtle of heart”. Her motive is not toward “blessing” anyone, but for destroying. *Know the clothes.* Let us continue:

(vv. 11-12 are in parenthesis, and thus are a “heads up” of what she *really is before* all the buttery descriptions she is about to give in vv.14-21.)

~**She is loud and stubborn-** *However,* she comes with subtility in her heart; one would not hear or see the loud and stubborn nature up front. This is instructive for we are told in 1 Sam. 15:23, **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** So, as a witch, she “casts a spell” so to speak. With this, we will see she operates under the guise of “religion”, but she is a rebel...

~**Her feet abide not in her house-** She is unfaithful; this is the woman who has forsaken and forgotten *the covenant of her God* (2:17). In despising the purity and safety of home, she has opted for the “streets” now. For this reason, no matter how sweet she *appears*; she will pierce

one fatally; she is a liar and corrupts. Good scripture contrasts would be 1 Peter 3:1-6, and James 3:13-18.

~**She caught and kissed him**- She is a fisher of men too! She *kissed* him; this is not a “holy kiss” as described in the New Testament (1 Cor.16:20). This is a *deception*, for the true kiss is supposed to be a blessing, a sign of favor, but she has used it as a curse. Note the Proverb well, **Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.** (27:6) so, this is a betrayal (c.f. Matt.26:48-49/Lk.22:48).

~**An Impudent face**- the word impudent is loaded and means the following: Shameless, lacking modesty, forward in behavior and without regard for the opinion of others; intentionally treating others with disrespect. This is a perfect word, for what follows is nothing but a big joke as far as the woman is concerned. She *deliberately* uses what she has must too to get the catch she desires. In this case, it is “religion”...

~**I am religious**- Verses 14-15 are the heart of the lies. The façade is to make her look respectable. “I believe in God too”, “I go to church”, “God is Love”, “*That is why I came out to meet you*”. Hence, the reference to one’s *eye* being on the *apple* of wisdom from above. The strange woman is trying to get the simple one to take his eyes off wisdom and look at HER. This is certainly *cruel* for this has a direct appeal to a) the wounded heart yearning for acceptance, and/or b) the lustful heart seeking pleasure.

~**I have decked my bed...perfumed my bed**...Everything looks and smells good. The sensuality of it all is overwhelming. However, the *clothing* was not noticed! (Remember from above). The linen is from *Egypt*. It is not the “fine linen” clean and white which is the righteousness of saints (Rev.19:8); it is the world’s linen. Egypt, like Babylon, is a perfect picture of the world system in the Bible. The Jew was repeatedly told not to go back there or rely upon them. Therefore, everything *looked* good, but the fabric of what the things were made of was from the *world*.

~**Come, let us take our fill of love... For the Goodman is not at home, he is gone on a long journey**...This is a direct stealing from the truth and the plan of God meant only for the marriage bed. Thus, note the reasoning here: “my husband is gone, I need love and comfort from somebody; certainly this is ok, and after all, I paid by vows and said my prayers today, God understands.”

Fornication is not “making love”, and solace points to “comfort”. It was a blessing from God when Isaac was “comforted” with the love of his new wife in Gen.24:67; but it is the kiss of turmoil when the strange woman has had her way with the simple man. **There is however, a major application for the Christian to heed concerning the Lord Jesus Christ here:**

- One cannot help but be reminded of the parables of Jesus in Luke 19 & 20 where he informs us that *he would be gone a long while to a far country to receive a kingdom.*

What we will we, His bride, do? Would we lose heart at His delay and become discouraged? In an attempt to find comfort and love, will we find it in the world? Would we give ourselves to another?

- Beloved, the lesson is well taken, and confirmed by the warnings of our Lord in Matt.24:42-25:30, and similar passages. *Watch* for him, be faithful, your reward is great! Our husband will come and not delay. But He is ever near, in thy heart, and ready to walk in the garden with you *now*. *By Faith* we see Him *now*; please let us not lose heart due to the physical elements around us.

**~With her much fair speech she caused him to yield...she forced him.**

Finally, the man yields. He agrees and is convinced at her reasoning. Remember she is the **huntress**, so she **caused** him to yield. Also, she has **forced** him by her flattery and mirage of religious-ness. Causing and forcing show the merciless nature of the strange woman; the pressure is great. This is a powerful contemplation as matched with Revelation 13:12 where the two beasts **cause** the dwellers of earth to worship the beast...*upon whom a woman rides!* (17:1-6) Amen for the continuity of the scriptures.

This is to be *contrasted* with the “meekness of wisdom” that is “easily intreated”, and with this the truth is magnified that states, **thy gentleness has made me great.** (Psa.18:35). It is never said of God that he forced someone to choose Him. It is His gentle persuasion and invitation that is laid at the door of our heart, *not* the flesh and lust stirring pressure of the evil woman in an attempt to get you to “snap”.

**~He goes after her...as an ox to the slaughter...and knows not that it is for his life.**

Once he has given into the heated seduction, he is totally unable to reason properly, and thus cannot see the coming disaster. You cannot get any more opposite concerning the difference between folly and wisdom than these described results.

**Vv.24-27- Final Exhortation and Description of Folly’s End.**

Take note of the familiar appeal, **O ye children** (c.f.4:1-2); we have seen over and over the issue of “My son listen”, but wisdom desires *all* the children of men to be spared from this awful deception and end. Father indeed passes on to Son, and then it is *the families that reach the world*.

**~For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her—** Note well the word **many!** Again, I reiterate, the one she speaks with at the point of seduction is not the only one she has been with even though she would make one feel “special” in this way!

~**Strong Men**- Men indeed may be strong; but what is strength? Samson found out the hard way that his strength was to be from the Lord. Leaning on his *own* understanding, the strange woman did him in. Let us not **think more highly of ourselves than we ought** (Rom.12:3) and **take heed lest ye fall** (1 Cor. 10:12 ) too!

Obviously, her house is the way to **hell and death**. We have commented on the house of death and final end of the wicked in chapters 1 and 2, and 5. All this is to be contrasted with the house wisdom built, which we will see in chapter 9.



In accordance with Luke 24:44,  
Proverbs 7 speaks of Christ in the following ways:

- ~ **In vv.1-4-** As the admonitions in Proverbs continues, so it was in the life of Jesus; He continually heeded the Father's cry, and kept the commandments. His path is the path of life; *He is the tree of life*; the *Apple of the Father's eye*, and He brings us to the house of God, not the house of death.
- ~ **In v.5-** Jesus is the "familiar man" as opposed to the strange woman! This is illustrated in John 10 where He is called the "good shepherd". His sheep hear His voice and a "stranger" THEY WILL NOT follow.
- ~ **In vv. 6-13-** He is not a sniper, operating by stealth, but has a **universal** and **open** call to **all** (John 7:3-39; Matt.11:28-29).

- ~ **In vv. 14-23-** Instead of the garments of Egypt (the world); His garments are of righteousness. His garments **smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.** (Psa.45:8) Even though He, as the goodman, is gone to a “far country” (Lk.19:11-12; 20:9); He indeed in coming back, and will reward the *faithful* bride.
  
- ~ **In vv. 24-27-** His words are truth, not deceit: His kisses are sweeter than wine and His words heal (Song of Sol. 1:2,4; Luks. 4:18); they give life, and lead to the house of LIFE, not the house of death.