

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

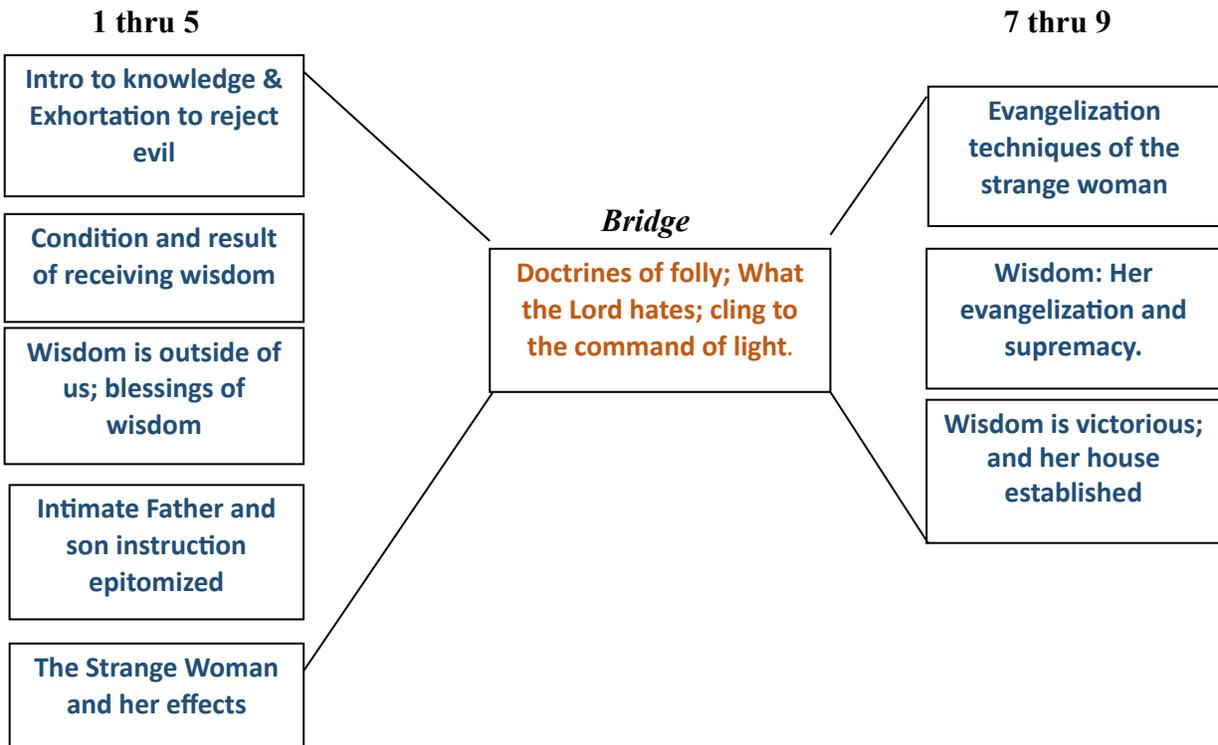
Chapter 6

Thread: The Strange Woman’s Children

Key Verses: vv. 16-19, 23

In this chapter we are introduced to the “children” of the strange woman, and a few of their names are as follows: the sluggard, the proud, the liar, etc. We’ll see other “names” later in the book too! The pinnacle of the chapter reveals the “seven things the Lord *hates*”; and these things are in direct contrast with wisdom’s children and what The Lord *loves*!

In addition, I believe chapter six functions as a type of “bridge” that carries us from chapters 1-5 over to 7-9. What’s in chapter 6 profoundly sets up the “evangelization techniques” of the strange woman in chapter 7. The crescendo to the entire foundational section however, is the supremacy and victory of Lady Wisdom in chapters 8 and 9. Consider the following visual:



New Testament Link:

Some men’s sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after...let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

(1 Tim.5:24; 2 Tim.2:19)



Vv.1-5 -Issue of Surety and a Friendship

This issue of “surety” may seem bit odd here; all of the incredible admonitions and passionate appeals of wisdom to our hearts, and then a financial discussion that leads to the ant in v.6? Actually, it fits in just right! The issue is *human relationships*.

~*First, Surety* is simply what we call “co-signing” today. In other words, if am surety for somebody, I have agreed to make “sure” the debt in the event the one I co-signed for cannot. This can be a potentially disastrous situation as it can *separate friends—money can do funny things to relationships!* If one is to make anything “sure”, *it is to be your friend*.

~Note that the word “**stranger**” appears in v.1; certainly there’s spiritual application concerning the world, but I take this literally, as in the stranger is the “3rd party” in this transaction; i.e. the banker, or merchant. Both applications must be well heeded for they directly affect the preciousness of friendship. **Wisdom is interested in the best welfare of mankind.** Wisdom values the preciousness of others. She desires converts. *She does NOT desire division and hurt; this is brought to a head in vv.16-19, concerning what the Lord hates.*

- Far from being an odd section, this is very timely for the *love* of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10) . *How many Christian relationships have been ruined or strained over money?!* Note the strong descriptive words in the text! **This is one of the most seductive areas of the strange woman.**
- *Consider:* If one would be asked to co-sign for someone, this usually means that they are not financially stable or able. We certainly understand Parents helping their children get established, etc. and I believe that fine. But the context here truly deals w/ human relationships and potential money traps. As a true friend, it would be better to simply *give* the money to them if able, but then you must beware of “holding anything” over their head as if they were indebted to you until the “second coming”!

Vv.6-11- Understanding Stewardship

In direct relation to the issue of surety from the above verses, presented here is how one *begins* to understand the issue of good stewardship, profit, and financial liquidity. No question connection could be made to the one who seeks a co-signer and the lazy person (sluggard), but that is not always the case of course.

~The first step is to **go to the ant**, one of the lowest forms in the animal and insect kingdoms. Even an ant knows that with labor there is reward. It is *by instinct* for the ant—given by God who created it! In other words, *they follow God’s wisdom*. Shouldn’t “intelligent” man? God is

fully aware of depressed job markets, bad economies, and the like. However, God will provide no matter what...but we must *believe*, we must BE AWAKE (c.f. Eph. 5:14)!

Vv.12-15- Definition of “The Sluggard”.

Sluggard is akin to “lazy, slothful.” The description here is ultimately a *personification* of any who reject wisdom for true living—i.e. there’s only one result that comes from a life void of wisdom and its sanctity of life blessings: a continued and growing self-centeredness at the expense of others!

Practically speaking however, most wouldn’t think of lazy persons as conceited because they are not aggressive. However, just talk with them; many times they are totally self-centered—this is conceit. The only motion is the foot wagging, the finger pointing, or the winking of the eyes! This is a *despising* of others; *it is void of understanding the preciousness of others*.

Vv.16-19- Seven Things The Lord Hates.

We are at the *heart of Sound Doctrine*: what follows is the terrible *opposite* of all God is and does! This is why the word **seven** is used. **Seven**, as you may know, represents completeness, or perfection in the Bible. Therefore, as there are many other evil manifestations in the world, these characteristics sum up evil in its *completeness*; from these all else flows. These then, are the prime attributes of the strange woman...great anti-spirits of God if you will! (See Rev.4:5).

~**A Proud Look**- Pride is *the* issue concerning all that is wrong with man, and we have discussed this repeatedly in our study (it is the first word defining evil in 8:13). A proud *look* comes from a proud *heart*. Pride is the great destroyer in relationships. This was the very reason Satan fell from heaven (Ezek. 28; Isa 14) and he is the king and father over all the children of pride (Job 41:34; John 8:42-45).

~**A Lying Tongue**- The sanctity of life is before us again. The lying tongue hurts others for it creates a false concept of something that is acted upon by feelings and thoughts created by it. Remember the Garden: Satan seduced Adam and Eve into thinking *God* had lied to them, thus calling His *integrity* into question. Remember, we are dealing with words!

~**Shedding of Innocent Blood**- The term “innocent blood” implies “without cause”. This is most abhorrent to a God of justice and life. Consider Jeremiah 7:31 & 19:4-5 where it is said that the way they were killing the innocents didn’t even enter into mind and heart of God! Simply astounding! One can understand then the declaration in Romans 1:30 that there are **inventors of evil** things. Along with this is that under the influence of Satan (Jno.13:2), both Jew and Gentile killed Jesus, **the innocent blood** (Mt.27:4) and that, **without cause** (Jno 15:25).

~**A Heart Devising Wicked Imaginations**- This continues from above: when God was to destroy the earth in the days of Noah, it was because the heart of man and its imaginations were

only evil continually. This led to extreme violence (Gen. 6). It also grieved God at *His* heart: He is NOT like this! He devises *good*. (Prov.14:22.)

~**Swift Feet Running to Mischief**- The word “mischief” in the older translations is serious, and often in the context of premeditated murder. (see ch.1:10-ff). Here we have the feet that are *swift* to do it; i.e. ready, willing, and nothing holding them back. **This awful description is to be contrasted with the beautiful feet of Romans 10:18.** These feet bring the good news of salvation and healing to the broken heart. Again, we have the extremes of light and darkness; healing vs. destruction. Thank God, that *He* is God and not Satan.

~**A False Witness**- Although this is still lying, it is more in the context of civil justice. Men lie all day long, yet most of this is just the daily course of events. However, the false witness in the civil, legal sense can totally pervert justice itself, sending the just to jail, as well as the gaining of dirty money at the expense of lives and families. This is most reprehensible to the God of all justice. Again, the sanctity of life is spit upon, and *remember, it was false witnesses that were used to send Jesus to the cross of Calvary!*

~**Sowing Discord among the Brethren**- The “brethren” here is understood as the entire people of God. Solomon was king over God’s *people*. God is a “family man” and does not want the family broken up. **Satan is the prime mover here; he is called the accuser of the brethren* (Rev 12:10). Hence, before we feel “justified” in any cause we take up w/ our fellow believers we better put such thots to the test of wisdom’s ways!

God desires for us to embrace the excellent things, and reject the evil. God has chosen a people both in the Old and New Testaments to pour His heart into so in turn we can manifest Him to the world! *Let us be ever mindful of what He hates so that we will adore that which He loves.* Compare Psalm 133 and Eph. 4:1-6!

Vv. 20-35: The Commands of Light Keep Us from a Terrible End

Once again our familiar refrain is before us...**My son and Keep the commands!** The bridge of chapter 6 connects all things well, and this is a good picture of a “lifesaver” if you will—**bind and tie around the heart and neck:** you will keep “afloat” even if the waves get rough!

The continual usage of language such as “bind”, “tie”, “cleave”, “hold firm”, communicate a tremendous understanding of the original phrase, **what God hath joined together let no man put asunder** (Matt.19:6). Taking the two women into consideration, I believe you understand the application!

In vv. 22-23 we have 2 sets of a beautiful three cord strand that cannot be easily broken:

- ~ **Go-** Because you are *led*. The sons of God are led by the Spirit of God (Rom.8:15), and many times we must be “led” to rest and eat: **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures** (Psa.23).
- ~ **Sleep-** When you sleep you will be “kept”. This points to protection. Protection is what makes sleep “sweet” (3:24).
- ~ **Awake-** You will hear a sweet voice in the morning, “Good morning my dear child, shall we allow righteousness to adorn our paths today?” “Will your heart be mine today?” We are totally surrounded by God and His tender instruction day and night. This is God’s heart and will toward us.

And then:

- ~ **Lamp-** When I **go** (v.22), the commandment will lead me because the commandment *is a lamp unto my feet* (Ps.119:105), and my feet are how I *walk*.
- ~ **Light-** When I **sleep** (v.22), I will be **kept** because the night light is on! The law is light!
- ~ **Life-**When I **awake** (v.22), I will receive the reproofs of instructions and thus I will live!

Know these things and accept them; it is wisdom’s blessing...

~**To keep thee from the evil woman.** This is the strange woman; the “adulteress”. Through wisdom, you will know the difference between substantive edification coming from one’s mouth and the shallow self-serving motives of flattery.

~**Lust not after her beauty...Lust**” and “pleasing to the eye” was the Garden issue. The base nature of man is contrasted with the safety of wisdom. *Discernment will be the platform for self-control*. This is the exact statement of the Lord in Matt. 5:28; adultery is in the *heart*—whether spiritual or physical. One can be a blessing in life or a destroyer; that which is birthed in the heart eventually affects the *outside* world!

~**The whorish woman... hunts for the precious life...**this is a great description because you must know O man, *that you are not the only one she has been with!* In addition, *she* is the hunter. This means she in *control*; it is the *man* that is seduced. She is bold and aggressive; she *knows* that a life is precious! *Why don’t we?* She **hunt** and she wants to kill; especially the children of wisdom! She certainly knows man’s weakness and can bring a strong productive man, to a “**piece of bread**”, i.e. he has been brought to “beggar” like status concerning his lust, spending all he has to meet his need (28:21; 29:3).

~**Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Vv.27-30-** The questions are admonitions pointing to the verses above. Not only this, consider these issues in light of the Christian being *clothed* with Christ (Gal.3:27), with *righteousness* (Rev 19:8), and that our feet should be “beautiful” (Rom.10:18). No matter if we speak spiritually or literally, if one becomes intimate with another’s spouse you will not be innocent. Both applications are well heeded here.

Vv. 30-32: People understand the need for survival; there is no “despising” in these circumstances so to say. There are however, repercussions still (v.31). However, the issue of

adultery is not the issue of survival, or feeding your family—it is the feeding of one’s lust. What’s “stolen” here is someone else’s “other half”. Thus, this person **lacks understanding**, as it relates to wisdom, and

Destroys his own soul:

- This is applied in two ways: temporal and eternal. The temporal is dealt with below in vv.33-35, so here we compare this verse with Matt.10:28 where Jesus refers to **...him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell**. The ultimate “destroying” is the final state of the adulterer, both literal and spiritual (Rev. 21:8). This obviously points to one who persisted to the end and did not repent, thus receiving the only outcome possible. Hence, the next verses...

Vv. 33-35: Both earthly and heavenly realities are present! On the earthly relationship side we have we have a tremendously accurate description of the effects of adultery concerning the violated husband! Consider the word **rage**; it means to be furious with anger; to be exasperated to fury; violently agitated with *passion*. Now that is a fascinating definition. There is a *passion* involved, but a different “application” thereof, indeed!

But how much more so GOD* who is described as “Jealous**” (Exod. 34:14)? His wrath will be great toward all the nations that have caused His wife to commit adultery! It is the same with the Son and His bride too! (2 Cor. 11:1-3; Rev, 17)! Indeed, what God in Christ accomplished for us in redemption was called **his passion** (Acts 1:1-4)!

God is justified when he comes in **the day of vengeance**....This means “judgment day”! Therefore, there is no room left for **ransom**, or **many gifts**. It is too late for this, and this easily connects with 1:24-33 and the final end of the wicked.

Having said all this, we must ALWAYS remember and KNOW that down here, God is eager to forgive and restore! With this, know that wounds from such difficult situations can take much love and time to heal. It can be a long road back to emotional stability and “the accuser of the Brethren” will try many tricks on the heart and mind. The truth stands strong no matter: “Forgiven...and Free”! Let us always build on this rock foundation. Walk in this light and truth and rejoice in His love and salvation.



In accordance with Luke 24:44,
Proverbs 6 speaks of Christ in the following ways:

- ~ **In vv. 1-5-** Jesus “made sure” His friends and “loved them unto the end” (Jno.13:1-2). He prayed for them that they would be with Him forever and was heard (Jno.17); we also have been prayed for and we are His friends, and brothers and children. He has made us sure once for all (Heb. 10:14)!
- ~ **In vv.6-11-** Jesus was the blessed opposite of “lazy”; He had not a place to lay His head (Lk.9:58), as He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem (Lk.9:51). His *work*, was the Fathers’, and the zeal of the Lord of Hosts accomplished this! (Isa.9:7)
- ~ **In vv.12-23-** It is blessed that Jesus never shed anyone else’s innocent blood, *but He shed His own innocent blood*. He is the exact opposite of all that he hates (the “seven” abominations) and rather than wicked imaginations, His thoughts toward us are of peace, and salvation (Jer.29:11). Oh, how the Lamp of God shined so bright in our Savior’s heart (vv.20-23)!
- ~ **In vv. 24-end-** Have you ever stopped to think about the purity of Christ’s heart toward us? He has never lusted after a woman, WE ARE SAFE WITH HIM, as His Bride. Do you believe this?