

Proverbs Collection I: A Father's Instruction – Part 3 (c. 969t – 932t BC)

Proverbs 7–9

Wisdom Will Guard You Against the Seduction of the Adulterous Woman

7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.
 2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.
 3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.
 4 Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman:
 5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words.
 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,
 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,
 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,
 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:
 10 And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart.
 11 (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:
 12 Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)
 13 So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,
 14 *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.
 15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
 16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.
 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.
 19 For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:
 20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed.
 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
 23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.
 24 Harken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.
 25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
 26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.
 27 Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Lady Wisdom—Who She Is and What She Offers

8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?
 2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.
 3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.
 4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of man.
 5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.
 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things.
 7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.
 8 All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.
 9 They *are* all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.
 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.
 11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.
 12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.
 13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
 14 Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength.
 15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.
 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth.
 17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.
 18 Riches and honor *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness.
 19 My fruit *is* better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.
 20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:
 21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.
 22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.
 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.
 24 When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.
 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:
 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I *was* there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:
28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:
29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:
30 Then I was by him, *as* one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;
31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.
32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed *are they that* keep my ways.
33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.
34 Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.
35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the LORD.
36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Wisdom and Folly—Rivals for Your Heart

9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:
2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.
3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,
4 Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,
5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine *which* I have mingled.
6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.
7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man* *getteth* himself a blot.
8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.
9 Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.
10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.
11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.
12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but *if* thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear *it*.
13 A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing.
14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,
15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:
16 Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,
17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.
18 But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

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