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Proverbs 5

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Proverbs 5.

Topics.

- Be attentive to wisdom, understanding, discretion and knowledge.
- Lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, her speech smoother than oil.
- Keep from the adulterous woman, lest you give your honour to others.
- Whoever hates discipline, will groan when their body is consumed.
- Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, that has multiple authors, but most of it is attributed to King Solomon. Chapter one to nine gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The central concern of the book of Proverbs is practical wisdom for living. We are told that the beginning and essence of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (Prov. 1:7) (Prov. 9:10). It contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a foolish life. While the wicked stumble in deep darkness (Prov. 4:19), the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day ((Prov. 4:18). Individual proverbs date from between the tenth and sixth centuries B.C.

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KINGS AND ANGELS

The title king is often used throughout the book of Proverbs, it comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) which can refer to the following four things:

1. A royal king ascending to the throne of royalty and reigning from it.
2. A male sovereign (i.e., a man or boy who rules as a monarch over an independent state.
3. The chief, or the principal leader or ruler of a group (secular or religious).
4. A messenger or ambassador, especially of God, (i.e. an angel, a king, a prophet, a priest or a teacher).
5. The best, the strongest and the wisest of all.

It is interesting to notice in the first verse of proverbs (Prov. 1:1) the word king comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) and the first mention of an angel in the Bible also comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) (Gen. 16:7). This means when the title king is used in the book of Proverbs it carries the idea of a wise king that does good unless the context implies otherwise. For further information concerning angels see the title: "Angels," (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PROVERBS 5:1-2

Be Attentive to Wisdom, Understanding, Discretion, Knowledge.

- **Proverbs 5:1-2:** My (Solomon's) son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, ²that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

Discretion: comes from the Hebrew word (m^ezimmah) and means a plan, usually in a bad sense, (but sometimes good), a wicked plot, a mischievous thought, or a wicked intent or purpose (lewdness). Solomon tells his son to stay away from so called friends who plan to do things that are wrong and are going to do harm to another human.

PROVERBS 5:3-6

Forbidden Woman Lips Drip Honey, Her Speech Smoother than Oil.

- **Proverbs 5:3-6:** For the lips of a forbidden (strange in KJV) woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, ⁴but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; ⁶she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

Forbidden: (strange in the KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (zuwr) and means profane, to turn aside especially for lodging, to be a foreigner it especially carries the idea of turning aside to commit adultery (i.e., to come from another man's place). The expression forbidden woman refers to a married woman (v20) she is called the evil woman and an adulteress in (Job 6:25, 29).

Wormwood: comes from the Hebrew word (la`anah) it is regarded as poisonous, and therefore accursed (much like hemlock). Solomon tells his son that the enticements of a married woman maybe very flattering and full of pleasure, but the end result will be bitterness and hurt to himself and to everyone who knows him.

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PROVERBS 5:7-10

Keep from Adulterous Women, Lest You Give Honour to Others.

- **Proverbs 5:7-10:** And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. ⁸Keep your way far from her (the adulterous woman), and do not go near the door of her house, ⁹lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, ¹⁰lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner.

Give your honour to others: means no-one respects a man who goes to bed with another man's wife, the man loses the trust he once held in the community and his integrity is totally destroyed.

Give your years to the merciless: means the husband of the adulterous woman will seek to do harm to the man who went into his wife and will never forgive him.

Lest strangers take their fill of your strength: means the man who sleeps with a married woman is likely to lose everything that he has worked for.

PROVERBS 5:11-14

Whoever hates discipline, Will Groan when Consumed.

- **Proverbs 5:11-14:** and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, ¹²and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! ¹³I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. ¹⁴I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."

When the man who went into another man's wife is facing death they will be sorry for the ruin it brought to them amongst God's people.

NOTICE: the destructive consequences of sin, in this case sleeping with another man's wife are seen as discipline. The harmful and painful repercussions that follow wrongdoing are spoken of as the discipline and reproof of God; these can come in the form of guilt and anxiety or the lack of joy, contentment and peace or outwardly as death, prison time or financial ruin etc. They are called disciplines and reproofs of God because their purpose is to bring a person to repentance and motivate them to change their ways and where possible make restitution to those they have harmed.

PROVERBS 5:15-23

Drink Water from Your Own Cistern and Your Own Well.

- **Proverbs 5:15-23:** Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, ¹⁹a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. ²⁰Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? ²¹For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. ²²The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. ²³He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

Drink water from your own cistern: means sleep with your own wife, Solomon is saying to his married son don't sex around with the woman around him, but let his sexual desires be for the woman who is his wife. Solomon is being very honest and speaking from his own experiences, we know this because he tells his son that because of great foolishness iniquities (sexual in this context) ensnare a man, and he is enticed and led astray. This is exactly what happened to Solomon, his multitudes of wives and Concubines lead him to worship idols and pagan gods.

Solomon's wives and concubines: Solomon held a collection of some 700 wives and 300 concubines: and his wives turned away his heart after other gods so that his heart was not wholly true after the LORD his God (1 Kings 11:4). He built places of worship for their false gods to satisfy his heathen wives. The LORD was angered at Solomon's failure to keep His explicit commands and announced to him the rift in the kingdom which was to take place in the reign of his son. Solomon's rule was quiet and peaceful. Solomon in this speech to his son is indirectly placing himself in with the wicked and the foolish that have been led astray (v22-23). Often secular or Christian authors who write a biography about the life of a person they greatly admire will tend to glamorise their character, the beauty of the Bible is that no matter how great a king or prophet may be the Bible does not hide their faults from the reader. The Canon of the Bible gives a balanced view of human life by recording both the good and the bad of human nature.

WISDOM EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING NINE ASPECTS

1. Having a clear thoughtful, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, and discreet mind.
2. Being cautious in character as opposed to being impulsive.
3. Being sensible and practical with the skills and talents that a person has.
4. Making choices that considers others and that will be fair and just.

5. Studying, reading and learning to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
6. Being able to see the future danger of a decision, choice or action.
7. Having the ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in the best result and a good outcome in the future.
8. Being able to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message a speaker is teaching.
9. Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future for themselves and for others.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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