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Proverbs 6

(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 6.

Topics.

- The perverted heart of the wicked devises evil and sows' discord.
- Six things that the LORD hates and seven that are an abomination.
- Keep your father's commandment and your mother's teaching.
- The law of God is a lamp and light to preserve from the adulteress.
- Do not desire the beauty of the adulteress woman in your heart.
- It's better to sleep with a prostitute than a married woman.
- Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?
- He who commits adultery lacks sense and destroys himself.

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.

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).

If you put up Security for Your Neighbour, Keep Your Promise.

- **Proverbs 6:1-5:** My (Solomon's) son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger, ²if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught in the words of your mouth, ³then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into the hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor. ⁴Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; ⁵save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

Today in many circles a person's word does not count for very much, that is why lawyers are able to charge such exorbitant fees, TV commercials are constantly feeding its viewers with deceptive messages and Politicians make promises they have no intention of keeping. Therefore, to fully appreciate what Solomon is saying it must be remembered that during the Old Testament era to break your word was considered an enormously serious thing and a total loss of a person's integrity. Solomon is telling his son if he has made a promise to do something and then finds he is unable to do it, go to the person he has made the promise too and beg with them that they will release him from the promise otherwise he is bound to his word and becomes victim to the one he has made the promise to.

PROVERBS 6:6-11

The Ant Prepares Her Bread in Summer and Gathers in Harvest.

- **Proverbs 6:6-11:** Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. ⁹How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

The ant's wisdom is that it is self-motivated, it is not going to rely on others to take care of its needs, and it knows it has to work if it is going to survive, so it sleeps to recover its strength, but knows it must soon rise to prepare for the next day and its future. Solomon warns that poverty will come to a lazy person then they become like criminals and rob and steal to get food, clothing and shelter to survive.

NOTE: this does not mean every person suffering poverty is a lazy person there are many other sad and often tragic reasons people find themselves in the depth of poverty. Solomon is simply saying that it is guaranteed that a person who chooses to be lazy will be poor.

PROVERBS 6:12-15

The Perverted Heart of the Wicked Devises Evil and Sows Discord.

- **Proverbs 6:12-15:** A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, ¹³winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, ¹⁴with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; ¹⁵therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

Winking, signalling with the feet and pointing with a finger in this context most likely means to take one aside in secret and gossip about another person.

NOTICE: one of the characteristics of a perverted heart and a worthless person is that they are continually sowing discord, and constantly causing strife and conflict between people.

Six things that the LORD Hates and Seven that are an Abomination.

- **Proverbs 6:16-19:** There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷haughty (Proud in KJV) eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.'

Abomination: comes from the Hebrew word (*tow`ebah*) and means to loathe, utterly detest and have a strong and intense disapproval of something (especially idolatry or an idol).

Haughty and proud: come from the Hebrew word (*ruwm*) and means to highly esteem and exalt oneself above others.

Following are seven things people do that are abomination to the LORD:

1. Exalt themselves above others.
2. Tell lies.
3. Cause innocent people to suffer and cause their death.
4. Devise plans that will bring harm to others, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally and spiritually.
5. Take pleasure in doing wrong.
6. Speak deceptively and tells lies against the accused when witnessing.
7. Sow discord among brothers and sisters.

PROVERBS 6:20-22

Keep your Father's Commandment, and your Mother's Teaching.

- **Proverbs 6:20-22:** My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. ²¹Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. ²²When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

Solomon gives credit to his wife; calling her a wise woman and one his son should listen to and take notice of.

NOTE: the wisdom that is taught in proverbs and God's laws will only guard a person from trouble if they keep and do them.

PROVERBS 6:23-24

The Law of God is a Lamp to Preserve from the Adulteress.

- **Proverbs 6:23-24:** For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, ²⁴to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

The evil woman in this context is a married woman who is an adulteress (v25, 29) she, is also called the forbidden woman. (Job 5:20). The consequences that come from doing wrong are the disciplines of God. God has established in the laws of the universe that wrong doing will bring about consequences that can lead to death, prison, financial ruin, rejection, guilt, lack of contentment and the loss of happiness and peace etc., but this does not mean that everyone who is suffering one of these

is a wicked person there are always exceptions to the general rule. The preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes says all his searching for wisdom to find and understand God, brought him to the following conclusion, no-one can find out the work of God and His ways that is done on the earth no matter how much a person may study in seeking, they will not find it out. Even though a wise person claims to know, they cannot find it out because there are too many contradictions and exceptions to the general rules and laws of any given event or thing. The LORD has designed the universe this way so that no human whether righteous or wicked can find out their future or know what will happen to them tomorrow. The preacher concludes that without God all is vanity (brief, passing or meaningless) because the righteous and the wicked both end up in the grave and are forgotten and determines that the conclusion of the matter is to live with reverence and respect toward God and do no harm to another human, this the writer of Ecclesiastes says, is the whole duty of every human, God will take every open or secret deed into judgment whether good or evil (Eccl. 12). Since death comes to all and the days of darkness will be many all that comes is meaningless without eternal life. For further information see:

- Ecclesiastes in, Commentary Old Testament (ON WESITE MENU).

PROVERBS 6:25-26

Do not desire the Beauty of the Adulteress Woman in your Heart.

- **Proverbs 6:25-26:** Do not desire her (the adulteress) beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; ²⁶for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.

Solomon tells his son no matter how beautiful a woman is if she is married don't go near her sexually. Solomon would fully understand what he is saying, because no doubt his father David would have told him the story of Bathsheba and Nathan and the murder of Uriah and the death of Bathsheba's first born. Even when I was a teenager it was the common language amongst the secular world of that era to say, "She is forbidden," meaning she's married, even the secular world had a consciousness that to take a married woman sexually was forbidden.

It's better to sleep with a prostitute than a married woman:

Solomon basically tells his son if he is going to have sex with a woman it is better to go to a prostitute because all that will cost him is a loaf of bread, but to sleep with a married woman is likely to cost him his life, because the woman's husband will hunt, him down and it will destroy other precious lives especially if there are children.

NOTICE: the price of a prostitute was a loaf of bread, not every prostitute would have been working as a sex worker because they were evil lustful woman or for the pleasure of sex, for many it would have been the only way they could feed their family especially if she was a mother whose husband had died or been killed. There were no social welfare programs run by the governments, if a woman did not have a family or a husband to look after her or she was divorced she had no means of supporting herself or her children.

It was very hard for a woman under these circumstances to survive, on her-own. This is one of the reasons the Bible is so full of instruction to care for the widows and orphans because it was almost impossible for many of them to survive without help. Even in third world countries today it is much the same as it would have been in Solomon's era. Sadly, in poor countries today many parents will send their young teenage daughters out as sex workers to support the family.

A Good lesson: we can all learn from this is that it is an enormously dangerous thing to judge another person by their outward lifestyle when we don't know their motives or their tragic circumstances.

Can a Man carry Fire to His Chest and His Clothes Not be Burned?

- **Proverbs 6:27-29:** Can a man carry fire (the adulteress) (v25) next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? ²⁸Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? ²⁹So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

The fire and the hot coals: refer to having sex with another man's wife. Solomon is saying it is impossible to sleep with a married woman and not cause enormous pain, suffering and destruction.

PROVERBS 6:30-35

He who Commits Adultery Lacks Sense and Destroys Himself.

- **Proverbs 6:30-35:** People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, ³¹but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. ³²He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. ³³Wounds and dishonor will he get, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. ³⁴For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge. ³⁵He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts.

People understand when someone steals food to survive, but there is no mercy for those who commit adultery.

Men who commit adultery:

- Lack common sense and wisdom.
- Destroy and bring dishonour and disgrace on themselves forever.
- Cause enormous jealousy in the husband so that he is furiously angry and will show no mercy when he seeks revenge.

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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