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Proverbs 9

(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 9.

Topics.

- Wisdom calls from the highest places in town, "let all come to me."
- Scoffers hate those who reproof them; the wise love them.
- Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of God.
- The fear of God and Christians.
- The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil.
- The fear of the LORD is the knowledge of the Holy One.
- The wise are wise for themselves, those who scoff will bear it alone.
- The seductive woman calls to the simple and to him who lacks sense.

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).

Wisdom Calls from the High Places in Town, "Let All Come to Me."

- **Proverbs 9:1-6:** Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, ⁴"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, ⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Scripture states: God possessed wisdom at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts (Prov. 8:22-31) God has always existed, and wisdom existed before creation, God used wisdom to create everything that He created. Nothing that is made is made without wisdom, everything that exists including the human mind; the thoughts; the subconscious and the conscious mind all exist by wisdom. The prideful stand like proud peacocks, with all their knowledge, but put that knowledge before the knowledge of God and suddenly it looks enormously pathetic, how pitiful is are the prideful especially when they exalt their intellect above God. Wisdom loves those who love her (Prov. 8:17) and says, "Whoever seeks me is going to find me," this shines a spotlight on the truth that it takes study and reading as well as humbleness to listen to others to gain wisdom it is not going to drop out of heaven. If a person seeks after wisdom it will give them mental and spiritual strength, insight and the ability to counsel. Wisdom not only speaks the truth, noble things, righteousness and what is good and right (Prov. 8:5-9), but also establishes good kings, rulers' princes and nobles, with the ability to do right and govern justly, who the people they rule over will favour (Prov. 8:14-17).

Wisdom is more valuable than silver and gold (Prov. 8:10-11), because with wisdom comes enduring righteousness; honour before God and man (Prov. 8:18-21). If it were possible to build a house on earth with the fruits of wisdom it would by far surpass the most glorious palace built with cedars of Lebanon and the finest of gold and choice silver. This is because it is guaranteed wisdom will not only lead a person to God, to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory and keep them from all sorts of troubles, crime and wrongdoing, but also fill their mind and heart with contentment, peace and God's love. In contrast to this all the riches in the world cannot guarantee any of these things and certainly cannot buy eternal life. Like perfect love wisdom has no sin or any wrong-doing within it, her fruit is justice, fairness, impartiality, even-handedness, honesty and integrity, wisdom is no respecter of people it treats everyone with fairness and honest justice regardless of whether they are kings or paupers, rich or poor, lowly or noble wisdom. Added to this whoever finds wisdom finds life and obtains favour from God (Prov. 8:32-36) not simply by knowing wisdoms ways, but by also doing them.

Those who keep wisdom's ways by doing what is right and good before God and keeping His laws and showing kindness and compassion to others will have favour from the LORD in this world and will be counted worthy of eternal life in the world to come, but all who choose to deliberately do harm to others and refuse to do what is good, right and decent bring upon themselves God's judgment and condemnation to the lake of fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). It could be said that they by their lack of wisdom and corrupt works are digging their own graves. For further information concerning the lake of fire see the title: Lake of Fire in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Wisdoms invitation: wisdom is personified as a woman seated in the highest of places who dwells in a most royal palace and has set a table of the finest of wine and the most delicate of foods raising her voice and sending out invitations to all the foolish everywhere inviting them to leave their unwise and reckless ways and come and eat and drink at her rich

banquet table, because she desperately wants to pass her gifts onto everyone everywhere. (Prov. 8:1-4). (Proverbs 9:1-6). Likewise, the faithful who belong to the global family of Christ go forth with the Gospel to invite sinners and the unwise to be their guests at the banquet table of Christ. The Gospel shuts no man or woman out that does not shut themselves out by rejecting the invitation. Jesus himself said, "I came, not to call the self-righteous who see themselves as being righteous in their own eyes, who say they see, but do not, but sinners who recognise and acknowledge that they are not perfect in righteousness before God's Holiness.

GIFTS, WISDOM LONGS TO GIVE OUT TO EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

Gifts concerning Intellect and Thinking.

- The ability to reason and discern a thing out to its end conclusion and perceive the ramifications (good or bad) of what someone is saying.
- The ability to use good sense and to be rational in dealing with practical, financial, emotional, and spiritual matters.
- The ability to think clearly and be practical with the talents and skills one has.
- The ability to be thoughtful and discreet and keep sensitive information secret so as not to cause embarrassment to others.

Gifts concerning Choices and Decisions.

- The ability to see the positive in a choice to be made as well as the negative.
- The ability to stop emotions from influencing and controlling decisions that have to be made.
- The ability to make choices that will be fair and just to others.
- The ability to be cautious in making decisions as opposed to being impulsive.
- The ability to perceive and discern the end result and ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message that is being taught or spoken.

Gifts concerning Judging and Decisions.

- The ability to consider others, be just and fair and treat everyone as an equal.
- The ability to make good judgments and carefully consider the likely consequences.
- The ability to judge and decide on a matter and make the right decision about it.
- The ability to know who to correct and who to leave alone since there are people who accept being corrected and others who simply respond in defence and attack (verbal or physical) (Proverbs 9:7-9).

Gifts concerning the End Result of a Choice.

- The ability to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
- The ability to see ahead in time the ramifications, consequences and the end result of an action done in the present moment.

- The ability to think a choice through in the present moment to its end conclusion to see if it is going to result in calamity or danger in the future.
- The ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in a good outcome in the future and bring about the best result.
- The ability to avoid making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future.
- The ability to manage resources so as to provide for the future.

PROVERBS 9:7-9

Scoffers Hate those Who Reproof them; the Wise Love Them.

- **Proverbs 9:7-9:** Whoever corrects a scoffer (scorner in KJV) gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. ⁸Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

There are people who accept being corrected and others who simply respond in defence and attack (verbal or physical), wisdom in the context of these verses is, knowing who to correct and who to leave alone. (Proverbs 9:7-9).

- If a scoffer (scorner in KJV) is corrected they often respond in verbal abuse.
- If a wicked person is corrected, they most likely will respond with violence.
- If a wise person is corrected it is certain they will respond in love with thankfulness.

PROVERBS 9:10-11

Fear of God is the Beginning of Wisdom, and Knowledge of Him.

- **Proverbs 9:10-11:** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. ¹¹For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

The reason a person is told to fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek God and his eternal salvation and forgiveness. This is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek God and His forgiveness.

The apostle John in his letter wrote:

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.

- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually (summed up they mean do-good and not harm). The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lords global family.

- The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (Prov. 8:13).

The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil: it is having a hatred of everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually and having a strong dislike of anything that destroys the planet and of whoever treats animals cruelly. God loves humans He gave his only Son to die for them. The fear of the LORD is about protecting and preventing harm to other humans. It is about knowing we are all going to stand before Him one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right thing and treat others with respect.

The fear of the LORD is the knowledge of the Holy One: this is because knowledge of God reveals that it is God who has the power over life and death, and therefore anyone who desires eternal life and has this knowledge will earnestly seek to find God.

PROVERBS 9:12

The Wise are Wise for Themselves, those who Scoff Bear it Alone.

- **Proverbs 9:12:** If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff (scornest in KJV) you alone will bear it.

Scoff (scornest in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*luwts*) and means to make mouths at it carries the idea of scorning, scoffing and mocking others. This verse carries the idea that whether we are wise or not, whether we treat people with decency and respect or scorn and mockery add nothing to God nor does it take anything away from Him, but it will make a huge difference to our own lives. Those who listen to wisdoms advice and accept her invitation and turn into her house, and become her guest are wise for themselves since it will not only profit their present peace and comfort, but also advantage their future prosperity and happiness and by their wisdom their families, friends and neighbours will also benefit. But for those who reject wisdoms invitation and instead of treating others with decency and respect they scoff, demean and degrade them they themselves will bear the blame and reap the consequences and no one else. The sin of the unwise, the foolish and the wicked that scoff and mock others and God's punishment due to them will only affect the scoffer themselves; they alone will reap the punishment of their own evil and feel all the dreadful consequences of it. (Proverbs 9:12).

PROVERBS 9:13-18

Seductive Women call to the Simple and to Him who Lacks Sense.

- **Proverbs 9:13-18:** The woman folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. ¹⁴She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, ¹⁵calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, ¹⁶"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" And to him who lacks sense she says, ¹⁷"Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." ¹⁸But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

The primary focus of the previous chapters has been upon a married woman dressing herself in seductive clothing and hunting out sexual partners other than her husband. In this context the expression, "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant," refers to a married woman having an adulterous sexual affair in secret. Such an affair can be deceptively erotic and pleasantly exciting, because of the danger involved (i.e., being caught) and because neither partner has any history or responsibly toward each other, but the end result of it is hurt for the unsuspecting partner and especially for any children involved and death, because under the law when this was written the punishment for adultery was stoning to death. It is interesting to notice that in this context the seductive woman is pictured as the hunter and the man as her foolish victim.

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.
