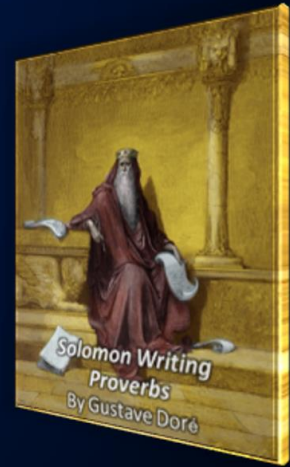


The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

The father warns his son again (see 2:16) of the dangers of illicit sex outside the bonds of marriage. He will warn him again (6:20-35) and again (7:1-27). The “other woman” is not only sexually seductive but flatters the man’s ego with honeyed words. The son is warned of the consequences—the regret and the ruin of one’s life—of yielding to illicit sexual desire & seduction. The “water” of vv. 15-16 is sexual affection; the “cistern” of the wife, the “springs” of the husband. Vv. 18-19 are a prayer, expressed in intimate poetry, for the young man to find sexual fulfillment in a loving wife.



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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

The first half of chapter six is an interlude that highlights the traits of three kinds of men whose character & choices express negative life outcomes that can be avoided:

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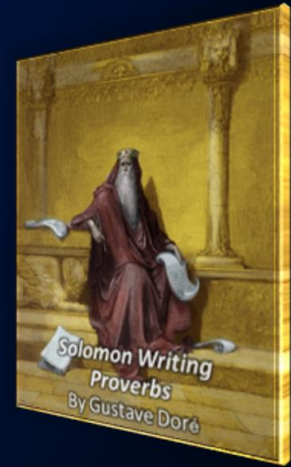
THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

Sixth & Seventh Exhortations from Father to Son (6:20-7:27)

After pleading with his son to heed the moral teaching he has received and make wisdom his constant companion, the father again warns his son of the dangers of the “immoral woman” —the prostitute and especially the adulteress. Lusting for another man’s wife is playing with fire, inviting shame & even violence.

Ch. 7 repeats the exhortation to desire wisdom rather than illicit sex. The father then shares a cautionary tale, revealing the true end to the wayward woman's "highway to the grave."



Notes & Questions:

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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

- ### Notes & Questions:

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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

- Wisdom pre-exists God's creation of the world, having been "created", "brought forth", or "begotten" (Waltke) by God before anything else (8:22 - 23).
- Wisdom "comes from God's essential being" (Waltke) but is not here depicted as a hypostasis or "incarnation" of an attribute of God.
- Rather, Lady Wisdom "personifies an attribute of creation" (Garrett). Wisdom is the inherent order, structure, and purpose that God has built into his creation.
- Since God "by wisdom" (3:19) created "cosmic order" —the world and mankind—only by wisdom also can civil order be righteous & just (8:15 - 16).

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The Call of Wisdom - Proverbs 1 - 9

- Wisdom personified is not a hypostasis or pre-incarnate manifestation of Christ as the “Logos” (John 1:1).
- The apostle Paul neither references nor alludes to Proverbs 8 in 1 Cor. 1:18-30 or Col. 2:2-3. Nowhere in the NT is Proverbs 8 interpreted as a reference to or prophecy of Christ.
- Lady Wisdom may function as a “type” of Jesus Christ (Waltke).
- Since Christ is God incarnate, the “fear of the Lord” as the first principle of wisdom means that seeking wisdom ultimately means seeking and obeying Christ.

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The Call of Wisdom - *Proverbs 1 - 9*

- The final appeal of Lady Wisdom is counterposed with the seductive invitation of Madame Folly, the personification of foolishness.
- Lady Wisdom has diligently built her “house” and carefully prepared a sumptuous banquet for those who accept her invitation. Conversely, Madame Folly simply sits by her door, brazenly luring the gullible to partake of illicit pleasures & ill-gotten gain.
- Wisdom announces the reward of her invitation—life, while Folly ignores the consequences of hers —death.

Notes & Questions:

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