

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 132 – Wisdom Builds Her House Through The Traps Of A Foolish Woman (Proverbs 9)

** In this chapter we find the contrast of seeking out wisdom (personified again as a woman) versus seeking a foolish woman.*

1. What did wisdom build?

“Wisdom hath buildd her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars” (Proverbs 9:1).

* This verse shows wisdom hath prepared a place (cf. **Proverbs 14:1**). The context will bear out that this place is set for a feast!

* The wisdom that comes from God has built many great habitations:

- The world (**Jeremiah 10:12**).
- The seed of Abraham (**Genesis 17:7**).
- Physical Jerusalem (**Zechariah 1:16**).
- The spiritual Jerusalem [the church/kingdom/us] (**Matthew 16:18**, **Ephesians 2:20-22**, **I Timothy 3:15**, **Hebrews 3:1-6**, and **I Peter 2:5-6**).
- God is the Creator of all things (**Ephesians 3:9**).

* Pillars are supports in both physical structures (**I Kings 7:6**) and spiritual structures (**Galatians 2:9**).

2. Does wisdom provide food for her table?

Yes: “She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table” (Proverbs 9:2).

* Wisdom is preparing for a feast here.

On another note, aside from the meaning of this context:

* Furnishing the table is in reference to providing food (**Psalms 78:17-19**).

* Any wise person knows the duty of providing for his/her own (**I Timothy 5:8** and **Proverbs 31:14; 15**).

3. With her table ready, does wisdom present herself as a ready feast for those whom need to learn?

Yes: “(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” (Proverbs 9:3-5).

* The simple [naïve] need to turn to wisdom and learn of her (**Psalms 119:130** and **Proverbs 8:5**).

* The simple [naïve] make themselves easy targets (**Proverbs 14:15**, **Proverbs 22:3**, and **Romans 16:17-18**).

4. What has to be forsaken to have life?

"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding" (Proverbs 9:6).

* Why forsake the foolish? Consider these Scriptures: **Psalms 5:5, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 14:7, Proverbs 15:14, Proverbs 24:9, Psalms 119:115, Jeremiah 4:22, and Galatians 3:1.**

* Understanding is found in the word of God (**Psalms 119:104**).

* Man cannot know his own way (**Proverbs 20:24**).

5. What are the differences between a scorner [*a mocker; someone who rejects things in a disrespectful way*] and a wise man?

"(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" (Proverbs 9:7-9).

* We know that trying to teach someone who doesn't want to learn backfires on us (**Matthew 7:6**).

* The scorner will not receive correction: **Proverbs 13:1** and **Proverbs 15:12**.
Removal of scorners provides peace (**Proverbs 22:10**).

* The wise will receive correction: **Proverbs 17:10** and **Proverbs 28:23**. When we refuse correction we reject one of the purposes that we have the word of God (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

6. How does the fear of the Lord tie into the seeking of wisdom?

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

* **Job 28:28, Psalms 111:10, and Proverbs 15:33.**

7. Does wisdom add to the length of a person's life?

"For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased" (Proverbs 9:11).

* **Deuteronomy 6:2, Proverbs 3:1-2, Proverbs 3:13-16, and Proverbs 10:27.**

8. Should we seek wisdom for our own benefit?

Of course: *"If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it" (Proverbs 9:12).*

* **Job 22:2**

9. Does God speak of a foolish woman in a positive manner?

No: "*A foolish woman is clamorous [LOUD]: she is simple, and knoweth nothing" (**Proverbs 9:13**).*

*It is not good for a woman to be loud (**I Peter 3:1-4**).

* Nor is it good to be naïve and ignorant (**Acts 17:30**).

10. Do these foolish women try to attract those who pass by them?

Yes: "(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*" (**Proverbs 9:14-15**).

* We discussed this in **Proverbs 7:10-13**.

11. Are those who fall into the trap of a foolish woman considered wise by God?

No: "*Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him*" (**Proverbs 9:16**).

* You cannot enter into danger and think you've made a wise decision (**Proverbs 4:14-15, Matthew 26:41, I Thessalonians 5:22, and I Peter 2:11**).

12. What does the foolish woman say to those seeking understanding according to the context of our study?

"(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*" (**Proverbs 9:16-17**).

* "*Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel*" (**Proverbs 20:17**).

* We should never want to be the one's hiding something (**John 7:4 and John 18:20**).

13. What happens to the guests of a foolish woman?

"*But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell*" (**Proverbs 9:18**).

Again, we discussed the ways of these loose women in chapter seven: "*Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death*" (**Proverbs 7:27**).