

Outline of The Book Proverbs

A.	Proverbs 1:6-9:18: Proverbs for Solomon .
B.	Proverbs 10:1-19:19: Proverbs for all
C.	Proverbs 19:20-24:34: Proverbs for Solomon .
D.	Proverbs 25:1-26:28: Proverbs for all .
E.	Proverbs 27:1-29:27: Proverbs for Solomon
F.	Proverbs 30:1-31:31: The Words of Agur and The Words of king Lemuel.

I. Wisdom's Call | Proverbs 6:1-23

a. Co-signing.

Verses 1-5—

Surety for a friend, making a deal with a **stranger**. Friend, or strangers, you might act too quickly and after *shaking hands* (i.e., signing a contract) and guaranteeing a loan, you might end up **snared with the words of thy mouth**. A king must be wise in the way he makes alliances with nations with a loan or even protection. Likewise, we should be cautious and think carefully before co-signing for someone or guaranteeing a loan. **Do this now** (imperative), **deliver** (rescue) **thyself, humble thyself, Give not sleep to thine eyes. Deliver thyself as a roe, as a bird**. Get away from the deal as quickly as possible.

b. Laziness

Verses 6-11—

Imagine a king who is lazy; the destruction it would bring to a nation. What does a **sluggard** king need to do? **Go to the ant**. The example of the ant is one everyone can learn from. Perhaps that is their purpose! To teach us. The results of laziness or **a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep** is extreme **poverty** in the future for a nation, like a vagrant **as one that travelleth**; aimless. He won't earn anything on his own, rather he will take it from others **like an armed man**.

c. Ruthlessness

Verses 12-15—

A king needs to be fair and just not **naughty** (Heb. might mean *a hypocrite*), or **a wicked man with a 'froward' mouth** (That is crooked or distorted). **He winketh his eyes, speaketh with his feet, teacheth with his fingers**; Teaching with fingers: the word **teacheth** is to *shoot like an archer*, that would be *casting a finger in someone's face*, perhaps. **Forwardness** (crookedness) **in his heart, deviseth mischief continually, soweth discord**. What will happen? He will have **sudden calamity** and **suddenly shall he be broken—without remedy**. We can think of Biblical kings who experienced this, but even more recent a great leader comes to mind who fell headlong into this scenario—Saddam Hussein who ruled Iraq from 1979 until he was hung on April 9, 2003.

d. Things God hates.

Verses 16-19—

We don't like to think of God as hating anything, and yet he does. There are things which are an abomination (disgusting) to him. **Six things...yea seven**. The word **seven** is added to make a stronger point and used as a figure of speech to indicate, there are more than just these 7 things, but these are representative. Notice the downward spiral, the eyes, the mouth, the hands, the heart, the feet, and eventually the whole man himself.

A proud look, lying, murder, the devising (plotting—literally ploughing) **wicked imaginations, running towards evil** (think of rioters), **false witness, sowing discord among brethren.**

e. Promises from God

Verses 20-23—

Father's commandments, law of thy mother. This takes us back to chapter 1:8. Remember it is the father's primary role to be instructional, and the mother adds by keeping the law. The nuclear family (father, mother, children) is pictured here—something Marxist groups like Black Lives Matter would like to destroy.

Bind them upon thy heart and tie them about thy neck. The word **Them** is masculine. **Commandments** and **law** are feminine, so can he be referring to those two things? The closest masculine instruction is back in 4:20 "My son, attend to my words; Incline thine ear unto my sayings." Is the instruction to **Bind (words and sayings) about thy neck?**

II. The Foreign Woman | Proverbs 6:24-35

What will keep the king (or any man) from the foreign (evil) woman? Verse 23, The Word of God. Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

A. Illicit Sexual Relationships.

Sexual encounters outside of the marriage relationship have tragic consequences. Kings, people in power, those with money, are most susceptible, but any man can fall in to the snare of the **evil** and **strange woman**. The word **strange** is literally a foreign woman. It could be **the flattery of the strange tongue** (The woman outside of the seed of Abraham).

- i. **Her flattery and beauty can seduce** (verses 24-25).
- ii. **She can bring a man to financial ruin** (vs. 26).
- iii. **She can ruin a man's reputation** (vss, 27-29, 33). **Take fire**, literally shovel **fire**.

Verse 30: **Despise** (Hebrew wording, probably: *a light matter*), "**men do not think it a light matter for a thief that he should steal.**"

- iv. **She will make a man look foolish as he destroys his own soul** (life). **His reproach** (or shame) **shall not be wiped away** (vs. 32-35).

III. Wisdom's Call | Proverbs 7: 1-4

In 7:1-4, the words of *the wise*, in a brief interlude, proclaim Wisdom's Call to Solomon before going back to the warning of the foreign woman.

Verse 1-4—

There are several key verbs to notice, **keep, layup, live, bind, write, call,** and **say**. These are all imperatives – things that must be done; not suggestions.

Thou art my sister, and call understanding thy kinswoman, in other words make them a beloved member of your family—stay close to them.

IV. The Foreign Woman | Proverbs 7:5-23

The next nineteen verses give more warning of the strange woman. A reminder: If these warnings throughout the Proverbs are addressed Solomon as a warning, he failed miserably, as did many other kings (1 Kings 11:4).

Now, Wisdom personified sees the destruction coming:

- i. **(Vs. 6,7) simple ones.** Those who are unsuspecting. **Void of understanding** one without wisdom.
- ii. **(Vs 8,9) near her corner.** In the wrong part of town, at night.
 - a. In one of the apocryphal books, Sirach 9:3, there is a proverb that while not inspired is certainly practical: *“Do not go near a loose woman or you will fall into her snares.”* Don't go into that neighborhood.
- iii. **(Vs. 10) And behold** (interjection: Imagine that!), **there met him a woman.** This shouldn't surprise him, the simple one knows where the harlot lives—he's not that simple! **Attire of an harlot.** Once glance and he should run away, but she is **subtil of heart.**
- iv. **(Vs. 11,12)** Even if he says “NO!” She will not take no for an answer, **she is loud and stubborn.** She will follow him if necessary, **Her feet abide not in her house.** If he goes a different direction, she will follow him **in the streets** as she **lieth in wait on every corner.** He shouldn't have been there in the first place, now he is in her *snare!*
- v. **(Vss. 13-20).** She lures him in, and he's trapped by her kisses and erotic speech.
- vi. **(Vss. 21-23)** And with her speech, he is a dead man.

A final warning: **Vss. 24-27;** Listen to wisdom and live—if not, the chambers of death await.

Biblical examples of some who were **cast down** by the harlot: Samson, Judges 16:4-21; David, 2 Samuel 11; Solomon, 1 Kings 11; Nehemiah 13:26.

Hell = Sheol, or the grave. **Chambers of death** = Literally the inner chambers (perhaps a description of Sheol).

V. Wisdom's Call | Proverbs 8:1-11

The call of the harlot is loud and bold and is heard from every street corner, but wisdom is crying out too. She is everywhere, **the high places** (or, the places of advantage), **the paths** (along the way where the simple ones travel), **at the gates, at the entry of the city,** even at the **coming in at the doors** of the harlot's house!

Unto you, O men, I call.

Don't be fooled by a moment's pleasure, **for wisdom is better than rubies; And ALL the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it** (that is, wisdom).