

With Whom Will You Dine?

The Rival Feasts of Proverbs 9

Proverbs 1-9 are addressed to a son on the brink of life's ultimate decisions. The many pleas to choose the wise path culminate in chapter 9.

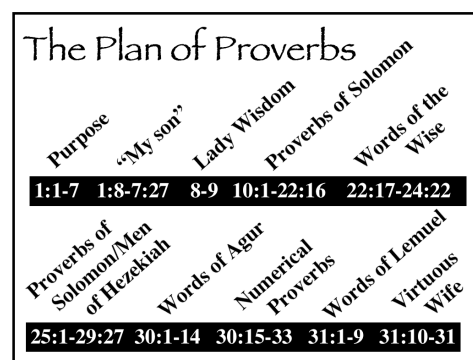
I. The Invitation of Lady Wisdom (1-6)

A. Her Industry (1-3)

1. "She has built her house"
2. "She has hewn out her seven pillars"
3. "She has prepared her food"
4. "She has mixed her wine"
5. "She has set her table"
6. "She has sent out her maidens"
7. "She calls"

B. Her Invitation (4-6)

1. "Whoever"
2. "Come eat of my food"
3. "Forsake your folly [lit. fools] and live"
4. "Proceed in the way of understanding"



Spiritual lessons from sexual language:

Dinner imagery:

II. The Enticements of Dame Folly (13-18)

A. She Is Loud [הַמְּקִיָּה] (13-16)

"Calling to those . . . who are making their paths straight"

B. She Is Lazy (14)

"She sits at the doorway of her house"

C. She Is Loose (17)

"Stolen water is sweet"

"Bread eaten in secret is pleasant"

D. She Lies (18)

"The dead are there"

"Her guests are in the depths of sheol"

III. The Exclusive Meal (7-12)

A. The "naïve" (9:4, 16)

B. The wise son—"a wise man, a righteous man" (9)

C. The foolish son—"a scoffer, a wicked man" (7-8)

Key calls to decision in Scripture: Deut 30:15-20; Josh 24:14-15; Matt 6:24

Applying Proverbs 9 in light of the whole of Scripture:

—A thin interpretation:

—A thick interpretation: