

# THE BOOK OF PROVERBS 4U



WORKBOOK PART 1

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## BOOK OF PROVERBS 4 U

### PREFACE



The thrice Holy God is Wisdom. In the reverent fear (awe) of the Lord God, only he who walks uprightly has knowledge of the Holy One, the way of wisdom and understanding. The Book of Proverbs is found in the Wisdom Writings of the Hebrew Scriptures, Old Testament part of the Bible. It is a valuable manual for Life, a practical guide to happy and successful living. Most of the proverbs were written in the 10th B.C. by Solomon, the King of Israel, son and chosen heir of King David. The proverbs give wise advice to all people; the scholar, the wise, the foolish and the young –

#### **that people may know Wisdom.**

Solomon ruled over a large and wealthy united Israel, the battles won by King David having secured peace with safe and extended boundaries. Gifted by the Lord, Solomon was a man of great learning and culture, being renowned for his unequalled wisdom (1Kings 4:29-34) and remembered in the well-known phrase –

*the Wisdom of Solomon.*

*Because the preacher was wise, he (Solomon) taught the people knowledge; and he pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.*

Ecclesiastes 12:9

Although Solomon probably wrote about three thousand proverbs only some 900 are recorded. There are over 30 quotes from Proverbs in the New Testament. The proverbs on how to act wisely and to do the right are based on the worshipful fear (awe) of the Lord God, with the aim to turn sinners from their evil ways. Many of the proverbs are maxims of comparison or contrast written in a concise style and expressed often in just one verse. Starting with a short Prologue, the book falls into several sections or parts –

Solomon's Proverbs; Thirty Sayings of the Wise and their additional Sayings; Solomon's Proverbs copied by the wise men of Hezekiah, King of Judah; the words of Agur; the proverbs of King Lemuel, who may have been a Gentile or Solomon himself. The book ends with an epilogue extolling the virtues of the ideal wife.

The Book of Proverbs, with its theme of Godly wisdom, should never be neglected being a valuable study in God-centred morality. The sayings are parables shedding light on the difference between right and wrong, wisdom and folly, truth and error. To cope with the varied gamut of life's problems, the contrasting actions of the righteous and the wicked, the wise and the foolish are described in many ways, even humorous. The consequences of such actions are often given in the same verse. Proverbs are an excellent teaching method, being easy to understand and remember. The Book of Proverbs should be included in the curriculum of every educational establishment. To ignore this book, an individual, a people, a nation do so at their peril.

This summary of Proverbs is suitable for personal study and for teenager or adult Bible Study groups. In each Study session it is advisable have a Christian group leader and a time for reading, questions with prayer and discussion of life's problems today, chapter by chapter. There are 2 booklets in the study – the Full and the Workbook versions; the latter with spaces provided for the scripture verses to be added. It is important for each group member to have a Workbook copy of the script in order to write the verses in the spaces provided.

The holy scriptures are written in *blue italics*.

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## INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Book of Proverbs is to teach godly wisdom, the Lord speaking through Solomon, king and prophet. Although written centuries ago, this Wisdom book gives detailed and excellent advice for both daily life and times of trouble such as war and contention. The proverbs often include various examples from the natural world. There are other collections of proverbs but the Hebrew collection is the largest.

Acts of folly or the word fool in Proverbs certainly do not refer to anyone with learning difficulties or handicap of any kind. People of high intelligence and given great opportunities in life can act foolishly. Even Solomon's great wisdom, humbly prayed for at the beginning of his reign (1 Kings 3:7-14), turned in his latter years to failure and folly. Man's wisdom does not attain the holy standard of God's wisdom as Solomon's proverbs clearly record.

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Proverbs 16:9

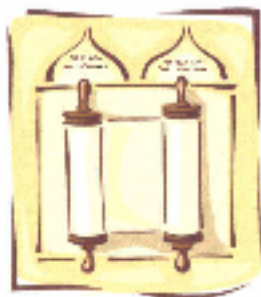
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Proverbs 19:21

Solomon's life enacts the Book of Proverbs. His reign turned from one of Wisdom to that of Folly. The King, having married many foreign women, became involved in their idol worship – an abomination to the Lord. Judgement followed and in the reign of Solomon's son, Israel was divided into two kingdoms and in time the people went into exile. Restored Israel today still awaits their Messiah, whereas Christians believe, Jesus has already come in His first Advent.

The book of Proverbs can be divided into 7 main sections -

- \* PROLOGUE - Chapter 1:1-7    PREFACE - Chapters 1:8-9:18
- \* VOLUME 1 SOLOMON'S PROVERBS                      Chapters 10-22
- \* SAYINGS OF THE WISE                                      Chapters 22:17-24:34
- \* VOLUME 2 SOLOMON'S PROVERBS                      Chapters 25-29  
    (COPIED BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH, KING OF JUDAH)
- \* AGUR'S PROVERBS    Chapter 30
- \* KING LEMUEL'S PROVERBS                                      Chapter 31
- \* EPILOGUE - THE IDEAL WIFE                                      Chapter 31:10-31





## KING DAVID'S INSTRUCTIONS TO SOLOMON

Many of Solomon's proverbs are based upon the wise instructions of his father, David, to his sons. King David's words of wisdom were addressed mainly to Solomon. The words *My son* are repeated in other chapters and often in the first verses. David's wise words to his son(s) stressed the need for mercy and kindness and were not to be forgotten. Kindness and mercy were likened to a necklace gracing one's neck.

Do you think the Godly wisdom of older people is of value to the young in modern society today; or is such wisdom largely ignored?

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Pr 1:8 (Pr 6:20 13:1)

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Pr 1:9 (Pr 6:21)

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Pr 3:3

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Pr 6:22

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Pr 15: 5

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Pr 15:20

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19:26

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## PROVERBS 4U

The Book of Proverbs in using language of comparison and contrast, similes and metaphors - the difference between good and evil, wisdom and folly, truth and error is clearly revealed. Although not a theological work, light is shed on these searching questions of all mankind.

In life's varied problems of indecision, fear, immorality, anger, violence, laziness, greed and drunkenness etc. tremendous guidance and advice are given.

Studying this Book, provides many lessons for us all to take to our hearts and inwardly digest. The proverbs give concise instructions and in chapters 10-29 the wise and foolish actions are often described in just one verse. Solomon's Proverbs have not been written in any order, so this large collection has been classified under the following Chapters.

### PART 1

1..WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

2 GOOD AND EVIL

### PART 2

3 SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

4 FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

5 FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

6 RICHES AND POVERTY

### PART 3

7 THE TONGUE

8 DECEIT AND HONESTY

9 TRUE AND FALSE WITNESSES

10 PLEDGES

11 LAZINESS

### PART 4

12 SAYINGS OF THE WISE-

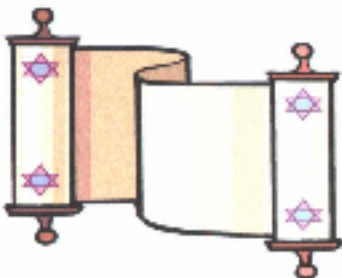
13 PROVERBS COPIED BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH

14 THE WORDS OF AGUR

15 THE WORDS OF KING LEMUEL

16 THE IDEAL WIFE

CONCLUSION



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## 1. WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

Wisdom is about being wise and becoming wiser and increasing in knowledge. A wise person has God-given understanding and discernment giving insight to see the truth about an individual, a problem or a situation. Wise people live righteous, prayerful lives, are cautious, observant, use common sense and act prudently without pride. Being tactful and diplomatic, they are good at personal relations and give wise counsel. The practical application of wisdom is its skill manifested in perception and discretion in daily living. *The fear* (awe - reverence - worship) *of the Lord* is the greatest wisdom – other sources are inadequate to some degree. Such Godly incorruptible wisdom yields clear vision with the ability to put good judgement into action. There are many more sayings in Proverbs in each chapter than can be included in this Study.

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Pr.1:7

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Pr 2:6

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Pr 2:11

Wisdom is often personified as God or the Speaker.

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Pr 1:23

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Pr 1 33

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Pr 3:7



Wisdom's instruction is better than choice silver or refined gold, rubies or pearls. Wisdom and Folly are also used in the feminine gender

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Pr 3:13-15

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WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE - continued.

Wisdom's blessing of length of years is often repeated throughout the Book of Proverbs, as in the next two proverbs.

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Pr 3:16

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Pr 4:10

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Pr 4:8

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Pr 4:13 (4:22)

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Pr 7:4

The Book of Proverbs includes the following well-remembered verses –

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Pr 3:5-6



All who trust the Lord with their whole heart walk wisely for they obey His commandments and reverently and worshipfully fear Him. To trust in oneself and not God leads to folly in some way or other. Atheists, for example, do not fear God for they do not believe in Him and have no regard for the wisdom of His word. Such ways are contrary, devious and foolish for God and Wisdom are despised in unbelief. In God's sight unbelief is lawlessness, the sin of rebellion.

Such folly leads ultimately to anarchy and the break up of a nation – not only applicable to Israel. God's gracious word gives timely warnings and if heeded by true repentance these dire consequences are cancelled.

Deuteronomy Chapters 28, 30

THE CALL OF WISDOM

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Pr 8:4

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Pr 8:7

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Pr 8:15 (16)

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Pr 8:20

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WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE - continued.

WISDOM IN CREATION

God is wise for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. 3:19

Read Proverbs 8:22-31

A HYMN OF WISDOM IN CREATION



\_\_\_\_\_ Pr 8:23

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr 8: 30-31

In John's Gospel (John 1:1-3) Christ was present with God in the beginning of the Creation. In the Book of Genesis on the sixth day when God made all kinds of creatures –

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 1:26

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr 8:35-36

Read Chapter 9

INVITATIONS TO THE HOUSES OF WISDOM AND FOLLY

The houses of Wisdom with its seven pillars and Folly are described. Archaeologists have discovered the existence of houses constructed with seven supporting pillars as in the days of Samson. Judges 16:23-31

The following scripture is the key verse of Proverbs, Godly wisdom being the main theme throughout the entire book.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr 9:10

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr 11:30 AV.

The blessings of Wisdom are given and described as a banquet of life; but for those scorning Wisdom and entering the door of the foolish woman there is only the grave of the dead.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr 12:15

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WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE - continued.

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Pr 14:9

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Pr 17:27

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Pr 18:15

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Pr 20:5

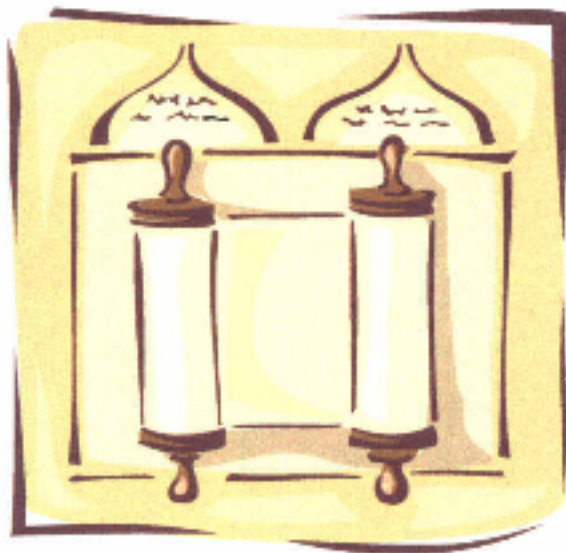
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Pr 21:30

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Pr 22:12

The Proverbs of Wisdom and Folly continue throughout the entire book.



## 2. GOOD AND EVIL

Solomon's sons were instructed to do good and avoid evil, to shun bad company and not be led astray into folly by the ways of those prone to anger, drunkenness, violence, greed and immorality. Keeping these instructions in thought, word and deed influence others.

(Pr.10:17) Walking in God's good ways bring health of mind and body with His blessings continuing into old age.

The proverbs concerning the folly of BAD COMPANY are included in this section.

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Pr 1:10

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Pr 4:14,17

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Pr 4:18-19

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Pr 4:23



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Pr 6:23

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Pr 10:17

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Pr 10:28

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Pr 11:5

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Pr 11:8

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GOOD AND EVIL - continued

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Pr 11:10

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Pr 11:23

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Pr 11:27

The next text is the only one in Proverbs that begins with *Behold* - and so very important.

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Pr 11:31 (1 Peter 4:18)

The second part of the next text is very good advice -

Pr 12:16

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Man's righteousness is not God's standard of righteousness for the heart of man is prone to evil and folly. Solomon's next proverb reveals the path of righteousness is the way to eternal life where there is no death. This is the Gospel's New Testament message of God's free gift of eternal life – and by His righteousness, the sinner's turning from darkness to light through the willing sacrifice of God's only Son, the sinless Lord Jesus Christ.

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Pr.12:28

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Pr14:7

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Pr 14:29

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Pr 14: 34

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Pr 15:8

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Pr 15:18

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GOOD AND EVIL – continued

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Pr 16:7

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Pr 16:12

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Pr 16:31

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Pr 17:13

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Pr 17:15



The category - GOOD AND EVIL is detailed, wide ranging and includes the characteristics of happiness and cheerfulness as in the next two verses. The righteous live lives with hope in their hearts and receive the blessings of joy and gladness, whereas the hopes of the unrighteous come to nothing. The source of such characteristics always stems from living a good life by following Wisdom's way of righteousness and not descending into evil with its consequences of folly and death. The secret is keeping close to God in prayer and obeying Him in the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord. Remember - King Solomon, gifted by God with great wisdom, slipped and slithered into folly in the second part of his life.

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Pr 12:25

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Pr 17:22 (15:13)



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Pr 18:10

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Pr 18:14

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Pr 18:16

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GOOD AND EVIL - continued

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Pr 19:11

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Pr 20:1

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Pr 20:3

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Pr 20:9

Yes, all mankind sin; and this is why God sent Jesus to die to save us from our sins.

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Pr 20:22

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Pr 20:28

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Pr 21:3

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Pr 21:15

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Pr 22:10

The next four verses are from the Sayings of the Wise –

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Pr 24:8

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Pr 24:16

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Pr 24:17-18

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GOOD AND EVIL – continued

BAD COMPANY and of IMMORAL WOMEN

Wisdom and knowledge must be applied to gain in understanding and the prudence of discretion. Discretion will also deliver men from of all manner of wickedness - violence, anger, drunkenness; including the temptations of the evil woman with her flattering words. Idle young men with no commonsense fall easy prey to the evil charms of a loose woman. Solomon advised his sons against the charms of immoral women, for adultery is the sin of uncleanness and leads to poverty and destroys a man's life. In the second part of his reign, Solomon fell prey to these very sins. The sin of uncleanness and immorality leads to the break up of kingdoms and empires - eg. The Fall of Jerusalem and the break up of the Roman Empire.

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Pr 2:11,16

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Pr 5:8

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Pr 5:17-18

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Pr 6:32

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Pr 6:34

Solomon continues to advise his son to keep his words and avoid the sin of uncleanness.



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Pr 7:2

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Pr 7:5

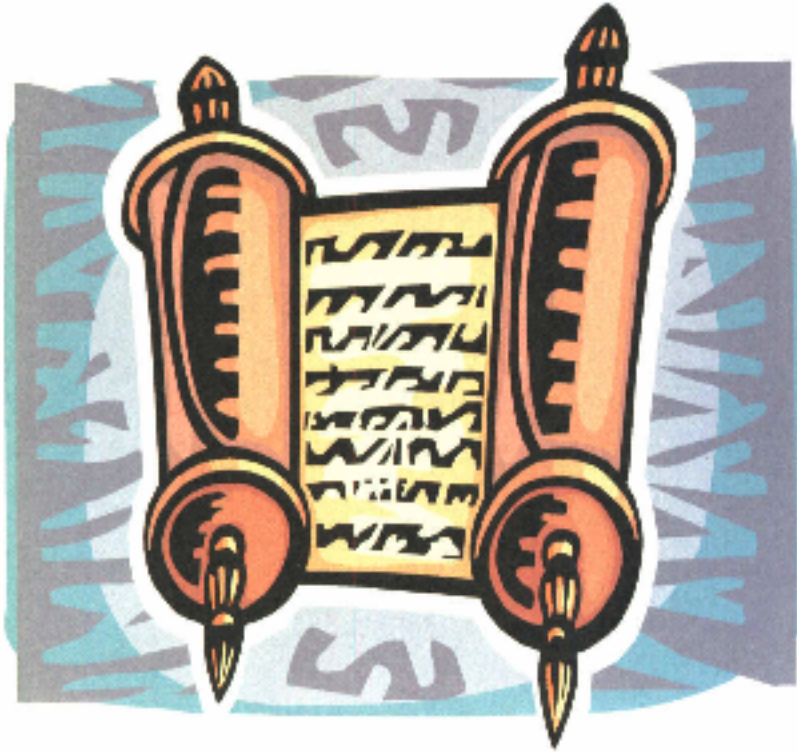
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Pr 22:14

The temptress is a married woman (Pr 7:19-20) and not a prostitute, a woman of the street. For those scorning Wisdom and entering the door of the foolish woman (Pr 9:13-18) there is only the grave of the dead; often the ruin of foolish young men.

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# BOOK OF PROVERBS



PART 2 next.

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