

The Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 7: The Lure of the Harlot

“Women are the measure of weakness in a man.”

Proverbs 7: The Strategies of Sexual Temptation

***My son, keep my words
and treasure up my commandments with you;
keep my commandments and live;
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;
bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”
and call insight your intimate friend,
to keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words. (Proverbs 7:1-5)***

This is Old Testament language for what the New Testament calls being born again of the Holy Spirit (**John 3:1—9**).

Something deep inside us changes.

We start treasuring God’s commands from the heart.

We experience the gospel as an intimate friend.

We are just saving to God’s wisdom, “I want you more than I want any woman or man.”

Prov 7:1-4 Eight Commands to Sons

1. Keep my words — guard against breaking God’s commandments (**Prov 7:1**).
2. Lay up my commandments — take them into your heart.
3. Keep my commandments, and live (**Prov 7:2**).
4. Keep my law as you would the pupil of the eye (**Prov 7:2; cp. Deut 32:10; Ps 17:8; Zech 2:8**).
5. Bind them upon your fingers (**Prov 7:3**).
6. Write them upon the table of your heart.
7. Make wisdom your sister (**Prov 7:4**).
8. Make understanding your kinswoman. These last two expressions indicate acquaintance with wisdom and knowledge.

These commands are preparatory warnings to the longer admonition against adultery, which was an often repeated subject with Solomon due to his many bitter experiences with strange women.

Prov 7:1-4 ***On Avoiding the Immoral Woman***

He generally gave such commands before dealing with the subject

***Prov 2:1-10 with Prov 2:12,16;
Prov 5:1-2 with Prov 5:3-6;
Prov 5:7 with Prov 5:8-14;
Prov 5:15-19 with Prov 5:20-23;
Prov 6:20-23 with Prov 6:24-35;
Prov 7:1-4 with Prov 7:5-23;
Prov 7:24 with Prov 7:25-27;
Prov 9:1-6 with Prov 9:13-18.***

Proverbs 7:1 Avoiding the Immoral Woman

(Pro 7:1 ISV) ¶ My son, guard what I say and treasure my commands.*

(Pro 7:1 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} keep^{H8104} my words,^{H561} and lay up^{H6845} my commandments^{H4687} with^{H854} thee.

(Pro 7:1 NASB) My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you.

(Pro 7:1 NIV) My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.

Proverbs 7:2-5

(Pro 7:2 ISV) ¶ Keep my commands and you'll live. Guard [The Heb. lacks Guard] my teaching as you do your eyesight. 3)*

¶ Strap them to your fingers and engrave them on the tablet of your heart. 4) ¶ Say to wisdom, "You're my sister!" and call understanding your close relative, 5) ¶ so they can keep you from an adulterous woman, from the immoral woman with her seductive words.

(Pro 7:2 KJV+) Keep^{H8104} my commandments,^{H4687} and live,^{H2421} and my law^{H8451} as the apple^{H380} of thine eye.^{H5869} 3) Bind^{H7194} them upon^{H5921} thy fingers,^{H676} write^{H3789} them upon^{H5921} the table^{H3871} of thine heart.^{H3820} 4) Say^{H559} unto wisdom,^{H2451} Thou^{H859} art my sister;^{H269} and call^{H7121} understanding^{H998} thy kinswoman.^{H4129} 5) That they may keep^{H8104} thee from the strange^{H2114} woman,^{H4480 H802} from the stranger^{H4480 H5237} which flattereth^{H2505} with her words.^{H561}

Proverbs 7:2-5

(Pro 7:2 NASB) Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching as the apple of your eye. 3) Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4) Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your intimate friend; 5) That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words.

(Pro 7:2 NIV) Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. 3) Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4) Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman; 5) they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.

Proverbs 7:2-5

(Pro 7:2 NASB) Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching as the apple of your eye. 3) Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4) Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your intimate friend; 5) That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words.

(Pro 7:2 NIV) Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. 3) Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4) Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman; 5) they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.

Proverbs 7:2-5

(Pro 7:2 NASB) Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching as the apple of your eye. 3) Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4) Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your intimate friend; 5) That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words.

[That they may keep thee from the strange woman]

The purpose of obeying the eight commands of *Prov 7:1-4* is to keep one from the strange woman and from the stranger who entices one to sin.

[strange woman] Hebrew: **zuwr** (OT:2114) (notes, *Prov 2:16*).

[flattereth with her words] Makes smooth speech.
Note her smooth speech in *Prov 7:13-21*.

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Proverbs 7:6-12 A Father's Warning

After an introduction for emphasis, he continues with the issue of sex sins.

6] For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

7] And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

8] Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

9] In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

10] And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

11] (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

12] Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

If you want to avoid the devil, stay away from his neighborhood.

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Proverbs 7:6-12 A Father's Warning

(Pro 7:6 ISV) ¶ For from a window in my house I peered through the lattice work,*

(Pro 7:6 KJV+) For^{H3588} at the window^{H2474} of my house^{H1004} I looked^{H8259} through^{H1157} my casement,^{H822}

(Pro 7:6 NASB) For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice,

(Pro 7:6 NIV) At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice.

The casement was the lattice work to the window which allowed for air circulation (*Judg 5:28*).

They had no glass windows at the time.

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Proverbs 7:6 A Father's Warning

(Pro 7:6 NASB) For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice,

The father tells us three things about the strategies of sexual temptation:

- the approach of temptation (*vv. 6—13*),
- the speech of temptation (*vv. 14—20*), and
- the impact of giving in to temptation (*vv. 21—27*).

The man, in this case, is one of "the simple." We have seen the simple before (*Proverbs 1:22*).

A simple person, a **peti**—related to the Hebrew verb meaning "to be open"

— this person is keeping his options open, uncommitted, still "exploring life"

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Proverbs 7:6 A Father's Warning

(Pro 7:7 NASB) And I saw among the naive, And discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense,

This particular simpleton is feeling restless early one evening and takes a walk.

He is curious.

He has heard about a certain part of town—or certain sites on the Internet — or certain films or books or

So there he goes thinking, "I can handle this. I'm strong. And I need to see these things for myself anyway."

Proverbs 7:7

(Pro 7:7 ISV*) ¶ and I noticed among the naïve—that is, I discerned among the youths—a senseless young man.

(Pro 7:7 KJV+) And beheld^{H7200} among the simple ones,^{H6612} I discerned^{H995} among the youths,^{H1121} a young man^{H5288} void^{H2638} of understanding,^{H3820}

(Pro 7:7 NASB) And I saw among the naive, And discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense,

(Pro 7:7 NIV) I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.

Proverbs 7: 8 Facts about a Foolish Young Man

1. I saw among the simple, the young man (**Prov 7:7; Prov 1:4**).
2. He was void of understanding.
He did not have wisdom to discern the evil intended by the prostitute,
Nor did he have the character and courage to resist her flatteries (**Prov 7:7**).
3. He walked along the street near her corner where she waited for victims (**Prov 7:8**).
4. He went the way to her house.
5. In the night he passed by where she waited on the corner (**Prov 7:9**).
6. He was met by the harlot (**Prov 7:10**).
7. He was persuaded by her to spend the night with her (**Prov 7:11-21**).
8. He went to his doom as an ox to the slaughter, as a fool to his punishment, and as a bird to the snare (**Prov 7:22-23**).

Proverbs 7:8

(Pro 7:8 ISV*) ¶ Proceeding down the street near her corner, he makes his way toward her house

(Pro 7:8 KJV+) Passing^{H5674} through the street^{H7784} near^{H681} her corner,^{H6438} and he went^{H6805} the way^{H1870} to her house,^{H1004}

(Pro 7:8 NASB) Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house,

(Pro 7:8 NIV) He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house

This does not say that her house was on the corner where she met the young man.

It only implies that she was in the habit of waiting on every corner for her victims (**Prov 7:12**).

It doesn't mean she had a house on every corner.

Proverbs 7:9-10

(Pro 7:9 ISV) ¶ at twilight, during the evening, even during the darkest part of the night. 10) ¶ Look! A woman makes her way to meet him, dressed as a prostitute and intending to entrap him.*

(Pro 7:9 KJV+) In the twilight,^{H5399} in the evening,^{H6153 H3117} in the black^{H380} and dark^{H653} night:^{H3915} 10) And, behold,^{H2009} there met^{H7125} him a woman^{H802} with the attire^{H7897} of an harlot,^{H2181} and subtil^{H5341} of heart.^{H3820}

(Pro 7:9 NASB) In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and in the darkness. 10) And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.

(Pro 7:9 NIV) at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. 10) Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.

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Proverbs 7:9-10

(Pro 7:9 NASB) In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and in the darkness. 10) And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.

Harlots have always had their mark of identification.

A description is given of Judah's time in **Gen 38:14-19**.
In Solomon's time as in Judah's, they seemed to be known by their attire.

[subtil] Hebrew: **natsar** (OT:5341), hidden.
Same word as in **Isa 48:6**.

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Proverbs 7:10-12

*And behold, the woman meets him,
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.
She is loud and wayward;
her feet do not stay at home:
now in the street, now in the market,
and at every corner she lies in wait.*

(Proverbs 7:10—12)

"Wily of heart" means, literally, "guarded of heart."

She is unguarded in her dress, revealing much.

But she is guarded in her heart, revealing nothing.

There are men and women who do not know what a relationship is. They have never experienced it.

They can role-play a relationship, but they do not give their hearts away. Sex they give, but themselves they guard.

This young guy has no idea what he is walking into.

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Proverbs 7:11-13

(Pro 7:11 ISV) ¶ She is brazen and defiant—her feet don't remain at home. 12) ¶ Now she is in the street, now in the plazas, she lurks near every corner. 13) ¶ So she grabs hold of him and kisses him, with a brazen face she speaks to him,*

(Pro 7:11 KJV+) (She^{H1931} is loud^{H1993} and stubborn;^{H5637} her feet^{H7272} abide^{H7931} not^{H3808} in her house:^{H1004} 12) Now^{H6471} is she without,^{H2351} now^{H6471} in the streets,^{H7339} and lieth in wait^{H693} at^{H681} every^{H3605} corner.)^{H6438} 13) So she caught^{H2388} him, and kissed^{H5401} him, and with an impudent^{H5810} face^{H6440} said^{H559} unto him,

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Proverbs 7:11-13

(Pro 7:11 NASB) *She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home; 12) She is now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. 13) So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him:*

(Pro 7:11 NIV) *(She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home; 12) now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) 13) She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said:*

[she caught him] [kissed him] She laid hold of him and kissed him to let him know her intentions (**Pro 7:12-13**)

[impudent face] She made her face look as friendly, confident, and sincere as she could.

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Ten Facts about Harlots

1. Their attire or marks that advertise them for hire (**Prov 7:10; Gen 38**)
2. Their subtlety of heart (**Prov 7:10**)
3. Their boisterous and loud disposition (**Prov 7:11**)
4. Their boistrous disposition (**Prov 7:11-12**)
5. Their stubbornness and persistence in pursuing innocent victims (**Prov 7:11**).
They have no respect for the good of men — married or unmarried.
They gloat over causing young men to fall into sin and husbands to go astray.
6. They are bold, unashamed, impudent and unlawfully familiar (**Prov 7:13**).
7. They are flatterers (**Prov 7:5, 14-21**).
8. They are deceitful of heart (**Prov 7:13-21**).
9. They are liars (**Prov 7:14-21**).
10. They are temptresses and seducers (**Prov 7:13-21**).

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Proverbs 7:14

(Pro 7:14 ISV*) ¶ *"I have given [The Heb. lacks given] my peace offerings, and today I fulfilled my vows.*

(Pro 7:14 KJV+) *I have peace offerings^{H2077 H8002} with^{H5921} me; this day^{H3117} have I payed^{H7999} my vows.^{H5088}*

(Pro 7:14 NASB) *"I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows.*

(Pro 7:14 NIV) *"I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows.*

[I have peace offerings with me] After the blood of the offering was shed and the fat burned, all but the breast and shoulder (the priest's portion) belonged to the sacrificer, who could take it home and make a feast for friends (**Lev 3; 7:31-34**).

She leads him to believe that she (and he) is right with God. What they are about to do is 'acceptable'. How religious she is!

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Proverbs 7:14

(Pro 7:14 NASB) *"I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows.*

Much worship was carried on in connection with idolatry and harlotry.

The gods of many pagan nations were worshiped in the brothels, and fragments of the offerings were divided among the temple prostitutes.

Every heathen temple, high place of sacrifice, and place of worship had its consecrated prostitutes to attract men to such worship.

In those times, religious sacrifices could include a meal from the meat of the animal sacrificed. Eating meat was a luxury.

Here the woman is saying,

"Not only am I caught up on my religion, but I also have a feast of extra-special food waiting at home. It's a special occasion, like Prom Night or Mardi Gras. Come on, everybody needs a break. And you're the one I want to share all this with."

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Proverbs 7:15

(Pro 7:15 ISV*) ¶ *Therefore, I've come out to meet you, I've looked just for you, and I found you!*

(Pro 7:15 KJV+) *Therefore*^{H5921 H3651} *came I forth*^{H3318} *to meet*^{H7125} *thee, diligently to seek*^{H7836} *thy face,*^{H6440} *and I have found*^{H4672} *thee.*

(Pro 7:15 NASB) *"Therefore I have come out to meet you, To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you.*

(Pro 7:15 NIV) *So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!*

She implied that she came to meet him and no one else, but if this young man had not come along, another would have been the same to her.

In other words, "I've been looking for you all my life, and at last I have found you!"

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Proverbs 7:16

(Pro 7:16 ISV*) ¶ *I've decorated my bed with new coverings — embroidered linen from Egypt.*

(Pro 7:16 KJV+) *I have decked*^{H7234} *my bed*^{H6210} *with coverings of tapestry,*^{H4765} *with carved*^{H2405} *works, with fine linen*^{H330} *of Egypt.*^{H4714}

(Pro 7:16 NASB) *"I have spread my couch with coverings, With colored linens of Egypt.*

(Pro 7:16 NIV) *I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.*

[bed] Hebrew: **eres** (OT:6210), couch or sofa on which to recline at meals;

not **mishkab** (OT:4904), a bed to sleep on, as in **Prov 7:17**.

She used every means to incite the passions and appetites of the young man

— worship, food, and the prospect of sexual satisfaction (**Prov 7:14-21**).

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Proverbs 7:16-17

"I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen; I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon." (Proverbs 7:16, 17)

Only the rich owned furniture in their homes back in this world.

So this guy thinks he is hitting the jackpot.

A beautiful woman, a great feast, a luxurious setting, exotic experiences are all just waiting for him.

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Proverbs 7:17-18

(Pro 7:17 ISV*) ¶ *I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18) ¶ Come, let's make love until dawn; let's comfort ourselves with love,*

(Pro 7:17 KJV+) *I have perfumed*^{H5130} *my bed*^{H4904} *with myrrh,*^{H4753} *aloes,*^{H174} *and cinnamon.*^{H7076} **18) Come,**^{H1980} *let us take our fill*^{H7301} *of love*^{H1730} *until*^{H5704} *the morning;*^{H1242} *let us solace ourselves*^{H5965} *with loves.*^{H159}

(Pro 7:17 NASB) *"I have sprinkled my bed With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18) "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses.*

(Pro 7:17 NIV) *I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18) Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!*

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Proverbs 7:17-18

(Pro 7:17 NASB) "I have sprinkled my bed With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18) "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses.

[take our fill] Hebrew: **ravah** (OT:7301), to make drunk; to drink one's fill; satiate.

See **Rom 13:13; 1 Peter 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:13-14.**

The Hebrew here could be paraphrased and expanded,

"Come, let's saturate ourselves with love-making in all its forms: let's enjoy ourselves with every act, all night long, slowly passing the night, no hurry."

To have a full sexual relationship with somebody is to give physical expression to what is meant to be a covenanted relationship — that is, stable, faithful, permanent.

To say physically, "I am giving myself to you," while emotionally and spiritually holding back from covenanted commitment is in fact to live a lie — a split in the personality which is ultimately stressful and destructive,

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Proverbs 7:19-20

***"For my husband is not at home;
he has gone on a long journey;
he took a bag of money with him:
at full moon he will come home."* (Proverbs 7:19, 20)**

"Nobody will ever know" is the temptation.

But if she is willing to betray her husband, why does Mr. Dimwit think she will be fair to him?

The offer of sin-with-no-regret is how Satan lied to us in the Garden of Eden.

When (not if) a man or woman tempts you with the assurance that no one will ever know, that person is really saying to you, "God does not exist."

This young man, on an impulse, falls for the temptation: "

All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter" **(v. 22).**

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Proverbs 7:19-20

"the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

We cannot change that by any amount of wishful thinking.

"What happens in Vegas does not really stay in Vegas."

By the time this young man feels the impact, it will be too late.

History is like a battlefield, with casualties of sexual folly lying everywhere:

"Many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng" (v. 26).

It is no accident that Babylon's most important female deity, Ishtar, was the goddess of love and war, because in this world of folly, sex and violence have long gone together.

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Proverbs 7:19-20

Ishtar, the goddess of love and war, is a powerful goddess.

Studies now show that pornography rewires our brains with addictive power, taking us prisoner.'

But we can be wired back for intimacy with God and real relationships with others through God's redeeming love.

It is not enough for us to know how foolish we have been.

We also need to know how good it is really to be loved.

The word "God" appears nowhere in this text.

Throughout the Bible we find out how good it is to be loved by God and how awful it is to oppose Him.

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Where to Find the Love We Long For

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. (1 Corinthians 6:15-17)

The concept of "accepting Jesus" is Biblical (**John 1:12**), but it is often misunderstood.

In America's Bible Belt especially, many people need to be saved from their salvation.

They have "accepted Jesus" in the sense that they have allowed him into their lives, up to a point.

Being saved from our salvation

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. (1 Corinthians 6:15-17)

Becoming a Christian is the joining of two into one.

it is trust and surrender such that we give ourselves entirely to Christ, like we give ourselves in a permanent sexual union.

But if all you have done is "accept Jesus" on your terms so that you retain control of your life, you have only flirted with Christ.

You need to go all the way. Then you will feel loved.

$$1 + 1 = 1$$

To be a Christian, you become joined to the Lord Jesus Christ, in body and spirit, through his finished work on the cross.

He gives himself to you completely by grace, and

You give yourself to him completely by faith.

Not only your spirit but also the members of your body, your very organs, are so indwelt by the living Christ that you are his physical presence in the world today.

From head to toe, all that you are is not only for Christ but also of Christ

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$$

That includes your sexuality, married or single, because

You have been joined by grace to the Lord.

You have been brought into union with the most loving Person in the universe.

He is giving his love to you with all his passionate heart.

He is so close to you, he identifies so intensely with you, the Bible is saying he and you have become one spirit, the way a married man and woman become one flesh.

But to be one spirit is even more profound, more intimate, deeper, and richer than to be one flesh.

Christ loves and redeems people no one else can love. He loves you to this full extent.

Proverbs 7:19-20

(Pro 7:19 ISV) ¶ because my husband isn't home. He left on a long trip. 20) ¶ He took a fist full of cash and he'll return home in a month."*

(Pro 7:19 KJV+) For^{H3588} the goodman^{H376} is not^{H369} at home,^{H1004} he is gone^{H1980} a long^{H4480 H7350} journey.^{H1870} 20) He hath taken^{H3947} a bag^{H6872} of money^{H3701} with^{H3027} him, and will come^{H935} home^{H1004} at the day^{H3117} appointed.^{H3677} 21

(Pro 7:19 NASB) "For my husband is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; 20) He has taken a bag of money with him, At the full moon he will come home."

(Pro 7:19 NIV) My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. (Pro 7:20 NIV) He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."

She tried to make him think she was married
She needs his 'help' in fulfilling her religious vows and worship.
Her husband was out of town.
If a problem develops, she'll attribute it to her husband...

Proverbs 7:21

(Pro 7:21 ISV) ¶ She leads him astray with great persuasion; with flattering lips she seduces him.*

(Pro 7:21 KJV+) With her much^{H7230} fair speech^{H3948} she caused him to yield,^{H5186} with the flattering^{H2506} of her lips^{H8193} she forced^{H5080} him.

(Pro 7:21 NASB) With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him.

(Pro 7:21 NIV) With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.

She overcame his scruples with lascivious talk.

Proverbs 7:22-23

(Pro 7:22 ISV) ¶ All of a sudden he follows her like an ox fit for slaughter or like a fool fit for a trap [So MT; LXX reads a dog fit for chains] 23) ¶ until an arrow pierces his liver. As a bird darts into a snare, he doesn't realize his fatal decision. [Lit. realize it is his life]*

(Pro 7:22 KJV+) He goeth^{H1980} after^{H310} her straightway,^{H6597} as an ox^{H7794} goeth^{H935} to^{H413} the slaughter,^{H2874} or as a fool^{H191} to^{H413} the correction^{H4148} of the stocks;^{H5914} 23) Till^{H5704} a dart^{H2671} strike through^{H6398} his liver;^{H3516} as a bird^{H6833} hasteth^{H4116} to^{H413} the snare,^{H6341} and knoweth^{H3045} not^{H3808} that^{H3588} it^{H1931} is for his life.^{H5315}

(Pro 7:22 NASB) Suddenly he follows her As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, 23) Until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it will cost him his life.

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Proverbs 7:22-23

(Pro 7:22 NIV) All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose 23) till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

Three comparisons of the stupidity of his folly:

1. As an ox going to slaughter
2. As a fool to the stocks
As a deer stepping into a snare (NIV)
3. As a bird to the snare (**Prov 7:23**)

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Proverbs 7:24

(Pro 7:24 ISV*) ¶ So listen to me, my sons, and pay attention to what I have to say.

(Pro 7:24 KJV+) Hearken^{H8085} unto me now^{H6258} therefore, O ye children,^{H1121} and attend^{H7181} to the words^{H561} of my mouth.^{H6310}

(Pro 7:24 NASB) Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, And pay attention to the words of my mouth.

(Pro 7:24 NIV) Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.

Again Solomon appeals to the simple and inexperienced to follow his advice; again he warns against the harlot and the end of those who sin with her (**Prov 7:24-27**).

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Proverbs 7:27

(Pro 7:27 ISV*) ¶ Her house leads to Sheol, [i.e. the realm of the dead] descending to death's catacombs.

(Pro 7:27 KJV+) Her house^{H1004} is the way^{H1870} to hell,^{H7585} going down^{H3381} to^{H413} the chambers^{H2315} of death.^{H4194}

(Pro 7:27 NASB) Her house is the way to Sheol, Descending to the chambers of death.

[hell] Hebrew: **She^owl** (OT:7585) (notes, Ps 9:16; Luke 16:19-31).

(Pro 7:27 NIV) Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

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Proverbs 7:25-26

(Pro 7:25 ISV*) ¶ Don't be led astray by her lifestyle, [Lit. ways] and don't imitate her behavior. [Lit. paths] 26) ¶ For many are the victims whom she has conquered, and many are her slain.

(Pro 7:25 KJV+) Let not^{H408} thine heart^{H3820} decline^{H7847} to^{H413} her ways,^{H1870} go not astray^{H8582} H408 in her paths.^{H5410} 26) For^{H3588} she hath cast down^{H5307} many^{H7227} wounded:^{H2491} yea, many^{H3605} strong^{H6099} men have been slain^{H2026} by her.

(Pro 7:25 NASB) Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths. 26) For many are the victims she has cast down, And numerous are all her slain.

(Pro 7:25 NIV) Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. 26) Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng.

Four great men who were felled by women:

1. Samson (**Judg 16:4-21**)
2. David (**2 Sam 11-12**)
3. Solomon (**1 Kings 11; Neh 13:26**)
4. Herod (**Matt 14**)

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The Path to Destruction

• He tempts himself **Prov 7: 6-9**

This young man is either terribly dumb or very proud, convinced that he can play with sin and get away with it.

But he's only tempting himself and heading for trouble.

He's out at night

"walking in darkness"; see **2:13; John 3:19-21; 1 John 1:5-7**)

He's Trespassing

deliberately walking near the place of temptation and danger where he should not and has no right to be

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The Path to Destruction

- **He is tempted by the woman *Prov 7:10–20***

She would prepare him a feast that he would never forget.

She appeals to his ‘fleshly nature’ – his appetites and desires – food, pleasure,

Society today not only smiles at sexual sin, it actually approves it and encourages it.

Our entertainment industry celebrates it, promotes it, and exports it throughout the world.

What is the last movie you walked out on?

What was in the last movie you sat through?”

She assures him that nobody will find out about it (except that “Somebody” [God] *is* watching...! Internet marketers, NSA, IRS, ...)

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Hebrew Hermeneutics

- **Peshat** – the literal, direct meaning.
- **Remez** – an allegorical significance; a hint of something deeper.
- **Derash** – the homiletical, or practical application.
- **Sod** – the mystical or hidden meaning.

This paradigm emerged before the 12th century, (Moses de Leon), and the rabbis use the mnemonic, **PaRDeS**, (The Garden, or Paradise), to remember them.

The first three have their parallels in traditional Christian hermeneutics; (yet we would probably order them with *Remez* as third, and *Derash* as second, but that would spoil their mnemonic.)

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The Path to Destruction

- **He tempts the Lord *Prov 7:21–27***

We tempt God when we deliberately disobey Him

When we knowingly put ourselves into situations so difficult that only God can deliver us and go ahead just assuming He will.

(*Ex 17:1-7; Num 14:22; Deut 6:16; Ps 78:18, 56; 1 Cor 10:9*).

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Hebrew Hermeneutics **Sod**: Proverbs 5, 6, 7

- Solomon, the Collector of Dark Sentences.
- The Harlot = Babylon.
 - Nimrod, the Hunter of Men.
 - The Semiramis & Tammus Legends.
- *Christmas, Ishtar, et al.*
- Fornication = Spiritual unchastity.
- *There is nothing “new” in the New Age.*

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