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Proverbs Lesson 2

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Conditional Statement in Prov. 2:1-9: Notice the related couplets

- v.1 “**IF you receive** my words” = accepting as valid
“**treasure** my commandments” = store it up
- v.2 “**Make your ear attentive**” = listen carefully
“**incline** your heart” = stretch your heart toward it
- v.3 “**IF you cry** for discernment” = yearn for wisdom
“**lift your voice** for understanding” = ask, pray for it

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“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James 1:5

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“**lift your voice** for understanding” = ask, pray for it
- v.4 “**IF you seek** her as silver”
“**search** for her as hidden treasures” = DIG or MINE for them; it takes effort!

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The starting place is revelation = **“words...commandments”** (v.1), that which is **revealed by God** in His word.

The goal is **not academic, but spiritual.** =“the fear of the Lord...the knowledge of God.” (v.5)

6

(v.11) “discretion” = shrewdness that involves **thinking through the consequences** of an action and **choosing the way of integrity.**

8

Conditional Statement in Prov. 2:1-9:
Notice the related couplets

- v.5 “**THEN** you will **discern** the fear of the Lord”
“**discover** the knowledge of God.”
- v.6 “**FOR** the **LORD gives wisdom**”
“from His mouth come **knowledge & understanding**”
- v.7-8 “He **stores up sound wisdom**”
(v.1 “**treasure** my commandments”)
- v.9 “**THEN** you will **discern righteous...justice...equity....**”

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The progression of wisdom in Prov. 2:1-9:

- the Lord gives wisdom (v.6)
- the Lord is a shield, guarding, preserving His own (v.7-8)
- you will gain discernment & wisdom (v.9-10)
- then discretion and understanding “will guard...watch over...deliver...” (v.11-12)

The wisdom, discretion, and understanding that God gives becomes part of the means He uses to protect His own!

9

The characteristics of the evil man:

- His speech: (v.12) speaks perverse things = twisted, distorted
- His walk: (v.13) leaves the path of uprightness; walks in darkness; void of spiritual light
- His desires: (v.14) delights in doing evil; rejoices in its perversity = has a dull conscience
- His ways: (v. 15) crooked paths, devious ways = deceptive, deceiving and self-deceived.

10

The characteristics of the immoral woman:

- Her identity: v.16 “strange woman... adulteress” = outside of the covenant community; rejected the social and religious morals of the community;
- Her method: v.16 uses flattery to get her way = manipulative
- Her behavior: v.17 “leaves the companion of her youth...covenant of her God”

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“...the LORD has been a witness between you and **the wife of your youth**, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is **your companion and your wife by covenant.**”

Malachi 2:14

12

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- Her behavior: v.17 “leaves the companion of her youth...covenant of her God”
- Her destiny: v.18 “her house sinks down to death...and her tracks lead to the dead”

v. 19 “none...return again” = the consequences are permanent

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v.21 “the **upright**...the **blameless**”

“**will live in the land**...**will remain in it**”

v.22 “the **wicked**...the **treacherous**”

“**will be cut off** from the land...**will be uprooted** from it.”

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Two possible interpretations (Prov 2:21-22):

1. Life vs. death: “will live” vs. “be cut off” = used to refer to physical death
2. Refers to the Deuteronomic covenant (Deut 27-30): To the Jew, the promised land (the land of Israel) was **the place to experience God's blessing**; to be cut off from the land was to be cursed.

15

Psalm 37

37:3 “Trust in the LORD and do good; **dwell in the land**....”

37:9-11 “For **evildoers will be cut off**, but those who wait for the LORD will **inherit the land**.... the wicked man **will be no more**...he **will not be there**. But the humble will **inherit the land**....”

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Psalm 37

37:22 “For those blessed by Him will **inherit the land**, but those cursed by Him **will be cut off**.”

37:28-29 “For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; they are **preserved forever**, but the descendants of the wicked **will be cut off**. The righteous **will inherit the land and dwell in it forever**.”

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Deuteronomy 27-30: the covenant

30:15-16 "...I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity...I command you today to **love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments...that you may live...in the land** where you are entering to possess it."

18

Deuteronomy 27-30: the covenant

30:19-20 "...I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So **choose life** in order that you may live, you and your descendants by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him...**that you may live in the land** which the LORD swore to your fathers...to give them."

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