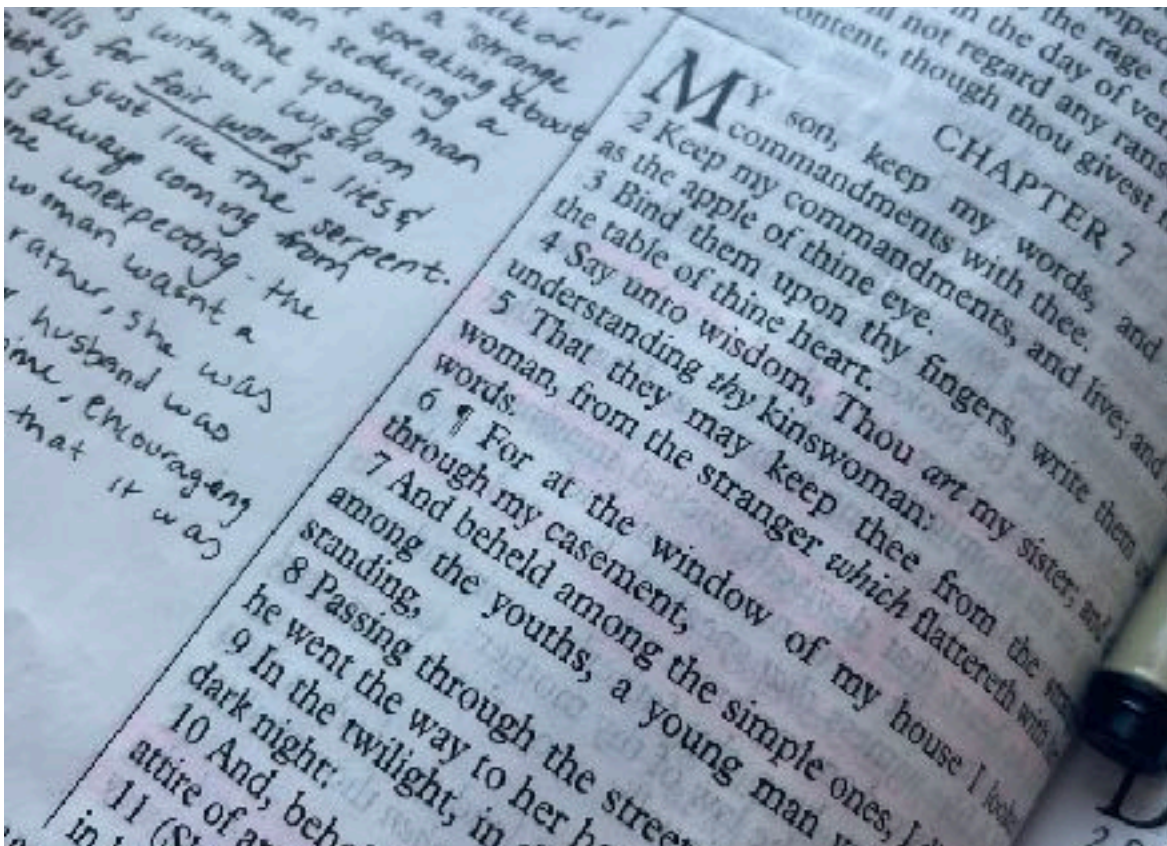


THAT STRANGE WOMAN

I WAS READING PROVERBS 7 AND...

AS I WAS TRYING TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING I DOVE INTO SOME OF MY FAVORITE COMMENTARIES. UPON LOOKING AT SEVERAL COMMENTARIES, I REALIZED THERE WAS A DETRIMENTAL ERROR: THIS CHAPTER HAS VERY *LITTLE* TO DO WITH SEXUAL IMMORALITY AS THE COMMENTATORS SAY, RATHER, IT HAS TO DO WITH ONE HAVING WISDOM OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, OR ONE WHO WALKS THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT THE WISDOM OF GOD. **OBSERVE THAT WISDOM IS ALMOST ALWAYS DESCRIBED SCRIPTURALLY AS A “SHE, OR A HER”.**



IT'S IMPORTANT WHEN STUDYING SCRIPTURE WE ALWAYS REMAIN IN CONTEXT

WISDOM AS A WOMAN - PROVERBS 4:6-9 IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THIS.

What is most important to note when reading these scriptures, particularly the seventh book of Proverbs, is that it is not discussing a young man who falls victim to a prostitute... rather a poetic scenario of what happens to man who walks throughout life lacking the wisdom of God. **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6**

SO- back to the question... who is ‘The Strange Woman?!’

What is also interesting to note, is that many commentators try to say this “seducing woman” is a prostitute. But if you look closely at scripture, we know that isn’t true. Rather than a metaphorical prostitute, she was a WIFE! Proverbs 7:19 explains that her husband has left and will not be home, reassuring her victim that all is in the clear.

We can learn a lot from this sentence alone. Our biggest predators are wolves in sheep clothing. They appear innocent on the outside and ravenous on the inside. (Matt 7:15) With lack of wisdom, it is very hard to detect a threat, which is precisely what Solomon is trying to explain using this moving analogy. It is easy to detect a threat when we have wisdom, and it is easy to stay away from something or someone that possesses poor socially acceptable behaviors or appearances. We must remember, however that the serpent has always been subtle, and that will never change. (Gen 3:1)

**“Say unto
Wisdom, thou art
my sister, and
call
understanding
thy kinswoman”**

Solomon writes consistently to beware of flattering words, because a man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet (Proverbs 29:5,) and in this chapter in 7:5,21 , we are warned of the same threat. We can relate this to every day scenarios in life, of course, and it becomes very helpful, BUT, what this passage is really talking about is how people water down the Gospel, into an ‘easy-believism’ Jesus, where there is no real suffering or self denial. Paul warns us of this as well in 2 Corinthians 11:4 when speaking about **Another Jesus** being preached. To put it simply, without Wisdom and Understanding of the Scriptures gifted to us by God, we walk through life and come across many avenues that seem to be enticing, thrilling, good for us, beneficial to us,

PROVERBS 7:4

and even our families. We pursue travel, careers, hobbies, investments, other spiritual practices, etc just to find out they will bring us to ruin. You may even be attending a church right now, encouraging others to go with you, when they are not even preaching the true Word of God. Without knowing the real thing, how on earth are you able to detect a counterfeit? This is the importance of Wisdom and Understanding. We now can conclude that if Wisdom and Understanding is our kinswoman, i.e our sister, wife or mother, **the strange woman is then, ignorance and folly**. It is foolish to think that this chapter, as well as several other chapters before and after mentioning “the strange woman” is a literal prostitute (even though several respected commentators clearly announce the opposite). It is comical to think that there would be several chapters in the bible warning (just men apparently), not to follow a strange woman into her bed.... is it not? As we end this chapter, we read that the strange woman’s house is the way to Hell. That she has cast down numerous victims. Please note that the word “**strong men**” in verse 26 does not appear in the original text and when you see a word in italics in your King James Bible it is usually a translators attempt at making the passage more coherent. (Usually just adds more confusion and does the opposite)

What the end of this chapter means is that **BEING IGNORANT OF GODS WORD IS THE BROAD WAY TO HELL.**