

## MISHLĚ/PROVERBS 7

Shalom,  
In this article I will break down **MishlĚ/Proverbs 7** verse by verse and reveal some great nuggets of truth by looking at some key Hebrew words, as well as cross referencing these verses with other relevant verses throughout the Scriptures, in order to help us understand these wisdom filled proverbs in a better way. This is in no way an exhaustive commentary on this proverb, but is simply a continual study on it, with the hope of opening it up before the reader for further study and meditation. Many of the words discussed herein are also discussed in our commentaries of the other proverbs, and the reason for this is not to simply duplicate teachings but to rather give the reader adequate access to that which will further their ability to study the key words contained herein without having to necessarily go and seek the same key words in other commentaries, and therefore this commentary can be used as a stand-alone study for the relevant proverb, while at the same time have the advantage of seeing the various themes and lessons that are clearly repeated collectively throughout the great wisdom of these Proverbs of Shelomoh!

This **MishlĚ/Proverbs 7** gives us clear warnings against the immoral woman and what will guard you against adultery. **Verses 1-5** teaches us the full assurance we have in listening to the clear lessons and instructions given to us through the Torah, for the hearing, guarding and doing of the wisdom of the Torah will protect us from the dangers of adulterating ourselves away from Elohim. In **verses 6-20** Shelomoh describes how he has observed the foolish youth who goes into the immoral woman's house and how she lures him into her bed. **Verses 21-23** describe how the fool takes fatal steps in following the seduction of the whore, and **verses 24-27** warns the true hearer to avoid becoming a victim of the adulterous whore!

### Verse 1:

**“My son, guard my words, and treasure up my commands with you.”**

This **MishlĚ/Proverb** begins with the opening address of **“My son”**, and herein emphasis the clear relationship we are to have with our Heavenly Father as we give an attentive ear in hearing the wisdom of His voice contained in the clear words of Scripture. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> proverb that begins with **‘My son’**, as does **MishlĚ/Proverbs 2, 3, 5 and 6**. The address of **‘my son’** highlights for us the clear pattern we see in Scripture of how the Word of Elohim is plainly related to us as children of the Most High. In **MishlĚ/Proverbs 1** we are given a clear warning, as sons, to be alert against being enticed by sinners and the need for us to be on guard against following the ways of the wrong, and then in **MishlĚ/Proverbs 2** we see a clear positive statement being given for true obedience and the result that this obedience will bring. In **MishlĚ/Proverbs 3** we see a clear command being given to not forget the Torah of our Father! In **MishlĚ/Proverbs 4** we see the address of a father's words to his son to ‘hear’, which expresses the urgency of the appeal being made to be faithful in hearing attentively to, taking heed of and accepting the words that are being spoken very clearly and plainly, so that the son may live. In **MishlĚ/Proverbs 5** we see the clear appeal to us as children of the Most High – that we **‘hear’** and **‘accept’** what we hear, so as to walk in the life of the words of our Father! **MishlĚ/Proverbs 6** begins with some very fundamental instructions on how to prevent and avoid getting caught in binding ourselves to others in error, when we do not have the capacity to follow through and fulfil what is expected and required, either financially or by the words of our mouths! And now here in **MishlĚ/Proverbs 7** we are given a clear instruction to avoid adultery completely with the sobering reality of what will happen if one does not and is found to be foolish in their walk!

The clear lesson we can learn from this proverb is that wisdom will protect you from adultery!

The Hebrew root word for **‘guard’** is שָׁמַר **shamar** – **Strong's H8104** and carries the meaning, **‘keep watch’, ‘observe’, ‘perform’, ‘protect’, ‘pay attention’**, and the basic idea of the root of this word is **‘to exercise great care over’**.

As we guard His Torah and exercise great care over our need to walk upright, we will be protected against the luring lusts of the flesh and eyes that the whore tries to use against her prey.

When one is **‘guarding’** something, being **‘awake’** and alert is imperative or else the risk of a theft or loss of possessions are high. One of the biggest problems we find today among claiming Torah observant followers of Messiah is their ability to quickly compromise their diligent duty required in guarding the Sabbath, and we must take great care to not be found slipping in the slightest! When used in combination with other verbs the meaning is **‘do carefully or diligently’**, i.e. perform carefully by paying strict attention as to what must be done as it expresses the careful attention to be paid to the obligations of a covenant, to laws, statutes, etc.

What is interesting in taking note of is the frequent use of the word שָׁמַר **shamar** in the Torah. It is used 139 times in the Torah – 15 times in **Berĕshith/Genesis**, 24 times in **Shemoth/Exodus**; 16 times in **Bemidbar/Numbers** and 65 times in **Debarim/Deuteronomy!!!**

With **Debarim/Deuteronomy** being seen as the ‘second reading of the Torah’, as it was the instructions given to the new generation, we can see why the greater emphasis on the use of שָׁמַר **shamar** to the generation that was about to enter into the Promised Land!

This teaches us how we too must place much emphasis on the guarding of the Word, lest we find that we are not found worthy to enter into the Reign of Messiah for lack of knowledge and discipline in the Word!

The root word used in this **Mishlê/Proverbs 7:1** for ‘words’ is **אָמַר** emer – **Strong’s H561** which means, ‘*speech, word, command, decreed, sayings, utterances*’ and comes from the primitive root verb **אָמַר** amar – **Strong’s H559** which means, ‘*utter, say, speak, commanded, give an order, declared*’.

‘Guarding’ the “Words” of Elohim is the ‘guarding’ of His ‘**commands, decrees, sayings and all His words**’! Many claim to ‘guard’ the Word of Elohim yet they clearly disregard the need to fully embrace and accept the Torah, as they cast His words behind them!

The Hebrew word for ‘treasure’ is **צָפַן** tsaphan – **Strong’s H6845** meaning, ‘*to hide, treasure up, store, save*’, and we see Dawid saying in:

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:11** “**I have treasured up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.**”

Those who treasure up His Words in their heart shall be hidden by Yah. The name of the prophet **צְפַנְיָה** Tsephanyah – **Strong’s H6846** which means ‘*Hidden by יהוה*’ or ‘*Treasured by יהוה*’, comes from the word **צָפַן** tsaphan – **Strong’s H6845**. Tsephanyah is often a book regarded by many as the ‘hottest book’ in Scripture, as it speaks more about the coming Day of **יהוה** than any other prophet – in fact the entire book’s message is centred around the coming Day of **יהוה**, with the call to repentance to all who are walking in darkness through their rebellious and lustful living.

The more I read through this book the more I come to grips just how alive it is for us today, and how important it is for the true sons of Elohim to be found treasuring up The Word of **יהוה** in our hearts! Now treasuring up does not signify a collection of wisdom that is hidden away and never used, but rather symbolises the devotion a true child of Elohim has toward the hearing, guarding and doing of His Word, for the treasuring up of His Word in our hearts will equip us to walk humbly before Him and live set-apart lives according to His treasured Word!

The word for commands is **מִצְוֹת** – ‘mitsvot’- and is the plural of the word **מִצְוָה** mitzvah – **Strong’s H4687** which means, ‘*commandment, command, obligation, precept*’, which comes from the primitive root **צָוָה** tsavah – **Strong’s H6680** which means, ‘*to lay charge (upon), give charge to, command, order, appoint, commission, ordain*’.

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:115** “**Turn away from me, you evil-doers, for I observe the commands of my Elohim!**”

His **מִצְוֹת** – ‘mitsvoth’ (plural for commands) are those rules which apply to specific situations and are tailored for each unique situation in determining the correct action to be taken in a specific circumstance and so we ‘guard’ those carefully to know how to respond and take action for any given situation we may find ourselves in.

The Greek word used in the **LXX** (Septuagint) here for ‘guard’ is **φυλάσσω** phulassō – **Strong’s G5442** which means, ‘*to guard, watch, keep, observe, obey and keep orders*’, which we also see being translated as ‘**watching over**’, in:

**Luqas/Luke 11:28** “**But He said, “Blessed rather are those hearing the Word of Elohim and watching over it!”**”

**Ya’aqob/James 2:10-11** “**For whoever shall guard all the Torah, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of Torah.**”

**Yoħanan/John 15:14-15** “**You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, for all teachings which I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**”

What teachings did Messiah make known to us? The answer is clear - The Torah!!! And now, when we do what He commands we are His friends!

## Verse 2:

**“Guard my commands and live, and my Torah as the apple of your eye.”**

This is very clear – guard the commands and live – or – do not guard them and die!!!

The Hebrew word here for ‘guard’ is used again, as in verse 1 - **שָׁמַר** shamar – **Strong’s H8104**. Verse 1 says ‘guard my words’, and verse 2 says ‘guard my commands’!!! The commands of Elohim are His Words!!! His commands cannot be divorced from His Words and cannot be separated as not being applicable, for that would be the same as saying His Word is not applicable!

The Hebrew word translated as ‘live’ is the primitive root verb **חָיָה** hayah – **Strong’s H2421** which means, ‘*to live, came to life, restored to life, revived*’. Our ability to be revived and kept alive is by our guarding of the commands of Elohim, and the noun that comes from this root verb and means ‘life’ is **חַי** hay – **Strong’s H2416** and means, ‘*life, alive, living, flowing, fresh, running*’:

**Deħarim/Deuteronomy 32:45-47** “**And when Mosheh ended speaking all these words to all Yisra’ēl, 46 he said to them, “Set your heart on all the words with which I warn you today, so that you command your children to guard to do all the Words of this Torah. 47 “For it is not a worthless Word for you, because it is your life, and by this Word you prolong your days on the soil which you pass over the Yardēn to possess.”**”

What we must guard against is the looking to the 'letter of the Torah' only; as we must recognise that the Torah without Messiah contains no life – but it is only in Messiah that true life of the Torah becomes something that can and does sustain us.

**Tehillah/Psalm 36:9 “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.”**

The Hebrew word for **fountain** is - מַקּוֹר **maqor** – Strong’s H4726 meaning, ‘**a spring, fountain**’ and comes from the root - קוּר **qur** – Strong’s H6979 which means, ‘**to dig**’ and we know we are to dig and seek out His kingdom and His righteousness – the question is whether people have found the True well of LIFE and are **sitting and learning** at it or is it a muddled counterfeit?

With יְהוּדָה is the FOUNTAIN OF LIFE!!!

**Tehillah/Psalm 68:6 “Bless Elohim in the assemblies, יְהוּדָה, from the fountain of Yisra’el.”**

When we come to the FOUNTAIN OF LIFE and gather when we should, as an obedient flock who know His voice, then that Water of Life becomes a fountain in us as our lives are changed and our speech is renewed enabling us to bring life and healing to the nations!

**Mishlë/Proverbs 10:11 “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wrong.”**

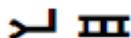
**Mishlë/Proverbs 13:14 “The Torah of the wise is a fountain of life, turning one away from the snares of death.”**

**Mishlë/Proverbs 14:27 “The fear of יְהוּדָה is a fountain of life, to turn away from the snares of death.”**

**Mishlë/Proverbs 16:22 “Understanding is a fountain of life to him who has it, But the disciplining of fools is folly.”**

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ is The Living Torah and our source of Life, or rather He is the Life of the Torah - and when we drink of Him – the FOUNTAIN OF LIFE begins to flow out of us as we gain understanding, and walk in the fear of יְהוּדָה by walking in the Torah, and our speech becomes a flowing source of life!!!

In the ancient pictographic symbols of this word, we are given a greater insight in understanding how יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Messiah is THE LIFE! This word - הַי **hay** in the ancient script look like this:



**Het – ה**

The ancient script has this letter as which is a ‘**tent wall**’, and carries a meaning of ‘**separation**’, as a tent wall separates two halves of the tent; or it can also reflect the outside walls that separate the people inside from that which is outside and so can also symbolise protection and security to those inside, while picturing a cutting off of those who are outside. Hence this letter can mean ‘**established, secure**’ as well as ‘**cut off, separated from**’. As a tent wall we are also able to recognise the picture of stones being built up to make a complete wall.

**Yod – י**

The ancient script has this letter as which is ‘**an arm and hand**’ and carries the meaning of ‘**work, make, throw**’, from the primary functions of the arm and hand, and it also represents worship or giving thanks in the extending of hands as a gesture of this. The work of one’s hands is the basic meaning of this letter!

From this ancient pictographic lettering of the word for **LIFE** we are clearly able to see how by the work of Messiah – the outstretched arm and hand of Elohim, we as living stones, are built up in Him as the Dwelling Place of the Living Elohim!

What gives us our ability to be built up as living stones in the Master, is our continued obedience to walking in that which is our life – His Torah!

The Hebrew word תּוֹרָה **torah** – Strong’s H8451 means, ‘**utterance, teaching, instruction or revelation from Elohim**’. Other definitions include: ‘**information that is imparted to a student; direction; body of prophetic teaching; instruction on Messianic Age; body of priestly direction**’, and comes from the primitive root verb יָרָה **jarah** – Strong’s H3384 meaning, ‘**to shoot, throw, instruct, direct, teach**’, which therefore can give us the understanding of ‘**Torah**’ to mean the following: **TO AIM OR POINT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION and MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION**

The Torah gives us our ‘**direction**’ and bearings as we sojourn here, looking forward to the sure and promised hope of the return of our King and Teacher of Righteousness!

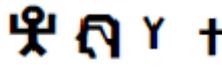
In other words it means that you aim or point in the right direction and you move in that direction. You can see that this meaning is way different as to how we understand the ‘**burden**’ that is typically associated with the word ‘**Law**’.

It is also interesting and wonderful for me how the word **Torah** clearly reveals the Messiah, let me show you how. The original language spoken and written by Hebrews is referred to as Ancient Hebrew Script which consisted of an alphabet of pictographic symbols that each rendered its unique meaning, which later developed into the ‘**middle script**’ or **Paleo-Hebrew** and then into what is known as ‘**Biblical Hebrew**’ as we have it available for us today; and though the Hebrew

Language went through a number of changes, we are able to discern the original symbols or pictures that were used which actually resembled their meaning.

Each symbol or picture carried a meaning or meanings and when symbols were collectively put together they would spell a word that carried a meaning or clear description.

The word **TORAH** is a combination of four symbols: (Remember Hebrew is read right to left):

 (Ancient Hebrew) and  (Biblical Hebrew)

-  =  (tav) a picture of 'crossed sticks' which means 'to seal or covenant' or 'mark' or 'sign'
-  =  (vav) a "nail" or a "peg" which means 'to add or secure or hook'
-  =  (resh) "a head of a man" meaning "a person, the head or the highest" or "first" or "top" or "beginning"
-  =  (hay) "a man with arms raised" which means "to reveal" or "behold" or "what comes from"

When we consider these pictographic symbols and their meanings, we can by the word rendered 'Torah' see the wonderful work of Messiah, who secures for us the Covenant in His own Blood that brings the two houses (Yehudah and Yisra'el) – two sticks – together!

It could best be rendered in a powerful testimony of the work of Messiah as follows:

**"Behold the man, Messiah our Head, who by His own Blood renewed the covenant, nailing to the 'stake' that which was written against us, and securing the covenant in order that the two sticks can be brought back together in Him, whom we praise"**

Other definitions based on this word could also render:

**'What comes from the man nailed to the 'cross' or upright pole' and 'Behold the man who secures the covenant' and 'To a cross is nailed the highest, it is revealed in Torah'**

Wow – how awesome is this!!! Now – does this sound like a heavy law??? Not at all – this description or definition does not make me think of fines or of a judge or of punishment or even of prison! יהושע tells us that His yoke is easy – His yoke is His Torah (instructions and teaching)!

We are NOT to forsake the Torah!!! We are NOT to cast away His instructions! A clear warning is given to those who do so, while claiming to be part of a covenant people of Elohim!

**Tehillah/Psalm 50:16-17 "But to the wrong Elohim said, "What right have you to recite My laws, or take My covenant in your mouth, 17 while you hated instruction and cast My Words behind you?"**

**We are to guard His Torah as the apple of our eye!**

As the apple of your eye –  – 'ki'eyshon ayneyka' - The word translated as 'apple' is  ishon – Strong's H380 which means, 'the pupil of the eye, middle' and comes from the root word used for 'man' which is  ish – Strong's H376.

We see Ya'aqob being described as being the apple of the eye of יהוה, in:

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 32:10 "He found him in a wilderness, and in a wasted, howling desert. He encompassed him, He made him understand, He watched over him as the apple of His eye."**

This is an Hebraic expression which portrays the intensity of one's focus on one's beloved! This is a very powerful statement that shows us how focused יהוה is on His called out, chosen ones. This could also be rendered as the 'little man of the eye', whereby we are able to, by the intensity of His focus upon us, see our reflection in the pupil of His eye – as an expression of ability to look intently into the mirror of His Word and not forget how we look and how we ought to look, as we become doers of the Word and not just hearers only!

This instruction is clear – we are to be so intently focused on His Torah, and guard His commands that we may live, and we do this by 'fixing our eyes' on Messiah, our Princely Leader and Perfecter of our belief:

**Ib'rim/Hebrews 12:2 "looking to the Princely Leader and Perfecter of our belief, יהושע, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the stake, having despised the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of Elohim."**

We are told to be 'looking' to Messiah – and as we can see from the verse before this one, is that in order to be able to properly 'look' at Messiah, we need to throw off and lay aside every weight and sin that easily entangles us and run with endurance - looking intently at our King as we run faithfully as servants of the Most High Elohim!

Many are trying to run, yet find themselves getting tired and unable to endure the hardships and persecutions that comes as a result of set-apart living amidst a crooked generation! The question that you need to ask yourself as you take an eye test so to speak is, “What are you looking at?” Are you looking at Messiah?

The two words used here for our Messiah are:

‘**Prince**’ - ἀρχηγός - *archēgos* - Strong’s G747 – translates as ‘**prince, captain, chief leader and author**’ and describes ‘**one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer**’.

‘**Perfector**’ - τελειωτής - *teleiōtēs* - Strong’s G5051 – this is the only place this Greek word and denotes a ‘**finisher, completer, perfecter**’ and describes ‘**one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith**’. This is a description given only to יהושע Messiah who has become the supreme model for us to follow.

The Greek word for ‘**looking**’ is ἀφοράω – *aphorao* - Strong’s G872 and means ‘**to look/ to turn eyes away from all other things and fix them on something**’, metaphorically speaking it means ‘**to fix the mind upon/ give full attention/ looking intently upon/ to take heed**’, and it also means, ‘**to consider carefully, attentively look at**’ and comes from the two Greek words: ἀπό *apo* – Strong’s G575 which is a preposition and participle that means, ‘**from, away from, at, in, to**’ and the word ὁράω *horaō* – Strong’s G3708 which means, ‘**to see, perceive, attend to, take heed, see with the mind, beware, to see as in becoming acquainted with by experience**’.

We are to look to Messiah and careful consider our ways, and we are at the same time to ensure that are eyes are not looking elsewhere as we ‘take heed’ of the corrupt teachings of man-made dogmas and traditions that lead people astray.

### Verse 3:

**“Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.”**

Shelomoh makes it clear in regards to the ‘how’ we are to guard the Words, commands and Torah of Elohim as the apple of our eye! They are to be bound on our fingers and written on our hearts!

The Hebrew word translated as ‘**bind**’ is קָשָׁר *qashar* – Strong’s H7194 and means, ‘**to bind, league together, knit, tied**’, and the idea here of them being knit together on our fingers implies a clear message that whatever we do it must be done according to the clear word, commands and Torah of Elohim! The Hebrew word for ‘**fingers**’ is אֶצְבָּעִים *etsba* – Strong’s H676 which means, ‘**a finger, fingers, fingers and toes**’. This word is used in a normative sense for measuring width, where a finger is around 1,8cm, and we see in Yirmeyahu the measuring of 4 fingers being used to describe the thickness of the columns (Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 52:21). Fingers are also used for the priestly activity of sprinkling oil and blood.

We also take note that fingers are used to refer to work artfully produced, especially in regard to Elohim. We are told of the work of His fingers (Tehillah/Psalm 8:3), as well as the work He wrought through the plagues He sent upon Mitsrayim (Shemoth/Exodus 8:19), and how He wrote with His finger His laws on the two stone tablets (Shemoth/Exodus 31:18). In regard to man outside of the called for service in the Tabernacle, it often deals with his artistic work which is contrary to יהודה, as in the making of idols and cultic objects that are an abomination to Elohim:

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 2:8 “And their land is filled with idols; they bow themselves to the work of their own hands, to what their own fingers have made.”**

These and other sins defile ones ‘fingers’ and this expression clearly teaches us that the works of our own fingers, done in error and falsehood, separate us from Elohim and cause us to not be able to draw near to Him!

What Shelomoh is clearly teaching us here is that our fingers should have the clear instructions of our teacher bound tightly to them, so that we will not be found to have our fingers defiling our attempts at worship. The pointing of one’s finger is an action of wicked contempt made by the self-righteous who disregard the commands of Elohim!

We shall be known by our fruit and the ‘works of our fingers’, so to speak, and therefore we recognise the need to have His Torah bound tightly to all we do!!!

The writing of His commands of the tablet of our hearts He has done through the renewal of His Covenant in the Blood of Messiah!

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 31:33 “For this is the covenant I shall make with the house of Yisra’el after those days, declares יהוה: I shall put My Torah in their inward parts, and write it on their hearts. And I shall be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.”**

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 11:18-20 “And you shall lay up these Words of Mine in your heart and in your being, and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 ‘And you shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up, 20 and shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates”**

The Torah is to be in our heart and in our beings – it must define who we are and lead our every step as we walk in Messiah.

**Shemoth/Exodus 13:9 “And it shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a reminder between your eyes, that the Torah of יהוה is to be in your mouth, for with a strong hand יהוה has brought you out of Mitsrayim.”**

**Shemoth/Exodus 13:16** “**And it shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand יהוה brought us out of Mitsrayim.**”

What we see from all these accounts we see that the Sabbath is a sign that it is יהוה who sets us apart, and that we will know that יהוה is Elohim and there is no other! Pesaḥ and Matzot is a sign for us to remember that the Torah is to be in our mouth and that יהוה brought us out of Mitsrayim! And from here in **Debarim/Deuteronomy** we are further told that we are to bind His words on us as a sign! Observance of His Sabbath and Appointed Times marks us, and our ability to bind His Word on our hand and be as frontlets between our eyes every single day will be how we are able to faithfully guard His Word diligently!

The root word for ‘bind’, as already mentioned, is קָשַׁר qashar – Strong’s H7194 and means, ‘**to bind, league together, knit, tied**’ and the idea here is that we are to have His Word ‘knit’ and interwoven into our lives, so much so that when others look at us they should see the Torah that is written upon our hearts and is in our mouths – to do it – in other words we become a ‘letter’ of the Truth!

**Qorintiyim Bēt/2 Corinthians 3:2-3** “**You are our letter, having been written in our hearts, known and read by all men, 3 making it obvious that you are a letter of Messiah, served by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living Elohim, not on tablets of stone but on fleshly tablets of the heart.**”

When the Torah is as frontlets between the eyes – then we can begin to understand more clearly how the Torah is a lamp and light for our daily walk:

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:105** “**Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.**”

Are you ‘shining’ the Light of the Truth? Can people see that you are ‘marked’ by the Truth, or do you hide it through compromise?

Binding the Torah on our hand and letting it be that which guides our every step as it lights the way will cause us to ‘enter in and possess’ all that has been promised and is yes and amēn in Messiah, and will guard us from the strange woman!

#### **Verse 4:**

**“Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call understanding a close friend”**

The close association of wisdom and understanding with sister and friend show us how close and intimate a relationship we must have with wisdom and understanding, for without such we will perish!

Wisdom and understanding, Shelomoh says, is to be like your intimate family and an extremely close relative – one you dwell with and know well. When we think of these terms of sister and friend, we can be reminded of our Masters words, as He defines clearly for us who are His sister and who are His friends!

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 12:47-50** “**And one said to Him, “See, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.” 48 But He answering, said to the one who spoke to Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” 49 And having stretched out His hand toward His taught ones, He said, “See My mother and My brothers! 50 “For whoever does the desire of My Father who is in the heavens is My brother and sister and mother.”**”

Whoever does the desire of Elohim is family! Wisdom must be seen as family – so much so that we recognise that we need wisdom to help us do the desire of Elohim, and so too be called brothers and sisters of the Messiah!

He also tells us that we are His friends, in:

**Yoḥanan/John 15:14-15** “**You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, for all teachings which I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”**”

Friends know what the Master is doing as they follow Him and guard His commands! We have repeatedly taught and made it abundantly clear that proper understanding of the Word comes in the hearing and ‘doing’ of the Word, and not in the hearing alone!

The Hebrew word for ‘wisdom’ is חִכְמָה ḥokmah – Strong’s H2451 meaning, ‘**wisdom, skill**’, which comes from the primitive root verb חָכַם ḥakam – Strong’s H2449 meaning, ‘**to be wise, skilful, make wise**’.

In the ancient pictographic alphabet, this Hebrew word for ‘wisdom’ - חִכְמָה ḥokmah – Strong’s H2451 looks like this:



**Ḥet – ח:**

The ancient script has this letter as  which is a ‘**tent wall**’, and carries a meaning of ‘**SEPARATION**’, as a tent wall separates two halves of the tent; or it can also reflect the outside walls that separate the people inside from that which is outside and so can also symbolise protection and security to those inside, while picturing a cutting off of those who are outside. Hence this letter can mean ‘**established, secure**’ as well as ‘**cut off, separated from**’. As a tent wall we are also able to recognise the picture of stones being built up to make a complete wall, having been separated from the world and built up in the master!

## Kaph - כּ:

The ancient form of this letter is  - meaning 'the open palm of a hand'. The meaning behind this letter is 'to bend and curve' from the shape of a palm as well as 'to tame or subdue' as one has been bent to another's will (under their hand), as an open hand symbolises submission. This also can picture for us a palm or palm branch from the curved palm shape. The hand also speaks of one's work, or under whose hand you submit and obey!

## Mem - מ:

The ancient script has this letter as  and is pictured as 'water', and also carries the meaning of 'chaos' (from the storms of the sea) and can also picture that which is mighty or massive as well as the unknown. We are also able to understand this letter as representing the nations, for the nations are often likened to the seas in Scripture. Knowing this letter represents 'water', we are also able to see how this can render for us the meaning of 'washing' or 'cleansing'.

## Hey – ה:

The ancient script has this letter pictured as , which is 'a man standing with his arms raised out'. The Hebrew word letter "hey" means "behold", as when looking at a great sight. This word can also mean "breath" or "sigh" as when one sighs in amazement when looking at a great sight. The meaning of the letter  is "behold, look, breath, sigh and reveal or revelation"; from the idea of revealing a great sight by pointing it out. It also carries for us the meaning of surrender, as we lift up our hands and submit to יהוה as we lift our hands in praise, declaring His authority under which we humbly submit!

As we consider these pictographic letters that render for us the term for 'wisdom' we are able to clearly see that wisdom entails a separation, as pictured through the tent wall. We can render the meaning of the construction of this word, in terms of true wisdom, as meaning:

**We are built up in the Master as we separate ourselves from the world as we submit under the hand of our Master and do what His Word instructs as it washes us, and enables us to lift our hands to Him in continual praise!**

Wisdom, at its core, speaks of one's ability to clearly separate the good from the bad, right from wrong, left and right, and up and down; and this we are to be able to do as we exercise true discipline – the discipline of separation!

Wisdom is often used in the context of a skilled workman that has been equipped by the Spirit of Elohim:

**Shemoth/Exodus 28:3 "And you, speak to all the wise of heart, whom I have filled with a spirit of wisdom, and they shall make the garments of Aharon, to set him apart, for him to serve as priest to Me."**

Wisdom in the ancient text can speak of a clear separation by the washing of one's hands; and as we consider the design of the Tabernacle, we need to be reminded that the bronze laver was used for the serving priests to wash their hands and feet; and clearly pictures for us how we are to be continually washing our work and walk through being immersed in the Word that transforms us!

The command to say to wisdom 'you are my sister' implies a clear and proper connection and a pure relationship that protects and encourages.

Being grafted into the Body of Messiah entails us saying to wisdom that she is our sister, and anyone who refuses the wisdom of Elohim is not of Elohim!

'Understanding' in Hebrew is the word בינהּ **biynah** – Strong's H998 meaning, 'an understanding, consideration, discernment' and comes from the primitive root word בין **bin** – Strong's H995 which means, 'to discern, act wisely, clever, diligently consider'.

If we do not trust in יהוה with all our heart then we will not be able to find true and proper understanding and may find that our own vain and empty reasoning in the flesh will bring about a weakened understanding of matters that should be spiritually discerned through much prayer and meditation on the Word!

We are to study carefully and carry out what is required of us, according to the commands we are to guard and do – for then we will become fully functional in Messiah and have the skill and discernment necessary to stand and fight the good fight of faith!

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:34 "Make me understand, that I might observe Your Torah, and guard it with all my heart."**

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:104 "From Your orders I get understanding; therefore I have hated every false way."**

**Mishlë/Proverbs 2:4-5 "If you seek her as silver, And search for her as hidden treasures, then you would understand the fear of יהוה, and find the knowledge of Elohim."**

**Mishlë/Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of יהוה is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Set-apart One is understanding."**

In the LXX (Septuagint) the Greek word used for 'wisdom' here in Mishlë/Proverbs 7:4 is σοφία Sophia – Strong's G4678 meaning, 'wisdom, skill, cleverness, learning', and comes from the root word σοφός Sophos – Strong's G4680 meaning, 'skilled, wise, wise men'.

The Greek word used here in the LXX for ‘understanding’ is φρόνησις *phronēsis* – Strong’s G5428 which means, ‘*understanding, practical wisdom, attitude, insight*’, and comes from the word φρονέω *phroneō* – Strong’s G5426 which means, ‘*to have understanding, to think, adopt a view, setting your mind*’, which comes from the root word φρήν *phrēn* – Strong’s G5424 which means, ‘*midriff, heart, mind, thought, thinking*’.

What we can clearly see from a Greek perspective is that to have understanding implies an ability to think straight and engage in practical application of wisdom learnt.

We see both of these words used in describing what messiah has lavished upon us, having been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies:

**Eph’siyim/Ephesians 1:8** “**which He has lavished on us in all wisdom and insight**”

With Messiah having come down and lavished on us all wisdom and insight/understanding, there is absolutely no excuse for anyone to not be able to call wisdom their sister and understanding their close friend, as the stay in and walk in Messiah!

## Verse 5:

**“To guard you against the strange woman, against the foreigner who flatters with her words.”**

Shelomoh makes it clear here the reason for binding the Torah on our fingers and hearts and guarding and treasuring up His Word in us, making a close and intimate relationship with wisdom and understanding – and that is to guard you against that which is false!

The Hebrew word used for ‘strange’ is זָרַר *zur* – Strong’s H2114 which means ‘*strange, stranger, estranged, adulterer, adulterous, enemy*’, and is also used to describe the ‘strange’ fire that the two sons of Aharon brought before Elohim, and were struck dead. While we are to be kind to strangers, what we see being taught here, as we progress through this proverb is that we are to be on guard against submitting our ways to the leading and direction of another, especially when it goes against the clear plumb-line of the Torah!

The Hebrew word translated as ‘foreigner’ is נֹכְרִי *noḵri* – Strong’s H5237 which means, ‘*foreign, alien, adulteress, stranger*’.

Yisra’ēl was rebuked for having become a **strange** vine, after having been planted as a choice vine:

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 2:21** “**Yet I had planted you a choice vine, all of it a true seed. How then have you turned before Me into the degenerate plant of a strange vine?**”

יְהוָה had planted a ‘choice vine’ - שֹׂרֵק *soreq* – Strong’s H8321 which means, ‘*choice wine, noble wine*’ and called a nation to be set-apart unto Him, yet we see that this ‘choice vine’ turned away from following יְהוָה by whoring after the nations and became a degenerate plant of a **strange** - נֹכְרִי *noḵri* – Strong’s H5237 **vine** - גֶּפֶן *gephen* – Strong’s H1612. גֶּפֶן *gephen* – Strong’s H1612, while meaning a vine or vine tree, is also used figuratively in Scripture as a reference to the nation of Yisra’ēl, as well as a symbol of prosperity and we also take note here that the Greek word used in the LXX for this word ‘vine’ is ἄμπελος *ampelos* – Strong’s G288 which we find being used in the words of Messiah who called Himself the True Vine:

**Yoḥanan/John 15:1** “**I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener.**”

What we see from all these verses is that we recognise how Messiah calls Himself the True Vine, showing us that there is indeed a strange vine, which we must guard against falling for the drunkenness and maddening adulteries that comes forth from her grapes. We must ‘**stay in**’ the True Vine and recognise the One to whom all praise is due!

The foreign woman uses ‘smooth’ words, and the Hebrew word used here for ‘smooth’ is חָלָק *halaq* – Strong’s H2505 which means, ‘*to be smooth, or being deceitful, and also means to flatter or seduce*’. This word also carries the understanding of, ‘*giving misleading opinions or thought about what is true, often encouraging wrong behaviour*’. Wow – how sad it is today to see how so many have been seduced in following ‘misleading opinions’ and are being ‘encouraged to be disobedient’ by the ‘smooth talkers’ – beware of the smooth talkers! And even more importantly – do not be a smooth talker – be a truth talker!

The wisdom of Elohim will protect us from the ear tickling words of the adulterous whore that is leading so many astray. And we are clearly told in Yeḥezqēl that the **flattering** (חָלָק *halaq*) divination will be done away with, as the Word of יְהוָה will be the Word that is heard and adhered to:

**Yeḥezqēl/Ezekiel 12:24-25** “**For no longer is there to be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Yisra’ēl. 25 “For I am יְהוָה, I speak. And the word which I speak is done. It is no longer deferred. For in your days, O rebellious house, when I speak the word I shall do it,” declares the Master יְהוָה.**”

## Verse 6:

**“For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice”**

From **verse 6-20** Shelomoh teaches us a clear parable of the foolish youth who gets seduced by the seductive whore, with the warning for us being made plain in our need to be on guard against the seductive attacks of the enemy, which we can do as we guard wisdom and understanding!

Shelomoh begins this narrative with an opening line that could be rendered as, “One night I was looking out my window”, and so let us learn from this narrative what he describes to us in regards to what he saw.

## Verse 7:

**“And I saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man lacking heart”**

He saw a young man lacking heart, among the simple!

The Hebrew word used here for ‘simple’ is פְּתִי *pethi* – Strong’s H6612 which means, ‘*open minded, foolish, simple, naïve*’, which comes from the root verb פָּתַח *pathah* – Strong’s H6601 and means ‘*easily deceived, enticed, to be simple or to be in a state of holding a wrong view about a situation*’.

Those who are ‘open minded’ are regarded by the world as being right, as they readily accept whatever anyone wishes to do as an acceptable standard that is not challenged by any moral or ethical code. Scripturally these people are called simple ones – ones who are easily deceived as they do not renew their minds with the Word of Elohim!

In **Hoshĕa/Hosea 7** Ephrayim is referred to having become a simple dove:

**Hoshĕa/Hosea 7:11 “And Ephrayim has become a simple dove without heart, they have called on Mitsrayim, they have gone to Ashshur.”**

Here Ephrayim is symbolically used in referencing the House of Yisra’ĕl that had gone astray and been enticed by the nations! Ephrayim was easily deceived and enticed into a mode of pagan influenced worship. It also means to be naïve – and boy, how many today are so naïve about the corrupted practice of Christianity as an assumed means of pure worship, when it is nothing more than a man-made twisted blend of truth and pagan influence; which according to Torah is clearly an abomination in the eyes of יהוה. Ephrayim, which represents us today, had become naïve and in their naïve state they called to Mitsrayim and went to Ashshur. They had gone to the world for advice and learnt their ways as they were without heart or rather “understanding” – the very thing we are to seek from יהוה. Simple people lack heart – they lack understanding as they neglect to do what is commanded, as we recognise that understanding comes in the doing of the Word, and when anyone compromises the pure standard of the Torah they lack heart and will find themselves easily giving in to the pressures of the world around them and look to worldly ways and reasonings as to how they can assimilate a form of worship that they deem acceptable to Elohim, when in fact it does not measure up to the clear plumb line of His Truth! We are told in **Mishlĕ/Proverbs 6** that the adulterer lacks heart!

The Hebrew root word for ‘lacking’ is חָסֵר *haser* – Strong’s H2637 which means, ‘*to lack, need, decrease, deprived, scarce, be lacking, be without, made lower, fail*’, and the Hebrew word for ‘heart’ is לֵב *leb* - Strong’s H3820 which means, ‘*heart, inner man, mind, will thought*’. It is a heart thing!!! The Torah is to be upon our hearts, and to commit adultery shows that the Torah is not where it should be – it is a heart thing!

The one who binds the Torah on their heart shall lack nothing!

**Tehillah/Psalm 23:1 “יהוה is my shepherd; I do not lack.”**

Knowing that יהוה is our Shepherd gives us the confidence that we shall not lack or be in need or be deprived or fail, but rather we shall trust and fix our eyes on Him and the truth of His Word that sustains us and leads us, lighting the way through a dark and depraved world.

**It is a heart thing** – and obedience flows from the heart, and in a Psalm that is all about the praise of the Torah and commands of Elohim we see Dawid saying in:

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:111-112 “Your witnesses are my inheritance forever, for they are the joy of my heart. 112 I have inclined my heart to do Your laws Forever, to the end.”**

**Romiyim/Romans 6:17 “But thanks to Elohim that you were servants of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of teaching to which you were entrusted.”**

The Greek word for ‘heart’ is καρδιά *kardia* – Strong’s G2588 and this word denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life, and is understood as the centre and seat of the soul and mind; as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavours. It refers to the innermost part of a man – that which drives and directs a man’s steps, thoughts and purpose! The Hebrew word for ‘heart’ is לֵב *leb* - Strong’s H3820 which means, ‘*inner man, mind, will thought*’, or is often also written as לֵבָב *lebab* – Strong’s H3824 which means, ‘*inner man, heart, mind, understanding*’; and what is interesting to take note of here is that these two letters for ‘heart’ in the ancient Hebrew pictographic Script make it clear that the rule and authority of Elohim is to be upon our hearts!

In the ancient Script the Hebrew word לֵב *leb* - Strong’s H3820 looks like this:



## Lamed - ל:

The ancient script has this letter as , and is pictured as a *'shepherd's staff'*, can give the meaning of *'to or toward'* and can represent that which pushes or pulls a flock in a direction, and can speak of *authority* or a yoke that is used to lead and guide, as well as the ability to bring back by Authority.

## Bet - ב:

The ancient script has this letter as , which pictures a tent floor plan and means, *'house'* or *'tent'*. It represents family and the importance of those who are inside the tent as opposed to the tent structure itself.

In terms of these two pictures representing the *'heart'* or the inner man and the will and thoughts of man, we are able to see that a pure heart is one that submits to the authority of the Good Shepherd, having been grafted into His Body, that is the Tabernacle of Elohim, which in Messiah we now are. And in recognising this we see that we, as legitimate sons and daughter of the Most High that have been grafted in by the Blood of Messiah, have upon our hearts His Torah, under which we submit to walking in – for His Torah are the rules of His House! Even with the word for heart being expressed as 

*lebab*, we are able to see in the ancient text a second 'bet' –  – , showing us the clear picture of the True authority for both Houses of Yisra'el and Yehudah, that collectively make up the entire body of Messiah, or Tabernacle of Elohim, which we now are!

The one who commits adultery **lacks heart**, and is not submitted to the True House of Elohim!

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 6:5-6 "And you shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might. 6 "And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart"**

To love Elohim with all your heart implies that His commands are written upon your heart, for true love for Elohim is to guard His commands; and if one does not think upon or meditate upon His Torah in order to walk in it, then it shall be very clear that the Truth is not in them!

יהוה knows what is in our hearts, while we may not; and He tests our hearts in order to see if we will obey Him or not:

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 8:2 "And you shall remember that יהוה your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, prove you, to know what is in your heart, whether you guard His commands or not."**

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 10:12-13 "And now, Yisra'el, what is יהוה your Elohim asking of you, but to fear יהוה your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your being, 13 to guard the commands of יהוה and His laws which I command you today for your good?"**

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 11:18 "And you shall lay up these Words of Mine in your heart and in your being, and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."**

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 30:14 "For the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart – to do it."**

The reason I am quoting all these verses is to show that *'it is a heart thing'* and the Word must be in our hearts and mouths, and not just a vain rendering of a corrupted lips service that has no heart or follow through with obedience and submission to doing the commands with joy!

Guarding the good treasure and deposit of the Truth in our hearts will keep us from sinning and being lawless, and will keep us from being an adulterer and thief!

**Tehillah/Psalm 119:11 "I have treasured up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You."**

What Shelomoh is teaching us here in this poetic narrative is that he looked out and saw a young and foolish adulterer wandering the streets, having no purpose or reason for being out!

So many people today are walking aimlessly around without a true purpose in Messiah, due to a severe lack of wisdom and understanding. The danger is that the 'wandering streets' can lure you into falsehood and deception that consumes your life away!

**Tehillah/Psalm 19:7 "The Torah of יהוה is perfect, bringing back the being; The witness of יהוה is trustworthy, making wise the simple"**

What is clear here in this parable being set forth is that this simple youth was not walking in the Torah, but was rather walking according to his own ways, and what we see transpiring from this is that he gets caught by the seductive powers of the adulteress, which can represent for us the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, which are not of Elohim!

The Hebrew word for *'youth'* is the word  *na'ar* – Strong's H5288 which means, *'lad, boy, youth attendant, child'*.

We are told in Tehillah/Psalm 103 that we are not to forget יהוה's dealings with us and that He renews our youth!

This youth who was lacking heart is a picture of one who is not being renewed, or is not renewing their mind by meditating on the Word, but is being conformed to the worldly ways!

**Tehillah/Psalm 103:5 "Who satisfies your desire with the good, Your youth is renewed like the eagle's."**

He renews our youth! This in itself is a powerful lesson of which we must never forget! The Hebrew word for 'renew' is **חָדַשׁ** *hadash* – Strong's H2318 which means, 'to renew, repair, restore, restored', and this should make it very clear and plain in understanding that **יְהוָה** is saying that He would 'renew, restore, repair' His covenant with His Bride who broke it – and He would renew it is His own Blood! And in renewing His Covenant with us, we are renewed and restored to life – so much so that our 'youth' is renewed! The Hebrew word for 'youth' is **נָעוּר** *na'ur* – Strong's H5271 which means, 'youth, early life, childhood', which is a participle of the word **נָעַר** *na'ar* – Strong's H5288 which means, 'lad, boy, youth attendant, child'.

Wow – our early life renewed!!! We can understand how some who have hit the 70's can say that they feel so energised by the Truth and are like Kalēb who was 80 years old when he said... 'give me that mountain!'.  
Our youth is renewed like the eagle's, and the eagle is known for its strength, size and longevity, as well as its yearly molting – which pictures renewal and refreshment and revival. Whenever we see this verse we are quickly reminded of:

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 40:31** "but those who wait on **יְהוָה** renew their strength, they raise up the wing like eagles, they run and are not weary, they walk and do not faint."

The word used here in Yeshayahu for 'renew' is **חָלַף** *halaph* – Strong's H2498 which means, 'to show newness, change for the better'. The message is clear – if we are not being continually renewed and refreshed and changing for the better then we are not waiting on Him in the way we should, and are in danger of becoming stale! His Word is alive and we are to be refreshed each day, keeping His presence fresh in us as we do not forget His dealings!

When I think of the imagery here of our youth being renewed I am quickly reminded of the words of Messiah in regards to how we ought to be:

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 18:2-4** "And **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** called a little child to Him, set him in their midst, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become as little children, you shall by no means enter into the reign of the heavens. 4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the reign of the heavens."

We need to be like children – hungry for the truth, full of energy and able to be taught – if we are not then we may have forgotten His dealings with us and find ourselves wandering aimlessly in dangerous paths of destruction, where the enemy waits to attack through seduction and lust!

### Verse 8-9:

"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."

I have grouped these two verses as we see the clear description of when this young and simple one who lacks heart was walking about! He was passing through the street in the evening, in the dark and black night! This already is a big clue for us in teaching us that he was where he should not have been!

**Romiyim/Romans 13:12-14** "The night is far advanced, the day has come near. So let us put off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in wild parties and drunkenness, not in living together and indecencies, not in fighting and envy, 14 but put on the Master **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** Messiah, and make no provision for the lusts of the flesh."

This youth had 'put on' the works of darkness and foolishly disregarded the need to have on the Torah of light that lights our path!

**Tas'loniqim Aleph/1 Thessalonians 5:4-8** "But you, brothers, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 So, then, we should not sleep, as others do, but we should watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But we who are of the day should be sober, putting on the breastplate of belief and love, and as a helmet the expectation of deliverance."

The passage in this proverb describes a man who is walking along a street and is headed for a certain house! He knew where he wanted to go and he followed his fleshly desires in the darkness of night!

The Hebrew word translated as 'dark' is **אֶפְלַח** *aphelah* – Strong's H653 which means, 'darkness, gloominess, calamity, thick, gloom'.

**Mishlě/Proverbs 4:19** "The way of the wrong is like darkness; they do not know at what they stumble."

This word speaks of a very thick darkness – the blackest darkness!

This same word is used in reference to the plague of darkness that came over Mitsrayim, in:

**Shemoth/Exodus 10:22-23** "And Mosheh stretched out his hand toward the heavens, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Mitsrayim for three days. 23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, while all the children of Yisra'el had light in their dwellings."

We also see here a shadow picture reference to the Day of יְהוּדָה, as we see this word used in speaking of the Day of יְהוּדָה in:

**Yo'el/Joel 2:2** “a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains – a people many and strong, the like of whom has never been, nor shall there ever be again after them, to the years of many generations.”

This was an awakening statement to the Mitsrians for it seemed as though Ra their sun-god was dead who was considered to be the father of all Pharaohs and so that would also threaten their existence of future Pharaohs.

**Verse 23** – Nobody got up from their place – they could not see each other. This is a great lesson and picture for us, in that when we ‘walk in darkness’, that is in ignorance of the Truth, then we too will not see our neighbour, and so this darkness also represents for us today the sin of pride and selfishness where you are blinded to the urgent needs or burdens of your brother/neighbour – no one ‘loved’ their neighbour anymore! Each one was in their own pity party feeling sorry for themselves because they had just lost all they ever had. They had gone in to a state of depression. The locusts brought one kind of darkness but now this darkness was escalated to a much deeper one where it was now felt even on the inside! Having no hope is the worst darkness one can find themselves in and here they had truly lost all hope – their mighty ones were dead and Pharaoh was powerless and there may have even been the sound of weeping and wailing in the ‘outer darkness’ – a picture of what so many will face when they come to the reality that all they have ever followed in their sun-worship doctrines of Constantine is all falsehood and lies! Depression had hit hard and brought about disunity – a key lesson for us is that when we find ourselves a little depressed – the best way to remedy the situation is to go and serve another – be light to someone else – that will remove that darkness over your life for perfect love drives out all fear – and we are told to be perfect for He is perfect and love for Elohim is to guard to do all He commands – therefore perfect love – represents perfect, uncompromised obedience – this will drive out darkness and fear and find the light of His presence that will fill us with His strength and joy!

So many are walking around in the dark, groping about and not knowing how foolish they are in their lawless drive for the satisfaction of the lusts of the flesh!

#### **Verse 10:**

**“And look, a woman met him, dressed like a whore, with a hidden heart.”**

What is going to meet you when you lurk around in the dark? The enemy whore who will be dressed like a whore and have her heart hidden! In other words her motives are not revealed as she lures the foolish into her trap through her looks!

The Hebrew word used here for ‘whore’ is זָנָה **zanah** – **Strong’s H2181** which means, ‘**be a harlot, commit fornication, adulterous, prostitute, unfaithful**’. A prostitute or whore is a woman who exchanges sexual relations with a man for money or goods, and to the whore a man is just another means of income, and she will dress up in order to lure him into her web of deception and lies. So many people who lack heart today, and are unable to discern right from wrong and separate the set-apart from the profane due to a lack of wisdom, knowledge and understanding, are easily lured into the ‘dressed up churches’ that are drawing people with smooth and seductive words that tickle their ears, while their appearance hides their clear agenda while leading people astray through darkened teachings of false traditions of man that have cast aside the Torah!

While we do not have any Scriptural evidence in regards to how whores dressed in those days, we can certainly understand that the dressing like a whore implies dressing up in a seductive way so as to catch their prey with the lures of the lust of the flesh! As we consider this proverb we are able to see how so many churches are ‘dressed like a whore’, as they have all the ‘pomp and show’ so to speak, dressed up to lure in the masses that are attracted by her ‘attractions’, while being completely unaware of her theologies and dogmas of twisted traditions that have been covered by the dressing of a whore in her adulteries!

**Hazon/Revelation 17:3-5** “**And he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast covered with names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup filled with abominations and the filthiness of her whoring, 5 and upon her forehead a name written, a secret: BABEL THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE WHORES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**”

The ‘whore’ that is the adulterous system of falsified worship, has a hidden heart! Her heart is strengthened in her attack of her prey and her agenda is not revealed under the cloak of deception and dressed up falsehood! Something that fools are caught by, like so many who are attracted by the ‘show business’ of church today, with all their ‘concert-like’ performances and multi-faceted programmes that attract the fool who does not know the true wisdom of Elohim!

#### **Verse 11:**

**“She was boisterous and stubborn, her feet did not stay at her own house.”**

The Hebrew word translated as ‘boisterous’ is **הממה hamah** – Strong’s H1993 which means, ‘*to murmur, growl, roar, be boisterous, noisy, cry out, make a loud noise*’.

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 17:12** “Woe to the uproar of many people who **make a noise like the roar** of the seas, and to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters”

Here **הממה hamah** – Strong’s H1993 is used twice for emphasis, and here in Yeshayahu we see how Babelon, the great whore is linked not only with Babelon the city, but also with all the nations that she has made drunk with the wine of her adulteries! This is the whole world system that unifies in opposition to **יהוה** when He has declared that His Anointed One is now to reign on the earth. The whore is noisy and stirs up a great noise against the truth! So many in churches today are being stirred up against the hearing of the clear and undefiled truth! The more that the Truth becomes known and made more available for all to see, the more the whore and all her false systems of worship raise their voice in order to drown out the call to come out of her!

The Hebrew word used here for ‘stubborn’ is **סרסר sarar** – Strong’s H5637 which means, ‘*stubborn, rebellious, backslide*’. What is stubbornness or rather what does it mean to be stubborn? Well according to various dictionary definitions it can be summed up as follows:

*‘Having or showing dogged determination not to change one’s attitude or position on something, esp. in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so; Difficult to move, remove, or cure; Unreasonable, often perversely unyielding; bull-headed.’*

Ever heard of the saying, ‘**as stubborn as a donkey**’? Stubbornness can also refer to one who has an ‘*unrepentant heart*’ – one who unwilling to yield to the Truth and change, one who is unwilling to learn and is stubbornly set in their ways!

A derivative of this word **סרסר sarar** is the adjective **סר sar** – Strong’s H5620 which means, ‘*stubborn, resentful, rebellious, sullen, implacable, embittered*’; and this word is used only 3 times in Scripture, and they are all used in referring to the attitude of the wicked king, **Aḥab**, who was **embittered** in his being after being rebuked by a prophet of Elohim, after **Aḥab** did not put Ben-Hadaḏ, sovereign of Aram under the ban (**Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 20:43**). He once again became embittered when he could not get the vineyard of Naboth the Yizre’elite (**Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 21:4-5**).

This root word - **סרסר sarar** – basically speaks of being obstinate and rebellious, and lays stress on the attitude of a person – a wrong attitude that results in wrong actions!

**Deḥarim/Deuteronomy 21:18-21** speaks of the resulting actions to be done to a son who is wayward and rebellious and refuses to listen to the discipline of his parents – he would be stoned by all the men of the city, in order to remove the evil from the city!

This word often portrayed Yisra’el’s total rebellion against Elohim and we see in:

**Tehillim/Psalm 78:8** “**And not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation which did not prepare its heart, whose spirit was not steadfast to Ēl.**”

This Psalm is an appeal to turn our ears to the Torah and walk in it and not be stubborn and rebellious like our fathers! Stubbornness reflects a bad attitude toward submission to authority and is clearly seen in not taking up the responsibility of bearing the necessary requirements upon one’s shoulders! Hoshĕa says that Yisra’el is like a stubborn calf (**Hoshĕa 4:16**) and Neḥemyah says that they have a stubborn shoulder:

**Neḥemyah/Nehemiah 9:28-29** “**But after they had rest, they turned back to do evil before You. Then You left them in the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. But when they turned back and cried out to You, You heard from the heavens, and delivered them according to Your compassion, many times, 29 and warned them, to bring them back to Your Torah. But they acted proudly, and did not obey Your commands, and sinned against Your right-rulings, ‘which if a man does, he shall live by them.’ And they gave the **rebellious** shoulder and hardened their necks, and would not hear.**”

In a clear call to live by the right-rulings of Elohim, Yisra’el gave a rebellious shoulder! In Scripture we are told how the priests were to bear the Ark of Elohim on their shoulders, and so one’s shoulders are often pictured for us as how we are to carry the presence of our Master and Elohim, as we guard to do all He has commanded us! To have a ‘**rebellious shoulder**’ pictures a clear stubbornness to bearing the responsibility of walking in the Torah, as the rebellious cast down His presence instead of bearing it upon their shoulders!

**Zekaryah/Zechariah 7:11** “**But they refused to listen, and they **shrugged** their shoulders, and stopped their ears from hearing.**”

The word translated as ‘shrugged’ is **סרסר sarar** – shrugging one’s shoulders is to shrug one’s responsibilities, and the clear result of this is seen in their refusal to hear the Truth – hearing but not hearing! Those who have ears hear what the Spirit says – the stubborn and rebellious refuse to listen!

This rebellion is a clear sign that it is rooted in their hearts, and so it was with Yisra’el too:

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 5:23** “**But this people has a **backsliding** and rebellious heart, they have turned aside and gone away.**”

**סרסר sarar** is used here and is translated as ‘**backsliding**’ and the Hebrew word translated as ‘**rebellious**’ here is **מרה marah** – Strong’s H4784 which means, ‘*to be contentious, rebellious, bitter, disobedient*’.

The Torah is to be upon our heart and here we see how Yisra'el had a rebellious and backsliding heart – a heart that was filled with wickedness and deceit, instead of the Torah! The danger of stubbornness and rebellion being in one's heart, is that you risk the severe danger of being bitten by the rebellious and stubborn whore, who lurks the streets! Many have been captivated and ensnared to walking in stubborn rebellion, as they have fallen for the wicked schemes of the whore, under which many of us were born, as a result of our fathers being stubborn and rebellious!

### **Her feet do not stay at her own house!**

This speaks of instability and a wandering heart that has no secure foundation! As we know in Scripture, the term for 'feet' – which is *regel* – **Strong's H7272** means '*a foot/feet or to walk*', and speaks of one's obedience to walking according to the commands of Elohim and obeying His call to keep His feasts as commanded, as we take note that this word is also translated as 'times' in:

**Shemoth/Exodus 23:14** **“Three times in the year you are to observe a festival to Me.”**

With the expression of the boisterous and stubborn whore whose feet do not stay at her own house we can clearly see a clear picture of rebellion and a total disregard for the guarding of the called for and commanded Appointed Times of Elohim!

The Hebrew word translated as 'stay' is the root word שָׁכַן *shakan* – **Strong's H7931** which means, '*to settle down, abide, dwell, establish, make or cause to dwell*'. From this root verb we get the Hebrew word מִשְׁכָּן *mishkan* – **Strong's H4908** which pictures for us the fullness of the Dwelling of Elohim in our midst, when He shall come and be with us forever, and we shall be made to dwell with Him forever!

The whore is unable to properly 'dwell' and settle down as she has rebellious feet that do not submit to the Torah of Elohim, and will make a very loud and rebellious noise against the proper keeping of the Feasts of יְהוָה, by promoting a lawless 'new covenant' that is based on inherited lies and false traditions that are taught as teachings, while forsaking the clear commands of Elohim!

The whore is very loud – so loud that most fall prey to her wicked call of rebellion that is masked as obedience!

### **Verse 12:**

**“Now in the street, now in the square, and at every corner she lurks.”**

The whore will not miss an opportunity to catch the fool who wanders the streets! She is everywhere and it is not hard to find her as she lurks at every corner, ready to lure a weary traveller!

The Hebrew root word translated as 'square' is רֶהוֹב *rehob* – **Strong's H7339** which means, '*a broad open place, plaza, square, market*', and the Greek word used in the LXX (Septuagint) is πλατύς *platus* – **Strong's G4116** which means, '*broad street, broad way*', and is the word used to describe the 'wide' gate that leads to destruction!

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 7:13** **“Enter in through the narrow gate! Because the gate is wide – and the way is broad – that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in through it.”**

The whore is in the wide gate – accepting all who will fall for her trickery and entertaining seductions!

The Hebrew word translated as 'lurks' is אָרַב *arab* - **Strong's H693** which means, '*to lie in wait, ambush, lurk*'. This verb can describe the actions of criminals before they strike, and this is exactly what the whore does – she lies in wait for her prey, roaming about like a lion just waiting to pounce on her next victim!

### **Verse 13:**

**“And she took hold of him and kissed him; she hardened her face and said to him:”**

The Hebrew root word used for 'took hold of' is חָזַק *hazaq* – **Strong's H2388** and carries the meaning, '*to grow firm, fasten upon, strengthen, take hold of*', and written in the 'hithpael tense' it can carry the meaning of, '*to put forth strength, to use one's strength, to hold strongly with*'. What we can see here is that the whore uses extreme power and strength to grab hold of her victims that she lies in wait for. She grabs hold with force, and to the unsuspecting fool this can be intensely intimidating at first, yet we see that she grabs with strength but also kisses him!

The word translated as 'kiss' is נָשַׁק *nashaq* – **Strong's H5401** and means, '*to kiss, do homage, show respect and affection for, acknowledge*' and this word can have the understanding of '*fastening together, be in array (dressed accordingly)*'.

Look at how subtle and dangerous the whore is – she grabs with force so as to not let go, yet at the same time pays homage to her new prey and shows affection for the weary fool she has gripped by her dangerous yet subtle strength. She makes the new recruit feel welcome and loved, so much so that by doing so she tightens her grip on Him so tight that they become fastened to one another. The church does this perfectly through its 'new member programmes', making sure that they have grabbed hold of the new member while using flattery to secure their stay.

The Hebrew word for 'hardened' is אָזַז *azaz* – **Strong's H5810** which means, '*to be strong, be brazen, prevail, display boldness*', and what we can learn from this is the clear pattern of the deceptive ways of the whore as she grabs hold of her victim, flatters him with smooth and affectionate words and then boldly begins to teach her doctrines!

With the boldness of her teachings the caught fool has no ability to recognise her falsehood and is rather in awe of her strength and boldness she displays, and what Shelomoh is teaching us through this very intriguing parable is that if we are not careful we may end up being caught like the fool who wanders the streets! If we do not guard the commands of Elohim we too can be caught by the seductive lies that are presented with boldness and flattery, so much so that the caught hearers of such lies can never see the lies but wholeheartedly are sold by her deception and being gripped by her power and ear tickling messages they will not leave her but will rather be bound in allegiance to her forever!

## VERSES 14-20 – WORDS OF FALSEHOOD!

### Verse 14:

**“Peace offerings are with me; today I have paid my vows.”**

As she begins to speak to the fool she has locked in to her flattering system, she begins to seduce him with falsehood and charm, teaching him lies that he receives as truth!

The word used here for the peace offerings is שְׁלֵמִים *‘shelemim’* which is the plural of the word שְׁלֵם *shelem* – Strong’s H8002 which means, *‘a sacrifice for alliance or friendship, peace offering’* and in turn this comes from the word שָׁלֵם *shalem* – Strong’s H7999 meaning, *‘to be complete or sound, finished, fully repay, make and end, make full restitution’*. This is a complete lie that she tells this young fool, as we know that we only have peace with Elohim through our Master יהושע Messiah:

**Romiyim/Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been declared right by belief, we have peace with Elohim through our Master יהושע Messiah”**

The Peace offering speaks of our fellowship. Now that we have been atoned for and share in the Meal offering of Pěsah, remembering our Messiah, we are now able to draw near to Elohim for now we have peace with Him!

The fool has no understanding of what the Pěsah Meal is all about, for the whore will not teach that which she does not submit to and obey! She will however twist the Truth into lies and present a distorted message that will capture the fool who is led astray for lack of knowledge and wisdom!

The true peace offerings are not with the boisterous whore, for she has no regard in keeping the commanded Feasts of יהוה, yet she starts her doctrinal lies with the claim to have the true knowledge of salvation!

**Mishlě/Proverbs 15:8 “The slaughtering of the wrong ones is an abomination to יהוה, but the prayer of the straight is His delight.”**

The word ‘slaughterings’ is from the root word זָבַח *zēbah* - Strong’s H2077 which means, *‘thank offerings, sacrifice, feasting’*:

**Tehillah/Psalm 4:5 “Offer slaughterings of righteousness, and trust in יהוה.”**

Any form of offering and thanksgiving done outside of righteousness (which is to guard the commands) is an abomination to Elohim!

**Mishlě/Proverbs 15:9 “The way of the wrong one is an abomination to יהוה, but He loves him who pursues righteousness.”**

The slaughterings of the assumed peace offerings of the whore are an abomination to יהוה! The church claims that they have peace with elohim by their vain and wicked celebration of Easter, and in doing so they disregard the clear commands regarding the Pěsah/Passover and Matzot/Unleavened Bread! One small proof of this is their total disregard for the only sign that our Master said that he would give a wicked and adulterous generation – and that is the sign of Yonah/Jonah, as He would be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth as Yonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a fish! It is impossible to get 3 days and 3 nights from ‘good Friday’ to ‘easter Sunday’, yet the Christina church proclaim that the slaughterings or thanksgiving of peace offerings are with her! Another important point to make is how the church promotes at their easter time the eating of ‘hot cross buns’ which is made with leaven (yeast), and is totally against the clear command of how we are to keep Pěsah and 7 days of Unleavened Bread! How can you eat bread with yeast in it at a time when we are commanded to not let any leaven be found in our borders and that anyone who eats leaven would be cut off!!! Yet this is what the whore does in direct blasphemy of the truth and has the masses locked into her lies that have been strengthened over time through the establishment of traditions of man that are taught as truth!

She preaches a false peace! The Hebrew word used for ‘paid’ as in ‘paid my vows’ is שְׁלֵם *shalem* – Strong’s H7999 as already mentioned, from which the word שְׁלֵם *shelem* – Strong’s H8002 comes from, and it is from this root word that we get the Hebrew word for ‘peace’, which is the word שָׁלוֹם *shalom* – Strong’s H7965 – *‘wholeness, completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, health, prosperity, well-being, safety, protection’*.

The whore preaches a false שָׁלוֹם *shalom* – Strong’s H7965, and there is a clear warning against those who do so:

**Yehezqēl/Ezekiel 13:10 “Because, yea because they have led My people astray, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace. And when one is building a wall, see, they are coating it with whitewash!”**

**Yehezqël/Ezekiel 13:15-16** “So I shall complete My wrath on the wall and on those coating it with whitewash, and say to you, ‘The wall is no more, nor those whitewashing it – 16 the prophets of Yisra’ël who are prophesying concerning Yerushalayim, and who are seeing visions of peace for her when there is no peace,’” declares the Master יהוה.”

The whore is a whitewasher! For more on the warning against the whitewashers please see the sermon notes on a message called, “**SPEAKING AGAINST THE WHITEWASHERS AND THE IZEBELS**”, which you can view from our site (<http://atfotc.com>) under the **sermons 2011** menu, or by clicking on the following link:  
<http://atfotc.com/index.php/our-sermons/sermons-2011/194-speaking-against-the-whitewashers-and-the-jezebels-ezekiel-13>

### **Verse 15:**

**“Therefore I came out to meet you, to earnestly seek your face, and I found you.”**

The result of her false peace offerings and that she has paid her vows, which signifies that her table has been set and her meal is ready, she once again uses flattery to get the fool to eat at her table by telling him that she went out to meet him personally! This once again is a twist of the truth, as the whore makes her victim feel very special and makes him think that what she has done is just for him, and that all that has been done is for him alone! This is what Christianity does at its core when it lures the sinner to her defiled table of falsified traditions and claims that it has all been set out just for the one she has flattered with a strong arm!

What is worth taking note of here is how the whore earnestly seeks the face of her prey, while we clearly see in Scripture the opposite of the true beloved of Elohim, who earnestly seek His face!

Dawid made this clear in:

**Tehillah/Psalm 63:1** “O Elohim, You are my Ėl; I earnestly seek You; My being has thirsted for You; My flesh has longed for You In a dry and thirsty land without water.”

Dawid starts off by declaring who is Elohim and who was His Elohim and he then declares that He earnestly seeks יהוה! “I earnestly seek You!” – Can you declare this honestly – do you earnestly seek יהוה? Bearing in mind that Dawid was in one of the toughest times of his life – and he was earnestly seeking יהוה! The Hebrew word used here for ‘earnestly seek’ is - שָׁחַר *shahar* – Strong’s H7836 which means ‘to long for, diligently seek, strongly desire something with a focus on a relationship with that which you seek’ and is an intensive verb which denotes that it requires exceeding effort and from this we get the noun of the word which means , ‘at dawn, early, daybreak’. Therefore it is safe to say that what Dawid was actually declaring here was, “I rise early to diligently seek you”. The LXX (Septuagint) translates this as ‘I rise early for you’. What we have here is the picture of ‘seeking early’ as having the connotation of great diligence – “I am seeking you really diligently” – not with half measures!!! And this he would do ‘early’, while it was still dark, at the breaking of dawn!!! How many of you can say that? Most of the time the majority of people cannot even get out of bed early on a good day! What about when you are in a tight spot, when things are all messed up and your circumstances look dismal – getting up early to seek יהוה is, for most , not even a consideration! What we recognise in this proverb is that the whore will earnestly seek her foolish prey, and will certainly seek those who are in a tight spot and smooth talk them into her home and seduce them with lies and falsehood! If you are not earnestly seeking יהוה, then be warned that the whore will be earnestly seeking you!

The Hebrew root word translated as ‘found’ is מָצָא *matsa* – Strong’s H4672 – ‘to attain, find, locate, discover’.

With the concept of being able to find something reveals that it needs to be sought after. Not that it is lost but that it needs to be discovered and learnt. We are to seek יהוה while he is to be found, yet what we also take careful note of here is that the whore too seeks the ‘lost’ and will find those who are foolishly wandering on the broad paths that leads to destruction! The whore calls out and proclaims her own feasts that are presented as truth in order to lure the young fool and she will do so with great effort and intensity, as she uses the strong arm of false traditions and teaching as teachings the commands of men while forsaking the clear commands of Elohim!

Any fool who disregards the need to cry out and seek for the wisdom of Elohim will be found by the whore who seeks such fools to fill her destructive house!

### **Verse 16:**

**“I have spread my bed with coverings, coloured linens of Mitsrayim.”**

Here we are able to see the words of the whore who has made her bed and it is covered with the ‘linens of Mitsrayim’, which can be used as a metaphor for being clothed with worldly ways. One does not have to look too far to see how many churches, who claim to have the truth, have become ‘culturally relevant’ and have disregarded the need to be dressed in the fine linen of set-apartness, while teaching a clear message that ultimately speaks of whoring away from true set-apartness and being dressed with the worldly coverings of compromise and being accepted no matter what you do!

Anyone who lays on her bed will be destroyed!

**Hazon/Revelation 2:22** “See, I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their works.”

The whore has made her bedstead beautifully cushioned, so as to make it very attractive soft and agreeable, and almost hard to not say no to! This is exactly what westernised Christianity has done, as it has made every effort to make it attractive and agreeable to the passer by, so that he can go in and feel at home and find an assumed rest in the comfort of the many worldly ways that the church uses in ‘marketing’ for new members! The whore will do whatever it takes to catch the simple fool in his folly, and here we see that the whore prepares a very attractive place to sit and be pampered with the presentation of her wealth. While the word for couch can simply mean bed or bedstead, what we take note of is that in ancient times only the wealthy homes would have beds and fabric covered couches, and this announcement given to the young man lacking heart would certainly appeal to him and be seduced by her presentation and declaration of wealth. Today we see many churches pulling out all the stops so to speak in order to present to many who lack heart a comfortable place that is backed by worldly wealth! Many today will be attracted to what a church has and the more it has to offer in terms of comfort and facilities, the more it is deemed to be correct, yet is simply a whore that is luring in her prey! We must not be seduced by or attracted to the many ‘colours of the world’s ways’ and be sober minded in our clear approach to the Word and obedience to it. How many times have we seen people lured to join a church because of what they have presented in their glossy magazines and concert type performances of music that they call worship? The whore has spread her coverings, and clearly hides the Truth by her many coloured facets of compromise to the Truth under the false banner of dogmas and traditions of man that have been dressed to be culturally correct and relevant in the world, when we are clearly told to come out and be separate!

### Verse 17:

**“I have sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.”**

The whore continues to make a very seductive presentation of what she has to offer to the young man lacking heart, as she gets very suggestive with her wording in order to attract him by his senses that she attacks with sweet smelling fragrances of deception!

The Hebrew word translated as ‘sprinkled’ is נָחַף *nuph* – Strong’s H5130 means, ‘*move to and fro, shake back and forth, sprinkle, wave*’ and in essence carries the broader meaning ‘*to present*’. In fact it is from this root word that we get the Hebrew word for ‘*wave offering*’, which is תְּנוּפָה *tenuphah* – Strong’s H8573 and means, ‘*a swinging, waving, offering*’ Aharon was required to ‘*wave*’ the Lěwites before יְהוָה, as a ‘*wave offering*’ from the children of Yisra’ēl. We see that it was Aharon who was to wave the Lěwites and therefore the Lěwites were ‘*presented*’ to יְהוָה by the high priest. In Messiah we are presented as set-apart priests who have been cleansed and equipped to serve – and we are now His! The wave offering, in a figurative way, pictures for us that of giving it or releasing it fully to יְהוָה; and this carries great significance for us as we too need to realise that our lives are to be lifted up as a wave offering before יְהוָה; and that includes everything we have, as we lift up our hands in the declaration that all we have is presented to יְהוָה; and that we now belong to Him, having been bought at a price and betrothed by the Blood of the Lamb; and have been sealed with His Set-Apart Spirit of promise, who is the pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession!

What the whore is doing here is a clear deceptive approach of luring those who lack heart and have no knowledge or understanding of the Torah of Elohim. She is in many ways ‘*presenting*’ an assumed place for the priesthood, as she presents a twist of the Truth, making many believe that they are in fact serving the Most High as a royal priesthood, yet have no clue that she is luring them into eth house of lawlessness and sin, all because they lack knowledge!

The Hebrew word for ‘*myrrh*’ is מֹר *mor* – Strong’s H4753 and is a white gum, issuing from the trunk and larger branches of a thorny tree resembling the acacia; Its taste is extremely bitter; but its smell, though strong, is agreeable to the senses and carries a very pleasant fragrance. It comes from the root word that means bitter. It was often used as a perfume as well as a medicine for stomach ailments. Another Greek word that is derived/translated from the Hebrew word מֹר *mor* – Strong’s H4753 is the Greek word for ‘*perfume*’ which is μύρον *muron* – Strong’s G3464 meaning, ‘*ointment, perfumed oil*’, which is what Miryam took and poured out on the Master’s feet and anointed Him with costly perfume and nard – an act that He said was to be told in remembrance of her, wherever the Good News would be proclaimed!

The Hebrew word for ‘*aloes*’ is אֶהָלִים *ahalim* – Strong’s H174, and is the name of a costly and sweet-smelling wood which is mentioned in the following verses: **Bemidbar/Numbers 24:6; Tehillim/Psalms 45:8; Mishlě/Proverbs 7:17; Shir HaShirim/Song of Solomon 4:14; Yoḥanan/John 19:39**. It is usually identified with the *Aquilaria agollochum*, an aromatic wood much valued in India. This tree sometimes grows to the height of 120 feet, being 12 feet in girth.

The aloes of Syria is a thorny shrub, and the wood is used by perfumers after they have taken off the bark. There is also the aloe herb/plant that has very thick leaves. The product taken from the aloes was used in embalming dead bodies, and was used to perfume beds. The aloe plant, as we know today, has become a great source of healing; and herein lies a vital picture being given to us, as we recognise that we find our true healing and strength in our Master and Elohim, יהושע Messiah.

The Hebrew word for 'cinnamon' is קִינָמוֹן qinnamon – H7076 and is a fragrant bark used as a spice, and I am sure we all know how nice cinnamon smells (especially on pancakes!) It comes from a root word meaning to erect and we see the picture of how יהושע was erected on a tree and just as the bark of a tree protects the tree from the elements, so we see how יהושע in His suffering has protected us who are in Him and is a very sweet aroma before the Father!

Why I am mentioning these definitions is due to the fact that all three of these aromatic spices we are able to see in Scripture as being used in reference to the True service of the priesthood and the whore will capitalise on these attributes in order to lure her prey into her house of seduction!

She is in fact presenting herself as one who has the fragrance of the truth, and that she has the ability to heal and protect. Many are seduced by her misleading fragrance that for those who lack heart smells like the real truth yet is not!

### Verse 18:

**“Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love.”**

The Hebrew word translated as 'come' is הָלַךְ halak - Strong's H1980 which carries the meaning, *'to walk, to live, manner of life, cause to live'* and literally speaks of how one lives. It is used as a verb indicating that it is an active expression of one's life. This verb is written in the 'qal active' tense and therefore renders the meaning, *'to go, to walk, come, proceed, depart, move, go away, to die, live, manner of life (figuratively)'*.

She is basically saying to the young man lacking heart, **“come with me”** or **“come walk with me”**, seducing him to get intimate with her and the language of 'taking our fill of love' is a very seductive phrase that is basically saying, “come and sleep with me and let us be joined together in love”. The Hebrew word for 'take our fill' is רָוַח ravah – Strong's H7301 which means, *'to be saturated, drink one's fill, satisfy, cause to drink'*. She is extended to her captive prey her cup of whoring, and maddening adulteries, which the nations get drunk upon!

**Ḥazon/Revelation 17:1-2 “And one of the seven messengers who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying to me, “Come, I shall show you the judgment of the great whore sitting on many waters, 2 with whom the sovereigns of the earth committed whoring, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her whoring.”**

The call to come and engage in love until morning is a clear expression that metaphorically uses sexual tones to refer to wicked works of darkness, calling the simple to engage in adulterous worship that is done in darkness under a false banner of a misunderstood “love”. Have you ever heard the expression, “It is all about love...!”, especially when many are trying to justify their inability to walk according to the Torah. Love for Elohim is to guard His commands and love with the whore is to be joined to her in darkness!

### Verse 19:

**“For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey”**

The whore is not secretive about her whoring and announces to her prey that her husband is not at home and will not be back for a long time. What we recognise her in this great parable is that she assumes an identity of being a wife of one who is coming back, and that while her husband is gone she can engage in adulterous acts. This is the clear message that Christianity teaches when you strip down their core theologies, as they primarily teach that lawlessness is ok and that you can do as you please while the Master is away, and this they teach under a false grace message that assumes that obedience to the Torah is not applicable while the Master is away!

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 24:43-51 “And know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 “Because of this, be ready too, for the Son of Adam is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him. 45 “Who then is a trustworthy and wise servant, whom his master set over his household, to give them food in season? 46 “Blessed is that servant whom his master, having come, shall find so doing. 47 “Truly, I say to you that he shall set him over all his possessions. 48 “But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant shall come on a day when he does not expect it, and at an hour he does not know, 51 and shall cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites – there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

Our Master is coming soon, and we must take careful note here that there is NO TIME at all for adulterous and lawless living, as we must hear, guard and do all he commands us and be found to be trustworthy servants when he comes.

Our Master is not the Husband of the whore, while she may claim to be His wife! This is what the church does... they claim that they are the Bride of Messiah that is waiting for His return yet they refuse to walk in his Torah and be trustworthy and wise servants. He has gone on a long journey are words that relay a message of being able to do what you see fit in your own eyes and not be worried about Him coming back too quickly! Many people today procrastinate in their choice to obey and walk in the Truth of the Word and will use similar terms as they will say something like this, "I will get to it in the future", or, "I get there one day", and this just emphasises that they have no urgency in being trustworthy and wise and think that they will not be held accountable with their lawless and compromised lifestyles now!

With the whore saying that her husband has gone on a long journey, can in many ways relate to her hearers that they need not fear the husband who is away. Many today have no fear of Elohim and are being deceived by the deceptive cup of the whore and lack a proper fear of Elohim as they have no understanding in regards to His Appointed Times, and therefore are blinded by the fleshly attractions of the whore and her corrupted system!

### Verse 20:

**"He took a bag of silver with him; He comes home on the day of the covering."**

The Hebrew word used for 'silver' is כֶּסֶף *keseph* – Strong's H3701 which in translated as, '*silver, money, purchase price*' and comes from the root word כָּסַף *kasaph* – Strong's H3700 which means, '*to long for, eager, shame*'.

Silver, in Scripture, is often symbolic of redemption, as we see silver is used in Scripture as redemption money. It speaks of the price יְהוֹשֻׁעַ has paid for us. Silver was used in service of the Tent of Meeting for the Atonement of Yisra'el as a remembrance before יְהוָה.

**Shemoth/Exodus 30:16 "And you shall take the silver for the atonement from the children of Yisra'el, and give it for the service of the Tent of Meeting. And it shall be to the children of Yisra'el for a remembrance before יְהוָה, to make atonement for yourselves."**

The Tabernacle stood upon sockets of silver. Both Yoseph and יְהוֹשֻׁעַ were sold for silver. Yehudah was paid off in silver as the Scriptures said. Silver is redemption money. Silver is symbolic of the redemption that comes through יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Messiah and Him alone. It prefigures the preciousness of Messiah as the ransom for sinners.

Silver also speaks of service and giving of oneself – the perfect work of Messiah:

**Marqos/Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Adam did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

We also see another wonderful picture of the symbolism of silver, as is also likened to the pure Word of Elohim that has been tried:

**Tehillah/Psalm 12:6 "The Words of יְהוָה are clean Words, silver tried in a furnace of earth, refined seven times."**

**Tehillah/Psalm 66:10 "For You, O Elohim, have proved us; You have refined us as silver is refined."**

The one thing we can be sure of is that the Word of יְהוָה is proven and trustworthy! We are able to fully trust His Word – for it is the only 'word' that can be trusted. How many times have you found that the words of friends, families, colleagues and even strangers have failed to meet up with what they spoke? The Word of יְהוָה never fails!!!

We know that the Master has gone to the Most Set-Apart Place where He intercedes for us as High Priest and has paid our ransom and deliverance from slavery. He is coming again and He is coming on His Appointed Time, in the 7<sup>th</sup> month!

The language used here in saying that He comes home on the day of the covering, teaches us a clear marker of His Appointed Times and the fulfilment of His Feasts, which to the one lacking heart would carry no meaning whatsoever!

The Hebrew word for 'covering' here in this **Mishlê/Proverbs 7:20** is כֶּסֶף '*kese*' – Strong's H3677 which means '*full moon*' or the full covering of the moon – that is – when it is fully illumined! This is a wonderful pointer to our Messiah coming to be united with His Bride for Sukkot/Tabernacles which begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> month (which is the full moon), when He will take His Bride Home to Yerushalayim for the Feast!

What we take note of here in regards to the whore relaying these words to the simple one who lacks heart is that while she may be proclaiming a Truth, the simple do not comprehend and have no clue of the Master's Appointed Times. The wise and trustworthy understand and guard to do all He commands so that when He comes for his ready Bride, the wise will stand ready with lamps filled with oil while the foolish will be empty and rejected!

### Verse 21:

**"With her many words she leads him astray, with her smooth lips she seduces him."**

The whore will use 'many words' to get her prey!!! Not only will she use many words, but she will use 'smooth words' in order to seduce the wandering fool who lacks heart!

The Hebrew word used here for 'many' is רַבּ **rob** – Strong's H7230 which means, '*multitude, abundance, greatness, many, extensively*', which comes from the primitive root רַבַּבּ **rabab** – Strong's H7231 which means, '*to be or become much or many, abound, increase*'.

The Hebrew word for 'learning' is לָקַח **leqah** – Strong's H3948 which means, '*a learning, teaching, instruction, persuasions*', and comes from the root verb לָקַח **laqah** - Strong's H3947 which carries the meaning, '*take, fetch, lay hold of, seize, snatch away, take away, lead*'.

With many words of teaching and instructions she leads astray! The Hebrew word for 'leads astray' is the primitive root נָטָה **natah** – Strong's H5186 meaning, '*to stretch out, spread out, extend, incline*', and can have the meaning of '*bend, turn incline*' and written in the 'hifil' verb tense here it can carry the understanding of, '*bend away, thrust aside, thrust away, lead astray*'. While we also recognise that this word is used in Scripture to describe the '*outstretched*' arm of Elohim that reaches out and delivers, we see that the whore too reaches out her arm in order to lead astray, and for the fool who lacks heart and does not understand what the will of Elohim is, will be easily deceived by the whores many smooth words.

The Hebrews phrase used here for 'with her smooth lips' is – בְּהֵלֶק שְׁפִתֶיהָ – '*b'heyleq s'phteyah*', from the two root words: 1) הֵלֶק **heyleq** – Strong's H2506 which means, '*inheritance, portion, seduction, flattery, smoothness*', which comes from the root verb הָלַק **halaq** – Strong's H2505 which means, '*to be smooth, or being deceitful, and also means to flatter or seduce*', as discussed in **verse 5**, and 2) שָׁפָה **saphah** – Strong's H8193 which means, '*lip, speech, language*'.

Flattering lips reveal a double heart that is not faithfully devoted to guarding the Torah that is to be upon our hearts! **Tehillah/Psalm 12:2** "**They speak falsehood with each other; they speak with flattering lips, a double heart.**"

Today many speak with flattering words, having been taught to do so by the corrupt whore and her defiled teachings and instructions of many words!

The Hebrew word translated as 'seduces' is נָדַח **nadah** – Strong's H5080 which means, '*to impel, thrust or banish, force, chased or hunted*', and what is being described here is how the whore uses her many smooth words to hunt and impel her prey to listen to her double hearted words of deception and believe them!

She will do whatever it takes to catch her prey of wandering fools lacking heart!

**Watch out for the flattering and smooth words!!!**

**Romiyim/Romans 16:17-18** "**Now I call upon you, brothers, watch out for those who cause divisions and stumbling, contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such ones do not serve our Master יהושע 'Messiah, but their own stomach, and by smooth words and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent.**"

The Greek word used here for 'smooth' is χρῆστολογία **chrēstologia** – Strong's G5542 which means, '*smooth speech, fair speaking*', and the Greek word used for 'flattering speech' is εὐλογία **eulogia** – Strong's G2129 which means, '*praise, blessing, flattering speech*'. Many of today's Christian teachers speak words that could be described as being 'fair and flattering', and will certainly sound very soothing to the ears of their listeners and captivate the innocent through deception, as their fair and smooth words are more often than not contradictory and do not line up with the clear Torah of Elohim, and people are perishing for lack of knowledge, as the flattering words that are spoken to them are not equipping them at all, but are rather soothing their appetites in accepting a lawless religion that walks under the banner of a falsified grace! If one does not guard the Torah and walk in it, proper discernment will be lost and deception is inevitable! The false worship system will lead many astray with "Christology" and "eulogies" that sound very flattering, while they are far removed from the truth, praising people with smooth words while their actions of obedience are clearly non-existent! With many smooth words the whore forces and impels her hearers to be seduced by her flattery and invitation to join her on her bed of whoring! Most Christian teachers, pastors and ministers today are nothing more than motivational speakers who flatter their hearers with smooth and seductive words and easily catch the simple ones who lack heart and do not understand nor have knowledge of the Set-Apart One!

### **Verse 22-23:**

**"He goes after her immediately, like an ox he goes to the slaughter, and as in chains, a fool to the punishment, 23 till an arrow strikes through his liver; like a bird rushing into a snare, and did not know it would take his life."**

The masses who are been caught by the smooth words and flattering speech of the whore and her corrupt system of worship generally have no idea that they are on a path of destruction and death!

As soon as they hear her smooth encouraging words they run after her in order to find some temporal comfort, especially in these hard economic times where many are at wits end and have lost hope in how to live their daily lives due to a proper lack of knowledge of Elohim and the inability to trust Him they claim to know but do not! To know Elohim is to guard His commands, and the simple who lack heart and reject the Torah under the misguidance of the whores many smooth words will run to find those that will tickle their ears in times of distress and trouble, only to get caught in a trap that leads to death!

Her trap is very powerful and those who are trapped under her spell are like animals destined for slaughter, bound in chains without any hope of escape! The man lacking heart will be drawn by her seductive flattery until he gets struck through his liver, which will happen so quick and no be able to realise that the words he followed would take his life, when he thought they were words of life! This is the sad destiny for so many who are following the seductive flattery of Christianity today! They think that the smooth words they are hearing are life, and will be greatly saddened and shocked when they find out that the many words of the whore have led them to death, and they shall be rejected by the Master as one He does not know due to their working of lawlessness. They will be cast out and there will be much wailing, weeping and gnashing of teeth! All because of the smooth seductive words of the whore!

In Hebrew the liver is known as the 'heavy organ' and comes from the root word that means 'heaviness'. Only the skin is heavier than the liver and is therefore the second largest organ of the body. The liver performs many essential functions related to digestion, metabolism, immunity, and the storage of nutrients within the body. These functions make the liver a vital organ without which the tissues of the body would quickly die from lack of energy and nutrients. To be struck in the liver is a clear idiom for having one's life source and ability to survive being cut off and destroyed. With the whore's many smooth words she kills off the liver and brings no nourishment to the being, while those who eat the True Word of Elohim find life and nourishment!

The dangers of listening to smooth words of deception is made very clear here in this parable of Shelomoh, and reiterates the need to be continually on guard against wandering from the Truth. Lest you are seduced by the whore who uses many flattering words that may sound true but are nothing more than twisted lies designed to entrap and kill her prey!

### Verse 24:

**“And now, listen to me, you children; pay attention to the words of my mouth”**

Shelomoh closes this Proverb with a clear warning in his call to hear, guard and do the commands of Elohim and reiterates the fate of those who fall for the whores seductive ways.

**And now, listen to me, you children** – in Hebrew this is the phrase - שמעו – **v'attah baniym shimau** - the root word עתה **attah** – Strong's H6258 means '**now, at this time**' and with the conjunction of the letter - ו' – 'waw' in renders '**and now, so now**' or '**but now**', and here the emphasis on the call to '**HEAR ME NOW YOU CHILDREN**' is very clear and the word in Hebrew for '**Hear**' is the root word שמע 'shama' – Strong's H8085.

which carries the meaning not just simply to hear, but rather, '**to hear with attention and comprehend and discern and give heed to what is being spoken**'.

**Shemoth/Exodus 19:5-6** “**And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine – and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.**” Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra'el.”

These verses make it very clear – for us to truly be a treasured possession of the Most High, we are to make sure that we obey His voice and guard His Covenant.

In the above verse the root word שמע 'shama' is used twice in a row, which means to '**hear, listen and obey**'. The structure is as follows:

אם-שמעו תשמעו - 'im-shamoa tishmau' which literally translates as: “**If hearing, you shall hear**” and this reminds me of how often we see the term being used in **Hazon/Revelation** to the assemblies: “**He who has ears let him hear what the Spirit says.**”

The call here is to hear the depths of what is being spoken – hear the spirit that lies behind the letter! Now if people are not even listening to the letter, how are they ever going to hear what the Spirit says!!!

### Pay attention:

The Hebrew root word translated here as '**pay attention**' is קשב qashab – Strong's H7181 and means, '**to incline (ears), to attend to, pay or give attention to, listen, heed, mark, marked well**'. Repeatedly throughout the Scriptures we see the call to '**listen**', and often with it the clear rebuke for any nation who would not listen, nor give heed to the words of the prophets, who called a backsliding people back to the Torah. This word is often also translated as '**listen**', and we know that if people actually listened and paid attention to the Word and did what it actually says, they would not find themselves in the terrible confused mess that they are being consumed in. Most will rather listen and pay attention to what their twisted traditions say – traditions that have been born out of falsified interpretations that are simply designed to satisfy the selfishness of the flesh, rather than to submit and obey to the truth of walking according to the Spirit.

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 23:18** “**For who has stood in the counsel of יהוה, and has seen and heard His word? Who has listened to His word and obeyed it?**”

Messiah came to open the eyes of the blind and open the ears of the deaf – in Him we are able to hear and see the wonder of His truth and walk faithfully in it.

Yirmeyahu asks, “**who has listened to His Word and obeyed it?**” – and what is a sad picture for us today, is how so many have not listened and therefore unable to obey, or they listen and do not do – hearers of the Word only. **Ya’aqob/James 1:22** tells us to become doers of the Word and not just hearers only, lest we deceive ourselves!!! So many are sadly deceived in not doing what they should be hearing, and further shows that they actually have not listened, nor are they interested in listening to the Word of יהוה. The Hebrew word here in Yirmeyahu translated as ‘listened’ is קָשַׁב qashab. The root word used in this **Mishlë/Proverbs 7:24** for ‘words’ is אָמַר emer – **Strong’s H561** which means, ‘**speech, word, command, decreed, sayings, utterances**’ and comes from the primitive root verb אָמַר amar – **Strong’s H559** which means, ‘**utter, say, speak, commanded, give an order, declared**’. We are not to turn away from the words of the mouth of our Mighty Elohim, for every word of Elohim is important for us to hear, take heed of and guard to do what we are commanded and refrain from doing what we are commanded not to do!

## Verse 25:

**“Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not go astray in her paths.”**

In recognising the clear command to be a faithful hearing children of eth Most High, we too must hear the command to guard the Torah in our hearts and not let our hearts turn aside to the whore’s wicked ways.

The Hebrew word translated as ‘turn aside’ is שָׁטָה satah – **Strong’s H7847** which means, ‘**turn aside, turn away, go astray**’. In Aramaic it means “**to stray**” and in a certain form of Ethiopic “**to be seduced**”. These notions are close to what it expresses in Hebrew, and we see it used in:

**Bemidbar/Numbers 5:12** “**Speak to the children of Yisra’ël, and say to them, ‘When any man’s wife turns aside and has committed a trespass against him’**”

This speaks of a woman who is suspected by her husband of having left the true path, so that she “turns aside” to commit adultery. It says that if she “turns aside, and has committed a trespass against him,” he may take her to the priest who will cause her to drink the bitter water of jealousy.

**Mishlë/Proverbs 7:25** admonishes us to not ‘turn aside’ to the ways of the whore, nor go astray in her paths. For the most part the use of the word שָׁטָה satah – **Strong’s H7847** is used for turning aside into moral impurity, and in **Mishlë/Proverbs 4:15** there is a play on words, as we recognise that wording in **Bemidbar/Numbers 5:12** that speaks about a turning aside in a trespass (or onto a wicked path of adultery), whereas in **Mishlë/Proverbs 4:15** the warning to the hearer is to turn aside from the trespass (wicked path of adultery against Elohim)!

In your walk of set-apartness – do not enter in to the ways and paths of the wicked – just keep walking straight – move on with eyes front and fixed on our Master and Elohim!!!

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 5:28** “**But I say to you that everyone looking at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**”

What Messiah was making clear here is that if one stops to ‘browse’ and ‘take a peek’ at any wrong path or evil way then they have already faltered in their walk of set-apartness. Sha’ul tells us in Romiyim that we should be ‘simple’ toward the evil:

**Romiyim/Romans 16:19** “**Your obedience, indeed, is reported to all. Therefore I rejoice concerning you, but I wish you to be wise indeed as to the good, and simple toward the evil.**”

The Greek word for ‘simple’ is ἀκέραιος akeraios – **Strong’s G185** which means, ‘**unmixed, pure, innocent**’. In our running with endurance the set-apart race set before us, we must remain ‘unmixed’ as we stay clear of the paths and ways of the wrong and evil!

The Hebrew word translated as ‘go astray’ is תָּאַה ta’ah – **Strong’s H8582** which means, ‘**to err, deceived, go astray, misled, wander, wandered**’.

This is a severe warning for us to take heed of, as what we see in Scripture is clear – if you go astray you will not enter into the rest of Elohim, just as the rebellious generation in the Wilderness did not enter into the Promised Land:

**Tehillah/Psalm 95:10-11** “**For forty years I was grieved with that generation, and said, ‘They are a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways.’** 11 “**As I swore in My wrath, ‘If they enter into My rest...’**”

**Amos 2:4** “**Thus said יהוה, “For three transgressions of Yehudah, and for four, I do not turn it back, because they have rejected the Torah of יהוה, and did not guard His laws. And their lies after which their fathers walked lead them astray.”**

Walking in the false traditions of the fathers who cast the Torah aside is causing many to be led astray and in danger of not entering into the rest of the Master!

We must be on guard against the paths of the whore. The word for ‘paths’ is נְתִיבָה nethibah – **Strong’s H5410** which means, ‘**path, pathway, byway**’, and this word is understood as a footpath or way which one travels physically or morally, and this noun is often used in parallel with the more common דֶּרֶךְ derek (way), in the sense of one’s course of life. It also speaks of moral character or action, either good (wisdom, justice and light), or wicked (such as the path of the adulteress). The use of this word in the negative sense is captured here in this verse as well as in:

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 18:15** “**But My people have forgotten Me, they have burned incense to what is false, and they have stumbled from their ways, from the ancient paths, to walk in bypaths and not on a highway**”

Yisra’el had stumbled from the pleasant paths of wisdom and had turned aside to bypaths of falsehood!

Wisdom’s ways are pleasant and her paths are peaceful, as we see in **Mishlê/Proverbs 3:17**.

### Verse 26:

**“For many are the wounded she has caused to fall, and numerous all her slain ones.”**

Shelomoh makes it very clear to us that many have fallen for the whores seductive and crooked ways which have caused them to fall and die! What most do not recognise today, is that we are in a battle for our lives and sadly most are falling for the whore’s seductive ways, which we are warned to stay very far from.

**Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 2:11** “**Beloved ones, I appeal to you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lusts which battle against the life**”

The Hebrew word used for ‘wounded’ is the noun חָלַל חָלַל **ḥalal** – **Strong’s H2491** (chalal – with a ch.. sound as in loch) which means, ‘**pierced, wounded slain, killed, profaned**’, which comes from the root word חָלַל חָלַל **ḥalal** – **Strong’s H2490** meaning, ‘**to kill, bore, pierce, wound**’. What is being said here is that the whore causes many who have profaned their worship to fall!

**What does it mean to profane?** The word profane means ‘**to treat something set-apart with abuse, irreverence or contempt**’.

What is very interesting to me is that the word for praise in Hebrew is הָלַל – **halal** - **Strong’s H1984** (with a soft sound as in ha) and in essence carries the meaning, ‘**to shine, be boastful, give praise**’.

These two words differ with a slight difference is the stroke of the pen by means of a little tiny gap! In Praise the letter ה (hey) is used and in profane the letter ח (het) is used. Similar looking letters at a glance and hence the words, even at a glance, may seem to be the same, while they are the total opposite of each other and the difference in the written form is but a tiny little gap on the top left corner of the first letter! This may sound a little pedantic to some of you, but for me it makes me realise just how fine line it is between pure worship and profanity!

## PRAISE vs. PROFANE

### PRAISE: ‘HALAL’

STRONG’S H 1984: *to shine, to be boastful, to praise, to give praise, to offer praise, sing praise*

הָלַל

ה = HEY

ל = LAMED

ל = LAMED

### PROFANE: ḤALAL (CHALAL)

STRONGS H 2490: *to bore, pierce: to pollute, defile, profane: to desecrate, violate, to kill,*

חָלַל

ח = ḤET

ל = LAMED

ל = LAMED

SMALL GAP → ה

NO GAP → ח

FINE LINE BETWEEN PRAISE AND PROFANE!!!!

Let me tell you why I find this very interesting in the closeness of these words – we see in the world today that there are many who claim to be born again believers of the Almighty yet in their worship they are offering profane worship and they cannot distinguish between the set-apart and the profane! The ‘church’ today is profaning the Name of יהוה and have not only brought His Name to nought but have profaned it by treating it with abuse, irreverence and contempt!

She causes those who profane to fall! The Hebrew root word used here for ‘fall’ is נָפַל *naphal* – Strong’s H5307 meaning, **‘to fall, lie, abandon, fell down, cast down’**, and is often used in Scripture to describe those who have fallen/died by the sword, unnecessarily or tragically, and not of someone who died of old age.

Backsliding and profanity kills the simple! The Hebrew word used for ‘kills’ is הָרַג *harag* – Strong’s H2026 meaning, **‘to kill, slay, destroy, ruin’**. Being naïve for not guarding the Word of Truth on a continual basis, and being gullible to worldly ways that run contrary to the Truth and seem right at the time of a crisis, without having been tested against the truth, will cause one to drift and backslide away from the narrow path of set-apartness, and as a result will lead one on a broad path of destruction. One’s own backsliding destroys them:

**Mishlê/Proverbs 8:36 “But he who sins against me injures himself; all who hate me love death!”**

### **Verse 27:**

**“Her house is the way to the grave, going down to the rooms of death.”**

Shelomoh ends this Proverb with the clear truth that the whore’s house is the way to the grave. While she may lure many into her house with smooth words, it only leads to death. The Hebrew word for ‘grave’ is שְׁאֵל *sheol* – Strong’s H7585 which is understood as being the ‘underworld’ or the place of no return and the designation of the dead.

**Mishlê/Proverbs 15:24 “The path of life is upward for the wise, to turn away from the grave below.”**

The Hebrew word for ‘death’ is מָוֶת *maveth* – Strong’s H4194 which means, **‘death, plague’** and comes from the root verb מוּת *muth* – Strong’s H4191 which means, **‘to die, bring about my death, put to death’**.

The Hebrew root word translated as ‘down’ is יָרַד *yarad* – Strong’s H3381 which means, **‘to come or go down, descend’**. A common pattern or thread we see in Scripture is that whenever the reference is made of one going to Mitsrayim it is seen as **‘going down’**, whereas whenever the reference of one going to Yerushalayim is made it is referred to as **‘going up’**; and what we can clearly see from this is that to run after the pattern of the world and the flesh, with its many lusts, is a downward path that leads to destruction, whereas to walk in the true commands of Elohim and trust in יהוה is a picture of being able to **‘ascend’** or go up and draw near to Him in Messiah – the very path of obedience in Messiah that leads to abundant life!

In closing this great Proverb, Shelomoh makes a clear call for us to not fall for the whore’s words, and warns the true hearer to avoid becoming a victim of the adulterous whore, whose house leads to death!

### **In closing:**

This is by no means and exhaustive commentary on this Proverb, but is simply an expansion on some of the key concepts we find herein, with the hope that this will equip the reader to dig even deeper into the wealth of wisdom our Elohim has given us!

As we consider the wealth of wisdom contained here in this proverb of Shelomoh, may we recognise the clear call of Elohim – a call for complete set-apartness and the assurance we have in Him, as we remain steadfast with a committed and steadfast endurance expected for a true set-apart and chosen one of our Master and Elohim, יהושע Messiah!

Hear, guard and do the commands of Elohim and avoid the flattery and seduction of the whore by growing in wisdom and knowledge of Elohim, lest you find yourself being a fool who lacks heart and are caught in the trap of the whore that leads many to death!

יהוה bless you and guard you; יהוה make His face shine upon you and show favour to you; יהוה lift up His face to and give you shalom!