

Dr. August Konkel, Proverbs, Session 10, Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly, Proverbs 9 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Konkel, Proverbs, Session 10, Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly, Proverbs 9, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Proverbs 9 contrasts **Lady Wisdom** and **Lady Folly**. **Lady Wisdom** offers a banquet representing a life of understanding and integrity, while **Lady Folly**, prevalent in modern society's institutions, seduces with the false promise of self-aggrandizement and control, ultimately leading to destruction. Konkel uses this allegory to explore the **epistemological differences** between faith and reason, arguing that true wisdom originates from acknowledging God's sovereignty and recognizing humanity's limitations. The lecture concludes by framing the choice between these two paths as essential to gaining wisdom. This session sets the stage for future lectures on practical applications of wisdom.

2. 23 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkel, Session 10 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Psalms & Wisdom → Proverbs).



Konkel_Prov_Session10.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 10, Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly, Proverbs 9

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkell's lecture on Proverbs 9:

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkell on Proverbs 9 - Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly

Overview: This lecture by Dr. Konkell focuses on Proverbs chapter 9, which presents a stark contrast between Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly. This chapter concludes the introduction to the book of Proverbs and highlights the essential choice between life and death that is central to the entire book. Konkell uses the imagery of a banquet to illustrate this choice, contrasting the feast of wisdom with the seductive allure of folly.

Key Themes and Ideas:

- **Lady Wisdom's Banquet:** Lady Wisdom is depicted as a generous host, preparing a feast in her grand hall, supported by seven pillars (symbolizing completeness). She invites those who "lack a little in thinking" and whose "knowledge is not quite up to speed" to partake in her wisdom. Her offering is a path to understanding.
- **Quote:** *"So, she has prepared her banquet hall which is supported by seven pillars... She's got her menu prepared. She's poured her wine. She's slaughtered her calf... And now she appeals to the guests. And who are the guests? Well, these are the ones who need to gain sense."*
- **The Futility of Reasoning with Fools:** Konkell emphasizes that attempting to reason with those who are irrational or unwilling to learn is counterproductive. Engaging in such arguments can lead one to become irrational and foolish oneself.
- **Quote:** *"If you try to reason with the irrational, you will yourself become irrational and you will turn yourself into a fool."*
- **Epistemological Conflict:** Konkell contrasts the modern, rationalist view that knowledge comes solely through senses and reason with the idea of knowledge received outside these parameters, particularly from the divine. He illustrates this with the example of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which falls outside of the rationalist view and will be easily dismissed by them.

- **Quote:** *"Your religious decision is that the only kind of knowledge you can have is your senses and your reason. And I say no, I know and have plenty of evidence for the fact that there is a knowledge that can be received quite outside of that."*
- **Wisdom and Integrity:** Wisdom is presented as a lifelong process that begins with the "knowledge of the holy." Integrity and avoiding perversity are crucial for a secure and pain-free life. The "holy" (qodeshim) refers to God, who is separate and the source of creation, not dependent on it, and the source of true wisdom.
- **Quote:** *"So, wisdom must begin with the knowledge of the holy... God is in no sense dependent on creation. Rather God is the source of creation."*
- **The Seduction of Lady Folly:** Lady Folly operates in public spaces and seduces those lacking good sense. Her allure is the belief in self-aggrandizement and the idea that humanity is at the center of all things, like God, knowing good and evil. This is presented as a "pathetic" notion, leading to "stolen water," a deceptive and unsatisfying experience.
- **Quote:** *"The worst harm of a foolish is inevitably to the fool. And the fool is seduced... It is the seduction of our own self-aggrandizement... The seduction that we are at the center of all things in our own God describes it perfectly."*
- **The Consequences of Folly:** The lecture emphasizes the destructive consequences of following Lady Folly. Konkel likens her allure to the ancient Greek orgies or symposia. The path of self-exaltation leads to death, ending in the depths of Sheol (the place of the dead) because humanity cannot provide life for itself.
- **Quote:** *"All the guests of Lady Folly end up in the same place. In the depths of Sheol is where her guests are going to be found. That's the place of the dead."*
- **The Central Choice:** Ultimately, Proverbs 9 presents a stark choice: the path of wisdom, which leads to life, or the path of folly, which leads to destruction. The fear of God is presented as the beginning of true wisdom and is essential for making the right choice.

Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel's lecture clearly frames Proverbs 9 as a pivotal moment in the book, highlighting the essential dichotomy between wisdom and folly. It underscores the importance of choosing wisdom, rooted in the knowledge of God, over the deceptive allure of self-centeredness and humanistic pride. This chapter sets the stage for the rest of the book, where the specific aspects of wisdom will be explored. This choice is between the feast of wisdom and the "banquet" of folly.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 10, Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly, Proverbs 9

Proverbs Session 10 Study Guide: Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly

Quiz

1. How does Dr. Konkel describe the setting of Lady Wisdom's invitation in Proverbs 9?
2. According to the lecture, who are the intended guests of Lady Wisdom's feast, and what do they need?
3. What does the lecture suggest will happen if you try to argue with someone who is irrational?
4. How does Dr. Konkel define the word *qodeshim*, and what is its significance?
5. What, according to Dr. Konkel, is the primary seduction of the fool in the modern era?
6. Where, according to Dr. Konkel, is Lady Folly typically found in modern society?
7. What, according to Dr. Konkel, is the ultimate destination of those who accept Lady Folly's invitation?
8. How does Dr. Konkel describe the contrast between Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly in the lecture?
9. How does Dr. Konkel characterize the difference between the modern university setting and a biblical understanding of knowledge?
10. According to Dr. Konkel, where does true wisdom begin?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Lady Wisdom is presented as a householder who has prepared a banquet hall with seven pillars, signifying completeness and a grand space for everyone to gather.
2. The intended guests are those who lack sense and need to gain understanding; their knowledge is not quite up to speed, and they require guidance to walk in the way of understanding.

3. If you try to reason with the irrational, you will become irrational yourself, turning into a fool by engaging in pointless debate.
4. *Qodeshim* means holiness, indicating that God is separate from and not dependent on creation, but rather the source of it.
5. The primary seduction of the fool is self-aggrandizement, the belief that one can be like God, knowing good and evil, placing oneself at the center of all things.
6. Lady Folly is found in public places, such as places of education and high society, all the high places where people seek to celebrate the greatness of humanity.
7. Those who accept Lady Folly's invitation ultimately end up in Sheol, the place of the dead, highlighting the deadly consequences of following her.
8. Lady Wisdom offers true life and understanding through the fear of the Lord, whereas Lady Folly offers a deceptive path that leads to destruction and death.
9. The modern university operates on the premise that all knowledge comes through the five senses and reason, whereas a biblical understanding recognizes knowledge that comes outside of our perception, especially through God.
10. True wisdom begins with the knowledge of the holy, the recognition that God is separate from creation and the source of wisdom.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the contrasting images of Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly in Proverbs 9, and discuss their implications for understanding the nature of choices and consequences in life.
2. Evaluate Dr. Konkel's argument that modern society is particularly vulnerable to the seduction of Lady Folly, providing specific examples to support or refute his claims.
3. Discuss the philosophical differences between the modern, rationalist approach to knowledge and the biblical perspective, as described by Dr. Konkel, and explain how these differences impact one's understanding of truth and wisdom.
4. Explore the significance of the term *qodeshim* (holiness) in the context of Proverbs and Dr. Konkel's lecture, and consider its implications for understanding God's relationship to the world.

5. Examine the lecture's claims that humanity's self-aggrandizement is a form of "theft" and leads to death and destruction, drawing connections to other related biblical themes or historical events.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Lady Wisdom:** A personification of wisdom in Proverbs 9, depicted as a host offering a banquet of understanding and life.
- **Lady Folly:** A personification of foolishness in Proverbs 9, depicted as a seductress leading to destruction and death.
- **Sheol:** The place of the dead; in this lecture it is the ultimate destination of those who follow Lady Folly's path.
- **Qodeshim:** The Hebrew word for holiness, emphasizing God's separation from and source of creation.
- **Epistemology:** The study of knowledge, particularly how we know what we know; the modern approach is based in the senses and reason, whereas the biblical one recognizes other forms of knowing.
- **Scoffers:** Those who mock or reject wisdom; the lecture suggests trying to instruct them is futile and can turn one into a fool.
- **Self-aggrandizement:** The act of enhancing one's own importance, often seen as a form of pride and rebellion against God.
- **Rationalism:** The idea that reason is the primary source of knowledge.
- **Deism:** The belief in a God who does not intervene in the universe after its initial creation.
- **Modernism:** A philosophical movement emphasizing reason, individualism, and progress.
- **Perversity:** The state of being corrupt or turned away from what is good and right.

5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 10, Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly, Proverbs 9, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions About Proverbs 9: Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly

1. **What is the significance of Lady Wisdom being depicted as a householder preparing a feast in Proverbs 9?**
2. Lady Wisdom, presented as a generous host, is preparing a grand banquet in her home to which she invites those who lack sense. The image of her preparing food, wine, and having servers ready signifies that she possesses the necessary resources and is eager to share them with those willing to learn. This portrayal of Lady Wisdom emphasizes her accessibility and her intention to provide what is necessary for a fulfilling life. The seven pillars of her banquet hall suggest a completeness and solid foundation for the wisdom she offers.
3. **Who are the "guests" that Lady Wisdom is inviting, and what does she offer them?**
4. The "guests" are those who lack understanding or who are not yet fully knowledgeable. Lady Wisdom invites them to come to her banquet where she offers them food, wine, and the opportunity to walk in the way of understanding. This implies that those who seek wisdom can find it readily available and nourishing, and that by accepting the invitation they will move towards a life of greater insight.
5. **What is the key point being made about not answering a fool according to their folly?**
6. The main point is that trying to reason with an irrational person is futile and potentially harmful. Engaging in a debate or attempting to teach someone who has already rejected the premises of wisdom will not be productive. In fact, it can lead to the person attempting to teach also becoming foolish. The text suggests avoiding such interactions, focusing instead on those open to learning.

7. How does the concept of epistemology (how we know) play into the discussion of wisdom and folly?

8. The modern view of epistemology which prioritizes knowledge based solely on the five senses and reason is contrasted with a perspective that allows for knowledge received outside of those limitations. The text suggests that this modern premise can lead to rejecting truths that are not attainable through the senses alone. The refusal to consider alternate ways of knowing is tied to the concept of folly. Wisdom, in contrast, acknowledges that knowledge can come from the divine source, which is separate from creation and thus surpasses sensory limitations.

9. What is meant by the "knowledge of the holy" as the beginning of wisdom?

10. The "knowledge of the holy" (qodeshim) refers to understanding that God is separate from creation, the source of creation, and not dependent on it. This understanding acknowledges that God, as qadosh, is the source of all wisdom and that true wisdom cannot be separated from God's character. This knowledge is the foundation upon which all other knowledge can be built.

11. How is the "seduction" of folly described, and where is Lady Folly found?

12. The seduction of folly is described as the belief in self-aggrandizement, the idea that humans can be like God in knowing good and evil. Lady Folly is found in public places, especially those of education and high society. These places allure people with the promise of greatness and self-sufficiency, tempting them to believe that human intellect and achievement are the highest pursuit of all things.

13. What is the ultimate consequence of following Lady Folly?

14. Those who follow Lady Folly and her false promises of self-sufficiency end up in Sheol, the place of the dead. This indicates that human attempts to provide life for ourselves, without recognizing our reliance on a divine source, ultimately lead to destruction and death. Folly offers what seems like a thrill, but is ultimately a path to emptiness and ruin.

15. What is the fundamental choice presented at the end of Proverbs 9?

16. At the conclusion of Proverbs 9, the choice is stark: choose between the way of Lady Wisdom, which leads to life through the fear of God, or the way of Lady Folly, which ends in death and destruction. This sets the stage for the rest of the Proverbs, and the collections of wisdom themselves, by stating that the pursuit of wisdom is a foundational choice with eternal ramifications.