

I. Lady Wisdom vs. Lady Flattery: A Tale of Two Paths (Proverbs 7:1–5)

- **Continuity from Proverbs 6:** If the previous chapter flashed multiple warnings—laziness, dishonesty, lust—Proverbs 7 zooms in on one scenario to demonstrate how those warnings play out in real life.
- **Familiar Plea: “Keep My Words”:** The father repeats himself (v. 1). This is not mere review but an urgent call—echoing “*Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart*” (v. 3, KJV; cf. Deut. 6:8).
- **Torah as Survival Gear:** Emphasizes the covenantal command to internalize God’s words. This is not academic trivia but “life” (“*Keep my commandments, and live,*” v. 2).
- **Wisdom as Family:** The son is urged to call wisdom “sister” and understanding “kinswoman” (v. 4). Affection for righteousness must be preloaded, lest flattery slip in unchallenged.

II. Guardrails and Gravestones: The Father’s Perspective (Proverbs 7:6–9)

- **Observation from the Window:** The father recounts a real-life scene: “*For at the window of my house I looked through my casement*” (v. 6). He watches how the naive stumble.
- **A Naive Young Man:** “*Void of understanding*” (v. 7). Not openly rebellious—just unarmed against sin. Wandering “*in the twilight... in the black and dark night*” (v. 9), he becomes an easy target.
- **Darkness and Vulnerability:** Sin prefers secrecy. The young man is in the wrong place at the wrong hour, oblivious to the dangers ahead.

III. The Strange Woman’s Tactics (Proverbs 7:10–20)

1. The Encounter (vv. 10–13)

- “*Behold, there met him a woman...*” (v. 10). She is dressed to entice, yet her true weapon is a “*subtle heart*”—the same term describing the serpent in Genesis 3:1.
- She is loud and persistent, seizing the young man with apparent affection. In reality, she is tightening a snare.

2. Religious Pretense (v. 14)

- “*I have peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows.*” She cloaks her seduction in spiritual language, suggesting no moral conflict.
- This is flattery at its most insidious, making sin appear sanctioned or harmless.

3. Luxury and False Security (vv. 16–20)

- She tempts him with lavish comforts: “*decked my bed with coverings... perfumed my bed*” (vv. 16–17).
- She promises no consequences: “*My husband... will come home at the day appointed*” (v. 20). Sin is painted as both pleasurable and risk-free.

IV. The Fool’s Fall (Proverbs 7:21–23)

- **Overpowered by Words:** “*With her much fair speech she caused him to yield... she forced him*” (v. 21). No physical chains—just flattery that blinds his judgment.
- **A Sudden Surrender:** “*He goeth after her straightway*” (v. 22). The language shifts from a casual stroll to a headlong rush toward destruction.
- **Gruesome Outcome:** “*As an ox goeth to the slaughter... till a dart strike through his liver*” (vv. 22–23). The father offers brutal imagery so the son grasps the high cost of seduction.
- **Tragic Ignorance:** “*He knoweth not that it is for his life*” (v. 23). The fool never realizes he is forfeiting his own soul.

V. A National Warning (Proverbs 7:24–27)

- **Public Appeal:** “*Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children*” (v. 24). This is not a private family affair—entire generations could fall prey to flattery if they forsake Torah.
- **Broad Path of Destruction:** “*She hath cast down many wounded... many strong men have been slain by her*” (v. 26). Even the capable are vulnerable without godly wisdom.
- **The House of Death:** “*Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death*” (v. 27). Not a metaphorical loss—covenantal ruin for those who follow her.

VI. No “Happily Ever After”

- Proverbs 7 concludes with a warning rather than a resolution. Once inside Lady Flattery’s trap, the outcome is grim.
- The father’s plea: *bind* wisdom early, *love* it like family, and *store* it like treasure. When seduction calls, it is too late to learn loyalty if the heart is not already filled with truth.