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Two Women

By Bryan Hodge

The book of Proverbs describes two women. One is the immoral woman, the temptress, the seductress (Prov. 2:16; 5:3; 5:20; 6:24; 7:5; 20:16; 22:14; 23:27; 27:13). Her lips drip with honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood” (Prov. 5:3-4). “Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids” (Prov. 6:25). “Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths” (Prov. 7:25). “The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there” (Prov. 22:14). “She lies in wait as for a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men” (Prov. 23:28).

The other is wisdom (notice how wisdom is depicted as a female – Prov. 1:20-27; 2:1-5; 8:1-6; 9:1-6; etc.). She cries out, ‘Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things. For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them” (Prov. 8:6-8). “...Receive my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold” (Prov. 8:10). “...Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver” (Prov. 8:18-19). “... Whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD” (Prov. 8:35). She is said to be “better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her” (Prov. 8:11). Robert Morey has commented, “Wisdom in Proverbs is ‘seeing life from God’s perspective’” (How to Answer a Jehovah’s Witness, p. 20).

The two women represent two manners of life. One represents a life contrary to God. The other represents a life which fears and follows the LORD (cf. Prov. 1:7; 3:7; 9:10; 15:33). Which will you choose?