INVITATION TO A SALVATION MEAL (Proverbs 9:1-12)

Proverbs Is This Kind of Book

Proverbs answers why people behave the way they do and expects us to learn how to behave in a godly way and avoid the ungodly way. Proverbs personifies Righteousness as Wisdom and Temptation as Folly. Proverbs contains moral teachings (principles) of God, but does not contain promises of God, except when God indicates His attributes; then, those are definite promises of God.

Proverbs Consists of Eight Books Originally:

- 1. Books 1-2 (chapters 1–9) are the "Proverbs of Solomon" (971-931 BC).
 - 2. Book 3 (10:1–22:16) is the "Proverbs of Solomon."
 - 3. Book 4 (22:17–24:34) is the "Words of the Wise."
 - 4. Book 5 (chapters 25–29) was written by Solomon, lost for 300 years, and compiled by scribes of King Hezekiah (729-686 BC)

- 5. Book 6 (chapter 30) was written by a man named Agur, a name unknown to history, no later than 424 BC.
- 6. Book 7 (31:1-9) was spoken by the Queen Mother of King Lemuel, compiled no later than 424 BC. The Hebrew name, Lemuel, means, "Devoted to God." Nothing is known concerning him.
- 7. Book 8 (31:10-31) has a unique construction as a perfect acrostic poem. The author is unknown, no later than 424 BC. The author may be the Queen Mother of King Lemuel.

Book 2

Introduction to a Salvation Meal Proverbs 9:1-12

(9:1-4) Wisdom [Pre-Incarnate Christ] has built her house, she has carved out her seven pillars; She has slaughtered her slaughter; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table; she has sent out her maidens. She cries in the highest places in the city, 'Whoever is simple, turn in here! To him who lacks heart (sense) she says to him,

James 3:17 describes the wisdom from above as (1) pure, (2) peaceable, (3) forbearing, (4) reasonable (yielding), (5) full of mercy and good fruits, (6) not partial and (7) not pretented.

"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53).

"In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2).

hachemah (HOCK-ma)

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things passed away; behold, all things have become new"

(2 Corinthians 5:17).

eshah k^esil (AYE-shah K-SEAL)

peti [p-tee]

(9:5-12) Wisdom's Invitation:

(9:5-6) "Come, eat of my bread (body of Christ) and drink of the wine I have mixed (blood shed to pay for our sins). Forsake the simple, and live in the way of understanding." Eat a salvation meal.

Here are three similar invitations to this:

Isaiah 55:1
John 6:35
Revelation 22:17

"Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the water; and he who has no money, yes, come, buy grain and eat! Come, buy grain, wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1).

"Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger at all, and whoever believes in me shall never ever thirst" (John 6:35).

"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

- This invitation in Proverbs 9:5-6 ("Come, eat of my bread (body of Christ) and drink of the wine I have mixed (blood shed to pay for our sins). Forsake the simple, and live in the way of understanding") gives us good information about the Gospel invitation:
- (1) It needs to be appealing to the unbeliever.
 - (2) It needs to deal with repentance of sin.
- (3) It needs to be biblical, not your opinion of God's plan.
 - (4) It needs to show the way to eternal life.
 - (5) It needs to ask for a decision.

This invitation also gives us cautions about the Gospel invitation:

(9:7-8) "Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man and he will love you."

(Proverbs 25:21-22) "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. For you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you."

(Romans 12:20) "If your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him something to drink, for by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head."

(9:9) Wisdom describes whom she seeks: "Give (instruction) to a wise man and he will be still wiser; teach a just man and he will increase in learning."

- (9:10-12) Wisdom describes the spiritual food at her banquet of a salvation meal:
- (9:10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy Ones is understanding." (9:11) "For by Me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you."
- (9:12) "If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scorn, you alone will bear it."

"God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there is anyone who understands, who seeks after God. Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3).

Now, based on what you have learned in Proverbs 9:1-12, how then should you live?