

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 283—Husbands & Wives)

Introduction: The “fear of the Lord” has a profound impact on the happiness of a husband and wife in marriage. Cultivation of proper character, a peaceable disposition, and a selfless love will provide a safeguard against immorality.

Lesson aim: To show how a wise mate conducts himself/herself in the home.

Building a home on godly character

12: 7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.
21:12 The righteous one considers the house of the wicked, Turning the wicked to ruin.
11:16-17 A gracious woman attains honor, And violent men attain riches. 17 The merciful man does himself good, But the cruel man does himself harm.
11:29 He who troubles his own house will inherit wind, And the foolish will be servant to the wise-hearted.

The need for peaceable atmosphere at home

17:1 BETTER is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a house full of feasting with strife.
19:13 A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.
21:9 It is better to live in a corner of a roof, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
21:19 It is better to live in a desert land, Than with a contentious and vexing woman.
25:24 It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
27:15-16 A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a contentious woman are alike; He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.

A godly wife

18:22 He who finds a good wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.
19:14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.
11:22 *As* a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, *So is* a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.
14:1 THE wise woman builds her house, But the foolish tears it down with her own hands.
12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames *him* is as rotteness in his bones.
31:10 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.

A loyal husband

27:8 Like a bird that wanders from her nest, So is a man who wanders from his home.
5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, And fresh water from your own well. 16 Should your springs be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be yours alone, And not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 *As* a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. 20 For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress, And embrace the bosom of a foreigner? 21 For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths. 22 His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin. 23 He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.