Leading Ladies

“Where May She Be Found?”
Wisdom’s Story
“I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.”

Prv 8:27-29

Deliberately identical words to Job’s rebuke

“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion…” Prv 8:12
Purpose of Proverbs

The proverbs of Solomon
son of David, king of Israel: 
for gaining wisdom and instruction  

Prv 1:1-2
“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” Prv 31:10

Out in the open Wisdom calls aloud... at the city gate she makes her speech Prv 1:20-21

Solomon parallels wisdom with the ideal life partner

Lady Wisdom
Proverbs

Lady Wisdom

Seductress, Hedonism

Proverbs 1, 8, 31

Proverbs 7
Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.  Prv 31:10-12
She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

Prv 31:15-17
She makes **coverings for her bed**; she is **clothed in fine linen** and purple. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. 

**Prv 31:22-24**

“**Fine linen,** bright and clean, was given her [Jesus’ Bride] to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) **Rev 19:8**
"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion…

By me kings reign
and rulers issue decrees that are just;
by me princes govern,
and nobles—all who rule on earth."

Prv 8:12-16
Lady Wisdom

- Works Hard (Prov 31:15-19)
- Enables Kings’ Reign (Prov 8:15)
- Virtuous (Prov 31:10)
- Bed of Righteousness (Prov 31:20-24)
Four Pillars of Seduction
Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)

Prv 7:10-12
I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.

Prv 7:16
I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Prv 7:17

[the wise men] bowed down and worshiped [Jesus] …they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Mt 2:11

Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. Jn 19:39-40

The Seductress’ Bed is Perfumed with Death
The Seductress Lures Men to Death

With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life… Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

Prv 7:21-23,27
Lures Men to Death

Prv 7:21-27

Roams Streets by Night

Prv 7:10-12

Bed linen from Egypt

Prv 7:16

Bed perfumed with Death

Prv 7:17

Lures Men to Death

Prv 7:21-27
Who can find a **virtuous wife**?
*For her worth is far above rubies.*
*The heart of her husband safely trusts her;*
*So he will have no lack of gain.*
*She does him good and not evil*
*All the days of her life.*  
Prv 31:10-12

“And now, my daughter, do not fear.
*I will do for you all that you request,*
*for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.***
Ruth 3:11
She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants...

She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

Prv 31:15-17

So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. She carried it back to town, and [Naomi] saw how much she had gathered.

Ruth 2:17-18
She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. **Prv 31:22-24**

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) **Rev 19:8**

“I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband… May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” **Ruth 2:11-12**
“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion…

By me kings reign
and rulers issue decrees that are just;
by me princes govern,
and nobles—all who rule on earth.”

Prv 8:12-16

This, then, is the family line of Perez:
Perez was the father of Hezron… Salmon
the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of
Obed, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse
the father of David.

Ruth 4:18-22
Leaves Israel for Moab (1:1)
Famine and mourning (1:1-5)
Ruth loses her husband (1:5)
Naomi directs Ruth to Moab (1:11-15)
Spiritual union of Ruth and God (1:16-18)
Ruth comes to Bethlehem (1:22)
Ruth gains a husband (4:10)
Joy and plenty (4:13-17)
King of Jerusalem is born (4:22)

TRAGEDY

Essence of Wisdom connects with God
Walks the Streets at Night

Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)
Prv 7:10-12

Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)
Prv 7:10-12

All night long on my bed
I looked for the one my heart loves;
I looked for him but did not find him.
I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares;
I will search for the one my heart loves.
Song 3:1-2
I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.

Prv 7:16

“I liken you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh’s chariot horses.”

Song 1:9
I have perfumed my bed with *myrrh, aloes and cinnamon*.  
*Prv 7:17*

And *our bed is verdant* ...My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the *beds of spices*, to browse in the gardens... henna ...nard and saffron, *calamus* and *cinnamon*... *with myrrh and aloes.*”  
*Song 1:16, 6:2, 4:13-14*
Leads Men Away to Death

With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her… like a deer stepping into a noose… little knowing it will cost him his life. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

Prv 7:21-23,27

“Come away, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.” Song 8:14

“Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.” Song 4:6
Essence of Hedonism disconnects with Jerusalem
Leading Ladies Mirroring Messiah

- **Mary**
- **Ruth**
- **Tamar**
- **Eve**
- **Jael**
- **Esther**
- **Deborah**

**Jesus Messiah**

- **Mary**
  - Blessed of women
  - Crushes enemy head
  - Sacrificed whole life
  - Mother in Israel

- **Ruth**
  - Blessed of women

- **Tamar**
  - Sacrificed motherhood

- **Eve**
  - Jephthah’s daughter

- **Jael**
  - Lady Wisdom

- **Esther**
  - Sacrificed motherhood

- **Deborah**
  - Mother in Israel