

The Wise Woman

“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” Proverbs 14:1
“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.” NIV

A. The wise woman.

1. “Every wise woman buildeth her house:” - חֲכָמוֹת נָשִׁים, בְּנִתָּהּ בֵּיתָהּ;

The word for **woman** here is *nashim*, which is the plural of *ishah*. It can and does refer to a woman who is married, but it first of all refers here to all women and their place in the home.

God has designed marriage to be a blessing to both the man and his wife, and the home to be a place of tranquility, a place where one can go to relax, a place for healing, but in so many homes today in our modern world marriage has become a setting of ongoing hostility between the husband and wife and the home a battle ground.

Why is that? How can something designed to be so wonderful end up in becoming that is so destructive to not only the husband and wife, but the children in the home also? There are many factors involved in this negative phenomenon, but the one that stands out at the top is pride and the rejection of authority.

Pride rejects authority; it rejects the Word of God; it rejects the authority structure that God has established for the home where the man is the head of the house; it triggers the problem of the sin nature in the flesh, and the outcome is bitterness, anger, malice, arguments, self pity, verbal sins and on to overt violence. The home has now become a battle ground instead of a place of healing, comfort and tranquility.

The solution is for all of us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God! That is, to be in submission to the rule of God over our lives through the filling of the Holy Spirit and the intake and application of the Word of God to our lives. For the man, this means that he is to step up and take the leadership role that God has ordained for him. And he does this by submitting himself to the authority structure of being under Jesus Christ and the authority structure that he has established for him. He is to be under the authority of a Pastor-Teacher taking in Bible Doctrine for his life and leading his family in the manner God ordains. For the woman, it means that she not only is to be under the authority of the Word of God being taught by a Pastor-Teacher, learning the Word of God and applying it to her life and the home, but she is to be submitting herself to the authority of her husband!

When the wife fails to do this, or refuses to do this, then the result will be hostility in the home. Her negativity will end up destroying the family unit and the souls of her husband and her children. She will be like the foolish woman that destroys her house as brought out in Proverbs. We will cover several Old Testament passages showing just one of the negative consequences on men that her prideful anger causes. But first we want to consider Proverbs 14:1 “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.”

The word for **wise** is *chaqmah*, which is referring to the born again woman who has metabolized the teachings of the Word of God by faith, under the doctrinal ministry of a Pastor-Teacher and is **applying** it to her life. **Without the intake and application of Bible Doctrine, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, there is no wisdom for the woman.**

The word for **house** is *bayith* and it's a figure of speech referring to all that dwell in the home, that is, the family unit. So it's referring to her family consisting of her husband, children and even other relatives if they live there, but primarily it refers to her own family.

Next it tells us that she "*buildeth her house*", to **build** is *banah* and **house** is *bayith*. Now this is her home and the people in her home that is being talked about here, her family, not someone else's. And it's interesting that the word used here for her building her home, *banah*, is the same word that was used for the individual separate creation of the female of the species in the garden! She is reflecting and manifesting in life her own creation!

The word used for the creating of the woman's body, *banah*, is a totally different word; it meant to build something. And in the majority of the cases it dealt with the building of fortresses, towers, buildings, cities, houses, walls, temples, altars, repairs, foundations, etc..

Banah had several significances. **First of all**, it dealt with all the complexities of building: the designing of the plans, site preparation, the laying of the foundation, the construction of the building, its artistic embellishments, such as fancy carvings, filigree, sculpting, overlaying with gold, ivory, precious stones - all to make beautiful what has been built.

The second thing about *banah* is the aspect of craftsmanship. It is one thing to build a building, but with *banah* it tells us that the skill and craftsmanship of the architects, workers and artisans played a major role in making it a beautiful building.

The third thing about *banah* is that something is made or constructed out of matter; things that exist in the material world, while the heavens and the earth were created out of nothing.

The fourth thing about *banah* is that the things that were used in the construction process were not just raw materials, but had to be shaped, sculpted and worked before they could be used in the construction process. The carpenter had to cut and shape the wood. The mason had to cut, dress and fit the stones. The artisan had to cut, shape, and fit the finish work.

While with the woman's body, **great care went into its beauty!** An ordinary building in itself is quite an achievement and often a wonderful thing. But to have artisan's work it over with all sorts of beautiful embellishments transforms it into a beautiful building, one that is functional and beautiful, one that people can use, enjoy and admire, even more so, if the architects were brought in from the beginning to design its shape to be beautiful from the beginning. Both are buildings, good buildings, both serve their function well, but the one is absolutely beautiful; one that people can use and admire because its shape, texture and artistic embellishments have been incorporated into its design to make it a thing of beauty. So it is with the woman's body.

We see women in America today reflecting this aspect of their creation by their decorating their homes with furnishings, etc., usually to show off to their friends, **but have really missed the point because a home is not made up by its material furnishings, but by the spiritual and emotional atmosphere that they are to create!** But the **foolish woman, *ivveleth***, the prideful and arrogant woman, the wife who rejects the teaching of Bible doctrine, either in its intake or application to life, the wife who rejects the authority of her husband and authority in general tears it down. At the very least she loses out on so many of the blessings that God has for her, and at the worse she can destroy it by her own angry or psychotic behavior!

2. “But the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” - וְאִנְלֶתָּ, בְּיָדֶיהָ תִּהְרָסֶנּוּ -

To **tear down** is *haras* and was used of an army coming into a land and destroying the city; sometimes they would tear down buildings and temples stone by stone, or raze the city with fire. All the years of hard work sacrifice and labor were destroyed by an angry, vengeful army.

The home was designed by God for the woman, for her blessing, her protection, for her security, a place to raise her children, a place to create a peaceful environment for her husband, a place to manifest her creative doctrinal life. But instead of **building her home**, *banah*, she is **tearing it down!** And how is she doing that? She does it by her constant fighting, bickering and quarreling. She does it by her fighting her husband’s authority over her, by her constantly lusting after things and not getting them, and being angry and arguing over everything under the sun! **She is foolish because she is destroying the blessing package that God has given her because of her pride and anger!**

The word for **foolish** is *ivveleth*, which is derived from the Hebrew word *evil*, the word for **fool**. *Ivveleth* is the antithesis of *chaqmah*, the word for **wise**, so what it’s saying is that everything that deals with wisdom and people who are wise, *ivveleth* is just the opposite of that!

Now the **wise** believer, one who has *chaqmah*, is a believer, man or woman, **here it’s dealing with the woman of the house, is the believer who takes in the doctrinal teaching and applies that teaching to her household!** And the emphasis is on applying the teaching of Bible doctrine to her home and family unit.

But the **foolish woman**, the *ivveleth* wife or woman, is a woman who refuses to take in the teaching of the Word of God and apply it to her home life! Now if she refuses to apply the teaching of God’s Word to her home and family, then all she has left with is the ideas she picks up from her own old sin nature, from TV, from government schools, and the opinions of friends, relatives and co-workers, who have no more information to give her other than either human viewpoint, or satanic viewpoint! She is doomed to failure as a wife and mother.

Now this isn’t just singling out women in all this. Men can become fools, if they too reject the teaching of the Word of God and applying it to their lives. And once again, what makes a man or woman wise is not how much they know, but **how much of God’s Word they apply to their lives! The problem is with the women is that, if they are foolish women, then they will destroy their own homes and family unit – and the family unit is not just she and the kids, but her husband as well! They’ll tear it apart with their own hands!**

There are those women who are so into their own agendas, careers and lust gratification that they don’t care what the effect is on their homes and families and as the result end up tearing them down. Many a wife and mother in America today has shifted their priorities away from their husbands, children and homes and building up their family unit, and gone after money, career, success, prestige, material possessions and power. They think that by showering their children with money and material possessions they have discharged their responsibility as the woman of the home.

Then there are those who do try, and still are destroying their own families, because they refuse to apply the teaching of God’s Word determined to do it in their own flesh going by their own ideas and the ideas of others. To be successful in building up the family, it’s not about trying, it’s about **doing!** It’s about the application of Bible doctrine to their family units and if they fail to do so, or refuse to do so, then the end result is always the same – they will tear their own homes down with their own hands!

The home and the family unit is the domain of the woman and her success in building up her house is determined by whether she structures her home after the teaching of God's Word, if she does, then she will be successful and build it up into something amazing. But if she doesn't, if she goes by her own thinking, or the thinking of the world, or the thinking of other people, or gratifying her own lusts, then she will tear it down. And when she does, she will never take the responsibility for doing so.

Many today do not think that the husband and father is a part of the house – but he is! Today's women have been brainwashed into thinking that they can do whatever they want, that they can have it all and still be successful – but they can't! The family unit, despite how they have reinterpreted it today, is still the husband, wife and children. Now if the man is an idiot and leaves the wife, that's one thing. But if she leaves him because she wants to do her own thing, then she's to blame for tearing her house down. If a man abandons his family, that woman can still build up her house and hold her family together, as so many have had to do, if she applies the Word of God to her home!

And we want to note that she is tearing down **her** home! The home is God's gift to the woman and whether she is successful in building it up, or tearing it down, lies solely at her feet. She is the one who needs to make sure that her children are fed, clothed and under the Word of God. And when she fails to do so she is the one tearing it down by her refusal to apply doctrinal teaching to it, she is destroying with her own hands God's grace gift to her!

Now there are certain characteristics that the *ivveleth* individual, translated as the **fool**, possesses. They despise doctrinal teaching and the application of it to their life. "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but **fools** despise wisdom and instruction.*" Proverbs 1:7 The believer who allows himself to be enticed by the wrong woman, Proverbs 7:1-21, is like the fool who rushes to the stocks for discipline. "*He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter; or as a **fool** to the correction of the stocks;*" Proverbs 7:22 The arrogance of the fool convinces him that he is doing the right thing. "*The way of **fools** seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*" Proverbs 12:15 You can give a fool doctrinal instruction, but they will reject it and go right back to their folly. "*As a dog returns to its vomit, so **fools** repeat their folly.*" Proverbs 26:11

Angry short-tempered people produce foolishness in their life. "*A quick-tempered person does foolish things, and the one who devises evil schemes is hated.*" Proverbs 14:17 "*Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.*" Proverbs 14:29 Fools are quick to argue because the logic of the Word of God, and even common sense, is antithetical to what they think. "*It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every **fool** is quick to quarrel.*" Proverbs 20:3 "***Fools** show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.*" Proverbs 12:16

Most people think that the acting like a fool, or foolish, has the idea of clownish behavior, or of one making a fool out of himself. And while that may be true, the word in the Hebrew actually refers to a man or woman who rejects the teaching and application of Bible Doctrine to their life. And when it comes down to the woman of the home it has serious ramifications, because she will set in motion an action that will result in her destroying her own household. As we see today with the "women's-lib" movement that has ravaged millions of households across America.

But for the wife and mother who applies the teaching of God's Word to how she not only lives her own personal life and her relationship with her husband, but also how she runs her household, then she is going to build her home up into a successful family that loves the Lord. Pastor Mike