

The Virtue of the Oration, Prov 8:7: Wisdom's Communication of Truth; Premises Necessary for the Advance; Wickedness Compared to Righteousness, Prov 2:20-22; The 4 Horsemen, Rev 6:1-8

**Proverbs 8:6** - "Concentrate for the purpose of inculcation, because I continue to communicate orally about noble things, and my lips reveal righteous standards." (CTL)

**Verse 7: The Virtue of the Oration:**

**Proverbs 8:7** - "For my mouth will utter truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips." (NASB)

1. Words are physically formed by air passing over the larynx into the mouth where, primarily in the palate or roof of the mouth, articulation is developed first by the tongue and lastly by the lips.
2. The word mouth is the noun **הֶחַךְ** *hech* and is more precisely translated "palate." The words that Wisdom forms there are classified as truth, the noun **אֱמֶת** *'emeth* which refers to the standards of the divine attribute of veracity to which the human race is held accountable.
3. A question may arise among naïve and fools: "If I am ignorant of truth, and I assume for the sake of argument that I am, how am I supposed to recognize truth when I hear it?"
4. Good question. But Wisdom has just answered it: "The words formed in my mouth are the utterances of truth (*'emeth*)."
5. The new believer and the biblically illiterate believer, regardless of how long he has been saved, must subscribe to the following premises in order to escape their ignorance:
  - 1) The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, and immutable message of God to man.
  - 2) Any believer can grow in grace by studying its message.
  - 3) The local church is the classroom for this spiritual growth.
  - 4) The Holy Spirit will enable a believer to understand the content of the message as it is communicated by a qualified pastor-teacher.
  - 5) The believer can depend on this information for problem-solving, decision-making, and discernment.
6. In verse 7, Wisdom speaks truth. Wisdom is the thinking of God that becomes an acquired asset for a mature believer enabling him to apply doctrine accurately to life and circumstances.
7. This wisdom is dependable because divine perfection is its source. The truth of God is not acquired by Him for the Lord states in John 14:6, "I am truth." Therefore, truth is a divine attribute that is revealed to us for our advantage.
8. Next, Wisdom assures the naïve and the fool what her utterances do not contain: wickedness, **רֶשָׁע** *resha'* which is the most important antonym of righteousness (**שֶׁתֶּהָרַךְ** *setheq*). Elaboration on this point is provided by Dr. Bruce K. Waltke in *The Book of Proverbs, Chapters 1-15*:

“Wickedness” is the most important antonym of *setheq* (“righteousness”). “In contrast, *rasha’* expresses negative behavior—evil thoughts, words, and deeds—that simultaneously betrays a person’s inner disharmony and unrest.” If the righteous advantages the community, even at the expense of disadvantaging himself, then the wicked advantages himself by disadvantaging the community under God. *Resha’im* [plural of *rasha’*: wicked] refers to impious people who are greedy (Proverbs 10:3), violent (10:6), threaten innocent life (24:15), practice deceit (12:5) and cruelty (12:10), and speak perversely (10:32). The Lord detests them and their ways (15:9), including their sacrifices (15:8) and whoever assists them in court (17:15). More frequent correlative ethical terms for fools and mockers include “perverse,” “treacherous,” “and “evildoer.” (pp. 109-10)

The wicked within a nation are also called “the treacherous.” *Bagath* [בגד] expresses the unfaithfulness of a person to an existing and established relationship. Specifically, the people in view are the men and women “who abandoned” their heritage of having a relationship with God and with their teachers. In [Proverbs] 2:21-22 the external covenant community is divided into two groups: those who are wholly committed to the Lord and his teachings [v. 21] and those who refuse to honor that agreement handed down to them by faithful parents [v. 22].<sup>1</sup> (p. 110)

**Proverbs 2:20** - You will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.

**v. 21** - For the upright will live in the land and the blameless will remain in it;

**v. 22** - but the wicked will be cut off from the land and the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

**NOTE: Treachery on a national scale causes the Four Horsemen to mount and ride. The slide into a welfare state develops the circumstances that result in national discipline. Here are some notes on the Four Horsemen of Revelation 6:1-8:**

Socialism attempts to eliminate failure by providing logistics to those who otherwise would be without due to indolence. While in a period of prosperity the welfare state drifts toward democracy while in a period of adversity it drifts toward dictatorship.

The White Horse (v. 2) represents incompetent and corrupt government. Dictators always rise to power because of a bad economy.

The Red Horse (v. 4) represents warfare as a desperate way of turning around a recession and represents a failure in foreign policy.

The Black Horse (v. 5) represents famine and economic depression that results in famine. This represents a failure in domestic policy.

The Ashen or Pale Horse (v.8) represents a depressed economy with high inflation that results in a broad scarcity of food which leads to disease and death from malnutrition and starvation, and even plagues.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bruce K. Waltke, *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1–15* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004), 109-10.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from the unpublished notes of R. B. Thieme, Jr., from his study of the Book of Revelation (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1981).

9. Wisdom can be trusted to never allow the speech of the wicked to cross her lips for she considers it to be an abomination: תוֹעֵבָה *to'evah*. What the Word of God communicates can be trusted. The promises of religion are cruel deceptions and are considered by Wisdom to be abominations, i.e., a source of loathing and disgust.
10. Metaphorically, Wisdom's lips consider the expressions of wickedness to be repulsive. The word for lips is שָׂפָה *saphah* and refers to the place where divine communication originates. Wisdom is incapable of uttering the characteristics of wickedness for to do so would betray the first half of the verse:

**Proverbs 8:7** - "The words formed in my mouth are the utterances of truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips." (CTL)

11. Those things God detests are a common subjects in Scripture and bear noting:

תוֹעֵבָה (*to'evah* [abomination]). The frequency of this word attests to its importance. It occurs 117 times in all.

The nuances of *to'evah* are numerous indeed. The abomination may be of a physical, ritual or ethical nature and may be abhorred by God or man. Homosexuality and other perversions are repugnant to God and fall under his judgment (Leviticus 18:22-30; 20:13). Idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:25), human sacrifice (Deuteronomy 12:31), engaging in occult activities (Deuteronomy 18:9-14), conducting one's business dishonestly (Deuteronomy 25:13-16), practicing ritual prostitution (1 Kings 14:23f.), and similar acts of disobedience were sure to bring God's wrath on those who perpetrated them.