

Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Bible Studies June 2016
Study 1. Rev Dr. Sally Douglas

Woman Wisdom in Old Testament and Intertestamental Texts

A summary of some of the sources

Proverbs

1.20-33 She cries out in the streets...

3.13-20 She is more precious than jewels...

8.1-36 The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts long ago...
...For whoever finds me finds life...

9.1-6 Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed...

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-14

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

Wisdom of Solomon 7.21-8.1

I learned both what is secret and what is manifest,
for Wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.
there is in her a spirit that is
intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle,
mobile, clear, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable, loving the good,
keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane,
steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,
all-powerful, overseeing all,
and penetrating through all spirits
that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.
for Wisdom is more mobile than any motion;
because of her pureness she pervades,
and penetrates all things.
For she is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;
therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her.
For she is a reflection of eternal light,
a spotless mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.
Although she is but one, she can do all things,
and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;
in every generation she passes into holy souls
and makes them friends of God, and prophets;
for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with Wisdom.
She is more beautiful than the sun,
and excels every constellation of the stars.
Compared with the light she is found to be superior,
for it is succeeded by night,
but against Wisdom evil does not prevail.
She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,
and she orders all things well.

Wisdom of Solomon 8.1-11.1 Woman Wisdom leads, rescues and heals...

Sirach 6. 28-30 Woman Wisdom gives rest and her yoke is a golden ornament...

Sirach 15.3 Woman Wisdom feeds with the 'bread of learning'
and gives 'the water of wisdom to drink'...

Sirach 24.19-21 Woman Wisdom offers her very self to eat and to drink...

See also: *Sirach 1.1-20; 6.18-31; 14.20-15.10; 24.1-34; 51.23-26*

Baruch 3.9-4.1