

## Our Mother Speaks

Proverbs 8 is a wonderful speech by Wisdom. She tells of her role in the creation and her dealings with her children. Such passages are best understood the way ancient Saints did – that she is the Holy Spirit. Some of the translation follows Margaret Barker (see the text in the book). Modern words are occasionally substituted below to make it more understandable.

Unto you, O people, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to her. I Wisdom dwell with prudence, and I reveal myself, making discretion known. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and perverse utterances, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree righteousness. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early diligently shall find me. Riches and honor are with me; yea, long-lasting riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my harvest than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. The Lord acquired me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. Ages ago, I was weaving, at the first before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the chaotic waters: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was beside him, as a master craftsman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in his whole world; and my delights were with the sons of men. Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.” (Hope)

Proverbs 9, portrays Wisdom building the temple, offering sacrifices and libations, and inviting worshippers to come. The path of understanding is the way of the Tree of Life.

“Whoever is naive, let him turn in here... Come, eat some of my food, and drink some of the wine I have mixed. Abandon your foolish ways so that you may live, and go straight in the path of understanding.” (Katie)

The Teaching of Silvanus is a very early Christian text attributed to Paul's missionary companion. It reflects the earliest Christian understanding of the Trinity, and "Come to me, all of you, O foolish ones, that you may receive a gift, the understanding which is good and excellent. I am giving to you a high-priestly garment which is woven from every kind of wisdom'... clothe yourself with wisdom like a robe; put knowledge on yourself like a crown and be seated upon a throne of perception. For these are yours, and you will receive them again on high another time... From now on, then, my son, return to your divine nature... Accept Christ, this true friend, as a good teacher... But return, my son, to your first father, God, and Wisdom, your Mother, from whom you came into being from the very first in order that you might fight against all of your enemies, the Powers of the Adversary." (Tasha)

In the first chapter of proverbs, Wisdom lays out in stark terms, the choice between her path and the path that leads to the evil fruit. She offers those that choose her, her Spirit. **3)** "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery, and fools hate knowledge? Repent at my warning. Behold, I will pour out my Spirit on you. I will make known my words to you. Because I have called, and you have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no one has paid attention; but you have ignored all my counsel, and wanted none of my reproof; I also will laugh at your disaster. I will mock when calamity overtakes you, when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when your disaster comes on like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me, because they hated knowledge, and didn't choose the fear of Yahweh. They wanted none of my counsel. They despised all my reproof. Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own paths, and be filled with their own schemes. For the backsliding of the simple will kill them. The careless ease of fools will destroy them. But whoever listens to me will dwell securely, and will be at ease, without fear of harm." (Joy)

According to the very early Gospel of the Hebrews, when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit spoke these words: "My son, in all the prophets was I waiting for thee that thou shouldst come and I might rest in thee. For thou art my rest; thou art my first-begotten Son that reignest forever." (Karmiyah)

In Luke 11, Jesus attributes these words to Wisdom, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah. This shows that he knew Wisdom and the Holy Spirit as the same divine Person. "I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute" (Kaprena)

In the Odes of Solomon, universally revered in the early Christian Church, the Holy Spirit echoes the words of Wisdom in the Proverbs: "O you sons of men, return, and you their daughters, come. And leave the ways of that Corruptor and approach me. And I will enter into you, and bring you forth from destruction, and make you wise in the ways of truth. Be not corrupted nor perish. Obey me and be saved, for I am proclaiming unto you the grace of God. And through me you will be saved and become blessed. I am your judge; and they who have put me on shall not be falsely accused. But they shall possess incorruption in the new world. My elect ones have

walked with me, and my ways I will make known to them who seek me; and I will promise them my name. Hallelujah.” (Katie)

In Revelation 22, the Holy Spirit says: “Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the Water of Life freely.” (Joy)

The whole Christian Church fell into apostasy, but different groups preserved fragments of truth rejected by others. Some groups labeled Gnostic by modern scholars preserved knowledge of Heavenly Mother and temple marriage. So, we have this from the Trimorphic Protennoia: “I am the First Thought, the Thought that dwells in the Light... I am the Image of the Invisible Spirit, and it is through me that the world took shape, and I am the Mother as well as the Light.” (Victory)

And also this from the same work: “I anointed the Christ as the glory of the Invisible Spirit with goodness. ... I am the Image of the Invisible Spirit, and it is through me that the world took shape, and I am the Mother as well as the Light... the Incomprehensible Womb.” (Hope)

Even Judaism preserved fragments of truth. The Jews of late Antiquity knew Heavenly Mother as the Shekhinah. In a work called Eichah Rabbah, she says: “Return, O backsliding children, Return unto me, and I will return unto you.... I will go and return to my place.” (Karmiyah)

In Alma 5, the Holy Spirit speaks several lines to that prophet, which closely mirror the words of Wisdom in the Proverbs. “Repent, all ye ends of the earth, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand; yea, the Son of God cometh in his glory, in his might, majesty, power, and dominion. Behold the glory of the King of all the earth; and also the King of heaven shall very soon shine forth among all the children of men. Go forth and say unto this people - Repent, for except ye repent ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of heaven. Behold, the ax is laid at the root of the tree; therefore, every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be hewn down and cast into the fire, yea, a fire which cannot be consumed, even an unquenchable fire. Behold, and remember, the Holy One hath spoken it.” (Kaprena)

In Revelation, the Holy Spirit gives the faithful permission to eat from the Tree of Life, which is entirely fitting. “To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the Tree of Life that is in the paradise of God... To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” (Tasha)

Also in Revelation, the Holy Spirit speaks these words: “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord. Yea, they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.” (Joy)

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit says: “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Kaprena)

Similarly: Go near and overtake this chariot.” (Karmiyah)

This is from Acts 21: "This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and will hand him over to the gentiles." (Joy)

And finally, passage, also from acts: "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." (Karmiyah)

This extended speech by Heavenly Mother in the Wisdom of Jesus ben Sirah, revered by most Christians in the world today, highlights almost every Heavenly Mother theme in the scriptures. "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place. In whose territory should I abide? Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance. Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. In the Holy Tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage. I grew tall like a cedar in Lebanon, and like a cypress on the heights of Hermon. I grew tall like a palm tree in En-gedi, and like rosebushes in Jericho; like a fair olive tree in the field, and like a plane tree beside water I grew tall. Like cassia and camel's thorn I gave forth perfume, and like choice myrrh I spread my fragrance, like galbanum, onycha, and stacte, and like the odor of incense in the tent. Like a terebinth I spread out my branches, and my branches are glorious and graceful. Like the vine I bud forth delights, and my blossoms become glorious and abundant fruit. I am the mother of beautiful love, of fear, of knowledge, and of holy hope; being eternal, I am given to all my children, to those who are named by him. Come to me, you who desire me, and eat your fill of my fruits. For the memory of me is sweeter than honey, and the possession of me sweeter than the honeycomb. Those who eat of me will hunger for more, and those who drink of me will thirst for more. Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame, and those who work with me will not sin.'... 'As for me, I was like a canal from a river, like a water channel into a garden. I said, I will water my garden and drench my flowerbeds. And lo, my canal became a river, and my river a sea. I will again make instruction shine forth like the dawn, and I will make it clear from far away. I will again pour out teaching like prophecy and leave it to all future generations. Observe that I have not labored for myself alone, but for all who seek wisdom." (Victory)