

# CONTENTS

PREFACE	ix
ABBREVIATIONS OF BOOKS AND PERIODICAL LITERATURE	xi
1 <i>Introduction: Wisdom, Polytheism, and the Hebrew School</i>	3
PART ONE: WISDOM AS TEACHER (PROVERBS 1:20–33)	17
2 <i>The Poem Proverbs 1:20–33</i>	19
3 <i>Street, Square, Gate: The Setting of the Wisdom Speeches</i>	22
4 <i>The Rhetoric of Teaching</i>	34
5 <i>Brief Commentary on Proverbs 1:20–33</i>	43
PART TWO: WISDOM AS A GODDESS (PROVERBS 8)	51
6 <i>The Poem Proverbs 8:1–36</i>	53
7 <i>Two Kinds of Rhetoric: Didactic and Divine</i>	56
8 <i>Wisdom: Patroness of Kings and Witness of Creation</i>	60
9 <i>Brief Commentary on Proverbs 8:1–36</i>	71
PART THREE: LADY WISDOM VS. LADY FOLLY (PROVERBS 9)	83
10 <i>The Poem Proverbs 9:1–18</i>	85
11 <i>A Textual Intrusion: Proverbs 9:7–10</i>	87
12 <i>Invitation to a Banquet in a House of Seven Pillars</i>	90
13 <i>Folly—a Harlot</i>	97
14 <i>Brief Commentary on Proverbs 9:1–6. 11–18</i>	102

<b>PART FOUR: WHO IS WISDOM?</b>	<b>111</b>
15 <i>Mysterious Wisdom</i>	113
16 <i>The Origin and Nature of Biblical Monotheism</i>	116
17 <i>Wisdom: A Hebrew Goddess Redefined</i>	126
18 <i>Hypostasis—Wisdom Myth—the Voice of         Creation: Three Questionable Categories</i>	137
19 <i>Lady Wisdom in Church, Speculation, and         Mysticism</i>	147
<b>NOTES</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>179</b>