

Proverbs 31:1-31 *The Words of King Lemuel Quoting His Mother's Advice*

1. The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:
- 2 What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?
- 3 Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.
- 4 *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *It is* not for kings to drink wine,
Nor for princes intoxicating drink;
- 5 Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.
- 6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.
- 7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.
- 8 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all *who are* appointed to die.*
- 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

The Virtuous Wife

- 10 Who* can find a virtuous* wife? For her worth is far above rubies.
- 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
- 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.
- 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.
- 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.
- 18 She perceives that her merchandise *is* good, And her lamp does not go out by night.
- 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle.
- 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.
- 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household *is* clothed with scarlet.
- 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells *them*, And supplies sashes for the merchants.
- 25 Strength and honor *are* her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.
- 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue *is* the law of kindness.
- 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.

- 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praises her:
 29 "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."
 30 Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing, But a woman *who* fears Yahweh (the LORD), she shall be praised.
 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him: [\[Proverbs 31:1\]](#)
 - ✧ The writer identified the source of the Proverb.
- ✧ What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?
 Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.
[\[Proverbs 31:2-3\]](#)
 - ✧ Advice for Kings.
 - ✧ Warning against adverse influence of wayward women.
 - ✧ Warning against influences that destroy kings.
 - ✧ Wisely guard your ways in righteousness.
- ✧ *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *It is* not for kings to drink wine,
 Nor for princes intoxicating drink;
 Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted. [\[Proverbs 31:4-5\]](#)
 - ✧ Dangers of alcoholic influences that pervert the judgment of rulers.
- ✧ Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.
 Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.
 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all *who are* appointed to die.*
 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.
[\[Proverbs 31:6-9\]](#)
 - ✧ Strong drink is for the hopeless who are perishing.
 - ✧ Warn the alcoholic of the danger of his ways leading to death.
 - ✧ Judge in righteousness, and defend the poor and needy.

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- ✧ This description of the Virtuous Wife certainly does place her in a category of her own and truly expresses a value far above rubies.
- ✧ Her works certainly would gain her praise in the gates as well as in history.
- ✧ It illustrates a goal well worthy of seeking.