

PROVERBS 31

¹ My words have been dictated by God—they are the prophecy of a king, whom his mother instructed.

² What will you keep, my son? What? The words of God? My firstborn son, I speak to you: what? Son of my womb? What? Son of my vows?

³ Do not give your wealth to women, nor your understanding and your life for that which will bring sorrow.

Do all things with counsel; drink wine with counsel.

⁴ Princes are prone to anger: therefore let them not drink wine;

⁵ lest by drinking they forget wisdom, and become incapable of administering justice to the oppressed.

⁶ Give strong drink to those that are in sorrow, and wine to drink to those in pain,

⁷ that they may forget their distress, and may not remember their troubles anymore.

⁸ Open your mouth with the word of God, and administer justice to all fairly.

⁹ Open your mouth and judge justly, and plead the cause of the poor and weak.

¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous woman? For such a one is indeed more valuable than precious stones.

¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her; such a one shall stand in no need of fine spoils.

¹² For she employs all her living for her husband's good.

¹³ Gathering wool and flax, she makes it useful with her hands.

¹⁴ She is like a ship trading from a distance—so she procures her livelihood.

¹⁵ And she rises by night, and gives food to her household, and work to her maids.

¹⁶ She views a farm, and buys it; and with the fruit of her hands she plants a possession.

¹⁷ She girds herself tight about the waist, and strengthens her arms for work.

¹⁸ And she finds by experience that working is good, and her lamp does not go out all night.

¹⁹ She reaches forth her arms to needful works, and applies her hands to the spindle.

²⁰ And she opens her hands to the needy, and reaches out fruit to the poor.

²¹ Her husband is not anxious about those at home when he tarries anywhere abroad: for all her household are well clothed.

²² She makes for her husband clothes of double texture, and garments for herself of fine linen and scarlet.

²³ And her husband becomes a distinguished *person* in the gates, when he sits in council with the elders of the land.

²⁴ She makes fine linens, and sells sashes to the Canaanites; she opens her mouth sparingly and with propriety, and controls her tongue.

²⁵ She clothes herself with majesty and excellence, and rejoices in *her* latter days.

²⁶ But she opens her mouth wisely, and according to law.

²⁷ The ways of her household are careful, and she does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ And her kindness to them sets up her children for them, and they grow rich, and her husband praises her.

²⁹ Many daughters have possessed wealth, many have acted valiantly, but you have exceeded *them all*, you have surpassed all.

³⁰ Charms are false, and woman's beauty is vain: for it is a wise woman that is blessed, and let her praise the fear the Lord.

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her lips; and let her husband be praised in the gates.