

Proverbs 31, Feb 17, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

There are a couple of notable things about chapter 31. First, Prov 31 is one of the most well known of proverbs for it's description of the excellent wife. However, the first nine verses are instructions for the king and how to behave.

Secondly, verses 10-31 are an acrostic using the Hebrew alphabet. This is a pneumatic device designed to help the reader be able to remember the text.

Commentary:

V1 -We do not know anything, Biblically or extrabiblically about who "King Lemuel" is. Additionally, while there have been many exhortations along the way in Proverbs to listen to a mother's teaching, this is the first time we actually get the specific voice of the mother.

V2 this is a hard to translate and enigmatic verse. It is most likely that the jist verse is something to the effect of "listen! You are my son."

V3 is where we will spend much of our time this morning. It is a prohibition for him to give his strength to women.

There is much to be said about this verse. Two obvious Biblical examples of failing to observe this command: Samson with Delilah and Solomon with his wives. Let's examine those stories.

See the footnote as the following is from a study on Samson:

The story of [Samson](#) and [Delilah](#), recorded in the sixteenth chapter of Judges, has been the delight of scores of writers, artists, and composers for hundreds of years. When Samson dallied with Delilah in the Sorek Valley of ancient Philistia, he never imagined that their sordid relationship would be projected on huge movie screens some 30 centuries later.

A quick overview of the story of Samson and Delilah begins with the announcement of Samson's birth by the angel of the Lord ([Judges 13:1–24](#)). In fact, Samson is one of the few in Scripture whose birth was divinely preannounced to his parents ([Judges 13:3](#)). He shares this honor with Isaac, John the Baptist, and

Jesus. Samson, whose name means “sunshine,” was born sometime between 1045 BC and 1000 BC, during a dark period of Israel’s history. Seven times this nation had turned from God and now found themselves under the oppressive rule of the Philistines.

Samson was born a Nazirite, meaning he was “separated” or “set aside” for God. This meant that he was not to drink wine or fruit of the vine. He couldn’t go near or touch a dead body, human or animal, nor could he cut his hair. Though he was set apart for special service to God ([Judges 13:5](#)), Samson ignored his Nazirite vow of godly devotion and relied upon his own strength and abilities rather than upon God’s. Although God empowered him with supernatural strength to begin the deliverance of the people of Israel from the Philistines ([Judges 13:5](#)), it was his weakness for the Philistine women that did him in ([Judges 14:1–3](#), [16:1–22](#)). His passion for women was more important to him than God’s expressed will ([Deuteronomy 7:3](#)).

During his wedding to a Philistine woman, Samson was deceived and humiliated by his wife and wedding guests ([Judges 14:1–15](#)). Angered, Samson got his revenge by personally killing 1,000 men ([Judges 15:1–20](#)). But, in the end it was his passionate obsession for Delilah that led him to reveal to her the secret of his strength. His hair was shorn by Delilah, and, as a result, he was captured, blinded, and forced to grind grain for his enemies. Eventually, while in prison, Samson’s strength did return, and he died while destroying the temple of the Philistine god Dagon, killing thousands of Philistines ([Judges 16:1–31](#)).

With the Spirit of God upon him ([Judges 13:25](#); [14:6](#), [19](#); [15:14](#)), Samson was a powerful man with supernatural strength. The story reveals that he was also very intelligent with an unusual sense of humor. While he had almost unlimited potential to deliver his people from the Philistines, his story ends in needless tragedy. He not only failed to deliver his people, but killed himself. Disobedience, defeat, disgrace, and destruction were his fatal cohorts. Despite his having the Spirit of the Lord upon him, his sexual yearnings of the flesh controlled his life ([1 John 2:16](#)). He was courageous before men but weak when it came to women ([Proverbs 5:3](#); [6:32](#); [Matthew 5:28](#)).

There are many valuable lessons we can glean from the story of Samson and Delilah. Though born with unbelievable potential, Samson forfeit his life because of sin. The lesson for us is that, the deeper we allow ourselves to be influenced by the glamour and allurements of sin, the more blind we become. This extraordinary story tells us that Samson was spiritually blind long before his eyes were gouged out ([Judges 16:21](#)). We must accept the reality that sin can seep deep into our lives. We must know that sin has a blinding, numbing impact upon us. Otherwise, we find ourselves ensnared by it, just as Samson did.

All sin, especially sexual sin, comes with its own dire and sometimes deadly consequences. Sin binds us, then it blinds us; then it slowly and inexorably grinds away at us ([Judges 16:21](#)). In truth, sin will take us farther than we may intend to go. It will hold us longer than we may intend to stay. Furthermore, sin will cost us more than we intend to pay. We must heed the stern warning: “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” ([Proverbs 4:23](#)).

We learn that God can use the wicked as well as the righteous to accomplish His will. We also discover that our own righteousness or wickedness will not deter God from doing His will. Though God punishes wrongdoing, He may wait in delivering the punishment.

Samson also demonstrates that he was a shallow, vengeful man who pouted when things didn't go his way. Most telling are his references to “I have a right to get even” ([Judges 15:3](#), [11](#)). This, too, was the same mindset of the Philistines ([Judges 15:10](#)). It's strikingly akin to the world's mindset today and contrary to the teachings of Christ ([Matthew 5:38](#)).

However, despite all of Samson's weaknesses, he did turn back to God before he died ([Judges 16:28–30](#)). God in His sovereignty used Samson to fulfill His purpose. In reality, Samson's death did much to impede the oppressive actions of the Philistines. Samson's destruction of the temple of Dagon was a major factor in their downfall at Mizpah by Samuel and the children of Israel some 100 years later ([1 Samuel 7:7–14](#)).

In the final analysis, God saw Samson as a man of faith. This is evidenced by the

fact that he's listed among those in the hall of faith ([Hebrews 11:32](#)). When we read through the list of names recorded there, we find that no one in the "hall of faith" was perfect. Samson was the strongest man to ever live, but it was God who gave him the strength.¹

Samson died having made a fool of himself and God's people suffered. He gave his strength to women.

Concerning Solomon from the same website:

[First Kings 11:3](#) states that Solomon "had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines." Obviously, God "allowed" Solomon to have these wives, but allowance is not the same as approval. Solomon's marital decisions were in direct violation of God's Law, and there were consequences. Solomon started out well early in his life, listening to the counsel of his father, David, who told him, "Be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go" ([1 Kings 2:2-3](#)). Solomon's early humility is shown in [1 Kings 3:5-9](#) when he requests wisdom from the Lord. Wisdom is applied knowledge; it helps us make decisions that honor the Lord and agree with the Scriptures. Solomon's book of [Proverbs](#) is filled with practical counsel on how to follow the Lord. Solomon also wrote the [Song of Solomon](#), which presents a beautiful picture of what God intends marriage to be. So, King Solomon *knew* what was right, even if he didn't always follow the right path.

Over time, Solomon forgot his own counsel and the wisdom of Scripture. God had given clear instructions for anyone who would be king: no amassing of horses, no multiplying of wives, and no accumulating of silver and gold ([Deuteronomy 17:14-20](#)). These commands were designed to prevent the king from trusting in military might, following foreign gods, and relying on wealth instead of on God. Any survey of Solomon's life will show that he broke all three of these divine prohibitions!

Thus, Solomon's taking of many wives and [concubines](#) was in direct violation of God's Word. Just as God had predicted, "As Solomon grew old, his wives turned

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Samson-and-Delilah.html>

his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God” ([1 Kings 11:4](#)). To please his wives, Solomon even got involved in sacrificing to Milcom (or Molech), a god that required “detestable” acts to be performed ([1 Kings 11:7-8](#)).

God allowed Solomon to make the choice to disobey, but Solomon’s choice brought inevitable consequences. “So the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates’” ([1 Kings 11:11](#)). God showed mercy to Solomon for David’s sake (verse 12), but Solomon’s kingdom was eventually divided. Another chastisement upon Solomon was war with the [Edomites](#) and Aramians (verses 14-25).²

Solomon lost his kingdom and ultimately, the world was a much worse place because of his weakness. He gave his strength to women. All that he had would be destroyed. The greatest kingdom the world has ever known was ultimately uprooted and turned to dust because He gave his strength to women.

This is a cautionary lesson.

Feminism both social and theological, have greatly influenced the church particularly in the 20th century and still effect our practice of Christianity today, well into the 21st century.

Feminism rejects the notion of the link between biology and gender. This of course opens the door to other ideologies such as the trans movement and other incompatible nonsense. The point that gender is a social construct rejects the revelation of God in the Bible and replaces it with a man (or women) centered ideology.

The main tenets are to redefine and reject patriarchy. They redefine patriarchy as saying that men are “superior” to women, instead of seeing it as a role distinction rooted both in creation and Scripture.

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/Solomon-wives-concubines.html>

4 waves of feminism:

1 -18th-19th century: women's suffrage (voting) and property rights

2 -1960s-70s: rejection of homemaking and motherhood and embracing of the sexual revolution fueled by the invention of the pill.

3 -1990s inclusion of non-white, upper class

4 -2012 "equal pay for equal work", "me too", and collides with some trans ideology.

Juice in the Lord's supper is linked to feminism of the women's temperance movement. Dr. Welch who invented grape juice through the pasteurization process, promoted it in the Methodist church, which was taken over by the feminist movement.

Egalitarianism sought to eliminate any distinction between men and women's roles in the home, church, and culture.

Complementarianism was meant to be a compromise or middle ground between traditional patriarchy and egalitarianism. It maintains the role of leadership for men in the home and somewhat at church but rejects that in the culture at large. It was epitomized in a book by Piper and Grudem. They admitted that they invented it.

The traditional Christian understanding is that men were tasked with the responsibility of leading in all three spheres of social order: the home, the church, and the culture at large. The name for that is patriarchy. The fact that Taylor Swift (TayTay) and her ilk are chanting "F*** the Patriarchy" should tell you what you need to know. The rejection of the created and revealed order is part of what is bringing chaos on our world.

We reject women in leadership as it is sign of the judgement of God. We advocate men having to be strong and accept the roles of leadership.

It is not loving, or kind, or nice to abdicate our roles. Don't give your strength to women. Instead, use your strength to lead and love them well. Provide. Protect. Sacrifice like Jesus did for His bride. Read Eph 5-6; Col 3 for how to understand God's order.

Conclusion:

Love and lead well. Be educated about the schemes of the devil & how that manifests itself on a political and social level. Fight the good fight.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the wisdom it provides. Help us to understand and obey it. Make us men of wisdom full of grace and truth. Make us wise and faithful for Your glory. Make us mighty men, pulling in the same direction for the cause of Christ. For Him and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.