

Proverbs 31:10-31, Feb 24, 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 literary device designed to help the reader be able to remember the text.

Last week we focused on men not giving into feminism and giving their strength to women. Today, we will look at an excellent woman.

Responsibility of the man verses the influence of the woman.

Prov 12:4: "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones."

Contrasted in Proverbs with the adulteress, the loud woman, the foolish, rebellious and quarrelsome women.

Commentary:

V10 "excellent wife" is hard to find. She is highly valuable.

1. Her character as a woman¹

V11 she is trustworthy and her husband is better because of her. She makes him better.

V12 she is not measured in her regard for him, faithfully executing her duty continually over the decades.

¹ Outline taken from John McArthur <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDOXlbEM6g0>

See v23

2. Her devotion as a homemaker

V13 She looks for opportunities to earn money and works hard happily.

V14 She finds creative ways and makes great effort to make her families' lives better.

V15 She is not lazy, rising early and making sure everyone in her household is taken care of especially her young women.

V16 She entrepreneurial. She is able to conduct business and purchase a piece of land. She then uses her own money to make more money buy making the land productive. (cf v24).

V17 She is doubly strong. Not going to the gym. She is physically strong (v13, 19, 23).

V18 She has good intuition and makes appropriate preparations.

V19 She works hard? Instruments that make thread to make garments.

3. Her generosity as a neighbor:

V20 She is generous to those who cannot help themselves, that is to the less fortunate.

V21 Difficult situations (snow) do not frighten her because she is prepared for them. Her family actually thrives in difficult situations.

V22 She herself is well dressed because of her diligence. Could also mean making decorations for her house and/or herself.

V23 She has helped her husband to be one of the nobles of the area.

V24 She runs a productive business.

4. Her influence as a teacher:

V25 She is adorned with strength and majesty. She does not dread the future but looks forward to it, regardless of what it will bring.

V26 She is a woman of wisdom and teaches with kind words to others.

5. Her effectiveness as a mother:

V27 She is diligent to take care of her family and works hard.

V28 Her children and husband sing her praises. As a man, be diligent to do this and make sure your children do the same. No spoiled brats.

V29 They all say that she is the best.

6. Her excellence as a saint:

V30 Beauty and sophistication fade but a woman that fears the Lord is worthy of praise.

V31 Give her credit, she should spend her money and let everyone know how great she is.

Additional verses:

“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.” – Proverbs 14:1

“Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” – 1 Peter 3:4

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. -Titus 2:3-5

Conclusion:

Love and lead well. Be in tune with your wife and fight against feminism. Help her to be “excellent.” She will be happier and healthier this way.

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.