

Proverbs 31

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3 Instructions for a King:

- v. 3 “Do not give your strength to women, or your ways to that which destroys kings.”

Deut 17:15,17 “You shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses....*He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away....*”

3

3 Instructions for a King:

- v. 3 “Do not give your strength to women, or your ways to that which destroys kings.”
- v. 4-5 “...It is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to desire strong drink, for they will...forget what is decreed, and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.”
- v.8-9 “open your mouth...for the rights of all the unfortunate...judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.”

4

The moral requirements of good government:

v.3 Do not use your authority as a means to debauchery.

v.4-7 Keep your head clear from the stupefying effects of alcohol.

v.8-9 Use your power to help the powerless.

5

Proverbs 31:10 “An excellent (virtuous) wife”

CHAYIL [khah'-yil] = virtuous, excellent, strength, power, might; often used of an army

6


- Proverbs 19:14 “House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but *a prudent wife is from the LORD.*”
- Proverbs 18:22 “*He who finds a wife finds a good thing* and obtains favor from the LORD.”
- Proverbs 12:4 “*An excellent [CHAYIL] wife is the crown of her husband...*”

7

I Thes 4:11 “...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and *work with your hands....*”

8

Distaff and Spindle Prov 31:19



The illustration shows a woman in traditional attire spinning wool. She holds a distaff (a bundle of wool) in her left hand and a spindle (a long, thin rod) in her right hand. Labels with arrows point to the 'SPINDLE' and 'DISTAFF'.

9

•James 2:15-16 “If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; be warmed and filled,’ *and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?*”

•I John 3:17 “Whoever has this world’s goods and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, *how does the love of God abide in him?*”

10

Chiastic structure of Proverbs 31:10-31

A: High value of a good wife (v. 10)  
B: Husband benefited by wife (vv. 11-12)  
C: Wife works hard (vv. 13-19)  
D: Wife gives to poor (v. 20)  
E: No fear of snow (v. 21a)  
F: Children clothed in scarlet (v. 21b)  
G: Coverings for bed, wife wears linen (v. 22)  
H: Public respect for husband (v. 23)  
G’: Sells garments and sashes (v. 24)  
F’: Wife clothed in dignity (v. 25a)  
E’: No fear of future (v. 25b)  
D’: Wife speaks wisdom (v. 26)  
C’: Wife works hard (v. 27)  
B’: Husband and children praise wife (vv. 28-29)  
A’: High value of a good wife (vv. 30-31)

11

I Peter 3:3-4 “*Your adornment must not be merely external*—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; *but let it be the hidden person of the heart*, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

12

Proverbs 31:30

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who *fears the LORD*, she shall be praised.

Proverbs 1:7

“The *fear of the LORD* is the beginning of knowledge....”

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