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## 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....*"

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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."
- 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."

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### 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.

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Proverbs 31:10 "An excellent (virtuous) wife"

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

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• 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..."

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

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Distaff and Spindle Prov 31:19



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?*”

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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.”

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### 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)

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### 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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