

CHAPTER 31

- 1The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.
- 2What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?
- 3Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.
- 4*It is not* for kings, O Lemuel, *it is not* for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:
- 5Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
- 6Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.
- 7Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.
- 8Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
- 9Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
- 10Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.
- 11The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- 12She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- 13She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- 14She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- 15She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- 16She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- 17She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- 18She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.
- 19She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- 20She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- 21She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.
- 22She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.
- 23Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- 24She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- 25Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

27She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.

29Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

30Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

31Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.