

II. In Praise of an Excellent Woman /Wife/Mother

Introduction:

This is an acrostic in praise of a virtuous woman, wife and mother. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters. Here we have 22 verses. There is a connection between vs. 1-9 and 10-31. The woman portrayed in vs. 10-31, will inevitably rear a son like the one referred to in vs. 1-9 and a daughter like herself. The acrostic describes a woman and many of her significant roles and responsibilities. This woman is strong, secure, skilful, satisfied, and successful. She has a stable home. She knows who she is. She does not have to go and find herself outside the home. She has never been lost or is ever at a loss. She “rocks” and rules. Not from a boardroom of the corporate world, but from the “cradle” and the “kitchen table” of her castle. She excels (v. 29) in all she does, because she is excellent (v. 10).

Observation & Interpretation:

V. 10 seem to imply that the woman described in the following verses is “rare and “invaluable”. Why might this be so?

What are some of the meaning/interpretation and implications of “excellence” and “worth” (v. 10)?

What are some of the principles/insights/lessons gleaned from this woman and her relationship, response, and her rewards relative to her husband? (vs. 11-12, 23, 28b)

What did you learn about the work habits and work ethics of this woman?

What are some of the negative and toxic habits and activities that she guarded against? Cf. v. 27b, etc.

What did you learn about her tastes, as far as things around her home and in her house were concerned?

How did she manage to run her home?

How did she operate her business?

What makes this woman beautiful? What is the secret of her success?

What did you learn about her attitudes and values?

What do you think motivated this woman?

What did you learn about her strengths and skills?

What was her involvement and influence outside her home?

How do you see this woman as a leader in her sphere of influence? What are some of her character traits and skills as a leader/manager?

What are the rewards of this type of woman?

Summary & Application:

Write an acrostic, using each of the following words to summarize and apply your thoughts and ideas on these verses:

WOMAN:

W
O
M
A
N

WIFE:

W
I
F
E

MOTHER

M
O
T
H
E
R

You might also want to take a shot at an acrostic using the word

DAUGHTER.

Internalizing and Intercessory Prayer:

Write your heart's desire in the form of a prayer to include three areas:

- Thanking God for your roles, responsibilities, gifts, abilities, opportunities and spheres of influence
- Expressing what you have learnt from this study and what you have resolved to do and how you will live.
- Interceding for your those in your sphere of influence

*(Note: You might want to use a Notebook or Journal to record your answers and thoughts during this study. - We have deliberately kept the Study Guide to two pages. Have a Language Dictionary and at least two Translations of the Scriptures. Feel free to use other Bible Study Aids, but only after you have done your own thinking and reflection. Invite and permit the Lord to teach and mould you, instead of allowing others to mislead you and rob you of the "Joy of Discovery" and personal growth. **Remember:** Only what has made an impact on you can be used by you to influence other effectively and eternally!)*

Proverbs 31 - Bible Study

Two Divisions for the Chapter:

1. The Oracle of a Mother to Her Son (31:1-9)
2. In Praise of an Excellent Woman/Wife/Mother (31:10-31)

I. The Oracle of a Mother to Her Son.

Introduction:

Many of us underestimate the influence we have on our children. A few more underestimate the value of a mother's input into the life of her son. Here we have a woman who was aware that she was raising a king from the time he was born. Who and what are you raising? Intentionality is indispensable if we are to be effective, regardless of the endeavour.

We don't know for sure who this woman is or who her son is. "Lemuel" means "belonging to God." To whom do your children belong? What are your responsibilities in rearing children? Many believe the mother here is Bathsheba, which makes the young man Solomon. Regardless of who they were, the lessons are relevant and timeless.

Observation & Interpretation:

What is an "oracle"?

Note she "taught him". What are some of the implications here?

What do you think is the meaning of "son of my vows" in v. 2b?

What does she warn him against in v. 3 and why is this warning crucial? (What insights can you share as a woman? *Last part of question for women only*)

In vs. 4-7 she warns him against the abuse of wine/strong drinks and speaks of the medicinal use of alcohol in ancient times.

What are some of the negative consequences of alcohol abuses that she warns against?

How would you apply vs. 6-7 in today's culture?

What are some things she addresses in vs. 8-9 and why are these important matters for a "king" to focus on?

Summary & Application:

- What are at least three main issues that this mother discusses with her son? How important are these to a young man? Why are they crucial?
- Develop an acronym, using the word **KINGS** for the lessons and life you want to impart and instil in your son(s). Remember: It is never too late or too soon or start doing right.
- How and when will you broach these subjects with your son?