### Proverbs

## Chapter 31

The words of the King Belonging to God.  
  
  
  
1These words [that I’ve written] were spoken by God…  
 Through a king came an answer divine.  
  
He was once asked by his mother:  
 2‘What, O my child, what should I tell you…  
 Which saying of God should I tell my firstborn?  
 What, O child of my belly…  
 What, O child of my vows?  
  
3‘Don’t [waste] your money on bad women,  
 Nor your abilities and mind seeking pleasure.  
 Think it all over and follow [my] words…  
 And [don’t] drink [too much] wine!  
  
4‘Since the mighty are easy to anger;  
 Never offer them wine,  
 5Lest they lose their wisdom in drink.  
 For they make poor decisions when they’re weak.  
  
6‘Give liquor to those in distress;  
 Offer wine to those who are grieving,  
 7So they can forget their condition,  
 And remember their misery no more.  
  
8‘O son,  
  
Open your mouth to speak Godly words,  
 And offer fair judgments to all.  
 9Open your mouth with righteous decisions…  
 Stand up for the needy and weak!  
  
10‘Who can find an industrious wife?  
 More than precious gems, is her value!  
 11If the heart of her man courageously guards her,  
 He’ll never be lacking good treasures;  
 12For, she’ll uses her strength to support him,  
 And she’ll not waste her life in doing what’s bad!  
 13She’ll work with her hands spinning linen and wool,  
 14And act like a ship that trades far away…  
 For, that’s how she’ll gather her money.  
  
15‘She gets up while it’s still dark,  
 Along with her female attendants,  
 To ready the food for her household.  
 16She may see a farm and then buy it…  
 From the fruits of her hands, she’ll gain more.  
  
17‘She wraps her waist to give it support,  
 And readies her arms to do work.  
 18She’s tasted and found work to be good,  
 And keeps her lamp lit all night long.  
  
19‘She reaches for things advantageous,  
 And applies her hands to the spindle.  
 20She opens her hands to the needy,  
 And stretches her arms towards the poor.  
  
21‘She wouldn’t consider using what’s yours  
 Whenever you’re gone for a while;  
 And all that are hers will have enough clothes.  
  
22‘A doubled coat made of goat’s hair,  
 She has sewn for her man;  
 And from the bolt-ends of linen and purple,  
 She’s also made one for herself.  
 23So, her man is admired when he sits at the gate,  
 And meets with the rest of the elders.  
  
24‘She takes fine linen to make loincloths  
 For all of her CanaAnite [servants].  
 25She’s [proud] of her strength and her beauty,  
 And is happy throughout the rest of her days.  
  
26‘She opens her mouth to speak wisdom and Law,  
 And charity rests on her tongue.  
 27Her pastimes are things that shelter her home,  
 And the grain of laziness, she doesn’t eat.  
  
28‘She raises her sons so they’ll grow rich,  
 And her man sings praises of her.  
 29Her many daughters will also be rich  
 By doing the things that she’s [taught them].  
  
‘But, you’re still the first [in her eyes]…  
 Above all the rest, she holds you.  
  
30‘For, beauty and allurement are false;  
 So, that isn’t what you should seek.  
 Rather, find a woman who’s praised and discerning…  
 One who’s known for her fear of God.  
 31Take from her, the fruit of her lips,  
 And you’ll always be praised at the gates.’

# Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes is a long poem (or song) about the meaning of life.  
  
It was written by King Solomon about 1000 BCE.