**CHAPTER** **31**

*An exhortation to chastity, temperance, and works of mercy; with the praise of a wise woman.*

**1** The words of king Lamuel. The vision wherewith his mother instructed him.

**2** What, O my beloved, what, O the beloved of my womb, what, O the beloved of my vows?

**3** Give not thy substance to women, and thy riches to destroy kings.

**4** Give not to kings, O Lamuel, give not wine to kings: because there is no secret where drunkenness reigneth:

**5** And lest they drink and forget judgments, and pervert the cause of the children of the poor.

**6** Give strong drink to them that are sad: and wine to them that are grieved in mind:

**7** Let them drink, and forget their want, and remember their sorrow no more.

**8** Open thy mouth for the dumb, and for the causes of all the children that pass.

**9** Open thy mouth, decree that which is just, and do justice to the needy and poor.

**10** Who shall find a valiant woman? far and from the uttermost coasts is the price of her.

**11** The heart of her husband trusteth in her, and he shall have no need of spoils.

**12** She will render him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

**13** She hath sought wool and flax, and hath wrought by the counsel of her hands.

**14** She is like the merchant’s ship, she bringeth her bread from afar.

**15** And she hath risen in the night, and given a prey to her household, and victuals to her maidens.

**16** She hath considered a field, and bought it: with the fruit of her hands she hath planted a vineyard.

**17** She hath girded her loins with strength, and hath strengthened her arm.

**18** She hath tasted and seen that her traffic is good: her lamp shall not be put out in the night.

**19** She hath put out her hand to strong things, and her fingers have taken hold of the spindle.

**20** She hath opened her hand to the needy, and stretched out her hands to the poor.

**21** She shall not fear for her house in the cold of snow: for all her domestics are clothed with double garments.

**22** She hath made for herself clothing of tapestry: fine linen, and purple is her covering.

**23** Her husband is honourable in the gates, when he sitteth among the senators of the land.

**24** She made fine linen, and sold it, and delivered a girdle to the Chanaanite.

**25** Strength and beauty are her clothing, and she shall laugh in the latter day.

**26** She hath opened her mouth to wisdom, and the law of clemency is on her tongue.

**27** She hath looked well to the paths of her house, and hath not eaten her bread idle.

**28** Her children rose up, and called her blessed: her husband, and he praised her.

**29** Many daughters have gathered together riches: thou hast surpassed them all.

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

**31** Give her of the fruit of her hands: and let her works praise her in the gates.