



Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](http://JohnTPolkII.com)
For johntpolkll.com

(#211) The Proverbs of Solomon 31:10 – 31 – Who Is a “Virtuous Wife”?

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom ([1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10](#)) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and [Proverbs 30-31](#) were added and preserved by the Holy Spirit. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

[This acrostic tribute has 22 sections, each beginning with a letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Like the tribute to the Bible in [Psalm 119](#), it was to be easily memorized and kept! This is not automatically to apply to every woman, but begins with a question, “Who can find?” This, the description of an ideal that may not be completely obtained, is much sought after. In this sense, it is like husbands being likened to Jesus Christ in [Ephesians 5:22-33](#), an ideal for which each must strive. By comparison, we should not be discouraged, but “press on,” [Philippians 3:12-14](#)]

Proverbs 31:10-31:

Aleph 10 “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

[This is like the question in [Proverbs 20:6](#). For an explanation of the phrase “far above rubies,” see “wisdom,” [Proverbs 3:15; 8:11](#)]

Beth 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

[[verses 11-12](#) define “love,” see [1 Corinthians 13:4-8a](#).]

Gimel 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

[This is a consistent practice, as in [1 Corinthians 7:34](#); [Romans 12:10](#); [Ephesians 5:32](#)]

Daleth 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.

[see [verses 19-29](#); [1 Timothy 5:9-10](#). Life is good when leaders and people willingly obey, [Judges 5:2, 9](#).]

He 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.

[smart shopper, coupon-cutter, Amazon.com(?), etc.]

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Waw 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants.

[see [verse 27](#). Eagerly seeks opportunity to prepare for her family, especially "maidservants," those helping her. "Menservants" are not included in this term!]

Zayin 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.

[She is not content with "just eking by," or "scraping by." This is pure "capitalism," as Karl Marx would label it. Profiting and investing are NOT evil, nor Satanic traits! It is never right to plan time to do this without giving God His due, [James 4:13-16](#).]

Heth 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.

[She maintains her own health, not by "pumping iron," competing in athletics with men, or endless exercise, but by the exercises of daily life.]

Teth 18 She perceives that her merchandise *is* good, And her lamp does not go out by night.

[She knows how best to obtain good quality and use of her time. A lit lamp is always ready for an emergency.]

Yod 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle.

[She learns "craftiness," that is, how to produce goods, oftentimes from very little.]

Kaph 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

[This benevolent spirit was endorsed under Moses' Law, [Deuteronomy 15:7-8](#), and under Jesus Christ, [Acts 9:36-43](#). Work is rewarded, then shared, [Ephesians 4:28](#); [Hebrews 13:16](#).]

Lamed 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household *is* clothed with scarlet.

[Like the lesson of "ants," Proverbs 30:24, she "double-clothes" her "household." "Scarlet" is a color, and by "double-dying," may indicate these were "doubled-over," or winter garments.]

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Mem 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple.

[She dresses herself appropriately for every occasion, showing good taste, [1 Timothy 2:9-10](#). "Tapestry" may refer to things like "carpeting, drapery, etc." and "fine linen and purple" are associated with more stylish appearances, [Luke 16:19](#); [Acts 16:14](#).]

Nun 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.

[Also refer to [Proverbs 12:4](#). His appearance and his decision to find a good wife shows his ability to make a good decision. Many men have married "above their estate," that is, "better than they deserve."]

Samek 24 She makes linen garments and sells *them*, And supplies sashes for the merchants.

[Making clothing is a "house industry" in many cultures. She may be a part of it.]

Ayin 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.

[The only other one who is worthy to receive the exact phrase, "strength and honor," is the Lamb of God, [Revelation 5:12](#)! Women Christians are more concerned with their inner clothing and beauty than outer adornments, [1 Peter 3:1-6](#). Their outer garments reflect their inner spirituality, [1 Timothy 2:8-10](#).]

Pe 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

[She has "wisdom" and intelligence to know right and wrong, and the ways of God, and this is reflected in her speech. After what was said about the "contentious woman," [Proverbs 21:9](#); [25:24](#), this is showing what should be, [Titus 2:3-5](#). The earth cannot stand "a hateful *woman* when she is married" [Proverbs 30:23](#), but needs many more of these virtuous women!]

Tsadde 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.

[As a fulltime job, "her household," she should "manage the house," [1 Timothy 5:14](#); [Titus 2:4-5](#). She should not be a gossip and busybody, [1 Timothy 5:13](#), which would severely cut in to "social media" time!]

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Qoph 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praises her:

[When Mama is right, everybody in the house is right! Not entirely, but a “virtuous woman” makes everyone in her house better. No one escapes the mark of their good wife/mother on their hearts.]

Resh 29 ‘Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.’

[A husband’s greatest accolade would be: “You fill my eyes with pleasure, my heart with treasure, my soul with measure, and “a helper comparable” to me,” [Genesis 2:21](#). A husband cannot give too many compliments to the right woman for him!]

Shin 30 Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing, But a woman *who* fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

[“Charm,” or a graceful presence, can be faked, and “beauty” standards are changeable according to culture, fads, cosmetics, or “Victoria’s Secrets!” But, in every country, climate, or neighborhood, the woman who is beautiful both to the eye and heart is the one who pleases God! See [Ruth 3:11](#)]

Tau 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.”

[She deserves all the good she gets, [Matthew 7:17](#); [Matthew 26:6-13](#); [Revelation 14:13](#)]

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