

# Mother's Day





## Textual Commentary:

### **v.1-2: Wisdom from the “Queen Mother”**

- Rare to see motherly advice speeches in ANE literature.
- It is in a place of prominence as the last chapter, interpreting the whole of “collected wisdom.”
- The poem-hymn is written as if the mother has caught the son doing something wrong and is being lovingly corrected.

## Proverbs 31:1-2

1 The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him:

2 **What are you doing, my son?** What are you doing, son of my womb?

What are you doing, son of my vows?

## Textual Commentary:

### **v.3: Desire the Right Woman**

- Men are prone to be attracted to women who do not “fear the Lord.”
- Queen Mother is going to give her son counter examples to those women who “destroy kings.”

### **v.4-9: Authority Isn't Fair**

- Do not indulge in drunkenness.
- Those under your care will suffer.
- Instead, use strength and power for their good.

## Proverbs 31:3-9

Do not give your strength to women,  
your ways to those who destroy kings.

- <sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, O Lemuel,  
it is not for kings to drink wine,  
or for rulers to take strong drink,  
<sup>5</sup> lest they drink and forget what has been decreed  
and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.  
<sup>6</sup> Give strong drink to the one who is perishing,  
and wine to those in bitter distress;  
<sup>7</sup> let them drink and forget their poverty  
and remember their misery no more.  
<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.  
<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

## Textual Commentary:

### v.10-12: The Value of a Godly Wife

- King Solomon knows the value of an “excellent wife.”
- Proverbs continually suggests that young men and young women should strive to please God and to find one another, have children, and teach them to do the same.
- **This IS the creation mandate:** ordering the world, searching out godly spouses, and creating image bearers to fill the world.

## Proverbs 31:10-12

An excellent wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.

<sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.

## Textual Commentary:

### v.13-15: The Godly Woman is Not Idle

- The passage indicates ongoing productive work *RELATED* to people in her care.
- It's not busy work. It's work *TOWARD* people.
- Being too literal here will cause harm. **Proverbs paint pictures!**

## Proverbs 31:13-15

She **seeks** wool and flax,  
and **works** with willing hands.

<sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant;  
she **brings** her food from afar.

<sup>15</sup> She **risers** while it is yet night  
and **provides** food for her household  
and **portions** for her maidens.



*But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

**1 TIMOTHY 5:8**

## Textual Commentary:

### **v.16-18: She Knows How to Make and Keep Wealth**

- Godly women have business sense.
- Practicality, frugality, and ambition are all present in this picture.

### **v.19-20: Her Work is Decorated with Generosity**

- All of this work and wealth need balance or it will become an idol.
- The godly woman sees the poor and helps.

## Proverbs 31:16-18

She considers a field and buys it;

with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

<sup>17</sup> She dresses herself with strength  
and makes her arms strong.

<sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.



## Proverbs 31:19-20

She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.

<sup>20</sup> She opens her hand to the poor

and reaches out her hands to the needy.

## Textual Commentary:

### v.21-27: Her Reputation Speaks for itself

- These are pictures of Mom bringing the ordinary to life—making a VIBRANT culture in the family.
- Her husband is thought well of simply by being married to her.
- ***She trusts in God for the future!***

## Proverbs 31:21-27

She is not afraid of snow for her household,  
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

<sup>22</sup> She makes bed coverings for herself;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates  
when he sits among the elders of the land.

<sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she delivers sashes to the merchant.

<sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.

<sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.



## Textual Commentary:

### v.28-31: Let Her Be Praised

- This kind of godly woman, wife, mother should be praised and appreciated.
- The husband's "hallelujah" for his wife.
- **Man or woman—to be wise you must “fear the Lord” (1:7).**

## Proverbs 31:28-31

Her children rise up and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praises her:

<sup>29</sup> “Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”

<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

<sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands,

and let her works praise her in the gates.

## **For those celebrating and praising Mom today:**

- Be biblical and use your words to praise Mom.
- Be biblical and give her gifts of appreciation.
- Be biblical and don't wait until Mother's Day.

## **For the Moms hearing Proverbs 31 today:**

- Be encouraged by what you are doing well.
- Be convicted to grow in the “fear of the Lord.”
- Be mindful that God is gracious in the blood of Christ!