MOTHER'S DAY THROUGH FATHER'S DAY: MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

PROVERBS 31...

KING LEMUEL...Otherwise unknown! FORMAT: vv. 10-31 are an "Acrostic" with the Hebrew Alphabet.

Each verse starts with the <u>next letter</u> of the Hebrew Alphabet

PROVERBS 31:10-31

An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. She looks for wool and flax And works with her hands in delight.

She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is still night And gives food to her household And portions to her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength And makes her arms strong. She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night.

She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hands grasp the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, And she stretches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household, For all her household are clothed with scarlet. She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies belts to the tradesmen. Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:

Many daughters have done nobly,
But you excel them all."
Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the LORD,
she shall be praised.
Give her the product of her hands,
And let her works praise her in the gates.

PROVERBS 31...

THEME: The "Excellent" Wife...

CHaYiL "valor, excellence, virtue, honor, strength, wealth or value."

Only uses referring to women: Ruth 3:11; Proverbs 12:4 and here!

The Excellent (CHaYiL) Wife

- She fears the Lord!, 30.
- She has wisdom, and shares it with others, 26.
- She has virtue and integrity, 10.
- She is faithful and trustworthy, 11-12.
- She serves her husband and family, 11, 21-22,
 23.
- She is industrious, 13-14, 15, 16, 18-19, 27, 31.
- She has strength and dignity, 25.

The Excellent (CHaYiL) Wife

- She is capable at handling finances, 14, 16-18,
 24.
- She plans ahead, 21-22, 25.
- She is gracious and merciful and helps the poor and needy, 20.
- She has a good reputation, and...it "rubs off," 28-29, 31, 23.

The Excellent (CHaYiL) Wife

"Who can find?
For her worth
is far above jewels."



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