

## The End of History

## Proverbs 31

1. AN EXCELLENT WIFE: The “Proverbs 31 Woman” is, *importantly*, the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The woman of Proverbs 31 is ideal, not in the sense of being the \_\_\_\_\_ individual, but as an abstract ideal in which people participate in various \_\_\_\_\_ and to various degrees.
  - b. The book of Proverbs affirms that gender in general – and the relationship between husband and wife in particular – is part of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The created order involves the wife being the \_\_\_\_\_ of her \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. THE FEAR OF THE LORD: The “Proverbs 31 Woman” is, *more importantly*, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The concluding words of v. 30 remind us of the beginning of Proverbs and therefore that the chapter is speaking of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The virtues described in this passage, while expressed in terms of the feminine, are in fact deeply \_\_\_\_\_ and serve as a summary of the over-all message of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. HER HUSBAND IS KNOWN: The “Proverbs 31 Woman” is, *most importantly*, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Proverbs 31 describes the \_\_\_\_\_ or end of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. In this pilgrimage we have all been given vocations that, in imperfect and sometimes confusing ways, point \_\_\_\_\_ to that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Why is creation ordered the way it is? It was created through the \_\_\_\_\_, and proclaims the goal of that creation, perfect union and communion with the Son in the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Proverbs 31

The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: <sup>2</sup> What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows? <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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 rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> 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.**

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Adapted from Dr. Mark Garcia, Greystone Theological Institute  
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