

# Timeless Wisdom

Proverbs 31

Lesson 27

Remember to pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of the scriptures and how to apply them to your life, then read chapter 31.

Jewish tradition identifies King Lemuel as Solomon and most people agree that this was a pet name Bathsheba used for her son. The name means “Unto God” or “With God”. There is no record of a king named Lemuel in Judah or Israel or the surrounding nations of that time. Much of the wisdom in Proverbs was passed down from father to son, however, chapter 31 contains wisdom given from mother to son.

## **The Wise King – 31:2-9**

1. Verse 2 has three repetitions. Why do you think she repeats her words three times?
2. Read verse 3 along with Deuteronomy 17:14-17 and Nehemiah 13:26. What do you learn?
3. Why does she warn her son against intoxicating drink (verses 4,5)? Refer to Proverbs 23:29-35. Who does Bathsheba recommend should be allowed intoxication and why? (Verses 6,7)
4. Read verses 8 and 9 with Psalm 82:3,4 and Isaiah 1:17. What do you learn from these verses?

## **The Excellent Wife – 31:10-31**

“This is the commencement of an alphabetical poem, each verse beginning consecutively with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet; in which we are presented with an admirable picture of a good wife, according to the primitive manners of the East.” (Taken from the Blue Letter Bible website.)

6. Verses 10-12 describe the marriage of the virtuous wife. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7 and explain how this passage applies to a good marriage.
7. Give a modern version of the activities listed in verses 13-19.

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

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

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

16 – She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.

17 – She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.

18 – She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.

19 – She stretches out her hands to the distaff and her hand holds the spindle. (tools for making thread from wool and flax)

8. Who is blessed by her activities listed in verses 20 - 24? Now read Romans 12:9-13. What do you learn regarding our behavior?

9. Verses 25 – 31 describe her character. Read each verse along with the reference given and tell what you learn.

v. 25 – Matthew 25:20,21

v. 26 – Ephesians 4:29

v. 27 – Proverbs 14:1

v. 28 – 2 Timothy 1:5

v. 29 – Ephesians 5:27

v. 30 – Psalm 147:11

v. 31 – Matthew 7:20

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown towards His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10