



# The Valiant Wife: Heroine of Proverbs



## PROVERBS 31:10-31

“Traditionally this poem was recited by husbands and children at the Sabbath table on Friday night”

(Allen Ross, *Expositor's*, 5:1128)

## PROVERBS 31:10-31

“Wise daughters aspire to be like her, wise men seek to marry her...and all wise people aim to incarnate the wisdom she embodies, each in his own sphere of activity”

(Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, II:520)

# The Valiant Wife: Heroine of Proverbs

Proverbs concludes with the testimony of a daughter who listened to her parents, internalized their wisdom, and came to embody wisdom!

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The poet used language “belonging to Israel’s heroic poetry, characterized by recounting the hero’s mighty deeds, usually his military exploits” (Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, II:516-7)

# Proverbs 31:10-31 – Message

*The valiant wife is observable proof  
that wisdom can transform you  
into a God-fearing blessing to  
those around you*

# Transitions in Proverbs

*Real*

Adulterous wife

(2:16-19; 5:1-14; 6:24-35; 7:1-27)



*Figurative*

Dame Folly

(9:13-18)

*Figurative*

Lady Wisdom

(1:20-31; 8:1-36; 9:1-6)



*Real*

Excellent wife

(14:1; 24:3; 31:10-31)

# I. Embodying wisdom profoundly impacts your closest relationships (Prov 31:10-12)

**Excellent** – (lit. “power”) in military contexts = “valiant warriors” (Josh 1:14)

Thus, “valiant” or “noble” wife (Ruth 3:11; Prov 12:4)

She is a gift from God (Prov 19:14)

**Gain** – (military term, plunder)

## **II. Embodying wisdom manifests exemplary character in all your relationships (13-27)**

**Food** (v. 15) – Lit., “prey”, military/hunting word

**Portion** – Lit., “work assignments”

**Gird the loins** (v. 17) – to prepare for battle or a strenuous task (see Ps 93:1)

**Strength** – she displays the power of godly femininity

## Prov 31:21-25

**Scarlet** (v. 21) – Better, “two cloaks” or double protection from the cold

**Strength** (v. 25) – Wisdom gives strength, “*A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge strengthens his power*” (24:5)

**Smiles at** – Like a conqueror she “laughs in victory” at her enemy—the unknown future (Waltke)

## Prov 31:26-27

**Instruction** (v. 26) – *Torah*, lit., “to point the way”

**Lovingkindness** – *Hesed*, lit., “faithful covenant love”

Phrase is lit., “*torah of hesed*”

**Watches over** (v. 27) – to reconnoiter, do reconnaissance, or serve as a watchman (Waltke)

### **III. Embodying wisdom reflects praiseworthy beauty from your relationship with Yahweh (28-31)**

**You have gone above** (v. 29) – used for going out to battle  
(Waltke)

**Done excellently** – same word as “valiant”, v. 10

# The fear of Yahweh is a relationship of humble, wholehearted faith in God (Prov 1:7; 3:7; 9:10)

- Starting point and foundational principle
- *Biblical wisdom departs from all other wisdom at the very beginning*
- Faith in Yahweh is essential
- To orient yourself to Him by faith
- Fearing God drives everything else



## **Proverbs 31:10-31 - Takeaways**

Realize that only families and churches and cultures that properly value women and biblical femininity will prosper under God

Learn from the valiant wife that wisdom can transform you into a God-fearing blessing to those around you