

THE WOMAN OF VALOR: CAN SHE BE FOUND?

Prelude on Women, Wine and Justice:

<p>1 The words of Lemuel the king; a prophecy that his mother chastised him;</p> <p>2 What, my son, and what, the son of my womb, and what, the son of my vows?</p> <p>3 Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to the pleasures of kings.</p> <p>4 It is not for kings, Lemoel, it is not for kings to drink wine, neither is strong drink for rulers.</p> <p>5 Lest he drink and forget what was made law, and change the judgment of all the impoverished.</p> <p>6 Give strong drink to the one who is perishing and wine to those of bitter soul.</p> <p>7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, and let him remember his misery no more.</p>	<p>(א) דְּבַרֵי לְמוֹאֵל מֶלֶךְ מִשְׁאֵא אֲשֶׁר יִסְרְתּוּ אִמּוֹ: (ב) מַה בְּרִי וּמַה בֶּר בִּטְנֵי וּמַה בֶּר נְדָרָי: (ג) אַל תִּתֵּן לַנְּשִׁים חֵילְךָ וּדְרָכֶיךָ לְמַחֲוֹת מְלָכִין: (ד) אַל לְמַלְכִּים לְמוֹאֵל אַל לְמַלְכִּים שְׁתוּ יַיִן וּלְרוֹזְנִים אֵי שָׁכָר: (ה) פֶּן יִשְׁתֶּה וְיִשְׁכַּח מִחֻקֵּי וַיִּשְׁנֶה דִין כָּל בְּנֵי עֲנִי: (ו) תִּגְוֹ שָׁכָר לְאוֹבֵד וַיִּגְוֹ לְמָרִי בְּפֶשֶׁת: (ז) יִשְׁתֶּה וְיִשְׁכַּח רִישׁוֹ וַעֲמָלוֹ לֹא יִזְכָּר עוֹד: (ח) פֶּתַח פִּיךָ לְאֵלִים אַל דִּין כָּל בְּנֵי חִלּוֹף: (ט) פֶּתַח פִּיךָ שֹׁפֵט צָדֵק וְדִין עֲנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן: פ</p>
<p>8 Open your mouth for the dumb, to the cause of all whose help has passed.</p> <p>9 Open your mouth, judge justly and plead the cause of the poor and the needy.</p>	<p>(ח) פֶּתַח פִּיךָ לְאֵלִים אַל דִּין כָּל בְּנֵי חִלּוֹף: (ט) פֶּתַח פִּיךָ שֹׁפֵט צָדֵק וְדִין עֲנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן: פ</p>

Commerce:

<p>10 A woman of valor who can find, for her price is beyond pearls.</p> <p>11 Her husband relies on her, and he will lack no gain.</p> <p>12 She requites him with good and not with evil all the days of her life.</p>	<p>(י) אִשֶׁת חֵיל מִי מִצְאָ וְרָחֵק מִפְּנִינִים מְכָרָה: (יא) בָּטַח בָּהּ לֵב בַּעֲלָהּ וְשָׁלַל לֹא יִחְסָר: (יב) גִּמְלָתָהּ טוֹב וְלֹא רָע כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ: (יג) דֹּרְשָׁה צֹמֵר וּפְשֵׁתִים וַתַּעַשׂ בְּחַפְזָן כְּפִיָּה:</p>
<p>13 She seeks wool and flax, and she works it with the will of her hands.</p>	<p>(יג) דֹּרְשָׁה צֹמֵר וּפְשֵׁתִים וַתַּעַשׂ בְּחַפְזָן כְּפִיָּה:</p>

<p>14 She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.</p> <p>15 She rises when it is still night; she gives food to her household and an allotted share to her maidens.</p> <p>16 She contemplates a field and purchases it; from the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.</p> <p>17 She girds her loins with vigor and strengthens her arms.</p> <p>18[When] she advises that her merchandise is good her lamp does not go out at night.</p> <p>19 She stretches forth her hands onto the distaff, and her hands support the spindle.</p>	<p>(יד) הִיְתָה כְּאֵנוֹת סוֹחֵר מִמְרָקָק תָּבִיא לְחֶמֶה:</p> <p>(טו) וְתָקַם בְּעוֹד לַיְלָה וַתִּתֵּן טָרֶף לְבֵיתָהּ וְחֶק לְנַעֲרֹתֶיהָ:</p> <p>(טז) זָמְמָה שָׂדֵה וַתִּקְחֶהּ מִפְּרֵי כַפֵּיהָ נִטְעָה כְּרָם:</p> <p>(יז) הִגְרָה בְּעוֹז מְתַנְיָה וַתֹּאמֵץ זָרְעוֹתֶיהָ:</p> <p>(יח) טָעַמָּה כִּי טוֹב סוֹחֵרָה לֹא יִכָּבֵה בְּלִילָה נְרָה:</p> <p>(יט) יָדֶיהָ שְׁלָחָה בְּפִישׁוֹר וְכַפֵּיהָ תִמְכוּ פֶלֶךְ:</p>
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Kindness & Clothing:

<p>20 She spreads out her hand to the poor man, and she stretches her hands out to the needy.</p> <p>21 She fears not for her household for snow, for all her household are dressed in crimson.</p> <p>22 She makes beautiful bedspreads for herself; fine linen and purple wool are her raiment.</p> <p>23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits with the elders of the land.</p> <p>24 She makes a cloak and sells it, and she gives a belt to the trafficker.</p> <p>25 Strength and beauty are her raiment, and she laughs at the last day.</p>	<p>(כ) כַּפָּה פָּרְשָׁה לְעָנִי וַיְדִיחַ שְׁלָחָה לְאֲבִיוֹן:</p> <p>(כא) לֹא תִירָא לְבֵיתָהּ מִשֶּׁלֶג כִּי כָּל בֵּיתָהּ לְבָשׁ שָׁנִים:</p> <p>(כב) מְרַבֵּדִים עָשְׂתָה לָּהּ שֵׁשׁ וְאַרְגָּמָן לְבוּשָׁהּ:</p> <p>(כג) נוֹדַע בְּשַׁעְרֵים בַּעֲלָהּ בְּשִׁבְתּוֹ עִם זְקֵנֵי אֶרֶץ:</p> <p>(כד) סָדִין עָשְׂתָה וַתִּמְכֶר וְהַגּוֹר נְתָנָה לְכַנְעָנִי:</p> <p>(כה) עוֹ וְהָדָר לְבוּשָׁהּ וַתִּשְׂחַק לְיוֹם אַחֲרוֹן:</p>
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Conclusion:

<p>26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and instruction of kindness is on her tongue.</p> <p>27 She supervises the ways of her household and does not eat bread of idleness.</p>	<p>(כו) פִּיהָ פְּתָחָה בְּחָכְמָה וְתוֹרַת חֶסֶד עַל לְשׁוֹנָהּ:</p> <p>(כז) צוֹפְיָה הִלְיָכוֹת בֵּיתָהּ וְלֶחֶם עֲצָלוֹת לֹא תֹאכַל:</p>
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<p>28 Her children rise and call her fortunate; [also] her husband, and praises her.</p> <p>29 "Many women have acquired wealth, but you surpass them all."</p> <p>30 Charm is false and beauty is futile; a God-fearing woman is to be praised.</p> <p>31 Give her <i>of the fruit of her hands</i>, and her deeds will praise her in the gates.</p>	<p>(כח) קמו בְּנֵיהָ וַיְאָשְׁרוּהָ בַעֲלָהּ וַיְהַלְלֶהָ:</p> <p>(כט) רבות בָּנוֹת עָשׂוּ חֵיל וְאֵת עֲלִית עַל בָּלְנָה:</p> <p>(ל) שָׁקֵר הַחַן וְהַבֵּל הַיָּפִי אִשָּׁה יִרְאַת יְקֹנֵק הִיא תִתְהַלֵּל:</p> <p>(לא) תָּנוּ לָהּ מִפְּרֵי יָדֶיהָ וַיְהַלְלוּהָ בַשְּׁעָרִים מְעֻשִׂיהָ:</p>
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