

## PROVERBS 31: A Mother's Lessons to Her Child (Part 1)

<sup>1</sup> The words of King Lemuel,

### King WHO?:

- Jewish legend: Lemuel = Solomon; mother = Bathsheba. There is no factual basis for this tradition. Lemuel means “devoted to God.”
- “utterance” = massa → Massa = son of Ishmael.

### King of WHERE:

- “The words of Lemuel, king of Massa, with which his mother instructed him.”
- Massa may have been a north Arabian tribe (Gen 25:14; 1 Chr 1:30) and that several Aramaisms appear in the text.

the utterance which his mother taught him:

- Active \_\_\_\_\_ of a Mother
- Range of \_\_\_\_\_ of a Mother's Instruction

<sup>2</sup> What, my son?  
And what, son of my womb?  
And what, son of my vows?

### 1. Teach About \_\_\_\_\_

- Sense of \_\_\_\_\_
- Sense of \_\_\_\_\_
- Sense of \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Do not give your strength  
to women [*ishshah*],  
Nor your ways  
to that which destroys kings.

### 2. Teach About \_\_\_\_\_

- Do not give over your \_\_\_\_\_  
Women = plural (cp. V.10)  
Pursuit of pleasure, not a spouse
- Do not give over your \_\_\_\_\_  
Ways = time, habits, focus  
Destroys

<sup>4</sup> *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel,  
*It is* not for kings  
to drink wine,  
Nor for princes  
intoxicating drink [*shekar*];

<sup>5</sup> Lest they drink  
and forget the law,  
And pervert the justice  
of all the afflicted.

### 3. Teach About \_\_\_\_\_

#### Restrictions

- Wine
- Intoxicating (“strong”) drink

#### Reasons

- \_\_\_\_\_ the law
- \_\_\_\_\_ the justice

<sup>6</sup> Give  
strong drink [*shekar*]  
to him who is perishing,  
And wine  
to those who are bitter of  
heart.

<sup>7</sup> Let him drink  
and forget  
his poverty,  
And remember  
his misery no more.

### 4. Teach About \_\_\_\_\_

#### Prescription

- Strong drink → One \_\_\_\_\_
- Wine → One \_\_\_\_\_ of heart

#### Purpose (medicinal)

- Wine → Relaxant/\_\_\_\_\_ aid
- Strong drink → \_\_\_\_\_ killer

<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth  
for the  
speechless,  
In the cause of all  
*who are* appointed to die.

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth,  
judge righteously, And  
plead  
the cause of the  
poor and needy.

### 5. Teach About \_\_\_\_\_

#### What

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Up
- \_\_\_\_\_ Out  
 (“judge righteously”)

#### Who

- Those that have no \_\_\_\_\_
- Those that have no \_\_\_\_\_  
Lit. “children of passing”
- Those that have no \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>10</sup> Who can find a virtuous wife?  
For her worth *is* far above rubies.  
<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband safely  
trusts her; So he will have no lack  
of gain.

<sup>12</sup> She does him good and not evil  
All the days of her life.

### 6. Teach About \_\_\_\_\_

- Seek \_\_\_\_\_ wife [*ishshah*]
- Seek a \_\_\_\_\_ wife
- \_\_\_\_\_ of a virtuous wife
- 11-12 opposite of *destroys* (v3)
- 11-31 The type of woman to  
look for