

<sup>1</sup>The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. <sup>2</sup>What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows? <sup>3</sup>Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. <sup>4</sup>It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: <sup>5</sup>Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. <sup>6</sup>Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. <sup>7</sup>Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. <sup>8</sup>Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. <sup>9</sup>Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. <sup>10</sup>Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. <sup>11</sup>The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. <sup>12</sup>She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. <sup>13</sup>She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. <sup>14</sup>She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. <sup>15</sup>She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. <sup>16</sup>She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the

fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. <sup>17</sup>She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. <sup>18</sup>She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. <sup>19</sup>She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. <sup>20</sup>She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. <sup>21</sup>She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. <sup>22</sup>She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. <sup>23</sup>Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. <sup>24</sup>She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. <sup>25</sup>Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. <sup>26</sup>She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. <sup>27</sup>She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup>Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. <sup>29</sup>Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. <sup>30</sup>Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. <sup>31</sup>Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.