

The Woman of Proverbs 31

The Woman of Proverbs Chapter 31 reveals a number of Bride characteristics. As we look closely, we will gain much insight and instruction for our own preparation. We had before noted some of the Bride characteristics as seen in Ruth. Notice now the similarity between what is said of Ruth, and of the Woman of Proverbs 31:

And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. (Ruth 3:11)

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)

The common thread here is that the Bride is seen as a *virtuous woman*. This phrase is a "loose thread" link for the Bride-Candidates' benefit, so that she might easily trace the Bride-clues through the Scriptures. There are many of these loose threads, which we will try to discuss in another writing.

The phrase "virtuous woman" appears 3 times in Scripture, giving us an immediate announcement that this is a "resurrection" phrase, signaling its importance. The word *virtuous* is Strong's number <02428>. It comes from the Hebrew word <02342>, which means "to be formed, brought forth, to be pained, trembled, and to travail." This is one description of what YHWH is doing with the Bride, and in the Bride.

She Feeds Her Household

Notice that every verse of Prov 31:10-31 gives us revelation as to some quality of the Bride, but here we will look at only a few highlights:

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. (Proverbs 31:15)

Her rising while it is yet night is not only an ongoing feature in the natural sense, of her diligence. It is also a prophetic portrayal of her resurrection when the Bridegroom arrives at the midnight hour, after which she *continues to give meat* (Heb. "prey, spoil, and ravenings") to her household (by virtue of the [Elijah-mantle](#) she has passed on to the Elisha Company). Here the use of the word "ravenings" in the definition of *meat* reminds us of The Blessing of Benjamin in (Gen 49:27).

It was prophesied of Benjamin, that he would "ravin" as a wolf, and "*at night shall divide the spoil*." The wolf is well known to fill up her belly with meat, and then go back to disgorge the contents for her young offspring. Such is the behaviour of the Bride, who feeds ravenously on the Word, only to pass it on to her household, when darkness begins.

We then see that she gives a "portion" (Heb "statutes, ordinances, and commandments") to her maidens - those that will become the Bride-Candidates.

We then must ask, "Who are these of the household? Who are the maidens - that will be fed by the Bride?"

He hath given meat unto them that fear Him..." (Psalms 111:5a)

So we see that it is those that choose the Fear of YHWH that will receive the meat, and the portion intended for the maidens.

She Considers a Field

Next we see another major attribute of the Bride:

She considereth<02161> a field, and *buyeth*<03947> it... (Proverbs 31:16)

We saw in [The 3-Fold Harvest](#) that YHWH's entire Harvest of souls is represented by one Harvest Field, and actually consists of 3 separate resurrection-phases. We then note the word definitions of Strong's number <02161> and <03947>. The Hebrew word *zamam* <02161> is used 13 times, flagging this word as an important Bride-attribute word. Here we see in the above passage, that the Bride *considers* - meaning "purposes, devises, and considers" - the Field (the 3 phases of the "Harvest"). This implies that she is diligently searching, considering the Word of YHWH, with a purpose in mind.

We then see that she *buys* the Harvest-Field. The Hebrew word *laqach* <03947> means "to take, get, fetch, lay hold of, seize, receive, acquire, buy, bring, marry, take a wife, snatch, take away." These attributes all speak of the attitudes and actions of the Bride, even suggesting some of the Purposes of the Bridegroom.

Now let's look at a related passage:

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. (Matt 13:44)

In the above Proverbs 31:16 passage, we saw the Virtuous Woman as one who is diligently searching the Word of YHWH. Likewise, we are given a hint as to the meaning of Matt 13:44 from the chapter and verse numbers: *Thirteen* is a Bride number, for it speaks of love; and 44 speaks of ones walk, or lifestyle (See [Prophetic Numbers In Scripture](#)).

Now compare the Proverbs passage: "She considers a field, and buys it." Just as in the Matt 13:44 passage, we note that as the Bride finds the *treasures* hidden in the Scriptures, she willingly gives up all she owns, as to her own previous understanding, and all her earthly valuables - such as reputation, friendships, and riches. In exchange, she obtains an inexhaustible treasure. Such is the normal way of life for the Bride, as she goes about her kingdom preparation activities.

Her Candle is Not Extinguished

Next we are reminded:

"...her candle <05216> goeth not out by night." (Proverbs 31:18b)

The Hebrew word for *candle* <05216> meaning "lamp," continues even *at night* - during the times of great darkness. But what is the prophetic meaning of the *lamp*?

Thy word is a lamp <05216> unto my feet, and a light <0216> unto my path. (Psalms 119:105)-NUN

For the commandment is a lamp <05216>; and the Torah <08451> is light <0216>; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life. (Proverbs 6:23)

The light <0216> of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp <05216> of the wicked shall be put out. (Proverbs 13:9)

In the above passages are a few of many where we see the prophetic meaning of the *lamp*, and of the *light* given off from the lamp. These basic Bible definitions will be of great significance when we address the issue of the five wise and five foolish virgins.

So we see that the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31 is a light to those around her, because she is allowing the Bridegroom to "live out" the Torah in her life. Her candle-lamp does not go out during time of darkness - she now allows "Messiah in Her" to walk in her today, in the same obedience of keeping Torah, as when He walked in His own body 2,000 years ago.

She Makes herself Coverings

A highly significant quality of the Bride is seen in the following passage:

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk <08336> and purple <0713>. (Proverbs 31:22)

Here we see the prophetic message by association, as well as by tracing definitions of individual Hebrew words. Here we see an association of coverings/deckings with *silk* (Heb. <08336> meaning "white linen") which speaks of "righteousness by faith." We see also her clothing includes *purple*, which speaks of "covering," illuminating for us another important facet of the Bride - her appointed coverings. (See the Covering of the Bride)

Three Choices: Grace, Beauty, or Fear of YHWH

Although there are many more pictures within the Proverbs 31 passages, we will show only one more in this writing.

Favour <02580> is deceitful <08267>, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth YHWH, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

The last two verses of Proverbs 31 serve as a warning to those that would be among the Bride Company, and also to the "Virgins her companions" that follow her, who come afterwards. First we are shown three possible directions of focus, which the Bride-Candidates may choose to focus on. The first is *Grace*; the second is *Beauty/beautifying* (her own preparation for the Wedding to the King); the third is gaining the Fear of YHWH.

Some Choose Grace

First, we see *Grace* as a possible focus for the Bride-Candidate.

The word for *Favour* is the Hebrew word *chen* - Strong's number <02580> meaning "*Grace*." Here we are told that Grace is *deceitful* <08267> meaning "*a lie, falsehood, and deceit*." Surely we are saved by Grace through Faith. So what does this Proverb reveal to us?

Most teachings of *Grace* today have gone beyond what Scripture actually says. Today, most Bible teachers have abandoned the ancient practice of allowing Scripture to define

Scriptural words. By simply re-defining Bible words with man's own definitions, men have poisoned the true Bible Grace teaching. As a result, much of the *Grace* teachings today have become men's paradigms of grace - "a way of looking" at Grace. Some of these 'Grace' teachings have become "doctrines of men." This issue of *Biblical Grace* is discussed more fully in a separate teaching.

So, as the Proverb says, much of today's 'Grace' teaching is truly, "a lie, falsehood, and deceit." This is a warning to the Bride: *Man's false teachings of Grace today* (those that replace the true teachings of Grace as defined by the Bible) will actually prevent the believer today from gaining her Bridal garments, and will also disqualify one from being among the Bride's companions.

Some Choose Beauty

The second possible focus for the Bride-Candidate is on Beauty/beautifying - of the Bride's preparation for the Wedding to the King. This preparation is a good and noble focus. But as we are told in the Passage above, this focus is "vain" - it is empty, and will result in lack of fruit. We are told in many ways throughout Scripture, that the beauty of the tree may come from its many branches and green leaves. But the tree will be not be judged by the appearance of the leaves, or the beauty of the tree. The tree will be judged only by the *fruit* it produces - and since the "Seed" is *Righteousness*, and the "Tree" is *Righteousness*, so also must the "Fruit" be. The real *Fruit* comes from choosing the last of the three - the "Fear of YHWH."

Some Bride-candidates today are focusing on *beautifying* - on "preparation of the Bride" as their main focus. They have not considered that the Master will be looking for *Fruit* when He comes. They have not considered what kind of *Fruit* the Master will be looking for.

Some Choose the Fear of YHWH

The reader would do well to investigate the qualities seen in all 28 of the passages containing the phrase, "Fear of YHWH". Here is where one may find the Bride issues laid out in detail. It is here where the Fruit is described. It is in putting these into Action, where the Fruit will be found:

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.
(Proverbs 31:31)

As we see above in the last verse of Prov 31, the *Fruit* of the "Fear of YHWH" is her *works*, which will praise her. It is the Fruit of her *works* that will give testimony of the true Biblical *Grace* - of the power of the *Bridegroom* working within the *Bride*, to produce the *Fruit of Righteousness*. For those that do not choose the "Fear of YHWH," but instead choose *Grace* or *Beauty*, we are told the following result:

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

For (because) that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of YHWH... (Proverbs 1:29)

These Proverbs give grave and serious warnings to those Bride-Candidates who desire to be among the Bride company. When the Bridegroom knocks, some will be seriously lacking in what they need, unless they "choose wisely" in advance.

These few examples of the Proverbs 31 Woman are given, in order that the Bride-Candidate might be spurred to further investigating, on her own, some of the many Bride preparation issues. Abundant light has been sown, or planted, and there is much light to be reaped. May the Bride-Candidate glean much light during the time of Harvest.