

*Discovering the  
Treasures of a  
Godly Woman*

*Elizabeth  
George*



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### **DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF A GODLY WOMAN**

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# Lesson 1

## A Godly Woman

### Proverbs

Poetry has been a fascination of mine since my early days in junior high school. Maybe it's because my mother was an English teacher, and not just an English teacher, but a *Shakespearean* English teacher! Therefore I was continually exposed to Elizabethan language and poetry.

Are you perhaps wondering, *What does poetry have to do with the book of Proverbs in the Bible and with the Proverbs 31 woman?* That's a great question. For, you see, the book of Proverbs is a form of poetry in the Hebrew language. But unlike English poetry with its rhyme and meter, Hebrew poetry uses what is called *parallelism*. As you'll soon see, each proverb, or saying, usually has two lines, each with a parallel relationship to the other.

## *Discovering the Treasure...*

In each lesson, this section in our Bible study is dedicated to looking at the Bible, to observing what the Scriptures say about the topics and Bible passages addressed. But before we approach Proverbs 31:10-31, I want us to learn a few things about the book of Proverbs and about Hebrew poetry.

1. *The book of Proverbs*—This marvelous book of the Bible is *treasure!* It's a treasure-house filled to overflowing with wisdom—God's wisdom. It's even categorized as one of the wisdom books of the Bible. Within its 31 chapters are many references to wisdom's being like treasure. Note how these proverbs refer to wisdom and allow these descriptions to whet your appetite for discovering the treasure of the Proverbs 31 woman. Also note any suggestions as to *how* we are to discover the treasure.

—Proverbs 2:4

—Proverbs 3:13-14

—Proverbs 8:10-11

2. *The style of the proverbs*—To communicate wisdom through poetry, the book of Proverbs generally uses three types of parallelism, or line structure, to create a poetic

effect. As you learn about parallelism, look in your Bible at the verses indicated and make notes regarding the wisdom found there.

—*Synonymous parallelism*—Here the meaning in the first line is paralleled by a similar meaning in the second line.

—Proverbs 1:2

—Proverbs 31:20

—*Antithetical parallelism*—Here the first line is the opposite of or contrasted with the second line, which usually begins with the word “but.”

—Proverbs 10:1

—Proverbs 31:30

—*Synthetic parallelism*—Here the second line simply continues the thought of the first line with the second line usually starting with “and.”

—Proverbs 3:6

—Proverbs 31:13

3. *A few exceptions*—As with most language guidelines, Proverbs has its exceptions. Not all verses have two lines. Some verses, called triplets, have three lines. For instance, what happens to those who hate knowledge and scorn wisdom in Proverbs 1:27?

Now describe the actions of the worthless person in Proverbs 6:13.

And note the early morning activities of the Proverbs 31 woman in Proverbs 31:15.

## *Developing Godly Excellence...*

I'm glad you took the time to understand more about the structure of the poetry we'll be studying throughout this Bible study. And now it's time for you to revel in the exquisite poetry of Proverbs 31:10-31. Beloved, this poetry cannot be excelled. Why? Because God wrote it! "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). It is God-breathed. It comes from God. So let's listen as God Himself speaks to

us through His glowing poetic description of a truly godly woman, His woman of excellence.

- *The woman*—Read Proverbs 31:10-31 now. This passage comprises the text of this Bible study. And I invite you to take your time as you read. Linger over each verse of this unmatched poetry. And as you make your way through it, pay attention to the many instances of imagery used to describe this outstanding lady. Also consider what a treasure this godly woman is. In fact, she is a woman God chooses to praise (verse 30), and each verse contains a jewel, a shining gem of her character. Check here when done. \_\_\_\_\_
- *Her character*—List ten of her character qualities. (Be sure to note the verses that point to each quality.)

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

- *Your character*—As you study, don't get discouraged as God unveils this treasured woman and her many virtues through these 22 verses! Our job is to desire the treasure and discover the treasure. And we'll do it one verse at a time, one jewel at a time.

Look again at the ten qualities you listed. Then choose one that may be lacking in your life or perhaps needs a little extra attention. Which one is it, and what do you plan to do to give it greater prominence in your daily life?

## *A Heart in Pursuit of Excellence*

My friend, I want you to know that I'm working these exercises right along with you. Indeed, I've been working my way *through* the life of this godly woman in Proverbs 31 for 30 years now as I continue to seek to work her godly virtues *into* my life! I hope and pray that this is your heart's desire too. Indeed, she's been called "The Noble Woman"<sup>2</sup> and "The Virtuous Woman."<sup>3</sup>

The Proverbs 31 woman is truly a woman of excellence who models for us the godly traits that God highly esteems and exalts. Regardless of your background or how you were raised, this woman is yours. God has preserved His portrait of her in your Bible. She's yours to look at, to admire, to inspect, to study, to emulate, and to point others to. And she'll

always be there for you to pore over, to visit with, to draw upon, and to be refreshed by. Truly, hers was a heart of excellence, and in this study of her many qualities, I pray that you will desire to pursue her excellence. As Proverbs 31:29 says of her,

*Many daughters have done well,  
But you excel them all.*