The Virtuous Wife

- ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.
- ¹¹The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
- ¹² She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.
- ¹³ She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.
- ¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.
- ¹⁵She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise *is* good, And her lamp does not go out by night.
- ¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. ²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.²¹

She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. 2

- ²She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple.
- ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.
- ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells *them*, And supplies sashes for the merchants.
- ²⁵ Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.

- ²⁷She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."
- ³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,

But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.