

Proverbs 31

I think this is a chapter illustrating the Church Triumphant.

Had I included passages from the SOP this would have become a very long lesson, so I have kept it brief with mostly Bible sections.

v.1 'The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.' Lemuel -- Solomon's other name -- change of name indicates a relationship. Lemuel -- Strong's H3927. H<sup>39</sup> (number of books in OT canon) 27 (number of books in NT) means 'belonging to God.'

I wonder whether his mother, Bathsheba ('daughter of an oath' or 'daughter of 7 (times)') taught him the entirety of Pr 31 or the entire book?

v.2 'What, my son ... of my womb? ...vows?' She acknowledges him as not only her biological son but a special covenantal son. Lk 1:35, 42,49,50.

v.3 'Give not thy strength unto women nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.' Had Solomon obeyed his mother he would have spared himself from his ruinous marriages with demon worshipping women, & his subsequent degradation which even included sacrificing children to devils! Read 1 Kg11: 1-13; Dt 7: 1-4; 17:17; Is 3:12, 16-26. 1 Co 11:3; 1 Tim 2:12; Gen 2:18; 2 Co 6:14-18.

v.4 It is not for kings .. to drink wine (actually & symbolically) nor for princes strong drink.' The admonition is doubled for emphasis. Alliances with those who have polluted creeds & tainted lifestyles must be avoided, as well as their sickening beverages, etc. Pr 20:1; 23:1-3,7, 29-35. Ez 10:11.

'The last generation (of God's people) will in a unique sense drink of the cup that Christ drank of & be baptised with the baptism He was baptised with.' See EW 284,; 1T183; Mt 20:20-23; SN Haskell, Story of Daniel the Prophet, 253-4, cited in The 1888 Message by Robt J Wieland, 112. 'This experience is of the believing ones during the time of Jacob's trouble after probation closes.'

v.5 'Lest they drink & forget the law & pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted.' Solomon's apostasy was also marked by tyranny. 1 Kg 11:43;12:4, 14.

v.6 'Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish & wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.' Strong narcotics palliate the pain of the dying. The healthy living ought to have no need of them. Spiritual poisons are to be shunned. His mother warned her son against destructive choices, as every good parent would.

v.7 'Let him drink, & forget his poverty & remember his misery no more.' Intoxicants dull perception but are depressive, worsen mental & physical functions, & wreck relationships. The drunkards of Ephraim, Laodicea party to forget their spiritual destitution. Is 28:1, 13, 18.

v.8 'Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.' We have an Advocate & Sinbearer, otherwise we'd perish! 1 Jn 2:1,2; Is 53:6 .See also Pr 24:11,12; Ezk 34:4, 16.

v.9 'Open thy mouth, judge righteously, & plead the cause of the poor & needy.' We, like Jesus, offer our supplications on behalf of the errant, the lost, the suffering, the endangered. Ex 23:6-9. Meditate on Christ's, Moses', David's, Solomon's (at the temple dedication), Daniels's prayer lives. We may have to defend the disenfranchised in social circles, even churches, and in court before the ungodly when the unjustly accused are facing wrongful arrest & persecution. We may also have to plead for ourselves, as Paul did in Ac 16:35-39; 24:16, 24-25; 26:22-32; Jesus boldly told Pilate His kingdom wasn't this evil world (Jn 18:36, 37;19:11.), refuting the accusations of subversion the diabolical Jews hurled against Him. He offered Pilate truth, reminded him he, Pilate, had no self-derived power.

Advocacy, intercession, benevolence toward those who are suffering is advised strongly. Altruism is to be performed with a sober mind.

v.10 'Who can find a virtuous women? for her price is far above rubies.' Virtuous -- H2428 (Strong's) -- an army, force, wealth, value, strength, ... Pr 12:4.. Sardis or sardius is also red, representing the remnant. One of the foundations of New Jerusalem has this gem. Rev 21:20.

v 11 'The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.' He doesn't have to go elsewhere, seeking to have his needs met. Christ should not need to replace a rebellious subject with someone who'll steadfastly perform His will. 1 Tim 6:12; Jd 3; Rev 3:11; Is 1:19-20.

v 12 'She will do him good & not evil all the days of her life.' At least since our conversion we ought to be consecrating ourselves steadily to our Savior & Lord, Who is also our divine Husband. Is 54:5; Ho 2:19, 20.

v 13 'She seeketh wool, & flax, & & worketh willingly with he hands.' Is 1:18; Rev 3:18; 19:7-9; Ro 12:11; Ecc 9:10(a). She is clothed with His righteousness, helps reconcile others to Him (2 Co 5:19-21) so they can also receive this heavenly garment.

v 14 'She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.' She is like the ship from Alexandria in Ac 27:6. She delivers sustenance to clients & those for whom she's responsible. She gathers from a far country, Heaven. Heb 11:13-16.

v 15 'She riseth also while it is yet night, & giveth meat to her household & a portion to her maidens.' There are so many in darkness who need someone to lighten their path, guiding them to the Creator-Redeemer. 2 Chr 1:7-12. The promise God gave to Solomon a certain night -- before his backsliding -- can be claimed to the followers of prophecy who are sanctified.

v 16 'She considereth a field, & buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.' She is not an impulsive buyer; she appraises the field. EGW said the field is the church; the Bible says it's the world. Jn 4:35; Mt 13:38. She is cognizant of those who are in need of salvation & treats them as a loving parent & true friend.

v 17 'She girdeth her loins with strength & strengtheneth her arms.' I recall Parminder says the arm & hand can refer to God's power. We need to be strengthened with His might continually. Dt 4:34; 2 Chr 32:8; Lk 1:51; 1 Pet 4:1,2.

v 18 'She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth not out by night.' Ps 63:1,6; Lam 2:19; Mt 26:41; Mk 1:35.

v 19 'She layeth her hands to the spindle & her hands hold the distaff.' The spindle is a pin used to twist & wind thread, or a pivot. The wheels within wheels in Ezek 1 come to mind. God is working out His plan through us & in spite of us. A spinning wheel has to have a skilled spinster to produce beautiful, practical items. The distaff has flax & other material tied to it & thread is drawn from it. Thus, the distaff could represent God's storehouse, e.g., His Word. Flax is processed into linen. I think of textile work houses. We have to cooperate with Him in this process of refining the raw product, mortal flesh & mind & character.

v .20 'She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.' She exerts a lot of energy in performing compassionate deeds, as Christ eagerly seeks His sheep & provides for them. Jn 10:9-11, 15-16, 27-30; Ezek 34 -- the entire chapter contains a severe contrast between the true Shepherd's yearning for & benevolence toward His own, & the cruelty of false shepherds.

v 21 'She is not afraid of the snow for her household for all her household are clothed with scarlet.' (margin: 'double garments') -- they have a double portion of the Spirit, are doubly insulated against Satan's onslaughts. Also, the word snow reminds me of Samuel Snow & what he shared, especially at Exeter.

v 22 'She maketh herself coverings of tapestry, her clothing is silk & purple.' Tapestries may have woven pictorial histories in them, like parables. Silk & purple were & are used by the elite. She is one of God's royalty.

v 23 'Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.' This is where legal transactions took place on Earth. Ru 4:1,2, 9-11. It could symbolize a meeting of a heavenly council. I can picture the heavenly intelligences conferring about us, & empowering us. Heb 1:13,14.

v 24 'She maketh fine linen, & selleth it: & delivereth girdles to the merchant.' Again, linen representing Christ's & saints' righteousness. Girdles -- Ex 29:9. These were part of the Levitical priests' wear, & the plague angels are girded with spotless linen & golden girdles. Rev 15:6; Ep 6:14. His people are to be 'girt about with truth.' A merchant in a parable was willing to invest all his earthly riches to gain the heavenly. So should we. Mt 13:45-46. A distaff has flax & other material tied to it

v 25 'Strength & honor are her clothing; & she shall rejoice in time to come.' SoS 6:10; Ps 45:13-15. Because she is adorned with the glory of Christ, she will inherit the blissful immortal abode He's promised.

v 26 'She openeth her mouth with wisdom; & in her tongue is the law of kindness.' Ps 45:2; Jas 3:2; Is 53:9; 1 Pet 2:22; Rev 14:5.

v 27 'She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness.' This contrasts starkly with Ezek 16:49,50, but agrees with Pr 27:23; Is 40:11.

v 28 'Her children arise up & call her blessed; her husband also, & he praiseth her.' How wonderful to receive commendation from the heavenly Bridegroom! Mt 24:45-47; Ps 128:3.

v 29 'Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.' SoS 1:8; 2:2; 4:7. The Church Triumphant is the ultimate, the final earthly church through which God's purposes will be performed!

v 30 'Favor is deceitful & beauty is vain; but a woman who feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.' 1 Pet 3:1-6; Lk 1:28, 41-49.

v 31 'Give her of the fruit of her hands, & let her own works praise her in the gates.' Ps 24:3-7; Ecc 7:18-19. As our heavenly King was welcomed back to Heaven at His ascension from Olivet, so will His spiritual posterity be acclaimed as we enter Heaven! The works can represent souls won as a result of the final church's ministry as well as the eternal rewards promised to those who remain faithful 'til His return. Rev 22:12-14; 14:13.

Satan's craft is most successfully used against those who are depressed. ... (I)t was when the heavens were as brass over Paul that he trusted most fully in God. More than most men he knew the meaning of affliction, but, ... beset by temptation & conflict his feet pressed heavenward. 2 Co 4:17, 18. Paul's eyes were ever fastened on the unseen & eternal. Realizing he was fighting against spiritual powers he placed his dependence on God, & in this lay his strength. It is by seeing Him Who is invisible that the power of earth over mind & character is broken. (AA 263.1)

(John) was permitted to see the throne of God, looking beyond the conflicts of earth, to behold the white robed throng of the redeemed. He heard the music of the heavenly angels & the triumphant songs of those who had overcome by the blood of the Lamb & the word of their testimony. ... In figures & symbols subjects of vast importance were presented to John, which he was to record, (so saints could) have an intelligent understanding of the perils & conflicts before them.(AA 583)

The disciples were men who knew how to speak & pray sincerely & take hold of the might of the Strength of Israel. ... With every power of their being they battled for the cause of Christ. They could hold forth the word of life because they had received the heavenly anointing. They expected much & therefore they attempted much. Christ had revealed Himself to

them & to Him they looked for guidance. Their understanding of truth & power to withstand opposition were proportionate to their conformity to God's will. Jesus Christ, the wisdom & power of God, was the theme of every discourse. His Name (Ac 4:12) was by them exalted. ... (AA 594.1)

The Lord requires our individual affections ... A)ll the tact of wise generalship is needed to repulse the enemy. (CTr 123.2)  
The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God & He longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. Compassion beamed from His countenance. & His conduct was characterized by grace, humility, truth & love. Every member of His church militant must manifest the same qualities if he would join the church triumphant. (CE 76.3)

The will of God's to be done on earth as it is in heaven. ... All will be a happy ... family, clothed in the garments of praise & adoration. ... (Rev 21:4) (CET 229.1)

We are to stand firm as a rock to the principles of the word of God, remembering God is with us to give us strength to meet each new experience. ... We are to hold as very sacred the faith ... substantiated by the instruction & approval of the Spirit of God, cherishing as very precious the work the Lord has been carrying forward through His commandment keeping people & which through His grace, will grow stronger & more effective as time advances. Their experience will be of constant growth until the Lord will descend from heaven with power & great glory to set His seal of final triumph upon His faithful ones. (CCh 357.2)

Those who have sacrificed all for Christ are now secure, hidden as in the Lord's pavilion. They have been tested, & before the world & the despisers of truth they have evinced their fidelity to Him Who died for them ... holding fast their integrity in the face of death. ... (Ps 46.1-3) (DD 48.1)

A little company, traveling a narrow pathway, firmly united, bound together by the truth. ... Said the angel, 'The Lord is binding, or sealing them in bundles for the heavenly garner. This little company looked careworn, as if they had passed through severe trials ... (EW 88.3)

God's church is the court of heavenly life, filled with varied gifts & endowed with the Holy Spirit, The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of others they bless. (AA 12.2)

A soul united with Christ in accepting & living by His every word ... will war against all transgressions & every approach of sin. He becomes every day more ... victorious. (TM 44.1)

He wants you to ... wear a jewelled crown at last. (TDG 60.3)

The Christian life is a strangely mingled scene of sorrows & joys, disappointments & hopes, fears & confidence. There will be much dissatisfaction with self as he views his own heart so deeply stirred, surging with a passion that seems to bear all before it, & then follows remorse & sorrow & repentance, faith & peace & hidden joys ... as his faith grasps the promises .. revealed in God's word & that Savior he seeks to bring into his life, weave into his character. (TDG 62.3)

... Those who at last would be victorious must meet & conquer the forces of Satan, who with fierce determination oppose every step of advance. (20 MR 27.5)

... If we trust wholly in Christ we can overcome every temptation & through His grace come off victorious.... We must have on the whole armor of God & be ready at any moment for a conflict with the powers of darkness. (FLB 317.5)

In receiving baptism the human agent, inspired with new purposes, pledges himself to die to the world & live in obedience to Christ. The Father, the Son & the Holy Ghost supply the power that makes him victorious in every conflict with the prince of darkness. (Lt 200, 1902, para. 7; to Bro & Sis Kress, 12.15.1902, 6 MR 167.2)