



## Part 10: Meeting Ms. Wisdom

What we have in Proverbs 31 is the picture of godliness that is severely practical, of values that are sound and humane, and of a success that has been most diligently earned.

~ Tewoldemedhin Habtu  
Africa Bible Commentary

Proverbs 31 represents not only a chapter dedicated to the ideal woman, but the only surviving biblical example of an instruction made by a woman.

~ Carole R. Fontaine  
Harper Collins Bible Commentary

It is eminently fitting that, in a book devoted to wisdom, an excellent, praiseworthy woman should have the last word.

~ R.K. Harrison  
Evangelical Commentary on the Bible

Ordinarily women did not have the legal standing to purchase land. The idealized picture of the "perfect wife" in this proverb goes beyond anything that the biblical text elsewhere suggests was open to women.

~ John H. Walton  
The IVP Bible Background Commentary

Woman's teaching role alongside man's in this passage and the rest of Proverbs fulfills part of the vision of Genesis 1-2 of man and woman together representing the image of God and called to exercise authority in the world on God's behalf, and invites men and women to seek to realize this vision in the world.

~ John Goldingay  
New Bible Commentary

This passage encourages the complete woman to make the most of and to push the boundaries of what a woman's role might mean in a patriarchal society. Women can be tempted to settle for the demure role in life and thus fail to realize their God-given potential for making their own mark.

~ John Goldingay  
New Bible Commentary

The passage reflects a remarkable perception of the value and dignity in women's occupations. It also clearly indicates that the husband appreciates his good fortune, in no way sees himself diminished, and is able to give all credit to his wife.

~ Alison Le Cornu  
The IVP Women's Bible Commentary

This poem describes an unbelievably energetic and competent woman. Indeed, the qualities and abilities of this woman make one wonder whether the proper answer to the opening question, "A noble woman, who can find?" is "No one, because she doesn't exist."

~ Tremper Longman III  
Baker Commentary on the Old Testament

This is not one specific woman but an ideal, a paragon of female virtues. These virtues are essentially shared by the ideal man described elsewhere.

~ Adele Berlin  
The Jewish Study Bible

The wife of noble character captures the ideals of wisdom that have filled the book. More is going on here than a description of the ideal wife. In general it appears that the woman of Proverbs 31 is a symbol of wisdom.

~ Allen P. Ross  
Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary

It is probable that the passage does not merely sum up the ideal wife but also the ideals of wisdom, to be pursued by all people.

~ K.T. Aitken  
The Oxford Bible Commentary

Here we learn that wisdom is meant to become an integral and unconscious part of life, not simply left at the level of the cerebral, of self-development. The necessary self-centredness of the acquisition of understanding and wisdom is challenged and balanced by an outward, exterior focus.

~ Alison Le Cornu  
The IVP Women's Bible Commentary

**Those who find me find life, and the Lord will be pleased with them.  
~ Ms. Wisdom, Proverbs 8:35**