

The woman of valour – Eshet chayil – Proverbs 31



¹⁰A woman of valour who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.

¹¹Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.

¹²She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.

¹³She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.

¹⁴She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.

¹⁵She gets up while it is still night;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.

¹⁶She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.

¹⁸She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.

¹⁹In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

²⁰She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.

^{21a}When it snows, she has no fear for her household;

^{21b}for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

²²She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

²³Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.

^{25a}She is clothed with strength and dignity;

^{25b}she can laugh at the days to come.

²⁶She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

²⁷She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹'Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.'

³⁰Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

³¹Honour her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Chiasm
(mirroring)

Ish gibor chayil