

“SUPER HEROES...WONDER WOMEN” – PART ONE

Proverbs 31:1-9

A. The Mother's IDENTITY (31:1-2)

1. The ROYALTY of her son (v1)
 - a. These words are attributed to king **Lemuel**
 - b. Jewish legend believes this to be **Solomon**
2. The RELATIONSHIP to her son (v2)
 - a. She **DELIVERED** him
 - b. She **DEDICATED** him
 - c. She **DIRECTED** him

B. The Mother's INSTRUCTIONS (31:3-9)

1. The WARNING of the king's mothers (31:3-7)
 - a. A warning concerning WOMEN (v3)
 - 1) The mother understands that with the **position** of king comes many temptations that destroy
 - 2) The term “give your **strength**” refers to illicit sexual activity
 - 3) The mother repeats the fact that **sexual** immorality destroys people
 - b. A warning concerning WINE (v4-7)
 - 1) The MISUSE of alcohol (v4-5)

- a) This is not **intended** to be the final say on alcohol
- b) This is speaking of the **misuse** of alcohol
- c) The drinking of wine leads to **perversion** of justice (see Isaiah 5:22, 23)
- d) The king should use his **power** for his people not for his own pleasure

2) The MEDICINE on alcohol (v6-7)

- a) Wine was used as an **anesthetic** to deaden physical pain (Example of Timothy, 1 Timothy 5:23 and Jesus, Matthew 27:34)
- b) The mother could be **cynically** saying that though others use these as an escape route from reality, the king should not

2. The WISH of the king's mother (31:8-9)

- a. The DIRECTION involved
 - 1) The **mute** = Those who are **unable** to plead their own case
 - 2) The **unfortunate** = The idea of being **destitute**
 - 3) The **afflicted and needy** = **Humble** people needing physical help
- b. The DUTY involved
 - 1) “Open his mouth” = to **speak** up for; A king who defends those who cannot defend themselves will be seen as just
 - 2) He is to judge **fairly** in spite of social class