

What does Superwoman really look like? (31:12-17)

She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. She is like merchant ships; she brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

THE TEXT (NASB)

She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. She is like merchant ships; she brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. KJV - Proverbs 31:12

INTRODUCTION



Superwoman!

In the comic strips she flies around with a cape. In real life she may wear an apron, but her main focus is not cooking. She is an amazing wife, mom, and **household** manager with **good** business sense too. She is totally focused on making her family and household successful. She demonstrates loyalty, consistency, stamina, diligence, and initiative.

Busy as a beaver, when does she start her training and will she burn-out?

Read More About Superwoman

- Proverbs 31:12-17 - What does Superwoman really look like?
- Proverbs 31:18-24 - [How does Superwoman help society?](#)
- Proverbs 31:25-29 - [How does Superwoman lead?](#) (Deals with single women.)
- Proverbs 31:30 - [From where does Superwoman get her super powers?](#)



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COMMENTARY

Remember first of all that the text is a poem, written as a Hebrew acrostic, where each subsequent sentence begins with the following letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Perhaps it also rhymed in Hebrew, but I have not yet been able to determine that. The point is this: It likely does not describe one real woman, but presents the characteristics of a wonderful woman and wife.

A Life Long Blessing



This is her mission statement:

I have been created wonderfully in God's image to be a helper for my man. My first obligation under God is the success of my husband.

She does him good all the days of her life—even before marriage. In other words she prepares to be a professional homemaker by learning valuable home management skills well before she knows her future husband. Furthermore, she keeps herself pure for him. This means avoiding all physical intimacy outside of marriage.¹ Such a strategy takes faith and makes her a desirable prize for any eligible man.

Her extreme loyalty after marriage makes divorce a non-option. Indirectly, the text speaks to the permanence of marriage. It implies that with such a wonderful wife, no husband in his right mind would ever want to divorce her. She would remain with him all the days of her life, as long as they both are living, not just all the days of a comfortable marriage.

Diligent and Entrepreneurial



She is not the type who talks a lot and works little. She keeps her mind and *her hands* busy, and has no time for idle chit chat and gossip. Even though she has **maidens**, she herself likely works harder than her servant-girls. As every successful manager knows, effective leadership requires planning and forethought.



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~~Before she considers a field and buys it.~~ She first determines if she can make a profit. Is the field good for farming or is it a slough? She's good at business - an entrepreneur. Although she is focused on her family her interests go well beyond her house itself. Note that she **plants a vineyard from her earnings** rather than using debt and external financing. She is a developer, not content to merely speculate on raw land. She gathers the capital and then provides the labour. She is looking for annual income as well as a potential gain in the land value since developed land is worth more than raw land. The field may not be agricultural. It could be any business venture. For my wife, it was reselling organic grains and kitchen equipment to other professional homemakers.

Anyone who thinks that a godly woman limits herself to work in the kitchen or the home itself does not have the full picture. She is aggressive and ambitious for the welfare of her entire household. She is not afraid of work.

A Champion



Olympic athletes usually don't burn out, but they live very disciplined lives. They start training early, when they are young. To maintain such a rigorous schedule a woman is in top shape. She's no cream puff! She achieves great feats yet without self-destruction. She trains and works like a champion. She dresses **herself with strength and makes her arms strong**. All muscle building is incremental. It takes time and repetition. But there's a secret.

The key to self development for ultra-high achievement is not in self but in God. This is counter-intuitive. In other words, the way to incredible success is not to focus on your strengths or on your weaknesses, but on the LORD who supplies both natural and supernatural blessing and deliverance. Being a superwoman is not easy and no one can achieve these lofty goals in their own strength! Nor is superwoman born that way, however, every woman has the potential to become a superwoman.

The first step is to acknowledge our inadequacies and need for help outside of ourselves. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor (beggars) in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:4). In other words, if you sense that you need help, ASK FOR IT!



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OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

Jesus was fully God but also fully man.

Except for His brief transfiguration on the mountain top (Matthew 17:2) when His radiance as God shone through, by all external appearances Jesus seemed to be ordinary man. Yet, He was unlike any man who ever lived before or since, because Jesus was flawless (Hebrews 4:15, John 8:46, John 19:6, Mark 7:37).

He alone is the key to becoming a true champion. As long as people seek the LORD, they do well (Isaiah 45:22, 2 Chronicles 26:5).

APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Make some progress in your financial health—even if it's small—daily. *This means every day!*
- Find out - [How does Superwoman help society?](#)
- Work on improving your physical fitness as you work on your financial fitness.
- Listen to this [45m audio clip by Dr. Jason DeRouchie](#).
- Ask yourself, “Are there any new strategies I should implement to help my hubby/family?”*

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take now? Ask Him.

* As recommended by Priscilla Lipp.



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KEY WORDS

entrepreneur, homemaking, income, Superwoman, business, accounting, investments, bf serving others

ILLUSTRATION

Who is Prudent Pauline?



Prudent Pauline is a planner. She looks before she leaps, she thinks before she speaks. Her favourite mottos are: "Haste makes waste," "brains over brawn," and "don't jump to conclusions."

When Pauline first heard that famous maxim: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step," she said NO! It begins with a good map. The map must be studied and the best route plotted. Consider road conditions, terrain, rest stops, refuelling, hostile territory, expected weather, travelling companions, clothing, supplies, and many more factors, including (if necessary) a guide.

She has studied the wisdom of Solomon and even helped teach him a thing or two. Solomon wrote these words about 3,000 years ago in honour of Prudent Pauline. "Whatever your hand finds to do (no matter what you are doing) do it with all your might (give it your full ability and energy) for there is no activity or planning or wisdom after you die—it will be too late." Pauline says, "First comes wisdom, then comes planning (her favourite activity), and then comes activity."

Pauline makes the time to do tax planning. She does a work plan every day. She uses a day



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~~timer or planner to assign priorities to her activities. She and Diligent Daniel are an incredible pair. Pauline does all her homework before she starts an activity.~~



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FOOTNOTES

1. Gender Issues: The School of Issachar- a Division of Compass Call - Alberta Canada (September 2015), by Christian Klaue

