



-- **Proverbs 31 is a type of poetry called an ACROSTIC**

- Each line begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet,
- This acrostic poem points to verse 30, which urges readers to praise God for women who fear the Lord.

1.) Biblical womanhood begins with the FEAR of the Lord.

-- **What does it mean to fear the Lord?** (Proverbs 10:9)

- Exodus 20:18-20
 - Moses first tells the Israelites not to be **AFRAID** and then urges them to fear the Lord.
 - There is one type of fear that will make them fall and yet another type of fear that will make them strong.
 - Fear of God's wrath against sin should never cause us to flee from Him, but to draw near to Him and receive mercy.
- God is the strength of those who draw near to Him, yet a terror to those who flee (Psalm 139:7-12).
- The fear of the Lord is holy **HATRED** for the thought of fleeing out of God's fellowship into the way of sin (Isaiah 8:13).

-- **Not only is the fear of the Lord wise, but it also brings BLESSING** (Psalm 25:14, 31:19, 34:7, 103:11-13, 33:18, 147:11).

- A proper fear of the Lord brings great hope in Him, and to have great hope, one must fear the Lord.

-- **The woman who fears the Lord puts all her HOPE in God and patiently waits upon Him.**

-- For her, the notion of fleeing out of God's fellowship and into the way of sin is a path too terrible and terrifying to pursue.

2.) A woman who fears the LORD is to be PRAISED

-- These verses are not talking about worship, of course, but about encouragement, appreciation, and thanksgiving.

-- Be glad for the godly women in your life, and encourage them today!

-- **Let this praise begin with HUSBANDS**

-- A woman who fears the Lord will bring joy to her husband if he is not too thickheaded to notice.

-- Be sure to let her know that you praise God for her.

-- **Let the celebration continue with the CHILDREN**

-- Of all the gifts we could give our mothers today, few if any will be appreciated more than a sincere statement of our love and appreciation from their children.

-- **Few people are as consistently MISERABLE as those who have no encouragement in their hearts to offer others.**

-- Wake up, and see how much better it feels to live a life of encouragement and praise! (Ephesians 5:14)

-- This Mother's Day and every day, let us praise God for the gift of the godly women in our lives!