## A High Value of a Good Wife (v. 10)

ℵ A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

#### **B** Husband Benefited by Wife (vv. 11-12)

 $\square$  The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

I She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

## C Wife Works Hard (vv. 13-19)

**¬** She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

 $\square$  She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.

1 She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant girls.

She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

 $\sqcap$  She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.

🗅 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

' She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle

## **D** Wife Gives to the Poor (v. 20)

 $\supset$  She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.

#### E No Fear of Weather (v. 21a)

 $\stackrel{}{\succ}$  She is not afraid for her household when it snows,

#### F Household Clothed in Crimson (v. 21b)

for all her household are clothed in crimson.

#### G Personal Coverings and Clothing (v. 22)

▷ She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

# → H Public Respect for Husband (v. 23)

1 Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.

## G' Sells Garments and Sashes (v. 24)

O She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes.

## F' Wife Clothed in Dignity (v. 25a)

*v* Strength and dignity are her clothing

#### E' No Fear of Future (v. 25b)

and she laughs at the time to come

#### D' Wife Speaks Wisdom (v. 26)

 $\blacksquare$  She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue

## C' Wife Works Hard (v. 27)

She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

# B' Children Praise Wife (vv. 28-29)

 $\overrightarrow{P}$  Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her.

⊂ "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

# A' High value of a good wife (v. 30-31)

Ü Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

 $\overline{a}$  Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

# דhe Capable Wife (אֶשֶׁת־חַיָּל)†

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NJPS)

FOCAL

POINT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> Prepared by Tyler F. Williams (2003).