

Proverbs 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.

Analysis

A gracious woman retains honor, and strong men retain riches. The parallelism suggests that character (grace) brings honor just as strength brings wealth. The woman of grace (chen - favor, kindness) maintains respect and reputation. This verse values feminine virtue while acknowledging masculine strength, recognizing different contributions of men and women to society's welfare.

Historical Context

Anticipates the virtuous woman portrait (ch.31). Ancient societies valued women's grace and men's strength as complementary virtues contributing to household and community flourishing.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What character qualities are you cultivating that will retain honor?
2. How do you value both grace and strength appropriately in yourself and others?

Interlinear Text

עֲשֵׂרָה: יְתַמְּכוּ | עֲרֵיזִים | כִּבְשׁוּ וְדִינְמָכִים | אֲשֶׁת
woman A gracious men retain honour and strong men retain riches
H802 H2580 H8551 H3519 H6184 H8551 H6239

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:42 (Parallel theme): But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

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