

# Proverbs 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

## Analysis

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A virtuous wife crowns her husband—she brings him honor and joy. The contrast with rottenness in bones shows marriage's power to bless or curse. This elevates women's dignity and influence while warning against ungodly unions. The Proverbs 31 woman exemplifies this crown of virtue.

## Historical Context

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In patriarchal culture, this proverb remarkably affirms women's dignity and significant impact on family wellbeing. A godly wife's worth far exceeded legal and social status.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do you honor the godly character of your spouse or others who crown you with virtue?
2. What virtues should you cultivate to bring honor to your family?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּעֵמָת יְיָ אֲשֶׁת  
בְּעֵמָת יְיָ אֲשֶׁת  
woman A virtuous is a crown to her husband is as rottenness in his bones  
H802 H2428 H5850 H1167 H7538 H6106

מִבִּשָּׁה:

but she that maketh ashamed

H954

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 14:30** (Parallel theme): A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

**Proverbs 14:1** (Parallel theme): Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

**1 Corinthians 11:11** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

**Proverbs 21:9** (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

**Proverbs 21:19** (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

**1 Corinthians 11:7** (Parallel theme): For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.