

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

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

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

אִשָּׁת	חַיִּיל	עֹטֶרֶת	בַּעַלָּהּ	וְכִרְקָב	בְּעֲצָמוֹתָיו
woman	A virtuous	is a crown	to her husband	is as rottenness	in his bones
H802	H2428	H5850	H1167	H7538	H6106

מִבִּישָׁה:

but she that maketh ashamed
H954

Additional Cross-References

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.