

Proverbs 31:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

Analysis

King Lemuel's 'prophecy' (Hebrew 'massa'—oracle) that his mother taught him. Like Agur (chapter 30), Lemuel's identity is uncertain, but his mother's wisdom is preserved in Scripture. This demonstrates God using maternal instruction to convey truth. Reformed theology values the mother's teaching role (Proverbs 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:5). Godly mothers shape children's theology and ethics. This introduction to Lemuel's mother's counsel emphasizes family as primary context for transmitting divine wisdom.

Historical Context

Mothers in ancient Israel bore responsibility for children's early moral and religious instruction. Lemuel's mother's wisdom being preserved as Scripture elevates maternal teaching's importance in covenant community.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you value and receive wisdom from godly mothers and female mentors?
2. If you're a mother, how seriously do you take your role in teaching children God's truth?
3. What does this verse teach about family as primary vehicle for transmitting biblical wisdom?

Interlinear Text

דְּבָרֵי	לִמְּוִיָּה ל	מֶלֶךְ	בְּשֵׁן א	אֲשֶׁר	יִסֵּב תוֹ	אִמּוֹ:
The words	Lemuel	of king	the prophecy	H834	taught	that his mother
H1697	H3927	H4428	H4853		H3256	H517

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 6:20 (Word): My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

2 Timothy 1:5 (Parallel theme): When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Proverbs 1:8 (Word): My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: