

Proverbs 31:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

Analysis

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her—The eshet chayil (אֶשֶׁת חַיִל, woman of valor) begins not with her industry but with trustworthiness. The Hebrew batach (בָּטָח, to trust/rely upon) describes confident security. Her husband's heart (לב, lev)—the seat of will and wisdom—can rest in her character. **He shall have no need of spoil** (לֹא שָׁלָל, shalal, plunder/gain) means he need not seek gain through violence or exploitation because her economic wisdom provides sufficiently.

Trust is the foundation of covenant relationship—between God and Israel, Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:25-27). The virtuous woman mirrors the trustworthiness of God Himself who 'keeps covenant and steadfast love' (Deuteronomy 7:9). This is not mere economic competence but covenant faithfulness embodied in daily life.

Historical Context

In ancient patriarchal economies, wives managed household resources while husbands engaged in public/agricultural affairs. A trustworthy wife was essential to family survival—betrayal through laziness or adultery could destroy the household. This trustworthiness was covenantal, not contractual.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does trustworthiness in 'small things' (finances, time, commitments) reflect the character of the covenant-keeping God?
2. In what ways might you be requiring others to 'need spoil' by your unreliability or poor stewardship?
3. How does Christ's absolute trustworthiness ('he who promised is faithful,' Hebrews 10:23) shape your understanding of Christian character?

Interlinear Text

לֹא־יָשַׁלְל בְּעֵל־הָבָטָח
doth safely trust H982 The heart H3820 of her husband H1167 of spoil H3808

בְּתִמְךָרִי:
in her so that he shall have no need
H2637

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