

# Proverbs 31:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

## Analysis

**She considereth a field, and buyeth it**—The Hebrew zamam (זָמַם, to consider/plan) implies careful deliberation, not impulsive acquisition. **With the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard** (מְפִרִי כְּפִיָּה נָתַעַת קָרֵם) —she funds the purchase from her own earnings (pri, פַּרִי, fruit), demonstrating both independent economic agency and long-term investment wisdom. Vineyards took years to mature, requiring patient capital allocation.

This shatters reductionist readings that confine women to narrow domestic roles. The eshet chayil is a real estate investor, agricultural entrepreneur, and strategic planner. Her economic activity flows from covenant stewardship—managing creation's resources for generational blessing. This anticipates believers as co-heirs with Christ, stewarding His kingdom resources (Romans 8:17). Godly dominion (Genesis 1:28) includes women's full economic participation.

## Historical Context

Women in ancient Israel could own property and engage in commerce (though legal systems varied). Archaeological evidence shows women as merchants, artisans, and landowners. This verse reflects actual economic practice, not mere idealization. Vineyard investment was culturally significant—wine for covenant meals, trade, and joy (Psalm 104:15).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse challenge cultural assumptions about women's economic roles—does biblical wisdom support female entrepreneurship and investment?
2. What does 'considering a field' (careful due diligence) teach about stewardship decisions—are you investing resources with prayerful wisdom?
3. How does planting a vineyard (long-term investment requiring patience) counter contemporary consumerism and short-term thinking?

## Interlinear Text

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יְמַלֵּת הָ	שְׁדָה	וַיִּתְקַبֵּחַ הַזֶּה	מְפִרְבֵּל	בְּפָנָי	בְּעָמָד
<b>She considereth</b>	<b>a field</b>	<b>and buyeth</b>	<b>it with the fruit</b>	<b>of her hands</b>	<b>she planteth</b>
H2161	H7704	H3947	H6529	H3709	H5193

כָּרְמָה  
a vineyard  
H3754

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 13:44** (Parallel theme): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

**Song of Solomon 8:12:** My vineyard, which is mine, is before me: thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.

