

Proverbs 31:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

Analysis

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple—

Continuing the *u* (shin) line, this verse describes *marvadim* (coverings/quilts) and *shesh v'argaman* (fine linen and purple). While verse 21 emphasized her household's welfare, verse 22 shows she doesn't neglect herself. Purple dye, extracted laboriously from *murex* snails, signified wealth and status (Judges 8:26, Esther 8:15, Luke 16:19).

This balance refutes ascetic contempt for beauty and appropriate self-care. The *eshet chayil* is neither vain nor self-neglecting—she adorns herself fittingly, reflecting her household's prosperity. Proverbs affirms material blessings as God's good gifts when held rightly (3:9-10, 10:22). Her fine clothing honors her husband (v.23) and reflects the dignity of her character, not empty ostentation.

Historical Context

In ancient culture, clothing signified social status and family honor. A wife's appearance reflected on her husband's standing in the community. Fine textiles like linen (from Egypt) and purple-dyed fabrics represented significant wealth and were appropriate for respected families, not wasteful luxury.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance appropriate self-care and dignity with avoiding vanity or materialism?
2. What does it mean to accept material blessings as God's gifts without making them idols?
3. In what ways might neglecting yourself actually dishonor the household and calling God has given you?

Interlinear Text

מְרִבֵּד יָם	עֲשֶׂתָּהּ	לָהּ	שִׁשׁ	וְאַרְגָּמָן	לְבוּשָׁהּ:
herself coverings of tapestry	She maketh	H0	is silk	and purple	her clothing
H4765	H6213		H8336	H713	H3830

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:8 (Parallel theme): And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Proverbs 7:16 (Parallel theme): I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

Genesis 41:42 (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;