

# Proverbs 31:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

## Analysis

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**She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant**—The *ו* (shin) line concludes with commercial enterprise. Sadin (fine linen) refers to quality undergarments or sheets, while chagor (girdles/sashes) were essential clothing items and trade goods. The verbs emphasize active commerce: she makes (ta'aseh), sells (timkor), and delivers (natenah) to the Kena'ani (Canaanite/merchant).

This verse demolishes any notion that biblical womanhood precludes economic agency. The eshet chayil produces goods, negotiates sales, and engages in commercial transactions. Her enterprise isn't rebellion against domestic calling but its fruit—household management generates marketable surplus. Proverbs envisions competent women as economic actors whose industry blesses family and community. This requires business acumen, not just domestic skill.

## Historical Context

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In the ancient economy, home production and commercial trade were integrated, not separate spheres. Women commonly sold surplus household products—textiles, food, pottery—in local markets and to traveling merchants. This commercial activity was essential to household prosperity and entirely compatible with domestic responsibilities.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How might you cultivate entrepreneurial thinking to create value beyond mere consumption?
2. What skills or knowledge could you develop to contribute economically to your household or community?
3. In what ways does Proverbs' vision of economic agency challenge both traditionalist restrictions and feminist resentments?

## Interlinear Text

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סָד יָן	עַ שְׂתָה	וּתְמַלֵּךְ	אֶת חֲגֹרֹת	וְתִתֵּן	לְכַנְעָנִי:
<b>fine linen</b>	<b>She maketh</b>	<b>and selleth</b>	<b>girdles</b>	<b>it and delivereth</b>	<b>unto the merchant</b>
H5466	H6213	H4376	H2289	H5414	H3669

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 27:16** (Parallel theme): Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making: they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds, purple, and brodered work, and fine linen, and coral, and agate.