

Proverbs 31:1-9

The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:

² What, my son?

And what, son of my womb?

And what, son of my vows?

³ Do not give your strength to women,
Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

⁴ *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel,

It is not for kings to drink wine,

Nor for princes intoxicating drink;

⁵ Lest they drink and forget the law,

And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

⁶ Give strong drink to him who is perishing,

And wine to those who are bitter of heart.

⁷ Let him drink and forget his poverty,

And remember his misery no more.

⁸ Open your mouth for the speechless,

In the cause of all *who are* appointed to die.

⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously,

And plead the cause of the poor and needy.