

Proverbs 31:1-9

The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him:

² What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb?

What are you doing, son of my vows?

³ Do not give your strength to women,
your ways to those who destroy kings.

⁴ It is not for kings, O Lemuel,
it is not for kings to drink wine,
or for rulers to take strong drink,

⁵ lest they drink and forget what has been decreed
and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

⁶ Give strong drink to the one who is perishing,
and wine to those in bitter distress;

⁷ let them drink and forget their poverty
and remember their misery no more.

⁸ Open your mouth for the mute,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.