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LIGHTED WAY MINISTRIES News Magazine

The Ruby Woman

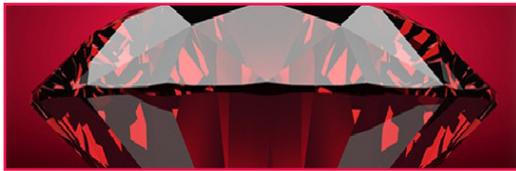




Lighted Way Ministries News Magazine
January-March, 2023

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The Lighted Way News Magazine



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Lighted Way Ministries News Magazine (January-March, 2023 Issue)

Lighted Way Ministries
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www.lightedway.org

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This news magazine is prayerfully designed to encourage you in a deeper walk with *Yahweh*. The articles focus on studies of the Word, Bible prophecy, current events, and ministry reports.



The Ruby Woman

Proverbs 31 Portrays the Ideal Woman...

Proverbs 31 is the best example of a virtuous wife and mother. The Proverbs 31 Woman possesses an impressive range of manual, commercial, administrative, and interpersonal skills. She is generous and caring. She is loving and dignified. She is good with money and makes excellent business decisions. And her talents and impact reach beyond herself, enhancing everything she touches. Her virtues increase her husband's reputation: "Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land" (v.23).

It is no wonder that every believing woman, for generations, has aspired to become her. And every Christian man has sought to marry her, from Biblical times. But, being honest, what mortal can live up to the epic model, given in Proverbs 31? Truly, attaining such an ideal is something that can only be achieved with the indwelling Spirit of Yahweh.

Proverbs 31 isn't only a lady's model, she is Christ's Bride—the pattern for us all! Here's what the Bible says about ***the Seven Traits of the Proverbs 31 Woman...***

THE RUBY WOMAN

Proverbs 31:10 — “Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...”

Who is the most beautiful woman in the world? The answer depends on whom you ask. The Internet answers this question by listing the names of women whom society deems most physically “beautiful”. Of course, this list changes from year-to-year. But defining beauty in this way truly cheapens the meaning of the word. For, if true beauty is based upon exterior qualities, it cannot last.

Contrastingly, Scripture teaches that true beauty is not lost with time. In fact, because the Bible defines true beauty by godly character, time—in Christ—only serves to increase it!

“It is not fancy hair, gold jewelry, or fine clothes that should make you beautiful. No, your beauty should come from inside you—the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. That beauty will never disappear. It is worth very much to God. It was the same with the holy women who lived long ago and followed God. They made themselves beautiful in that same way...” 1 Peter 3:3-5 ERV

So, if you ask the Bible to tell you who is the most beautiful woman in the world, you’ll get a surprising and resounding answer—the Bride of Christ is the most beautiful woman in the world!

“...Thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My Comeliness (beauty, glory),

which I had put upon thee, saith Yahweh God.” Ezekiel 16:13-14

What is the Glory of *Yah*, which is His “Comeliness”, that He uses to beautify the Bride? When Moses asked to behold the Glory of *Yahweh*, Scripture tells us that the Almighty made His Goodness pass before Moses (Exodus 33:18-19). The Glory of *Yahweh* is His lovely Character, which overflows with the beautiful Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)! This is the beauty which *Yahweh* reproduces in His people and—most completely—in the End-time Bride.

Thus, Heaven-defined versus earthly beauty are truly opposites. Earthly charm is outward and physical while Heavenly loveliness is inward and Spiritual. Earthly allure is self-centered, bringing glory to the pretty person. But Heavenly beauty is Christ-centered, bringing glory to *Yahweh*. Good looks are transient. But true beauty is timeless—Eternal!

True beauty is found in character qualities, epically exemplified in the End-time Bride of Christ. Every End-time believer is called to be among the Bride. For this reason, it is vitally important that we rightly identify and prayerfully seek *Yahweh’s* full “Comeliness” to be upon and within us, both individually and corporately.

In Scripture, the ideal, consummate, model of beauty is the Proverbs 31 Woman, also known as the Ruby Woman, described in Proverbs 31:10-31. For generations, every man wanted to find and marry her... (continued...)

In the Bible, Rubies Symbolize Virtue, Wisdom and the Bride of Christ



Wisdom is a vital characteristic of the saved. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the fear of *Yahweh* is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and understanding. Rubies are likened to wisdom, in Scripture. In addition to wisdom, *Yahweh’s* people are called into virtue, purity and holiness. In other words, as Scripture tells us in 2 Peter 1:3-10, the saved are being called to have the lovely Character of *Yahweh*.

RUBIES ARE SCRIPTURALLY COMPARED TO WISDOM:

- **Job 28:18** “No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.”
- **Proverbs 3:15** “She (wisdom) is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.”

RUBIES ARE SCRIPTURALLY COMPARED TO VIRTUE:

- **Lamentations 4:7** “Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies...”

In Proverbs 31:10, it says, “Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies...”

(continued from page 5)... But, what many believers have not known is that this perfect paradigm is not the pattern for a specific gender. The Proverbs 31 Woman portrays the End-time Bride of Christ! All who follow Messiah are embodied in this epic, Proverbs 31, Ruby Woman!

Proverbs 31 not only details the beautiful, Christ-like characteristics of His virtuous Bride, but it also tells of her joyful Judgment—the end result every believer may anticipate for living such a Spirit-filled, *Yahweh*-glorifying life:

“Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth *Yahweh*, she shall be praised.”

Proverbs 31:29-30

Believers often speak of how desirable it is to be counted among the First Fruits of *Yahweh*, who are the

144,000, also known as the Bride of Christ. We carefully read the short description of this group, found in Revelation:

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s Name written in their foreheads... These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the Throne of God.”

Revelation 14:1-5

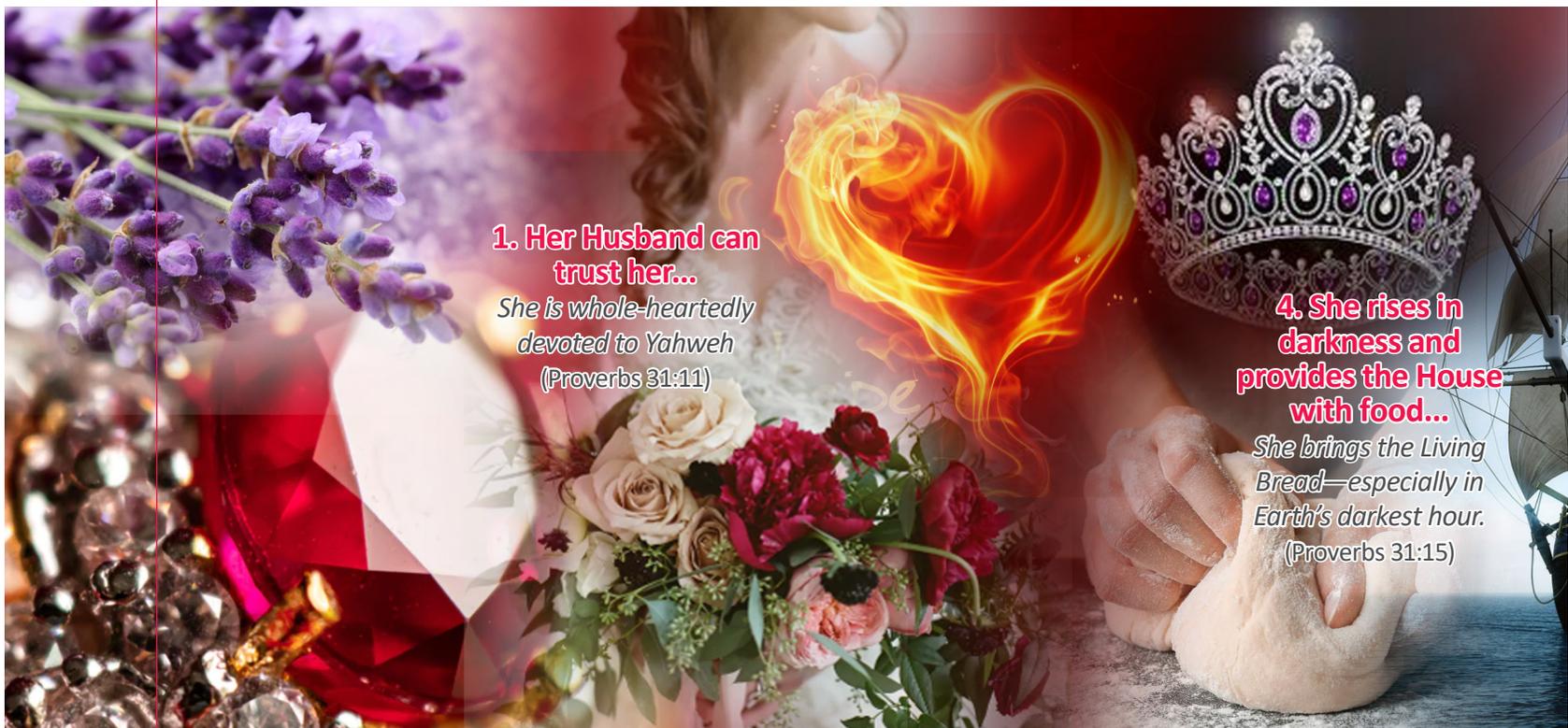
But the short list of the Bride’s characteristics, listed in Revelation 14 is more fully given in Proverbs 31! And it is here that we gain deeper

insights into the process of being made fit to be the Bride of Christ. Bearing this in mind, let us look at Proverbs 31, which is prayerfully designed to help us prepare for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

There are many spiritually meaningful symbols, used in Scripture, to represent the saved people of *Yahweh*—also known as Israel (a name representing character, rather than bloodline—Romans 2:29; John 8:33-37; Galatians 3:29). As we have already discussed, one symbol of God’s End-time people is the Bride. But, Israel is also represented in gemstones, which are present in the Foundation of the Heavenly Jerusalem and also were represented as the 12 stones on the breastplate of the high priest in ancient Israel.

From this perspective, certainly all twelve stones have spiritual

Seven Key Traits of the Ruby Woman



1. Her Husband can trust her...

She is whole-heartedly devoted to Yahweh
(Proverbs 31:11)

4. She rises in darkness and provides the House with food...

She brings the Living Bread—especially in Earth’s darkest hour.
(Proverbs 31:15)

significance to the Bride of Christ. But, one stone—used to represent Israel’s firstborn—is compared to the Bride of Christ in Proverbs 31: the ruby.

The Proverbs 31 woman is said to be even more valuable than rubies in Proverbs 31:10. Thus, the ruby gemstone has come to be so associated with the Proverbs 31 Woman, that she is sometimes called the Ruby Woman. But why a ruby?

When we think of the gemstone most associated with a bride and groom, we think of diamonds. Why is the Proverbs 31 Woman (Christ’s Bride) compared with rubies and not diamonds? In actuality, when diamonds are compared with rubies of the same size, rubies are more rare and valuable. This was true in ancient times as well. The Greek philosopher, Theophrastus, wrote of the ancient world’s value of rubies:

“There is also incombustible stone found about Miletum (an ancient city in Caria in Asia Minor)



that is of an angular shape, and sometimes regular hexangular; they call this also a carbuncle... They engrave seals: its colour is red, and of such a kind that when held against the sun, it resembles that of a burning coal. This stone is extremely valuable, one of a very small size being prized at forty aurei (pieces of gold)...”

(Theophrastus, *History of Stones*, 300 B.C., translated by J. Hill, 1774)

Carbuncle was a name anciently given to rubies, because many were imported from Carthage, as Pliny (a Roman philosopher and naturalist from

the time of Christ) documented in his book, *Natural History*, Book 37, XXV.

In the ancient world, as Theophrastus mentioned, some of the most noteworthy characteristics of the ruby were its engravability and its refraction of light into darkness. These notable, physical characteristics also bear spiritual significance, to the Bride.

In its normal state, the ruby is much too hard a stone to be used for engraving. Yet, ruby signet rings and engravings were used even into Roman times, as is shown in the photo below:

How was this possible for such a hard stone? As Leslie Hardinge explains, in his book *Stones of Fire*, heating a ruby, through directing sunlight at it through a lens, causes the stone to become soft and easy to engrave... (continued...)



3. She is like the merchants’ ships...
She bears the treasure of Truth to the world.
 (Proverbs 31:14)

5. She buys the field and plants the vineyard...
She spends her energy laboring for the Salvation of souls and works to grow spiritual Israel. (Proverbs 31:16)

7. Her candle does not go out by night...
She pursues Righteousness.
 (Proverbs 31:13)

6. She is strong and well-armed...
She is filled with the Holy Spirit and clothed in the Armor of Yah
 (Proverbs 31:17)

2. She seeks wool and flax...
She pursues Righteousness.
 (Proverbs 31:13)

(continued from page 7...) Significantly, final Israel (the saved people of *Yahweh*) are likened to fire-tried gold (Revelation 3:18) and to rubies (Proverbs 31:10). Gold is purified and perfected in fire. And rubies are softened to receive a signet mark upon them with heat. Similarly, it is in the heat of trials and adversity that *Yahweh* refines His people, purifies their characters, and softens their hearts to receive His lovely Likeness.

“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.”

Isaiah 48:10

The second characteristic of rubies, which the ancient world prized so highly was their light-refracting capabilities, which were especially lustrous, reflecting light into darkness. The fact that rubies lighted up when turned towards the sun gave rise to numerous legends about them, one of which goes back to the time of Noah and the Flood. Sir Walter Raleigh, in his *History of the World* (1614 AD) records the belief, anciently held by the Jews, that a ruby (carbuncle) hung within Noah’s Ark, reflecting the sunlight (when the dark rain clouds parted) and gave light to all within.

Whether this legend is true or not, is unknown, but the old story does serve to demonstrate that the ruby was anciently prized for its ability to shine in the dark. And this attribute is also praised among Greek writings. The Greeks had another name for the ruby, calling it “*luchnis*” or “*lychnites*” which means “light-giving stone”. As the Byzantine, Greek historian, Psellus wrote, “The Lychnites is a stone that gives the power of seeing in the dark, if hung around the neck...” (C.W. King, *Precious Stones and Precious Metals*, p 238).

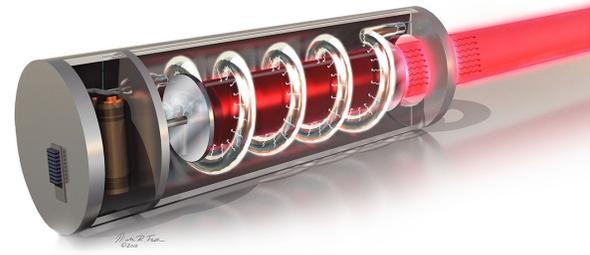
Even in modern times, the ruby’s qualities of refracting light have been known and appreciated. In fact, the first laser light was the ruby laser, invented by Theodore Maiman in 1960. Thus, using the ruby’s special attributes with reflecting light, the first concentration beam of the laser was developed. In 1969, the ruby laser (pictured on right) was used to measure the distance to the Moon. By measuring the time it took a pulse to travel to the Moon and back to Earth gave an indicator on the distance to the Moon.

The ruby’s special ability to reflect light, illuminating the darkness is yet another reason why God’s people are likened to rubies. In fact, the ruby is only one symbol of the saved that indicates this characteristic of the End-time Bride. The Bride is also likened to the moon, which reflects the light of the sun, illuminating the darkness of night. She is also likened to a candle, shining the Light of *Yahweh*’s Truth to a sin-darkened world.

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

In addition to the physical attributes of the ruby, which have been known and appreciated since ancient times, further spiritual significance for the End-time Bride can be found in the Bible. Scripturally, rubies represent wisdom and virtue, as is shown in the yellow panel on page 5. This is a deeper reason that the Bride of Christ is likened to rubies, as she is in



Proverbs 31:10 & 29:

“Who can find a *virtuous* woman? For her price is far above rubies... Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.”

The word “virtuous” or “virtue” is from the Hebrew word *chayil*, which means “valour” and “strength”. Most times, in Scripture, *chayil* refers to armies or mighty *men*. In fact, it is so akin to the “he-man”, valiant-warrior type that it seems strange to use such a masculine adjective to describe the pure Bride of Christ.

To our common way of thinking, brides are ingenuer, demure, chaste, gentle, lovely... And while gentleness certainly is a Fruit of the Spirit, this is not what is being indicated when the quintessential Proverbs 31 Woman is called “virtuous”. The Bride’s virtue is rightly compared with the strength of an army of war-like mighty men!

In Scripture, *Yahshua*’s Bride, called Jerusalem and Zion, is a strong and formidable force of righteousness. She is so formidable in fact, that prophecy tells us she comes against wickedness—and ultimately defeats it (*in the power of Yahweh*)—in the End of time! Consider the following Scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments, pertaining to the mighty virtue and spiritual warfare power (*in the Spirit*) of the people of *Yahweh*:

Micah 4:13—“Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine

horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and **thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto Yahweh...**

Habakkuk 3:19—“**Yahweh God is my strength** (*virtue*), and He will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places...”

Luke 8:46—“And *Yahshua* said, Somebody hath touched Me: for **I perceive that virtue** (*the Power of Yah*) **is gone out of Me.**”

Philippians 4:8—“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; **if there be any virtue** (*spiritually strengthening*), and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

2 Peter 1:3-5—“According as His divine Power... of Him that hath **called us to glory and virtue**: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious Promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust...”

Yahshua’s End-time Bride is no proverbial damsel in distress, nor is she a defenseless shrinking violet! In personally experiencing victory over sin she is demonstrating virtue. In coming against the powers of darkness, for the saving of souls and the glory of *Yahweh*’s holy Name she is acting in virtue. By presenting the healing power of *Yahweh* she is living in virtue! Truly the Proverbs 31 Woman is a mighty warrior of Heavenly

virtue, taking on the powers of darkness, in the Name of *Yahweh* and defeating them! To the virtuous Bride, comes the Heavenly charge: “...Be strong in *Yahweh*, and in the power of His Might.”

Ephesians 6:10

In Proverbs 31, there are seven main character traits of the virtuous, ruby-Woman, who will be the End-time Bride of Christ. They are (*also see the Seven Traits of the Ruby Woman panel on the bottom of pages 6-7*):

1. Her Husband can trust her... She does Him good...

“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”

Proverbs 31:11-12

“Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.”

Proverbs 31:23

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

Proverbs 31:28

2. She seeks wool and flax...

“She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.”

“She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.”

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.”

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

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

3. She is like the merchants’ ships...

“She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar.”

Proverbs 31:14

“She perceiveth that her merchandise is good...”

Proverbs 31:18

4. She rises in darkness and provides the House with food...

“She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.”

Proverbs 31:15

“She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.”

Proverbs 31:20

“She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.”

Proverbs 31:27

5. She buys the field and plants the vineyard...

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

Proverbs 31:16

6. She is strong and well-armed...

“She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.”

Proverbs 31:17

“Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.”

“Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.”

Proverbs 31:30

7. Her candle does not go out by night...

“...Her candle goeth not out by night.”

Proverbs 31:18

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”

Proverbs 31:26

A deeper study of these seven traits reveals precious depths of Truth regarding what *Yahweh* is looking for and working to produce in His people... (*continued...*)

(continued from page 9...) As we prayerfully delve into each of the seven character traits of the Ruby Woman, we will find a clearer understanding of what it means to be Messiah's Bride and what we must become, by the Grace and Power of *Yahweh*. With this in mind, let us Scripturally examine each of the seven traits of the Ruby Woman, starting with the first:

1. Her Husband can trust her... She does Him good...

The first trait of the Bride of Christ is that she is trustworthy—but not just, in general. More specifically, her Husband can trust her with His Heart!

"The heart of her Husband doth safely trust in her, so that He shall have no need of spoil. She will do Him good and not evil all the days of her life." Proverbs 31:11-12

Believers are always talking about the trustworthiness of *Yahweh*. But how often do we think of *being* trustworthy to *Him*? This idea seems strange! In fact, the thought that *Yahweh* might be looking for trustworthy people is as foreign to us as blessing God. We ask for *His* blessing to be upon us. But we don't think of blessing *Him*. Yet David wrote, "**Bless *Yahweh*, O my soul.** And all that is within me, bless His holy Name!" Ps 103:1

When we stop to think about it, we must admit that this way of thinking is deeply self-centered. Yet, our expectation of receiving good from *Yahweh*, without considering reciprocity, is so pervasive that it functions as an undetected undercurrent, impacting our relationship with *Yahweh* in ways we do not comprehend.

What does it mean for the Bride to be one in whom her Husband's Heart

can safely trust? *Yahweh* is looking for people who are safe to save! The Plan of Redemption involves putting a final end to sin. Nahum 1:9 tells us that "affliction" will not rise up a second time. Without stripping free will from His creation, how can *Yahweh* make such a strong and assuring Promise? Once the kingdom of hell is destroyed and the earth made new, how can we know that sentient beings will never again choose to rebel against their Creator?

The only way to guarantee that another rebel won't arise in the distant days of sinless eternity is to be certain that every person loves *Yahweh*, wholeheartedly. Love is the fulfilling of the Law (Romans 13:10). If we love Him, we will keep His Commandments (John 14:15)—which is the opposite of rebellion (1 John 5:2). In perfect love, there is no fear of anything (1 John 4:18), because there is no risk of rebellion in perfect love. Thus, *Yahweh* is seeking people to save who are safe to bring into the sinless Eternity! This is why *Yahweh* seeks our whole-hearted devotion.

"For the Eyes of *Yahweh* run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..."

2 Chronicles 16:9

Biblically, a "perfect heart" is not an "I've-never-sinned" heart. After all, every human has "sinned and come short of the glory of *Yah*" (Romans 3:23). Scripture defines a "perfect heart" as having whole-hearted devotion to *Yahweh*.

Only a few biblical personalities are said to possess whole-hearted devotion to *Yahweh*. What qualifies such a description? How can one develop this attribute? Who were

these individuals? All were exceptional, yet ordinary people. They are the kind of people God continues to look for and calls us to emulate. The list of those who possessed whole-hearted love for *Yahweh* reads like a "who's who" in the spiritual "hall of faith":

- Noah was called "righteous and perfect in his generations" and built a means of salvation for all who would listen. (Gen. 6:9)
- Mary Magdalene followed Christ with whole-hearted devotion in her worship, attentiveness to His teaching, faithfulness at His Crucifixion and stalwart declaration of His Resurrection to His unbelieving followers.
- Job was declared to be a "perfect and upright man, one that fears God and shuns evil" (Job 1:8)
- Because of Hannah's unwavering commitment and sacrificial devotion, she was given a miracle son, through whom her nation was turned to God in a single generation (1 Sam. 1 & 2)
- Hezekiah said, "I have walked before You faithfully and with whole-hearted devotion" (Is. 38:3)

What about Abraham and his wife Sarah, Esther and Mordecai, or many New Testament forerunners, world changers, fearless defenders and promoters of the faith? The Bible says of Jehoshaphat, "His heart was devoted to the ways of *Yahweh*..." 2 Chronicles 17:6.

The Hebrew word often translated as "devotion" has the sense of "being complete or full, whole and wholesome, innocent, and having integrity." It also stands for "truth, virtue and uprightness."

The person the Bible describes as having whole-hearted devotion above

all others is, beyond a doubt, king David. Every succeeding king and ruler would be measured by the devotion found in this godly man. David was a young shepherd tending “a few sheep”—out of sight, unnoticed, and insignificant by all earthly perspective. In obscurity, however, David’s heart became a *Yah*-centered, container of radical devotion to the one and only true God!

Even David’s son Solomon, the wisest of all men, did not follow his father’s example of whole-hearted devotion to *Yahweh*,

“...his (Solomon’s) heart was not fully devoted to *Yahweh* his God, as the heart of David his father had been.”

1 Kings 11:4

David recorded the secret to developing whole-hearted devotion to *Yahweh*, as the Ruby Woman will have:

“I will behave myself wisely (consider Your Instruction) in a perfect (whole-hearted) way... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward (false) heart (way of thinking/feeling) shall depart from me: I will not know (have an intimate relationship with) a wicked (evil) person.”

Psalms 101:2-4

Of course the essence of whole-hearted devotion to *Yahweh* is embodied in the *Shema*, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which is the part of *Torah* that is to be put upon the *Mezzuzah* at the doorposts of our homes. It is also represented in the blue of the *tzitzit*. It defines whole-hearted devotion:

“Hear (*shema*), O Israel (the saved people of *Yahweh*): *Yahweh* our God is one (meaning: He—alone—is God, He is first, He is supreme, He is solely Sovereign)... And thou shalt love *Yahweh* thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5



According to *Torah*, we are to think of the *Shema* when we first wake up, in our daily commutes, when we have relaxation time in our homes, and when we lie down to sleep at night. By doing this, day-by-day, the professing people of *Yahweh* grow into whole-hearted devotion, preparing for the Wedding!

So, the first of the seven characteristics of the Proverbs 31 Bride is that she loves *Yahweh*, as described in the *Shema*, with all her heart, soul and strength. As a result, she is truly whole-heartedly devoted to *Yahweh* and is therefore safe to save! Also, because of her supreme love for *Yahweh*, she emulates His lovely Character (by His Grace). Thus, she is an effective ambassador, promoting her Husband and causing Him to be well-known, upholding His good Name.

“Her Husband is known in the gates, when He sitteth among the elders of the land.”

Proverbs 31:23

“Her children (converts from her testimony) arise up, and call her blessed; her Husband also, and He praiseth her.”

Proverbs 31:28

2. She seeks wool and flax...

The next trait of the Bride of Christ is that she is pursues righteousness, which is what Proverbs 31:13 means, when it says:

“She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.”

Proverbs 31:13

In Bible times, flax was processed to make linen. The ancient method of processing flax into linen was by soaking and then laying the flax out to dry. It was then combed and further processed until it was refined enough to form linen fiber

threads. But what does the pursuit of flax and linen have to do with the Bride of Christ?

Linen is a symbol of purity in Scripture, and it is recorded in the prophets that angelic beings appeared, wearing fine linen garments (Ezekiel 9-10; Daniel 10 and 12; and Revelation 15). Revelation also records that saints, slain as martyrs, are clothed in fine linen, representing righteousness and holiness. Notably also, the Sanctuary walls and priests’ clothes were made of white linen, which represents the Righteousness of Christ (Job 29:14; Isaiah 61:10). The saved people of *Yahweh* are clothed in His Righteousness:

“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.”

Revelation 19:8

“But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

The pursuit of Righteousness involves, not claiming *Yahshua* as one’s personal Saviour, but also living in *Torah*-obedience, according to the Will of *Yahweh*, for the future. While love for *Yahweh* is the first characteristic of the Ruby Woman, the second is deeply related to it. For seeking “wool” and “flax” is love in action, as it says in John 14 and 15:

“If ye love Me, keep My Commandments.”

John 14:15

“If ye keep My Commandments, ye shall abide in My Love...”

John 15:10

Not only does the Bride seek Righteousness for herself, she also helps others to find it and to be restored to the “Old Path” (Jeremiah 6:16)

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

Proverbs 31:24

(continued...)

(continued from page 11...) In fact the Bride will be quite industrious in the process of helping to equip others in righteous, *Torah*-centered living. And her priestly role as a *Torah*-teacher is represented as sewing work in Proverbs 31:

“She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.” Proverbs 31:19

One of the clearest and most beautiful portrayals of righteousness in Christ and righteous living is found in the Wilderness Sanctuary. Every cloth and piece of furniture within it represents Christ and His Righteousness, which is to be lived out in our lives.

White linen was not the only fabric used in the Sanctuary. Also scarlet, blue and purple were present in the special fabric of the doorway and in the veil. Scarlet, represents the Blood of Christ. The Bride’s intercessory work is shown in that part of her clothing ministry is helping others to be clothed in scarlet. Additionally, in being a part of the royal priesthood, purple also represents her role in Proverbs 31:

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.” Proverbs 31:21

“She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.” Proverbs 31:22

Thus, the second characteristic of the Proverbs 31 Bride is that she seeks first the Kingdom of *Yahweh* and His Righteousness. She performs the *Torah*-teaching, intercessory work of the priesthood, helping others to also walk the Old Path of Righteousness in Christ.

3. She is like the merchants’ ships...

The first two characteristics of the Ruby Woman are deeply connected with one another, as we have seen. *Torah*-



keeping is a demonstration of our love for *Yahweh*. Similarly, this chain-like relationship between the Proverbs 31 characteristics continues in the third description of the Bride:

“She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar.”

Proverbs 31:14

“She perceiveth that her merchandise is good...” Proverbs 31:18

The image of a merchant ship on the open sea has captured imaginations and inspired poetry for as long as sailing has existed. The majesty of a proud ship plowing through deep blue waves with sails unfurled seems to speak of going beyond the boundaries of life to brave unforeseen challenges in lands afar. But it is more than a romantic image. It is also a Biblical symbol. The ship has often been used to portray as the Church carrying its precious cargo to the farthest reaches of the world. In the story of Noah, the ship represents the Kingdom of God and is a symbol for salvation. As the Ark saved Noah and his family from God’s destruction of the Earth in judgment, so also do we find refuge and Salvation when we join the “ship” of God’s Kingdom.

The Bible also connects this nautical allegory to the plan of Salvation:

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the

righteousness which is according to faith.” Hebrews 11:7

The ship is directly linked to Israel (the saved people of *Yahweh*) because it is the ensign of the tribe of Zebulun, as both Jacob and Moses stated in Genesis 49:13 and Deuteronomy 33:18-19.

Merchant ships bring treasure to people, who might not otherwise have access to it. The treasure which the Bride brings to the world, in Proverbs 31, is the Fear of *Yahweh* (which is the beginning of wisdom) and the understanding of His Word (Proverbs 2:1-5 & Matthew 6:19-20). Notably also, the saved people



of *Yahweh* are represented as a ship in the constellation of *Tsiyon* (Zion), which came to be called Argo (Shauna Manfredine, *God's Amazing Star Secret*, p 164).

The third characteristic of the Bride of Christ, portrayed in her role as a "merchant ship" is evangelistic. She is carrying the Gospel to the world, which God's people will do just before the End of the world (Matthew 24:14). And that brings us to the fourth characteristic of the Bride, listed in Proverbs 31:

4. She rises in darkness and provides the House with food...

"She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens." Proverbs 31:15

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." Proverbs 31:20

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." Proverbs 31:27

The Proverbs 31 Woman provides others with meat, rising while it is night to make this necessary provision of food for herself, her household, and those who are needy in her sphere of influence. In Scripture, "food" or "bread" represent the Word of *Yahweh*.

"Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..." Jeremiah 15:16

In the New Testament, the word "meat" comes from the Greek word *broma* (Strong's #G1033), which means "the solid, deeper spiritual doctrines of the Word." But the Proverbs 31 reference doesn't only show the saved people of *Yahweh* bringing the "meat" of the Word—true doctrine—to a world, taken in by the doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1).

But what is the significance of Proverbs 31 mentioning that the Bride "rises in darkness" to provide the Household of *Yahweh* with "food"? Darkness, in Scripture, represents a time of adversity, trouble and even persecution. When the world is in "darkness", it is a time in which wickedness is prevailing and is even considered to be "good" (Isaiah 5:20). In other words, when Proverbs 31 indicates that the Ruby Woman will be providing spiritual meat in darkness, it means that *Yahweh's* people will be sharing Scriptural Truth with the world, in a time when it is most dangerous to do so and when Truth is the least likely to be well-received!

Darkness is certainly deepening in our world today! Even in "Christian" nations, sharing the Scriptural Truth is increasingly difficult and personally risky. The Bible is no longer viewed as the True Word of *Yahweh*, even among the majority of professing Christians! According to research from notable evangelical pollster, George Barna, released as part of a new endeavor with the Christian conservative advocacy organization, Family Research Council, today only a small fraction of Americans have a "Biblical Worldview".

To fully understand what this means, we must see how the poll defined this belief-system. According to the poll, a "Biblical Worldview" is believing:

"- that absolute moral Truth exists
- that such Truth is defined by the Bible
- that six specific Scriptural views are true, which are..."

The Six Beliefs of those with a Biblical Worldview:

1. Christ lived a sinless Life.
2. God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today.
3. Salvation is a gift from God that

everyone needs to accept.

4. Satan is real.
5. A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people.
6. The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings. (George Barna, Family Research Council)

The data results of this poll found that, 51% of American adults **claimed** to have a "Biblical Worldview". However, Barna noted that among this 51%, the greater majority did not believe the six defining views and also did not accept the Bible's say-so on various other doctrinal teachings. For example, of the 51%, 49% said that reincarnation was a possibility, after they die. Of course, reincarnation is an unbiblical doctrine, according to Hebrews 9:27 and Psalm 78:39. Perhaps even more concerning, the poll revealed only 33% believed that "human beings are born with a sinful nature and can only be saved from the consequences of sin by Jesus (*Yahshua*) Christ."

In the final data analysis, while 51% of American adults **claimed** to have a "Biblical Worldview, only 6% actually held these six defining beliefs and believed in basic Biblical doctrines! And, as shocking as this low percentage is in "Christian" America, the figure gets even smaller, when only millennials are polled. The Cultural Research Center revealed survey data, compiled in January of 2020, which showed that only 2% of millennials actually hold a Biblical Worldview even though 61% identify as "Christian". Belief in the Bible is almost extinct!

Sadly, losing our Biblical foundation has radically changed society! The doctrines of demons are gaining ground, creating the time of increasing "darkness" referenced in Proverbs 31.

(continued...)

(continued from page 13...) People with a Biblical Worldview possess radically different views on morality, hold divergent religious beliefs, and demonstrate vastly different lifestyle choices than do those who reject a Scriptural foundation. And since the Word of *Yahweh* is likened to Light (Psalm 119:105), those without the Bible are increasingly left in spiritual darkness.

But amidst this descending darkness, which will in the Last Days be worse than any prior time of wickedness in all history, Proverbs 31 shows that the Bride will not succumb to the darkness nor hide her spiritual food in some cave of the earth. Like Daniel and the three Hebrews, the Bride will be used of *Yahweh* to transform Babylon, not the other way around! And she will do this by “rising” in darkness, not hiding from it!

The fifth characteristic of the Ruby Woman deepens this concept further, showing just how far-reaching and effective will be the Bride’s “meat” providing ministry...

5. She buys the field and plants the vineyard...

“She considereth (*plans for*) a field, and buyeth (*works for and wins...*) it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.” Proverbs 31:16

According to Scripture, the field that the Bride is laboring to attain is the whole world (Matthew 13:38). And the vineyard represents Israel—the saved Body of Messiah. Throughout the biblical period the vineyard was part of everyday life for many in Israel. So it is not surprising that the vineyard became a biblical symbol for the people of God. We find this in Isaiah 5:1-2, where we are told, “the vineyard of *Yahweh* of hosts is the house of Israel.”

In other words, the Heavenly Father’s Work of saving souls is likened to Him planting and tending the Vineyard of Israel. Understanding this symbolism, we can plainly see that *Yahweh* is in the Vineyard Business! Since she emulates Christ, the Bride will then also be laboring for the Vineyard, for she will be “about her Father’s Business” (Luke 2:49) as was *Yahshua*.

Thus, the fifth characteristic of the Proverbs 31 Woman is that she joins *Yahweh* in laboring to bring the nations of the world to Salvation (buy the field) and plant the Vineyard (grow the Body of Christ). This is a difficult task for the Bride, who is opposed by all the forces of hell. But the Father has not left her unequipped for the spiritual battle she faces in laboring for the Salvation of souls. In fact, the Heavenly equipping is the sixth characteristic of the Proverbs 31 Woman...

6. She is strong and well-armed...

“She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth (*alert and encouraged*) her arms (*weapons and strength in spiritual warfare*).” Proverbs 31:17

“Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come (*because victory, in the Spirit of Yahweh is assured*).”

Proverbs 31:25

The seventh characteristic of the Ruby Woman is endurance. Again, this characteristic is linked, in chain-like fashion, with the Proverbs 31 Woman’s quality listed before it: strength. The Bride of Christ is a strong and mighty warrior against the “principalities” and “powers” of spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). But how effective is strength, if it cannot outlast—and ultimately defeat—the power of darkness?

7. Her candle does not go out by night...

“...Her candle goeth not out by night.” Proverbs 31:18

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the Law (*Torah*) of kindness (*piety, reproof, beauty*).” Proverbs 31:26

As we have already seen, darkness represents wickedness prevailing as people increasingly disregard the Word and Law of *Yahweh*. Not only does the Bride arise in darkness to bring “meat” to the Household, but also the darkness cannot put out the light from her candle! That’s endurance! As light dispels darkness, so the Light of Truth shining from the Bride’s influence and teachings, will magnify *Yahweh*’s holy Law and make it honorable (Isaiah 42:21) in earth’s darkest time.

But, by the Power of *Yahweh*, the great darkness will not be able to put out the Bride’s Light. In fact, through the Spirit-filled, *Torah*-shining (Proverbs 6:23) Light of the Bride’s Message and Work, the whole world will ultimately be enlightened with the Father’s Glory! (Revelation 18:1-4).

By the Spirit of *Yahweh*, the Last Day people of *Yahweh*, known as the Bride or the Ruby Woman, will prevail! And they will be able to do so because, they will possess seven beautiful and world-changing characteristics, listed in Proverbs 31. What an encouragement! What a high calling! Now is the time to unlearn and prepare to be counted among those who make up the Bride. The characteristics of the Proverbs 31 Woman are those that the Heavenly Father is looking to produce in you! By His Grace, may this be your testimony:

“Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.” Proverbs 31:30



Passover-Unleavened Bread Retreat-2023

Join Us Online or In Person—April 5-12

If you cannot come in person, you needn't miss! We will be broadcasting everything—Passover Seder included! To join us online, you can always go to our website to get the video links. Go to: www.lightedway.org. Each day, during the retreat, beginning with the Passover Seder, the video links will be on our website homepage.

Passover Blessings

LWM SPRING RETREAT SCHEDULE:

	Passover	Feast of Unleavened Bread						
Time	Wednesday, April 5	Thursday, U.B. Sabbath April 6	Friday, U.B. Day 2 April 7	Sabbath, U.B. Day 3 April 8	Sunday, U.B. Day 4 First Fruits April 9	Monday, U.B. Day 5 April 10	Tuesday, U.B. Day 6 April 11	Wednesday, U.B. Day 7 April 12
		Spiritual Detox Series - Mark Manfredine						
10:00 AM		Part 1: "Spiritual Unleavening"	Part 2: "Bait of Satan"	Part 3: "Spiritual Narcissism"	Part 4: "Critical Crisis"	Part 5: "Healing Division"	Part 6: "Love to the Next Level"	Part 7: "Character Development"
12:00 PM		Dinner provided by Lighted Way Ministries	Art Activity	Dinner provided by Lighted Way Ministries	Fellowship & free period	Group Outing	Sabbath Prep and free period	Dinner provided by Lighted Way Ministries
2:00 PM		Fellowship & free period	or free period	Fellowship & free period	Fellowship & free period	or free period	free period	Fellowship & free period
4:30 PM		Supper - provided by Lighted Way Ministries						
		Hebrew in the Stars Series - Shauna Manfredine						
6:00 PM	Passover Seder Meal and Program	Part 1: "By the Word of Yahweh"	Part 2: "Hebrew Letters in the Constellations"	Part 3: "Yahweh in Hebrew & the Stars"	Part 4: "Torah in Hebrew & the Stars"	Part 5: "Wisdom and Warfare in Hebrew & the Stars"	Part 6: "The Saints in Hebrew & the Stars"	Part 7: "Judgment in Hebrew & the Stars"

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

1 Corinthians 5:7-8



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Be connected with others in Messiah's Body and help to raise up the Praying Church / Ezekiel Bone Army! Join LWM's Tuesday evening PRAYER MEETING - online on Zoom. New night! To join us go to the Zoom link on our website: www.lightedway.org.



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The following weekly classes are available:
Prophecy Club with Shauna Manfredine - In Prophecy Club, we study Bible Prophecy in-depth.

Currently we are studying the prophecies of Zechariah. For more information, please visit www.shaunamanfredineprophecyclub.blogspot.com.

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WHAT'S NEXT: LIGHTED WAY MINISTRIES' SPRING RETREAT

April 5-12, 2023 - Join us (online or in person) for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread! There are many inspiring things coming your way for this important, spiritual time! Retreat information and meeting schedule inside this magazine. To join us online, each day's broadcasts will appear on our website: www.lightedway.org.