

A Proclamation from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,

twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,

peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift

bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;

Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,

and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,

her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,

and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,

priceless her chaste soul.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;

indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,

the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.