

APPENDIX A: MEMORY VERSES

- 1 “Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.” —*Proverbs 2:16–17*, NIV
- 2 “Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.” —*Proverbs 4:25–26*, NIV
- 3 “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.” —*Proverbs 28:1*, ESV
- 4 “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.” —*Proverbs 11:3*, ESV
- 5 “Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.” —*Proverbs 3:13–14*, ESV
- 6 “The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases. People may be right in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their heart. The LORD is more pleased when we do what is right and just than when we offer him sacrifices. Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin.” —*Proverbs 21:1–4*, NLT
- 7 “For I am Wisdom, and I am shrewd and intelligent. I have at my disposal living-understanding to devise a plan for your life. Wisdom pours into you when you begin to hate every form of evil in your life, for that’s what worship and fearing God is all about. Then you will discover that your pompous pride and perverse speech are the very ways of wickedness that I hate!” —*Proverbs 8:12–13*, TPT

APPENDIX B: PATRIARCHY

Patriarch [Gk *patria* “a family” and Gk *archo* “to rule”; alternatively, from Latin *pater* “father” and Gk *archo* “to rule”] is the ruling father (or eldest male) in the family unit.

- God initially created both man and woman equally: Genesis 2:26–28
 - Both were necessary in reflecting His image and likeness.
 - Both were instructed to rule over the animals.
 - Both were commanded to be fruitful, multiply, and subdue and rule over God’s creation.
- Both the man and the woman had dignity, value, complementary roles, and permanence. God provided order within their relationship by providing and designing Eve to be a helper suitable [Heb *ezer kenegdo*] (providing what is lacking and needed ethically, morally, and physically) to Adam’s leadership. Genesis 2:18:24
- However, after the Fall, sin damaged this harmonious ideal; man would now rule over the woman, and the woman would in turn desire to control her husband. Genesis 3:14–19

In **patriarchal culture** the father possessed the power and was responsible to lead, protect, provide, and instruct his family in the worship of the LORD. Patriarchal culture also incorporates the legal dependence of wives and children and the importance of carrying on the male line.

- Job is an excellent example of a **patriarch**, a blameless father, upright, fearing the LORD, turning away from evil, functioning as a priest for his family, offering prayers and sacrifices on their behalf. Job 1:1–5
- Abraham was another **patriarch** who also led, protected, provided for, and instructed his family in his faith for God, as every male in Abraham’s household was circumcised on the same day, a sign of their covenant commitment and faith to Abraham’s God. Genesis 17

God’s Law provided additional directions for marriage and family life within the **patriarchal culture** predominant during the biblical era.

Honor your parents.	Deuteronomy 5:16
Do not murder.	Deuteronomy 5:17
Do not steal.	Deuteronomy 5:19
Do not covet.	Deuteronomy 5:22
Women could inherit property if there were no sons.	Numbers 27:8–11
Divorce.	Deuteronomy 22:13–21
Adultery and rape.	Deuteronomy 22:22–30
Protection for the weak.	Deuteronomy 23:19–25:19

Unfortunately, God’s ideal was seldom sought or achieved. **Patriarchal culture**¹ resulted in numerous misunderstandings and inequities, including male dominance, primogeniture (favor of the firstborn son over all other children), and women’s value being determined primarily by producing sons.

¹Wikipedia’s definition: Patriarchy is a social custom in which males hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property.

Understanding the context of patriarchal culture provides insight into several challenging and often misunderstood biblical events.

- Sarah's barrenness motivated her to offer her handmaiden Hagar to Abraham to conceive a child that would be Sarah's. Genesis 16
- Tamar the Canaanite's radical behavior in obtaining a son by Judah. Genesis 38
- Leah and Rachel both offering their handmaids to Jacob to obtain children by them. Genesis 29–30

Why would these women behave in this manner? *Patriarchal culture*.

Interestingly, God repeatedly overrules primogeniture by choosing to favor a non-firstborn son.

- God chose younger Isaac over his older brother Ishmael to continue the Abrahamic blessing. Genesis 21:12
- God chose the younger twin Jacob over his older twin brother Esau. Genesis 25:23
- God overlooked Jacob's oldest three sons in choosing Judah to be the line of Messiah. Genesis 49
- God overlooked Joseph's oldest son Manasseh in choosing his younger son Ephraim. Genesis 48
- God overlooked Jesse's seven eldest sons in choosing David to become king. 1 Samuel 16

Additionally, God repeatedly blesses and honors women enduring difficult situations and cultures.

- Sarah is in the Hall of Fame of Faith. Hebrews 11:11
- Hagar became the mother of a nation, and saw God face to face. Genesis 16:7–14; 21:18; 25:12–18
- Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba are all honored in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Matthew 1; Ruth 4:12
- Leah and Rachel are both remembered as founding mothers in the nation of Israel. Ruth 4:11–12

Man looks on the outer appearance, but God looks at the heart, and He values, treasures, and rewards the heart fully devoted to Him.

The **New Testament** beautifully reveals Christ's love, compassion, and value of women who were often overlooked, undervalued, and marginalized in their culture, as He spoke to them, taught them, touched them, healed their sick, and enjoyed their hospitality. Today God's Word continues to provide instructions for men, women, and children to glorify Him that transcend culture, whether patriarchal or egalitarian.

Husbands are to:

- Love their wives. Ephesians 5:25
- Nurture their wives. Ephesians 5:29
- Cherish their wives. Ephesians 5:29
- Live with their wives in an understanding way, so that their prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:1–7

Wives are to:

- Submit to the leadership of their husbands. Ephesians 5:22, 24; 1 Peter 3:1
- Respect their husbands. Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:2
- Love their husbands. Titus 2:4
- Live with them until death. Romans 7:2–3

Children are to:

- Obey their parents in the Lord for this is right.
- Honor their parents.

Ephesians 6:1

Ephesians 6:2

Both servant leadership and voluntary submission are perfectly modeled in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, effectively impacting and transcending all cultures.

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns." —*Revelation 19:6 NIV*

Reflect His image. Obey His commands. Look for His return.