

girds herself with strength

Genesis 2:22

With understanding the Lord God took the rib from Adam for a woman and he brought her to Adam.

Babylonian Talmud, Niddah 45b

"And the Lord God endowed the rib with understanding" (Gen. 2:22). The verse indicates that the Holy One endowed woman with more understanding than man.

Bobbie Rosenfeld,

Athlete (1904-1969)
No longer are we athletes the pretty maids of yesteryear. Our perfect 36's are being ruined, our features are becoming quite 'Frankensteinish,' shout these croquet and pat-ball advocators, all because we are no longer satisfied with being just a 'rib of Adam', but we have elected to hurl the discus, throw the javelin, run and jump as 'Adam' does....

her lamp never goes out at night

Genesis Rabbah 60:16
"Isaac brought her [Rebekah] into the tent [and behold, she was like] his mother Sarah" (Gen. 24:67)... As long as Sarah lived, a lamp was alight [in her tent] from one

Sabbath eve to the next; at her death, the light ceased. But when Rebekah came, the light returned.

Justine Wise Polier, Judge (1903-1987)
So, one lived two lives - one worked during the day at one's job, and then pitched into the things that seemed most important at night.

clothed with strength and splendor

Exodus 15:19-21

For the horses of Pharaoh, with his chariots and horsemen, went into the sea; and the Lord turned back on them the waters of the sea; but the Israelites marched on dry ground in

What a rare find is a woman of **חַיִל** [chayil]! Her worth is far beyond that of rubies... She sets her mind on an estate and acquires it; she plants a vineyard by her own labors. She **girds herself with strength**, and performs her tasks with vigor. She sees that her business thrives; **her lamp never goes out at night**... She gives generously to the poor; her hands are stretched out to the needy... Her husband is prominent in the gates, as he sits among the elders of the land... She is **clothed with strength and splendor**; she looks to the future cheerfully. **Her mouth is full of wisdom**; her tongue with kindly teaching... Her children declare her happy; her husband praises her... Extol her for the fruit of her hand, and **let her works praise her in the gates**.

—from Eshet Chayil, Proverbs 31:10-31

the midst of the sea. Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her in dance with timbrels. And Miriam chanted for them: Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.

Bella Abzug, Feminist Politician (1920-1998)

I believe very deeply that the hope of an effective women's political movement lies in reaching out ... to working

women, to young women, to black women, to women on welfare—and joining their strength together with millions of other American women who are on the move all over this country demanding an end to discrimination and fighting for their rights as full and equal citizens.

Her mouth is full of wisdom

Babylonian Talmud, Berachot 11a
There were thugs in the neighborhood of Rebbe Meir, and they aggravated him greatly. So Rebbe Meir prayed that they would die. Beruriah his wife said to him, What do you think this verse means: It is written, "The sins will be removed

from the earth" (Psalms 104:35)? Is it written that the sinners should be removed?

Gertrude Weil, Social Reformer (1879-1971)
Knowing our past we shall find strength and wisdom to meet the present.

let her works praise her in the gates

Babylonian Talmud, Berachot 45b
Every woman has a mind of her own.

Gertrude Elion, Chemist (1918-1999)
What greater joy can you have than to know what an impact your work has had on people's lives?