

# Ecclesiastes 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

## Analysis

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**Wisdom is good with an inheritance** (טֹבוֹת חָכְמָה עִם-נָצְלָה, tovah chokhmah im-nachalah)—The comparison links wisdom (chokhmah) with material inheritance (nachalah). The preposition im ('with') suggests combination: wisdom plus resources creates powerful advantage. Wealth without wisdom leads to waste (Proverbs 21:20); wisdom without resources limits impact.

**And by it there is profit to them that see the sun** (וְיָתַר לְרָאֵי הַשְּׁמֶשׁ) ve'yoter le'ro'ei hashemesh)—'Profit' (yoter) means 'advantage' or 'gain.' The phrase 'them that see the sun' idiomatically means 'the living' (see 6:5, 11:7). Wisdom applied to resources benefits oneself and others during earthly life. Yet the verse implies limitation—this advantage applies only 'under the sun,' not eternally. True wisdom ultimately points beyond material advantage to fearing God (12:13). Proverbs 3:13-18 celebrates wisdom as more precious than silver or gold, yet this verse acknowledges that wisdom combined with means accomplishes much good.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelite inheritance laws (Numbers 27:8-11, Deuteronomy 21:15-17) preserved family wealth across generations. Inheritance provided economic security and social standing. Solomon himself inherited both great wealth and his father David's wisdom (1 Kings 3:3-14). The combination enabled him to build the temple, establish trade routes, and rule effectively—at least initially. Yet Israel's history shows many wealthy fools (the rich fool of Luke 12:16-21, wealthy

apostates like Amaziah) and wise poor (the widow's offering, Mark 12:41-44). The early church included both wealthy supporters (Lydia, Acts 16:14-15; Philemon) and poor believers, united in Christ. This verse offers practical wisdom: steward resources wisely, but recognize earthly advantage as temporary.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How are you using whatever 'inheritance' (resources, education, opportunities) you've received in combination with godly wisdom?
2. What 'profit' or lasting good are you producing 'under the sun' that serves others and honors God, not merely accumulates wealth?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי רַבְתָּה תָּבוֹת הַנְּחָלָה שֶׁבֶת וְסֶכֶם הַעַמְּדָה  
is good      Wisdom      H5973      with an inheritance      and by it there is profit  
H2896          H2451          H5159          H3148

לְרָא יְהִי שֶׁמֶשׁ  
to them that see      the sun  
H7200          H8121

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ecclesiastes 11:7** (Parallel theme): Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:

**Ecclesiastes 2:13** (Parallel theme): Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

