

Proverbs 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment,
and equity;

Analysis

Justice, judgment, and equity reflect God's moral character and His covenant requirements. The Hebrew terms emphasize both vertical righteousness (toward God) and horizontal justice (toward neighbors), fulfilling the twofold love command anticipated in the OT. Reformed theology sees these virtues as fruits of regeneration, not means to earn favor.

Historical Context

Israel's legal system was grounded in Torah, where justice wasn't abstract but rooted in God's covenant character. Kings were to embody these qualities, foreshadowing the righteous reign of Messiah.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding justice as reflecting God's character shape your ethical decisions?
2. Where do you see equity and righteousness most needed in your community?

Interlinear Text

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|------------|-----------------|------------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| ל קַחַת | מוֹסֵר | הַשִּׁיב ל | צֶדֶק | וּמִשְׁפָּט | וּמִשְׁרִים: |
| To receive | the instruction | of wisdom | justice | and judgment | and equity |
| H3947 | H4148 | H7919 | H6664 | H4941 | H4339 |

Additional Cross-References

Job 22:22 (Parallel theme): Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

1 Kings 3:28 (Judgment): And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.