

# Proverbs 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

## Analysis

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The imagery of ornamental grace speaks to wisdom's beautifying effect on character. Just as external adornment was visible, so wisdom creates observable transformation. This prefigures the NT teaching that godliness adorns doctrine (Titus 2:10), making the gospel attractive through sanctified living.

## Historical Context

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Ornamental headpieces and chains signified honor and status in ancient society. Solomon draws on familiar cultural symbols to illustrate wisdom's value, showing how it confers true dignity beyond mere social position.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways does wisdom make a person more beautiful in God's sight?
2. How can you cultivate the kind of character that adorns the gospel?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי

לְעֵת

כִּי

הַמִּן

לְרָאשׁ

לְעֵנֶק

H3588

For they shall be an ornament

H3880

of grace

H2580

H1992

unto thy head

H7218

וְעַכְשָׁוִים

and chains

H6060

לְגָרְגָּרֶתֶבּ

about thy neck

H1621

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 4:9** (Grace): She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

**Daniel 5:29** (Parallel theme): Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

**Proverbs 3:22** (Grace): So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

**Genesis 41:42** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

**Isaiah 3:19** (Parallel theme): The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,

**Ezekiel 16:11** (Parallel theme): I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.