

Proverbs 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

Analysis

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. Righteous speech provides life-giving refreshment like a well in arid land. In contrast, wicked speech hides (covers) violence - concealing destructive intent behind words. The verse presents speech as either blessing or curse, life-giving or life-destroying. Such speech flows from character - righteous persons speak life; wicked persons speak death.

Historical Context

Well imagery was powerful in semi-arid Israel where water sources meant survival. Righteous speech providing such refreshment made it precious commodity in covenant community.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Is your speech characteristically a well of life bringing refreshment to others?

2. What violence or destructive intent might your words be covering or revealing?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------|---------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| מִקְדָּשׁ | מִן־ | לִפְנֵי | צַדִּיק | לִפְנֵי | שָׁעַר |
| man is a well | of life | The mouth | of a righteous | The mouth | of the wicked |
| H4726 | H2416 | H6310 | H6662 | H6310 | H7563 |

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| נִסְתְּרֵה | בְּכֹחַ |
| covereth | but violence |
| H3680 | H2555 |

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:14 (Parallel theme): The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 10:6 (Righteousness): Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 18:4 (Parallel theme): The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Ephesians 4:29 (Parallel theme): Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Proverbs 20:15 (Parallel theme): There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

Psalms 107:42 (Righteousness): The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

Proverbs 15:7 (Parallel theme): The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

Proverbs 10:32 (Righteousness): The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

