

Proverbs 10:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Analysis

Fearing the LORD extends one's days while wickedness cuts life short. This general principle reflects God's moral governance—reverence for God conduces to flourishing, while rebellion courts destruction. Though exceptions exist (martyrs dying young, wicked prospering temporarily), the pattern holds: godliness with contentment is great gain.

Historical Context

The Mosaic covenant explicitly connected obedience with long life in the land (Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:33). Solomon applies this corporate promise to individual piety, showing how covenant blessings work through godly living.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does fear of the LORD shape your daily decisions in ways that promote wellbeing?
2. What wicked choices threaten to shorten or diminish the quality of your life?

Interlinear Text

יִרְאָה	הָיָה	תוֹסֵף	יָמַי	וְשָׁנַי	רָשָׁעִים
The fear	of the LORD	prolongeth	days	but the years	of the wicked
H3374	H3068	H3254	H3117	H8141	H7563

תִּקְצְרֶנָּה:
shall be shortened
H7114

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 9:11 (Parallel theme): For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Proverbs 3:2 (Parallel theme): For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Psalms 91:16 (Parallel theme): With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Psalms 21:4 (Parallel theme): He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.

Ecclesiastes 7:17 (Evil): Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Psalms 55:23 (Parallel theme): But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

Proverbs 3:16 (Parallel theme): Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

