

Proverbs 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Analysis

Riches provide no security on judgment day—only righteousness delivers from death. This anticipates the eschatological perspective where earthly wealth means nothing before God's throne. The Hebrew 'natsal' (delivers) suggests rescue from danger, pointing to righteousness as the only true salvation.

Historical Context

The day of wrath may refer to temporal judgment (war, famine) or final judgment. Either way, accumulated wealth cannot purchase deliverance—only covenant relationship with God saves.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you prepare for the day when earthly riches will be worthless?
2. What investments in righteousness have eternal rather than temporary value?

Interlinear Text

תְּאַלְּפָנִים מִתְּאַלְּפָנִים
לֹא יְוָעַד יְלָא
H3808 profit H3276
רִיבָּה יְוָעַד
H1952
בְּיֹם
H3117
עַבְבָּה הַ
H5678
בְּיֹם
H6666
וְצַדְקָה הַ
H5337
דָּלֵךְ יְלָא
delivereth

מִתְּאַלְּפָנִים:

from death

H4194

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:2 (Righteousness): Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Zephaniah 1:18 (Judgment): Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Genesis 7:1 (Righteousness): And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Ezekiel 7:19 (Judgment): They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Matthew 16:26 (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 12:20 (Parallel theme): But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Proverbs 12:28 (Righteousness): In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Romans 5:17 (Righteousness): For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

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