

Proverbs 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

Analysis

A hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge shall the just be delivered. The hypocrite (chaneph - godless, profane) uses speech to destroy others. In contrast, the just are delivered through knowledge (da'at) - discernment recognizing hypocrisy's danger. The verse warns against destructive speech while promising that wisdom provides protection from such attacks.

Historical Context

Hypocrites (literally 'profane ones') plagued covenant community through false piety and slanderous speech. Knowledge/wisdom enabled discernment of such persons, providing protection.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How are you vulnerable to hypocritical speech seeking to destroy you?
2. What knowledge do you need to be delivered from destructive influences?

Interlinear Text

בֶּפֶה	חַנּוּף	יִשְׁחָת	רֵעֵהוּ	וּבְדַעַת
with his mouth	An hypocrite	destroyeth	his neighbour	but through knowledge
H6310	H2611	H7843	H7453	H1847
צַדִּיקִים	יִדְּלוּ:			
shall the just	be delivered			
H6662	H2502			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:30 (Parallel theme): Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Psalms 55:12 (Parallel theme): For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 2:21 (Parallel theme): I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.