

Proverbs 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Analysis

Rash words wound like sword thrusts, while wise tongues heal. Speech's power to harm or help demonstrates the moral weight of communication. James 3:1-12 expands this theme, showing the tongue's disproportionate influence for good or evil. Healing speech applies gospel truth with grace.

Historical Context

In honor-shame cultures, public words could destroy or restore reputation permanently. Wise speech required careful weighing of words' impact on hearers and community.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How often do your words wound versus heal those around you?
2. What wisdom do you need to speak truth in genuinely helpful, gracious ways?

Interlinear Text

שׁוֹבֵב וְתַּּבְּלִשְׁתִּים
There is that speaketh like the piercings
H3426 H981 H4094 H2719 H3956 H2450

מְרַפְּאָה

is health

H4832

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:24 (Word): Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:4 (Parallel theme): A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

Psalms 52:2 (Parallel theme): Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

Psalms 57:4 (Word): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

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

Proverbs 25:18 (Word): A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Proverbs 13:17 (Parallel theme): A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.

Proverbs 4:22 (Parallel theme): For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Daniel 11:33 (Word): And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.

Psalms 64:3 (Word): Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

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