

Proverbs 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

Analysis

A good man obtains favor from YHWH, but a man of wicked devices He will condemn. Divine favor (ratson - acceptance, delight) comes to the good; divine condemnation (rasha - declare wicked, condemn) comes to the deviser of evil schemes. This verse presents God as moral arbiter rewarding good and punishing evil. Such divine response grounds ethics - conduct matters because it affects God's disposition toward us.

Historical Context

Reflects covenant theology where God blessed the faithful and judged the rebellious. Divine favor or condemnation followed human righteousness or wickedness according to covenant terms.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you seek divine favor or merely human approval in your conduct?

2. What 'wicked devices' in your heart will bring condemnation unless repented of?

Interlinear Text

ט וֹב	יִפּ יִק	כָּ צוֹן	מִיְהוָה	וְאִישׁ	מַזְמֵם וֹת
A good	man obtaineth	favour	of the LORD	but a man	of wicked devices
H2896	H6329	H7522	H3068	H376	H4209

יִרְשִׁיעַ:

will he condemn

H7561

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:35 (References Lord): For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Acts 11:24 (Good): For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Psalms 112:5 (Good): A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

Romans 5:7 (Good): For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Proverbs 1:31 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Psalms 9:15 (Parallel theme): The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.

Proverbs 6:18 (Evil): An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Ecclesiastes 8:8 (Evil): There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

