

Proverbs 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

Analysis

The thoughts of the righteous are right (mishpat - justice, judgment), but the counsels of the wicked are deceit. Righteous internal thought-life is upright; wicked counsel is deceptive. This verse addresses both thinking and advising - the righteous think justly and counsel truly; the wicked think perversely and counsel falsely. Character determines both internal reasoning and external advice given to others.

Historical Context

Reflects wisdom tradition's emphasis on heart-level righteousness, not mere external conformity. Righteous thinking produces righteous counsel; corrupt thinking produces corrupt counsel.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Are your thought-patterns characterized by justice or by deceit?
2. How does your internal thought-life affect the counsel you give others?

Interlinear Text

מַחְשְׁבֹת	צְדִיקִים	מִשְׁפָּט	תַּחְבֵּל	רָשָׁעִים
The thoughts	of the righteous	are right	but the counsels	of the wicked
H4284	H6662	H4941	H8458	H7563

מְרִמָּה:

are deceit
H4820

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:7 (Righteousness): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Psalms 139:23 (Parallel theme): Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Jeremiah 4:14 (Evil): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?