

Proverbs 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

Analysis

The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. Wicked speech sets ambushes seeking to harm; righteous speech brings deliverance. The military imagery presents speech as weapon - wicked use words to destroy; righteous use words to save. Such speech flows from character - wicked hearts produce deadly words; upright hearts produce life-giving words.

Historical Context

Reflects Israel's experience where false accusations and slander could result in execution (think Naboth, 1 Kings 21). Righteous speech provided defense against such deadly schemes.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Are your words setting traps to harm others or bringing deliverance?
2. How can you use speech redemptively to deliver rather than to destroy?

Interlinear Text

דְּבָרִים יְמִינֵי רְשָׁעִים אֶתְבָּשׁוּת לְפָנֵי שָׁפָךְ
The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood but the mouth of the upright

H1697 H7563 H693 H1818 H6310 H3477

יְאִלָּם:
shall deliver

H5337

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:3 (Parallel theme): In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Jeremiah 5:26 (Evil): For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.

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