

Proverbs 13:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

Analysis

Good understanding gives favor, but the way of transgressors is hard. Sound judgment (sekhel tov) produces grace/favor; treacherous conduct produces hardship. The verse promises that wisdom eases life's path while wickedness makes it difficult. Transgression's way is 'hard' (etan - enduring, permanent) - wickedness produces lasting difficulty. Wisdom lubricates life; sin creates friction.

Historical Context

Reflects covenant theology where obedience brought blessing (favor, ease) while rebellion brought curse (hardship). The principle applied both temporally and eternally.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What hardship in your life flows from transgression versus circumstance?
2. How has good understanding brought favor that eased your path?

Interlinear Text

שָׁכַל	טוֹב	יִתֵּן	חַי	וְדַרְךְ	בִּגְדֵי יָם	אִתָּן:
understanding	Good	giveth	favour	but the way	of transgressors	is hard
H7922	H2896	H5414	H2580	H1870	H898	H386

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:4 (Good): So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 4:19 (Parallel theme): The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Acts 7:10 (Parallel theme): And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Psalms 111:10 (Good): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Jeremiah 2:19 (Parallel theme): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Romans 6:21 (Parallel theme): What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Proverbs 15:10 (Parallel theme): Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

Luke 2:52 (Parallel theme): And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Proverbs 14:35 (Parallel theme): The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

