

# Proverbs 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.

## Analysis

The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly. The Hebrew here is complex. Ateret chakhamim oshr am (עֲתָרֶת חִכָּמִים עַשְׂרֵם), the crown of the wise is their wealth). For the wise, riches serve as a crown—an ornament that honors them when used wisely. Ivvelet kesilim ivvelet (אִוְלֶת כְּסִילִים אִוְלֶת), the folly of fools is folly). Fools' folly is merely folly—it leads nowhere, adorns nothing, accomplishes nothing. Wisdom transforms wealth into something glorious, while folly remains foolish regardless of circumstances.

## Historical Context

Solomon, possessing both wisdom and wealth, understood their relationship. Wealth in wise hands advances God's kingdom, blesses others, and honors the Lord. In foolish hands, wealth corrupts and destroys. The proverb reflects covenant theology—blessings (including wealth) come through wisdom rooted in fearing the LORD.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How can you use whatever 'riches' (wealth, gifts, opportunities) you have as a crown that honors God?
2. In what ways does folly remain folly regardless of external circumstances or possessions?
3. What is the difference between wealth being your crown versus being your god (Matthew 6:24)?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּסְיל יְמִינֵיכֶם אֲלֵתָה: עַשְׂרֵת מִכְמֵימָעַת רְתַת

**The crown of the wise is their riches but the foolishness**

H5850

H2450

H6239

H200

כִּסְיל יְמִינֵיכֶם

**of fools**

H3684

אֲלֵתָה:

**but the foolishness**

H200

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