

Proverbs 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Analysis

Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure with trouble. This comparative proverb establishes priority of spiritual riches over material wealth. Contentment with godliness surpasses anxious abundance, showing true prosperity is measured by covenant relationship, not possessions.

Historical Context

Solomon's vast wealth made this testimony especially credible. Having experienced both extremes, he could authoritatively declare godliness with little superior to godlessness with much.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How content are you with little when accompanied by God's presence?

2. What troubles attend your pursuit of treasure that diminish your peace?

Interlinear Text

טוֹב	מִעַט	בְּיִרְאַת	יְהוָה	מְאוּצָּר	כִּבֹּ	וְמָה וְמָה
Better	is little	with the fear	of the LORD	treasure	than great	and trouble
H2896	H4592	H3374	H3068	H214	H7227	H4103
בְּוֶ:						
H0						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:8 (Parallel theme): Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

Psalms 37:16 (Parallel theme): A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

1 Timothy 6:6 (Parallel theme): But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Proverbs 28:6 (Parallel theme): Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs 10:22 (References Lord): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.