

Proverbs 16:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

Analysis

Handling matters wisely finds good, but trusting the LORD brings blessedness. This distinguishes prudence from faith—both are necessary, but blessing flows ultimately from dependence on God, not mere competence. Happy is the one whose trust rests in the LORD, not personal wisdom.

Historical Context

The wisdom tradition valued skillful living, but biblical wisdom always subordinated human ability to divine providence. Unlike pagan wisdom, Israel's sages pointed beyond technique to trust in Yahweh.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you balance using wisdom while ultimately trusting God's provision?
2. Where are you tempted to trust your handling of matters rather than trusting the LORD?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁכָּל יֵל	עַל	יְבָרַךְ	וְיִמְצָא	טוֹב	וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִבְטֹחַ
wisely	H5921	He that handleth a matter	shall find	good	and whoso trusteth
H7919		H1697	H4672	H2896	H982
בְּיְהוָה ה	אֲשֶׁר יִבְטֹחַ				
in the LORD	happy				
H3068	H835				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:18 (References Lord): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Psalms 2:12 (Faith): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalms 34:8 (Faith): O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Proverbs 19:8 (Good): He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Psalms 146:5 (References Lord): Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

Proverbs 8:35 (References Lord): For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Matthew 10:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Daniel 6:23 (Faith): Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 3:28 (Faith): Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Psalms 125:1 (Faith): They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

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