

Proverbs 19:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

Analysis

The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion, but his favor is as dew upon the grass. Royal anger terrifies like a lion's roar; royal favor refreshes like morning dew. The contrasting metaphors emphasize monarchy's power to harm or bless. This wisdom guided ancient courtiers' conduct - avoiding wrath, seeking favor. Applied to divine King, the principle teaches fearing God's judgment while seeking His grace. Christ's kingship makes His favor life-giving and His wrath fearsome.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient Near Eastern monarchy's absolute power over subjects. Kings could execute or enrich with a word, making understanding their disposition essential to survival and prosperity.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's kingly power affect your pursuit of His favor?
2. What in your life provokes the divine King's wrath versus gains His favor?

Interlinear Text

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רָצֹן:

but his favour

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Additional Cross-References

Hosea 14:5 (Parallel theme): I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Proverbs 20:2 (Kingdom): The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.

Psalms 133:3 (Parallel theme): As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Proverbs 28:15 (Parallel theme): As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

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