

Proverbs 19:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Analysis

The 'fear of the LORD' is reverent awe that submits to God's authority and delights in His ways. This fear 'tends to life'—Hebrew 'l'chayyim,' emphasizing that true life flows from proper relationship with God. The result is threefold: satisfaction, abiding security, and protection from evil. This doesn't promise immunity from trials but assurance of God's preserving care and ultimate deliverance. Satisfaction comes not from circumstances but from covenant relationship with the living God. The one who fears God rests secure regardless of external threats because God Himself is their portion and shield.

Historical Context

In a world of constant threats—warfare, famine, disease—the promise of divine protection held enormous significance. Israel's security depended not on military might but on covenant faithfulness to Yahweh.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do you experience the satisfaction and security that come from fearing God?
2. What competing fears need to be displaced by the fear of the Lord in your life?

Interlinear Text

יִרְאַת	יְהוָה	לְחַיִּים	וְשָׂבַע	לֵלֵךְ	בֵּל
The fear	of the LORD	tendeth to life	satisfied	and he that hath it shall abide	H1077
H3374	H3068	H2416	H7649	H3885	
יִפְּקֹד	רָעָה				
he shall not be visited	with evil				
H6485	H7451				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:6 (Parallel theme): Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Proverbs 12:21 (Evil): There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

Psalms 90:14 (Parallel theme): O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Proverbs 10:27 (Evil): The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Psalms 103:17 (References Lord): But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Psalms 85:9 (Parallel theme): Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Romans 8:28 (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Malachi 4:2 (Parallel theme): But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Psalms 25:13 (Parallel theme): His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

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