

Proverbs 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

Analysis

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaks lies shall not escape. This promise guarantees consequences for perjury and falsehood. The emphatic double negative ('not unpunished,' 'not escape') ensures certainty - liars will face judgment. While human justice may fail, divine justice never does. The ninth commandment's violation brings inescapable consequences. This grounds truthfulness in both moral obligation and pragmatic self-interest - lying brings punishment.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient legal system where perjury could result in execution of innocent persons. Torah prescribed lex talionis for false witnesses (Deut 19:18-19) - punishment fitting the crime attempted through false testimony.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What lies have you told that you assume escaped consequences?
2. How does certainty of divine judgment affect your commitment to truthfulness?

Interlinear Text

עֵד	שֶׁקֶרִים	לֹא	יִנָּקֶה	וְהַזֶּה
witness	A false	H3808	shall not be unpunished	and he that speaketh
H5707	H8267		H5352	H6315
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יֵאָדָב	לֹא	יִמָּלֵט:		
lies	H3808	shall not escape		
H3577		H4422		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:28 (Witness): A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

Proverbs 6:19 (Witness): A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 19:9 (Witness): A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Exodus 23:1 (Witness): Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Deuteronomy 5:11 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Daniel 6:24 (Parallel theme): And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

