

Proverbs 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Analysis

This verse begins the second major discourse in Proverbs (2:1-22), establishing the conditional nature of wisdom's attainment. 'If thou wilt receive' (קַבֵּל-דָּבָר/im-tiqach) places the responsibility on the hearer—wisdom requires active reception, not passive hearing. The verb 'laqach' means to take, accept, receive—implying intentional appropriation. 'Hide my commandments with thee' uses the verb 'tsaphan' (סָפַן), meaning to treasure, store up, keep safe. The imagery suggests internalization, not merely external observance. One treasures what one values highly, keeping it secure and accessible. This verse (continuing through v.5) establishes that finding 'the knowledge of God' requires diligent seeking, earnest pursuit, and wholehearted commitment. Wisdom is not randomly distributed but promised to those who actively pursue it with dedication.

Historical Context

Part of Solomon's collection of wisdom instructions to his son, reflecting the tradition of parental teaching in ancient Israel.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'hide' God's commandments in your heart rather than merely hearing them?
2. How diligently are you pursuing wisdom compared to other priorities in your life?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	אָמַרְתָּ	וְתִקַּח	אֶת־מִצְוֹתַי	וְתִצְפֵּן	אֶת־מִצְוֹתַי
My son	H518	if thou wilt receive	my words	my commandments	and hide
H1121		H3947	H561	H4687	H6845

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:1 (Word): My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

Proverbs 1:3 (Parallel theme): To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Proverbs 4:1 (Parallel theme): Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

Proverbs 7:1 (Word): My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Job 23:12 (Word): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Proverbs 6:21 (Parallel theme): Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

Proverbs 4:10 (Parallel theme): Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

Matthew 13:44 (Parallel theme): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Luke 2:19 (Parallel theme): But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

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