

Proverbs 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

Analysis

Discretion and understanding function as protective guards, preserving believers from destructive choices. The military imagery ('preserve,' 'keep') suggests active defense against spiritual enemies. Reformed theology emphasizes that this preservation is God's work through sanctifying grace, using wisdom as the means of protection.

Historical Context

Cities in ancient Israel depended on watchmen and guards for security. Solomon applies this familiar concept to moral and spiritual vigilance, showing wisdom's defensive necessity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What spiritual dangers has God's wisdom helped you avoid recently?
2. How can you strengthen your discretion to better guard your heart?

Interlinear Text

מִן זְמָה	תִּשְׁמֶר	עַל יָךְ	תְּבוּנָה	תִּנְצְרָכָה:
Discretion	shall preserve	H5921	thee understanding	shall keep
H4209	H8104		H8394	H5341

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Ephesians 5:15 (Parallel theme): See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Psalms 25:21 (Parallel theme): Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Ecclesiastes 10:10 (Parallel theme): If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.