

Proverbs 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man
that speaketh froward things;

Analysis

Wisdom delivers from the way of evil, from men speaking perverse (tahpukot - twisted, distorted) things. Moral discernment protects from both evil conduct and corrupting influences. The verse emphasizes both active sin and deceptive teaching as dangers wisdom guards against. Understanding truth enables recognition of error; knowing righteousness enables identification of evil. This protective function demonstrates wisdom's practical necessity, not merely academic interest.

Historical Context

Reflects covenant community where false prophets and wicked counselors could lead Israel astray. Wisdom tradition equipped believers to discern truth from error, protecting covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What evil influences are you currently vulnerable to that wisdom would help you avoid?
2. How do you develop discernment to recognize perverse speech masquerading as wisdom?

Interlinear Text

מִתְבֵּרֶךְ אֵשׁ יְלֵבֶל
To deliver thee from the way of the evil man from the man that speaketh
H5337 H1870 H7451 H376 H1696

תְּהִפְכּוֹת
froward things
H8419

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:33 (Evil): Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 8:13 (Evil): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,