

Proverbs 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Analysis

The mining metaphor illustrates the strenuous effort required to obtain wisdom. Silver mining in ancient times demanded dangerous, exhausting labor with no guaranteed reward. Yet the Reformed perspective maintains that even this diligent seeking is enabled by God's grace, not meritorious in itself. The treasure found is God's gift.

Historical Context

Solomon controlled extensive mining operations (1 Kings 9:26-28, 10:22), making this metaphor vivid to his audience. The Phoenician partnership in mining ventures was well-known, requiring sophisticated technology and significant investment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What sacrifices are you willing to make to gain deeper biblical wisdom?
2. How does viewing wisdom as treasure change your priorities?

Interlinear Text

אָם תְּבַקֵּשׁ בָּהּ כַּף סָרִף יְמִינָה וְכַפְרִתָּה:
H518 If thou seekest H3701 for her as for hid treasures and searchest
H1245 H3701 H4301 H2664

Additional Cross-References

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.

Job 3:21 (Parallel theme): Which long for death, but it cometh not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;

Proverbs 16:16 (Parallel theme): How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Matthew 19:29 (Parallel theme): And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Psalms 119:127 (Parallel theme): Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

Psalms 119:14 (Parallel theme): I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Psalms 119:72 (Parallel theme): The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Proverbs 23:23 (Parallel theme): Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Ecclesiastes 4:8 (Parallel theme): There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

Luke 16:8 (Parallel theme): And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

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