

Proverbs 20:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away
all evil with his eyes.

Analysis

A king on the throne of judgment 'scattereth away all evil with his eyes.' The Hebrew 'zarah' (scatter/winnow) suggests separating wheat from chaff. A wise judge perceives truth and evil, rendering righteous verdicts. His penetrating gaze discerns deception. This points to Christ's perfect judgment—He 'searches hearts and minds' (Revelation 2:23). Reformed theology anticipates the final judgment when all evil is separated from good. This verse also instructs earthly judges to pursue discernment, recognizing that their office reflects God's judicial authority.

Historical Context

Ancient kings functioned as supreme judges. Their ability to discern truth from lies, innocent from guilty, was essential for maintaining justice. Solomon's wisdom in judgment exemplified this ideal (1 Kings 3:16-28).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you prepare for Christ's judgment when all will be exposed before His eyes?
2. If you hold positions of judgment or decision-making, do you seek discernment to separate truth from deception?
3. What does it mean to live coram Deo, under the gaze of the all-seeing Judge?

Interlinear Text

מֶלֶךְ	יֹשֵׁב	עַל	כִּסֵּא	דִּין	מְזַרְה
A king	that sitteth in	H5921	the throne	of judgment	scattereth away
H4428	H3427		H3678	H1779	H2219
בְּעֵינָיו	כָּל	רָע:			
with his eyes	H3605	all evil			
H5869		H7451			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:26 (Kingdom): A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.

Proverbs 25:5 (Kingdom): Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

Psalms 99:4 (Judgment): The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

Isaiah 32:1 (Judgment): Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

Psalms 92:9 (Parallel theme): For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

Psalms 72:4 (Judgment): He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

Proverbs 29:14 (Judgment): The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

Proverbs 16:12 (Kingdom): It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

2 Samuel 23:4 (Parallel theme): And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

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