

Proverbs 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

Analysis

When the scorner is punished, the simple person learns wisdom through observation. When the wise person receives instruction, he gains knowledge directly. This restates principles found elsewhere in Proverbs: different people require different pedagogical approaches. The simple (naive) need concrete examples; the wise profit from teaching alone. The scorner himself rarely learns but his punishment educates others. This validates both public justice (which teaches observers) and personal instruction (which suffices for the teachable). God's judgments serve pedagogical purposes—teaching both the judged and those who witness judgment. Believers should learn from both correction and observation rather than requiring personal disaster.

Historical Context

Public punishments served both justice and education in Israelite society. Witnessing consequences taught the fear of God and deterred sin.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do you learn from others' mistakes, or must you experience consequences personally?
2. What examples of judgment around you should prompt repentance and wisdom in your life?

Interlinear Text

אֵהָב	טְהוֹר	לֵב	יָחִיד	שִׁפְתָּיו	יָרֵעַ הוּא
He that loveth	H2889	of heart	for the grace	of his lips	shall be his friend
H157		H3820	H2580	H8193	H7453

מֶלֶךְ:
the king
H4428

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:13 (Love): Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

Matthew 5:8 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Psalms 101:6 (Parallel theme): Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Proverbs 14:35 (Kingdom): The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.