

Proverbs 22:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

Analysis

Pursuing 'righteousness and mercy' leads to finding 'life, righteousness, and honour.' Those who seek to live justly and show compassion receive abundant blessing—true life (not mere existence), established righteousness, and honorable reputation. This isn't works-righteousness but describing the path of true discipleship. Those genuinely converted pursue godliness and mercy because they've been transformed. Such pursuit brings blessing both temporal and eternal. The threefold reward—life, righteousness, honor—encompasses comprehensive flourishing. This reflects Jesus' teaching: seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and all necessary things will be added. Right priorities produce right outcomes.

Historical Context

Israelite covenant promised life and blessing for obedience. While the gospel fulfills this through Christ, the principle remains: those who pursue God find abundant life.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Are you actively pursuing righteousness and mercy in daily life?
2. What specific practices can you adopt to seek justice and show compassion more consistently?

Interlinear Text

אָמֵת יְמִינָה
That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth
H3045 H7189 H561 H571

לְבָשָׂר יְבָשָׂה
that thou mightest answer of the words of truth to them that send
H7725 H561 H571 H7971

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 3:15 (Parallel theme): But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

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