

Proverbs 22:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Analysis

Humility and fear of the LORD bring riches, honor, and life—the comprehensive blessings of covenant faithfulness. This doesn't promise prosperity theology but shows that godliness generally conduces to wellbeing. True riches include spiritual blessings infinitely surpassing material wealth.

Historical Context

The Mosaic covenant promised material blessing for obedience (Deuteronomy 28). While the New Covenant emphasizes spiritual riches, the principle remains that fearing God leads to flourishing.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do humility and fear of the LORD produce true riches in your life?

2. What spiritual blessings have you received that surpass material prosperity?

Interlinear Text

וְמִימִן: וְכֹבֵד עַל שָׁרֶם יְהִי הַיְמָנָה וְאַתָּה יְרַא תְּאַתָּה עַל גְּנָה וְאַתָּה עַל קְבִּיבָּה

By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honour and life

H6118 H6038 H3374 H3068 H6239 H3519 H2416

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:33 (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

James 4:10 (References Lord): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Proverbs 21:21 (Parallel theme): He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Proverbs 3:16 (Parallel theme): Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

James 4:6 (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Isaiah 33:6 (References Lord): And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.