

Proverbs 25:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

Analysis

A faithful messenger to his senders is like snow's cold in harvest time - refreshing to his masters. The Hebrew 'emuwnah' (faithfulness/reliability) and 'tsir' (messenger/ambassador) describe trustworthy communication. The snow imagery: harvest occurred in hot season; cold snow was refreshing relief. Similarly, faithful messenger refreshes those who sent him - reliable information, accurate reporting, trustworthy representation. Reliability is refreshing in world of unreliability.

Historical Context

Ancient communication depended on messengers' reliability. No telecommunications meant human messengers carried crucial information across distances. Unfaithful messenger could destroy negotiations, report falsely, represent unfaithfully. Proverbs 13:17 contrasts: 'A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.' Modern communication technology doesn't eliminate need for faithful representation and reliable reporting.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How reliable are you in representing others' messages and interests faithfully?
2. What makes you 'refreshing' or frustrating to those who depend on you for communication?
3. How can you cultivate faithfulness in your words and commitments to become trustworthy messenger?

Interlinear Text

כְּצֶנֶת	שֶׁלֶג	בִּי וָאֵם	קֶצֶץ יֵר	עֶרֶב	נֶאֱמָן
As the cold	of snow	in the time	of harvest	messenger	so is a faithful
H6793	H7950	H3117	H7105	H6735	H539
לְשִׁלָּה יוֹ	וְנֶפֶשׁ	אֲדֹנָי יוֹ	יִשִּׁיב:		
to them that send	the soul	of his masters	him for he refresheth		
H7971	H5315	H113	H7725		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:17 (Faith): A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.

Proverbs 25:25 (Parallel theme): As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Proverbs 26:6 (Parallel theme): He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.