

Proverbs 25:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

Analysis

Whoever boasts of gifts never given is like clouds and wind without rain. The Hebrew 'hithalel' (boast/praise oneself) and 'matan sheqer' (false gift/lying donation) describe empty promises. The imagery: clouds and wind promise rain but deliver nothing. Drought-stricken farmers' disappointment when promising clouds pass without rain illustrates promise-breakers' effect. Those who commit but don't deliver frustrate and disappoint. Keep commitments or don't make them.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern agriculture desperately needed rain. Clouds and wind raised hopes; no rain brought devastating disappointment. James 2:15-16 condemns similar empty words: 'If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?' Actions must match words.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What gifts or commitments have you promised but not delivered?
2. How do your unfulfilled promises affect others' trust in you?
3. What changes would ensure your words match your actions consistently?

Interlinear Text

נְשִׂיאַ יָם	וְרוּחַ	וְגֶשֶׁם	אֵין	אֵישׁ	לֹא יִתְהַלָּל	בְּמַתָּת
is like clouds	and wind	without rain	H369	Whoso	boasteth	gift
H5387	H7307	H1653		H376	H1984	H4991

שֶׁקֶר:
himself of a false
H8267

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:6 (Parallel theme): Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Luke 14:11 (Parallel theme): For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Jude 1:16 (Parallel theme): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.