

# 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

---

בְּמִתְתַּחַת מִ תְּפַלֵּל לְ אֵישׁ אֲ וְנִשְׁיָא יְמִם  
is like clouds and wind without rain H369 Whoso boasteth gift  
H5387 H7307 H1653 H376 H1984 H4991

שְׁלֹךְ:

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.