

Proverbs 25:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

Analysis

God's glory is to 'conceal a thing,' but kings' honor is to 'search out a matter.' The Hebrew 'satar' (conceal) and 'chaqar' (search/investigate) create a dynamic: God reveals truth progressively, requiring human seeking. This reflects revelation's nature—God discloses Himself, but understanding requires diligent study. Reformed theology values both God's revelatory initiative and our responsibility to study Scripture carefully. 'It is the glory of God to conceal a thing' emphasizes divine transcendence and the vastness of His wisdom awaiting discovery.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom traditions valued riddles and hidden knowledge. Israel's faith insisted that true wisdom came from Yahweh, requiring both His disclosure and human diligent seeking.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you balance trust in God's revealed truth with humble awareness of mystery beyond your understanding?
2. What does it mean to 'search out a matter' in studying Scripture and theology?
3. How does this verse encourage both reverence for God's transcendence and diligent study?

Interlinear Text

וְכָבֹד	אֵל לֵהִים	הַסֵּתֵר	דָּבָר:	וְכָבֹד	מֶלֶךְ יָם
It is the glory	of God	to conceal	a matter	It is the glory	of kings
H3519	H430	H5641	H1697	H3519	H4428
וְיִדְרֹךְ	דָּבָר:				
is to search out	a matter				
H2713	H1697				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 29:29 (References God): The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Job 42:3 (Parallel theme): Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Job 29:16 (Parallel theme): I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

Ezra 4:15 (Kingdom): That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed.

Ezra 4:19 (Kingdom): And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein.

Job 40:2 (References God): Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

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