

Proverbs 25:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

Analysis

As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. The Hebrew 'mayim qar' (cold water) and 'shemuw`ah towb' (good news/report) creates beautiful imagery. Cold water to the thirsty brings intense refreshment and relief. Similarly, good news from distant loved ones refreshes the soul. This verse celebrates communication's power to comfort and encourage. In ancient world without rapid communication, news from distant family/friends was precious. Letters refreshed recipients profoundly.

Historical Context

Ancient communication was slow - travelers brought letters, messengers carried news. Months might pass without word from distant family. Good news brought deep relief after long anxiety. New Testament letters functioned this way - Paul's epistles brought spiritual refreshment to churches. Third John 4 expresses this: 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.' Modern instant communication shouldn't diminish appreciation for encouraging news.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Who in your life would be refreshed by good news or encouraging communication from you?
2. How can you make your communication 'cold water' - genuinely refreshing - rather than mere formality?
3. What good news could you share that would refresh someone's soul?

Interlinear Text

מַעַיִן	מְבָשֵׁךְ	וְרַבְעֵשׁ	מַעֲקָר	בְּרַפְשָׁת	מַשְׁחָטָה	צַדִּיק	צַדִּיקָה
fountain	is as a troubled		spring	and a corrupt	A righteous	man falling down	
H4599		H7515	H4726	H7843	H6662		H4131
לְפָנָי	בְּרַשְׁעָה:						
before	the wicked						
H6440		H7563					

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org