

Proverbs 25:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

Analysis

Removing the wicked from the king's presence establishes his throne in righteousness. This applies the metallurgical metaphor politically: just as dross must be removed from silver, so wicked counselors must be removed from government. A king surrounded by righteous advisors will reign righteously; wicked counselors corrupt even good kings. Reformed political theology emphasizes that godly governance requires godly counselors. This principle applies to all institutions—surrounding yourself with righteous people promotes righteousness; tolerating wickedness corrupts.

Historical Context

Israel's kings were often led astray by wicked advisors (1 Kings 12:8-14, 2 Chronicles 22:3-4). Righteous kings like Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah surrounded themselves with godly counselors, strengthening their reigns.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Who are your counselors, and do they promote righteousness or tolerate wickedness?
2. If you're in leadership, how do you ensure you're surrounded by people who speak truth?
3. What does removing 'wicked counselors' from your life look like in practical terms?

Interlinear Text

הָגַד	כִּשְׂעָר	לִפְנֵי	מֶלֶךְ	יִכּוֹן	בְּצִדְקָה
Take away	the wicked	from before	the king	shall be established	in righteousness
H1898	H7563	H6440	H4428	H3559	H6664
וּפָאָה					
and his throne					
H3678					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:8 (Kingdom): A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

Proverbs 16:12 (Righteousness): It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

Proverbs 20:28 (Kingdom): Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

Isaiah 16:5 (Righteousness): And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

Isaiah 9:7 (Righteousness): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and

to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Proverbs 29:14 (Kingdom): The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

1 Kings 2:46 (Kingdom): So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

1 Kings 2:33 (Parallel theme): Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

Esther 7:10 (Kingdom): So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.