

Proverbs 25:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:

Analysis

Don't promote yourself before the king, nor stand in the place of great men. The Hebrew 'hadar' (glorify/honor yourself) and 'maqom' (place/position) warn against presumptuous self-advancement. Humility waits for promotion; pride demands it. This verse teaches that honor received is better than honor seized. Those who promote themselves appear foolish when proper authority doesn't recognize their claimed status. Wait for legitimate recognition rather than demanding unearned honor.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern court protocol required strict adherence to rank and position. Presuming status invited public humiliation. Jesus taught this explicitly: 'When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him...But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher' (Luke 14:8-10).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What positions or honors are you seeking through self-promotion rather than awaiting legitimate bestowal?
2. How does self-promotion reveal pride, and how does patient waiting demonstrate humility?
3. What would it look like to serve faithfully without demanding recognition or advancement?

Interlinear Text

אַל תַּתְּפֹּנֵּן רְאֵל
H408 Put not forth H1921

לִפְנֵי תְּפַנֵּן
H6440 thyself in the presence

מֵלֵג וְמֵבָחָק
H4428 of the king

וְמֵבָחָק וְמֵדָל
H4725 not in the place

וְמֵדָל יְמִינָה
H1419 of great

אַל תַּעֲמֹד:
H408 and stand H5975

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 27:2 (Parallel theme): Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Proverbs 25:27 (Parallel theme): It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

Proverbs 16:19 (Parallel theme): Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Exodus 3:11 (Parallel theme): And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?