

Proverbs 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool,
and rewardeth transgressors.

Analysis

The great God who formed all things rewards both fool and transgressor. The difficult Hebrew allows multiple translations. Most likely: the one who hires fools and transgressors harms everyone (shoots arrows randomly, wounding all). Employing incompetent or wicked people produces indiscriminate damage. Alternatively: God judges all impartially - fools and sinners both receive due recompense. Either way, wisdom requires discernment in employment and recognition that God judges justly.

Historical Context

Ancient employment required trust - hiring unreliable workers endangered households and businesses. Modern hiring faces similar challenges: employing incompetent or dishonest people harms organizations and stakeholders. Proverbs consistently teaches evaluating character before entrusting responsibility. God's impartial judgment assures that no one escapes justice - neither clever sinners nor ignorant fools avoid consequences.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What harm have you caused by employing or empowering incompetent or wicked people?
2. How can you better evaluate character and competence before entrusting authority?
3. How does confidence in God's impartial judgment affect your response to injustice?

Interlinear Text

ג ב	מְחֹלֵל	כ ל	וְשֶׂכָר	כִּסִּיל
The great	God that formed	H3605	all things both rewardeth	the fool
H7227	H2342		H7936	H3684
	וְשֶׂכָר	עֲבָרִים:		
	all things both rewardeth	transgressors		
	H7936	H5674		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:31 (Parallel theme): Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

Romans 2:6 (Parallel theme): Who will render to every man according to his deeds: