Proverbs 26:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Analysis

A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin. The Hebrew 'lashon sheqer' (lying tongue) and 'peh chalaq' (smooth/flattering mouth) describes comprehensive speech corruption. Lies crush victims and reveal hater's heart. Flattery ruins by deceiving and manipulating. Both lying and flattering destroy - one through obvious attack, other through subtle manipulation. This warns: destructive speech takes multiple forms. Guard against both obvious lies and subtle flattery.

Historical Context

Proverbs extensively condemns both lying and flattery. Psalm 12:2-3 says: 'They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things.' Jesus condemned Pharisees for hypocrisy - saying one thing, meaning another. James 1:26 teaches: 'If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.'

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

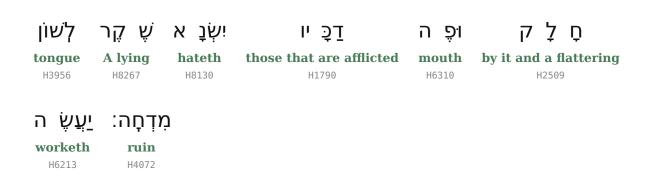
Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

- 1. What lying or flattering speech have you used to crush or manipulate others?
- 2. How can you recognize both obvious lies and subtle flattery directed at you?
- 3. What commitment to truthful, sincere speech would eliminate both lying and flattering from your communication?

Interlinear Text



Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 6:24 (Parallel theme): To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Proverbs 29:5 (Parallel theme): A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

Proverbs 7:5 (Parallel theme): That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

John 8:40 (Parallel theme): But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.