

Proverbs 27:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

Analysis

For riches are not for ever (וְקַיּוּם חֶסֶד—ki lo le'olam chosen)—חֶסֶד (chosen, 'wealth, riches, treasure') lacks permanence; וְלֹא לִעְזָלָם (le'olam, 'forever, perpetually') is negated. What seems solid proves transient. James 5:2-3 warns the wealthy: 'Your riches are corrupted... your gold and silver is cankered.'

And doth the crown endure to every generation? (וְאַמְנָזֵר לִדְוֹר וּלְדוֹר—ve'im-nezer ledor vador)—the rhetorical question expects a negative answer. Even the נְזֵר (nezer, 'crown, diadem')—symbol of ultimate earthly power—passes from דָוָר (dor, 'generation') to generation. Solomon, possessing unparalleled wealth and power, understood their impermanence. Only God's kingdom endures forever (Daniel 4:34); storing treasure in heaven proves the wise investment (Matthew 6:19-20).

Historical Context

Solomon wrote from experience—his vast wealth (1 Kings 10:14-29) and the succession of Israelite dynasties demonstrated that neither riches nor royal power guaranteed permanence. Within a generation of Solomon's death, the kingdom split; later, both Israel and Judah fell. The proverb's wisdom proved prophetically accurate.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What are you building your security upon—temporary riches or eternal treasure?
2. How does the impermanence of wealth and power challenge your priorities and investments?
3. What can you invest in today that will endure 'from generation to generation'?

Interlinear Text

דָּרֶךְ לֹא כִּי לְעֹלָם הַצְּדָקָה יְאַמְּרָה וְאַתְּ תִּרְצָחָה דָּרֶךְ
H3588 H3808 are not for ever For riches H518 and doth the crown endure to every
H5769 H2633 H5145 H1755

דָּרֶךְ

endure to every

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Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 23:5 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Isaiah 9:7 (Parallel theme): 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.