

# Proverbs 28:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

## Analysis

**A faithful man shall abound with blessings** (אִישׁ אֱמוּנוֹת רַב־בְּרָכוֹת, ish emunot rav-berakhot)—אִישׁ אֱמוּנָה (ish emunah, 'man of faithfulness, trustworthiness, steadfastness') will have רַב (rav, 'many, abundant') בְּרָכָה (berakhah, 'blessings'). אֱמוּנָה shares roots with אָמֵן (amen)—firmness, reliability, faithfulness. Jesus's parable: 'Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy lord' (Matthew 25:21).

**But he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent** (וְאִם לְהַעֲשִׁיר לֹא יִנְקָה, ve'atz leha'ashir lo yinnaqqeh)—אֵץ (uts, 'to hasten, hurry, press') toward עֲשֵׂר (ashar, 'to be rich, wealthy') will not be נָקָה (naqqah, 'innocent, clean, unpunished'). Getting rich quick requires compromises, corner-cutting, exploitation. Proverbs 13:11: 'Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.'

## Historical Context

Ancient commerce offered many temptations to dishonest gain—false weights, deceptive contracts, exploitative lending. Israel's law prohibited such practices (Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16). The contrast: faithful, patient work brings blessing; greedy haste brings guilt and eventual loss.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. In what areas of life are you being faithful rather than seeking quick results?
2. What shortcuts to wealth or success tempt you to compromise integrity?
3. How does this proverb challenge prosperity gospel teaching that equates faith with rapid financial gain?

## Interlinear Text

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אִישׁ	אֶחָד מִבְּרָכָה	רַב	בְּרָכָה וְ	אֶחָד
man	A faithful	shall abound	with blessings	but he that maketh haste
H376	H530	H7227	H1293	H213
לֵאמֹר	לֵאמֹר	לֵאמֹר	לֵאמֹר	לֵאמֹר
to be rich	H3808	shall not be innocent		
H6238		H5352		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 13:11** (Parallel theme): Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

**Revelation 2:10** (Faith): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

**Proverbs 10:6** (Sin): Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

**Proverbs 20:21** (Blessing): An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

**Proverbs 28:22** (Parallel theme): He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

**Psalms 101:6** (Faith): Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

**Nehemiah 7:2** (Faith): That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

**Revelation 2:13** (Faith): I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

**Proverbs 23:4** (Parallel theme): Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

**Proverbs 17:5** (Parallel theme): Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.