

Proverbs 29:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Analysis

The 'fear of man' (Hebrew 'cheredat'—anxiety, dread) becomes a snare that traps and controls, while trust in the Lord provides true safety (Hebrew 'sagab'—set on high, protected). This proverb diagnoses a root cause of compromise and unfaithfulness: caring more about human opinion than God's approval. The contrast teaches that whoever we fear will control us—either enslaved to man's approval or safe in God's keeping.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated this truth repeatedly: kings who feared surrounding nations made destructive alliances, while those who trusted God alone found protection. The fear of man led to Saul's disobedience (1 Samuel 15:24) and Peter's denial of Christ (Matthew 26:69-75).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what situations does fear of others' opinions influence your decisions more than trust in God?
2. How would your daily choices change if you truly believed that trust in the Lord makes you 'safe'?

Interlinear Text

תַּחֲדַי	אָדָם	יָבִיט	מוֹקֵשׁ	וְבוֹטֵחַ	בְּיְהוָה
The fear	of man	bringeth	a snare	but whoso putteth his trust	in the LORD
H2731	H120	H5414	H4170	H982	H3068
יִשְׁגָּב:					
shall be safe					
H7682					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:8 (Faith): It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Luke 12:4 (Parallel theme): And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

Proverbs 18:10 (References Lord): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psalms 91:14 (Parallel theme): Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Proverbs 16:20 (Faith): He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

Proverbs 30:5 (Faith): Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Psalms 125:1 (Faith): They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

1 Chronicles 5:20 (Faith): And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.

1 Peter 1:21 (Faith): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

John 9:22 (Parallel theme): These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

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