

Proverbs 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that
getteth understanding.

Analysis

This beatitude pronounces blessing on those who find wisdom. 'Happy is the man' (אֲשֶׁר־אָדָם/ashrei adam) uses 'ashrei,' an exclamation of deep satisfaction and contentment—the same word that opens the Psalms (Psalm 1:1). Finding wisdom brings happiness exceeding material wealth (vv.14-15). The verse emphasizes active pursuit: 'findeth wisdom' and 'getteth understanding' require searching and obtaining. This anticipates Jesus' parable about the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45-46)—wisdom is worth selling everything to obtain. The following verses (14-18) describe wisdom's value as superior to precious metals and gems, leading to life, peace, and blessing. This challenges contemporary culture's pursuit of happiness through possessions, pleasures, or achievements, insisting that true fulfillment comes only through wisdom rooted in God.

Historical Context

Solomon's wisdom sayings were collected and taught in the royal court as guidance for young men training for leadership.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What are you actively pursuing for happiness, and how does it compare to pursuing wisdom?
2. How have you experienced the truth that wisdom brings deeper satisfaction than material possessions or achievements?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר י	וְאִישׁ	מֵצֵא	חֵכְמָה	וְאִישׁ	יִפְּדֵה
Happy	and the man	that findeth	wisdom	and the man	that getteth
H835	H120	H4672	H2451	H120	H6329

תְּבוּנָה:

understanding

H8394