

Proverbs 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Analysis

Wisdom exceeds rubies in value. The Hebrew 'peninim' likely refers to precious jewels, possibly pearls or coral - the rarest valuables. The sweeping statement 'all the things thou canst desire' encompasses every possible human want. Nothing compares to wisdom's worth. This hyperbolic language emphasizes absolute priority - wisdom deserves supreme pursuit. In Christ, we have access to One 'in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Colossians 2:3).

Historical Context

Rubies and precious stones represented peak luxury in the ancient world, accessible only to royalty and the wealthy. By stating wisdom surpasses even these, Solomon communicates that true treasure is accessible to all who seek it, regardless of economic status.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What desires compete with wisdom for ultimate place in your heart?

2. How would your life change if you truly believed nothing you desire compares with knowing God?
3. What would repentance look like in areas where you've valued lesser goods above wisdom?

Interlinear Text

יָקָר כָּה	הָ יָא	מִפְנֵי מִ	וְכָל	חַפְצֵי יָד
She is more precious	H1931	than rubies	H3605	and all the things thou canst desire
H3368		H6443		H2656
לֹא	יִשְׁוּוּ	בָהּ:		
H3808	are not to be compared	H0		
	H7737			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:11 (Parallel theme): For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Job 28:18 (Parallel theme): No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

Romans 8:18 (Parallel theme): For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Psalms 63:3 (Parallel theme): Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Proverbs 20:15 (Parallel theme): There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

Proverbs 31:10 (Parallel theme): Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.