

Proverbs 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Analysis

Wisdom personified offers longevity with her right hand and riches/honor with her left. This poetic imagery suggests wisdom's comprehensive benefits - both temporal blessings (long life, wealth, honor) and something even greater (right hand signifies greater value). The asymmetry implies that while wisdom brings material blessings, these aren't its primary value. Eternal life is wisdom's greatest gift, with earthly blessings as secondary benefits.

Historical Context

Ancient imagery of right hand (strength, honor) versus left hand (lesser importance) appears throughout Scripture. This verse promises wisdom brings both categories of blessing, with priority on spiritual/eternal (right hand) while not neglecting temporal/practical (left hand).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you tend to prioritize temporal blessings (wealth, honor) over eternal blessings?
2. What would change if you pursued wisdom primarily for knowing God rather than for practical benefits?
3. How does Christ embody both the 'length of days' (eternal life) and 'riches and honor' that wisdom offers?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּיךָ	יָמֵינוּ	בְּיָמֶיךָ הַ	בְּשִׂמְאוֹלָהּ הַ	עַל שָׁרָה	וְכָבוֹד:
Length	of days	is in her right hand	and in her left hand	riches	and honour
H753	H3117	H3225	H8040	H6239	H3519

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:2 (Parallel theme): For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

2 Corinthians 6:10 (Parallel theme): As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Proverbs 22:4 (Parallel theme): By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

1 Kings 3:13 (Parallel theme): And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

Mark 10:30 (Parallel theme): But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Psalms 21:4 (Parallel theme): He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.

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