

Proverbs 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Analysis

Length of days and peace are promised to those who keep God's wisdom. The Hebrew 'shalom' encompasses not merely absence of conflict but positive flourishing - health, prosperity, right relationships, spiritual wholeness. This verse teaches that obedience to divine wisdom produces qualitative and quantitative life enhancement. Reformed theology doesn't view this as prosperity gospel but recognizes God's general providence - godly living generally produces better outcomes than foolish living, though exceptions exist in our fallen world.

Historical Context

The Deuteronomic covenant promised longevity and prosperity for obedience (Deuteronomy 5:33, 30:20). While these promises had national/temporal focus in the Mosaic economy, wisdom literature personalizes them as general principles: wise living tends toward flourishing. Job and Ecclesiastes later nuance this, showing that suffering can befall the righteous, yet the general principle remains valid.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance God's promises of blessing with the reality that godly people sometimes suffer?
2. What kinds of 'long life' and 'peace' can you identify in your own life as fruits of following God's wisdom?
3. How might pursuing peace (shalom) in God's way differ from pursuing comfort in worldly ways?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	אֶלְכָּךְ	וְיָמֶיךָ	וְשָׁנֶיךָ	וְחַיֶּיךָ	וְשָׁלְוֶךָ	וְיֹסִיפוּ	לְךָ:
H3588	For length	of days	and long	life	and peace	shall they add	H0
	H753	H3117	H8141	H2416	H7965	H3254	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:10 (Parallel theme): Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

Proverbs 9:11 (Parallel theme): For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Psalms 91:16 (Parallel theme): With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Romans 15:13 (Peace): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 119:165 (Peace): Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Psalms 128:6 (Peace): Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Proverbs 10:27 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

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

Romans 5:1 (Peace): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

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.

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