

Proverbs 31:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

Analysis

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet—The ψ (shin) line depicts providential foresight. Sheleg (snow) was rare in ancient Israel but represents winter cold and hardship. The eshet chayil feels no fear (lo tira) because her planning ensures readiness. Shanim (scarlet) likely refers to quality double-thickness garments, not merely color—warm, durable clothing.

This verse reveals that diligence produces peace. Anxiety springs from unpreparedness, but faithful labor yields confident rest. Proverbs contrasts the sluggard who experiences want (20:4, 24:30-34) with the diligent whose household thrives. Her lack of fear demonstrates trust in God's providence working through human responsibility—neither presumptuous passivity nor anxious self-reliance.

Historical Context

In ancient Palestine's climate, winter could bring harsh conditions requiring adequate clothing and shelter. The ability to clothe one's entire household in quality garments demonstrated both prosperity and prudent management. Scarlet/crimson dyes were expensive, but the term here emphasizes durability and warmth rather than luxury.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'winter seasons' of life do you face with fear rather than faithful preparation?
2. How does Proverbs' vision of diligence producing peace challenge both anxious striving and presumptuous passivity?
3. In what areas might you need to invest present labor to create future security for those in your care?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	תִּיָּא	בְּ יֵת הַ	חֶשֶׁלֶג	כִּי	כָל
H3808	She is not afraid	for all her household	of the snow	H3588	H3605
	H3372	H1004	H7950		
	בְּ יֵת הַ	לְבָשׁ	שָׁנִים:		
	for all her household	are clothed	with scarlet		
	H1004	H3847	H8144		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 45:22 (Parallel theme): To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment.

