

Proverbs 31:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Analysis

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness—The פֶּה (pe, meaning 'mouth') line fittingly addresses speech. Chokhmah (wisdom) encompasses skill, discernment, and moral insight—the central theme of Proverbs itself. Her words aren't idle chatter but edifying counsel. The parallel torat-chesed (law/teaching of kindness) suggests both gracious manner and substantive instruction.

Chesed (covenant loyalty, steadfast love) governs her speech—she speaks truth with grace, correction with compassion. This recalls Proverbs' earlier personification of Wisdom as a woman calling out instruction (1:20-33, 8:1-36). The eshet chayil embodies that wisdom in flesh and blood. She is competent not only in hands (vv.13,19-20) but also in words, teaching her household and community the ways of God.

Historical Context

In ancient Israelite culture, mothers were primary educators of children (Proverbs 1:8, 6:20), teaching both practical skills and moral instruction. Older women also mentored younger women (Titus 2:3-5). The 'law of kindness' on her tongue reflects Torah's vision of gracious, life-giving speech that builds up rather than tears down.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do your words demonstrate both wisdom (truth/discrimnment) and chesed (gracious loyalty)?
2. What would it mean for the 'law of kindness' to govern your speech—not sentimentality but covenant faithfulness?
3. In what areas might you need to develop competence in words as much as competence in hands?

Interlinear Text

פִּיהָ	פִּתְחָה	בְּחִכְמַת	וְרָתָה	תְּדִין	עַל
her mouth	She openeth	with wisdom	is the law	of kindness	H5921
H6310	H6605	H2451	H8451	H2617	

לְשׂוֹנָה:

and in her tongue

H3956

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:24 (Word): Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Ephesians 4:29 (Parallel theme): Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Proverbs 10:31 (Parallel theme): The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

Proverbs 12:18 (Word): There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Colossians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Malachi 2:6 (Word): The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

Proverbs 25:15 (Parallel theme): By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

Esther 5:8 (Parallel theme): If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Acts 18:26 (Parallel theme): And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

1 Peter 3:1 (Word): Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;