

Proverbs 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

Analysis

Exalt wisdom, and she will promote you; embrace her, and she brings honor. The Hebrew 'salal' (exalt/esteem highly) and 'chabaq' (embrace/cherish) describe affectionate valuing. Those who highly esteem wisdom receive honor in return. This isn't self-promotion but divine exaltation - God honors those who honor wisdom. The embrace imagery suggests intimate relationship, not distant admiration.

Historical Context

Throughout Scripture, God exalts those who humble themselves and value divine wisdom above worldly glory. Joseph, Daniel, Esther - all exemplified wisdom honored by God and humans. First Peter 5:6 universalizes this principle: 'Humble yourselves...under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.'

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you 'exalt' wisdom practically in a culture that exalts wealth, beauty, or power?
2. What does it mean to 'embrace' wisdom - what does intimate relationship with truth look like?
3. How might God promote you if you prioritize wisdom above self-promotion?

Interlinear Text

סִלְסַלְהָ	וְתִרְוַמְנָהּ	תְּכַבֵּדְךָ	כִּי
Exalt	her and she shall promote	thee she shall bring thee to honour	H3588
H5549	H7311	H3513	

תִּחְבֶּקְנָהּ:
when thou dost embrace
H2263

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 12:3 (Parallel theme): And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

1 Samuel 2:30 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Proverbs 3:35 (Parallel theme): The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

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