

Proverbs 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Analysis

Wisdom places an ornamental garland and glorious crown on the head. Hebrew imagery of 'livyath chen' (garland of grace) and 'atarah tiphara' (crown of glory) describes honor and beauty wisdom bestows. Like royalty wearing crown or athlete receiving wreath, those possessing wisdom are distinguished and honored. Wisdom adorns the possessor with dignity and splendor.

Historical Context

Ancient honor-shame cultures valued public recognition and dignified reputation. Garlands and crowns symbolized victory, honor, and elevated status. This verse promises that wisdom brings the highest honor - not merely human acclaim but divine commendation that truly dignifies.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does wisdom 'adorn' you differently than external beauty or status symbols?

2. What does the 'crown of glory' wisdom offers look like in everyday life?
3. How should pursuit of wisdom's honor affect your response to worldly measures of success?

Interlinear Text

תִּתְּנֵה	לְרַאשֵּׁךְ	לְעֵיטָה	וְ	רַתְּנֵת	תְּפָאָה
She shall give	to thine head	an ornament	of grace	a crown	of glory
H5414	H7218	H3880	H2580	H5850	H8597
תִּמְלִיכְתָּה					
shall she deliver					
H4042					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:9 (Grace): For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

1 Peter 5:4 (Glory): And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Isaiah 28:5 (Glory): In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,

Proverbs 16:31 (Glory): The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.