

Proverbs 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

Analysis

Sexual fidelity within marriage is portrayed through water imagery—refreshing, life-giving, and exclusive. The cistern and well represent the covenant wife, whose love should fully satisfy. This elevates marital intimacy as God's good gift while condemning adultery's theft and covenant-breaking.

Historical Context

In arid Israel, water sources were precious and legally protected. The metaphor would resonate powerfully, as stealing another's water could mean survival versus death—sexual sin similarly destroys lives and communities.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does viewing marriage covenant as sacred protect against sexual temptation?
2. In what ways can you cultivate greater satisfaction and fidelity in your relationships?

Interlinear Text

שְׁתֵּה	מֵיִם	מִבּוֹרְךָ	וְנִזְלֵי־מַיִם	מִתּוֹךְ
Drink	waters	out of thine own cistern	and running waters	out of
H8354	H4325	H953	H5140	H8432
בְּאֵרְךָ:				
thine own well				
H875				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:4 (Parallel theme): Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.