

Proverbs 5:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

Analysis

This verse commands marital joy and fidelity within God's design. 'Let thy fountain be blessed' (יְהִי־מֵקוֹרְךָ בָּרוּךְ/yehi-meqorcha baruch) uses 'fountain' as metaphor for one's wife and sexual relationship. 'Rejoice with the wife of thy youth' (וְשָׂמַח אִתָּהּ נְעוּרֶיךָ/usemach me'eshet ne'urecha) commands active delight in marital intimacy. The verb 'samach' (rejoice) is strong—gladness, celebration, joy. Chapter 5 contrasts the destructive path of adultery (vv.1-14) with the satisfying beauty of marital faithfulness (vv.15-23). This verse affirms God's good design for sexuality within marriage, refuting both asceticism (which denigrates marital intimacy) and licentiousness (which pursues it outside marriage's covenant). The wife of one's youth deserves lifelong commitment and joy, not abandonment for younger partners. This reflects covenant faithfulness and God's design for human flourishing.

Historical Context

In ancient Israelite culture, the marriage relationship was celebrated as a divine gift, contrasting with surrounding cultures' views.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing your spouse as God's provision for rejoicing (not merely duty) transform your marriage?
2. In what ways does cultural messaging about sexuality conflict with God's design for joyful marital faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי	מִקְוֶיךָ	בָּר וְ	וּ שְׂמֵחַ	יָמֶיךָ אִשָּׁת	נְעוּרֶיךָ:
H1961	Let thy fountain	be blessed	and rejoice	with the wife	of thy youth
	H4726	H1288	H8055	H802	H5271

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 9:9 (Parallel theme): Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.