

Proverbs 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

Analysis

The adulteress's lips drip honey and her mouth is smoother than oil - initial appeal that conceals danger. The Hebrew 'nopheth' (honeycomb) and 'shemen' (oil) describe sensory attractiveness. Sin's deception often involves genuine pleasure that blinds to consequences. What tastes sweet initially produces bitter results (v.4). This verse warns against trusting superficial appeal without examining long-term outcomes.

Historical Context

Proverbs 5-7's extended warning against adultery addressed a real threat in ancient Israel. Temple prostitution pervaded Canaanite religion, and Israel constantly battled sexual immorality both literal and spiritual (idolatry portrayed as adultery). The prophets used marriage metaphor extensively - Israel as Yahweh's unfaithful wife (Hosea, Jeremiah, Ezekiel).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What sins in your life initially seemed sweet but produced bitterness?
2. How can you look beyond immediate appeal to evaluate long-term consequences?
3. What sensory or emotional attractions might be deceiving you currently?

Interlinear Text

מְעַלְתָּה יְהֻנָּה	נָעַד	תְּפִלָּה	תְּפִלָּה	תְּפִלָּה	אָבִה	מִן יְמִינָה	מִן יְמִינָה	מִן יְמִינָה
the path	of life	H6435	Lest thou shouldest ponder		are moveable		her ways	
H734	H2416		H6424		H5128		H4570	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:26 (Parallel theme): Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 119:59 (Parallel theme): I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Proverbs 30:20 (Parallel theme): Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

Proverbs 5:21 (Parallel theme): For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.