Proverbs 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

Analysis

Wisdom's fruit is better than gold, even fine gold; her yield better than choice silver. The Hebrew 'zahav' (gold), 'paz' (refined gold), 'keseph' (silver), and 'nichar' (choice/pure) describe peak material value. Yet wisdom exceeds even these. The 'fruit' and 'yield' metaphors describe productive returns - wisdom invests better than precious metals. What wisdom produces outvalues what wealth can purchase.

Historical Context

Solomon's era saw unprecedented wealth flow into Israel (1 Kings 10:14-29). Gold and silver were abundantly available, yet Solomon taught that wisdom surpassed them all. This from personal experience - possessing both wealth and wisdom, he knew wisdom's superiority. Ecclesiastes later amplifies this: wealth without wisdom produces vanity; wisdom without wealth still produces meaning.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do your investment priorities reflect whether you truly value wisdom above wealth?
2. What 'fruit' does wisdom produce that gold cannot purchase?
3. How would your life change if you pursued wisdom as diligently as you pursue financial security?

Interlinear Text

ט וֹב	פְּ רִיֽי	מֵחָר וּץ	וּמִפָּ ז	וּ תְבוּאָתִ י	מִכֶּ סֶף
is better	My fruit	than gold	yea than fine gold	and my revenue	silver
H2896	H6529	H2742	H6337	H8393	H3701

נִבְחָר:
than choice
H977

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:20 (Parallel theme): The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

Proverbs 3:14 (Parallel theme): For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Proverbs 8:10 (Parallel theme): Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:12 (Parallel theme): For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.