

Proverbs 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Analysis

By wisdom your days will multiply and years added to your life. The Hebrew 'ravah' (multiply/increase) promises longevity from wisdom. This isn't mechanical guarantee but general principle: wisdom tends toward life, folly toward death. Wise living generally produces longer, better life. Foolish living abbreviates and degrades life. While exceptions exist, the pattern holds: wisdom brings life; folly brings death.

Historical Context

Deuteronomic covenant promised long life for obedience (Deuteronomy 5:33, 6:2). Proverbs personalizes this - individual wisdom produces individual longevity. Modern medicine validates biblical wisdom: moderate lifestyle, healthy relationships, purposeful living correlate with longevity. Wisdom's life-giving power operates physically, relationally, spiritually. Psalm 91:16 promises: 'With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.'

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How has wisdom (or folly) affected the quality and potentially length of your life?
2. What foolish patterns are abbreviating your life or degrading its quality?
3. How does God's promise of abundant life (John 10:10) connect to wisdom's life-multiplying effects?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	בִּי	יִרְבּוּ	יָמֵי יְךָ	וַיִּזְכָּד יָפוֹ	לְךָ
H3588	H0	shall be multiplied	For by me thy days	shall be increased	H0
		H7235	H3117	H3254	
וְשָׁנֵי	חַיֶּיךָ:				
and the years	of thy life				
H8141	H2416				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:27 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 3:2 (Parallel theme): For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Proverbs 3:16 (Parallel theme): Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Deuteronomy 6:2 (Parallel theme): That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.