

Psalm 119:72

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Analysis

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver (טוֹב לִי תֹּוֹתִיפִּיכְ מַאֲלֵי זָהָב וְכֹסֶף). This Yodh (י) stanza climaxes with radical economic theology: God's torah (instruction) exceeds infinite material wealth. The Hebrew me'alfei (thousands upon thousands) emphasizes not mere preference but infinite disproportion—no quantity of precious metals approaches Scripture's value.

Paul echoes this in Philippians 3:8, counting all things as dung compared to knowing Christ. The psalmist's li (to me) makes this intensely personal—not theoretical but experiential valuation. Jesus taught the same calculus in the parable of the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45-46): selling all to possess the one thing of surpassing worth.

Historical Context

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in Scripture, an elaborate acrostic poem where each 8-verse stanza begins with successive Hebrew letters. The Yodh section (vv. 73-80) emphasizes divine craftsmanship and covenant faithfulness. Written likely during or after the exile, when Israel had lost material prosperity but retained Scripture.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What practical decisions in your life reveal whether you truly value God's Word above financial gain?
2. How does treating Scripture as more valuable than wealth change the way you budget your time and resources?
3. In what ways has God's Word proven more sustaining than material provision in your experience?

Interlinear Text

is better	H0	The law	of thy mouth	unto me than thousands	of gold	and silver
H2896		H8451	H6310	H505	H2091	H3701

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:127 (Word): Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

Psalms 19:10 (Parallel theme): More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psalms 119:162 (Word): I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Proverbs 16:16 (Parallel theme): How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Psalms 119:111 (Parallel theme): Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

Psalms 119:14 (Parallel theme): I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Proverbs 8:19 (Parallel theme): My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org