

Psalms 49:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Analysis

The psalmist's mouth speaks 'of wisdom' and his heart's meditation is 'of understanding.' True wisdom begins internally (heart meditation) before external expression (mouth speaking). Hebrew *chokmah* (wisdom) and *tevunah* (understanding) together indicate both practical skill and discerning insight.

Historical Context

Israel's wisdom tradition emphasized that true wisdom came from God and required humble, teachable hearts. The combination of wisdom and understanding appears frequently in Proverbs as the goal of wise living.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between heart meditation and wise speech?
2. How does genuine wisdom differ from merely clever observations?

Interlinear Text

פִּי י	יִדְבַּר ר	חֲכָמ וְת	יְהִי וְת	לִבִּי י
My mouth	shall speak	of wisdom	and the meditation	of my heart
H6310	H1696	H2454	H1900	H3820
תְּבוּנוֹת:				
shall be of understanding				
H8394				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 19:14 (Parallel theme): Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Matthew 12:35 (Parallel theme): A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Proverbs 22:17 (Parallel theme): Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

Psalms 37:30 (Parallel theme): The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

Psalms 119:130 (Parallel theme): The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalms 45:1 (Parallel theme): My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Job 33:33 (Parallel theme): If not, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom.

Job 33:3 (Parallel theme): My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.

Deuteronomy 32:2 (Parallel theme): My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

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