

Proverbs 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Analysis

Wisdom poses three rhetorical questions targeting different categories of fools. The 'simple' (peti) love simplicity, 'scorners' (lets - mockers) delight in scorning, and 'fools' (kesil - dullards) hate knowledge. This taxonomy distinguishes the naive who lack wisdom, the proud who mock it, and the obstinate who actively oppose it. Each represents progressive hardening against truth. The questions indict both intellectual and moral rebellion against God's wisdom.

Historical Context

Continues wisdom's public proclamation (vv.20-21), now challenging hearers directly. The threefold classification reflected observable categories in Israelite society - the teachable naive, the cynical mockers, and the willfully ignorant.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Which category best describes your posture toward divine wisdom - naive, mocking, or resistant?
2. How is God calling you from your current category toward true wisdom?

Interlinear Text

מִתְּעֵד	מִתְּיַאֲכֵב
H5704	H157
How long ye simple ones	will ye love
H4970	H6612
וְלֹא יְמִלְאֵן	וְלֹא יְמִלְאֵן
and the scorers	in their scorning
H3887	H3944
בְּסִילְיָם	בְּסִילְיָם
delight	delight
H2530	H1992
בְּשִׁמְדֵן	בְּשִׁמְדֵן
and fools	and fools
H3684	H8130
בְּשִׁעְתָּה:	hate

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:29 (Parallel theme): For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Proverbs 5:12 (Parallel theme): And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

Psalms 1:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Revelation 22:17 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Proverbs 21:11 (Parallel theme): When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

2 Peter 3:3 (Parallel theme): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

Matthew 9:13 (Parallel theme): But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

John 3:20 (Light): For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Luke 19:42 (Parallel theme): Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.