Proverbs 1:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Analysis

Wisdom explains why prayers won't be answered: 'They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.' The repetition from v. 25 emphasizes the cause-effect relationship. Their comprehensive rejection ('none... all') produced comprehensive abandonment. 'Despised' (Hebrew: na'ats, reject with contempt) shows active scorn, not mere neglect. God's judicial abandonment matches their volitional rejection. This demonstrates the justice of eternal punishment—it corresponds to willful, total rejection of available grace. Hell's inhabitants chose it by rejecting salvation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom teachers operated under patron-client relationships. Despising a patron's counsel severed the relationship, forfeiting protection and provision. Israel's covenant history demonstrates this pattern—rejecting God's law led to exile and divine abandonment (2 Kings 17:13-20). The principle extends eschatologically: those who despise Christ's reproof during their earthly opportunity face eternal rejection (Matt. 7:23).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the correlation between total rejection and total abandonment demonstrate the justice of hell?
2. What does 'despised all my reproof' teach us about the active nature of unbelief—not mere ignorance but willful contempt?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	אָב וּ	לַעֲצָת י	נָ אֲצ וּ	כָּל	תּוֹכַחְתִּי:
H3808	**They would**	**none of my counsel**	**they despised**	H3605	**all my reproof**
	H14	H6098	H5006		H8433

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 81:11 (Parallel theme): But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

Proverbs 1:25 (Parallel theme): But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: