

Proverbs 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Analysis

Father and mother both bear responsibility for covenant instruction, reflecting the family's role as primary discipleship context. The Hebrew imperative 'hear' demands active obedience, not passive listening. This anticipates Ephesians 6:1-4, where parental authority is delegated from God and exercised under His lordship.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, both parents taught children Torah and wisdom, unlike surrounding cultures where mothers' instruction was often devalued. This egalitarian approach to parental teaching reflected Israel's covenant distinctiveness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you honor your parents' godly instruction in your current life stage?
2. What wisdom from your upbringing continues to guide you today?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמָע ע	בְּנִי	מוֹסֵר	אֲבִי יְךָ	וְאַל	תִּטְּשֵׁנִי	תֹרֵךְ תֹּ
hear	My son	the instruction	of thy father	H408	and forsake	not the law
H8085	H1121	H4148	H1		H5203	H8451
אַתָּה:						
of thy mother						
H517						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 6:20 (Word): My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Proverbs 30:17 (Parallel theme): The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Proverbs 2:1 (Word): My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Proverbs 1:10 (Parallel theme): My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Leviticus 19:3 (Parallel theme): Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Proverbs 1:15 (Parallel theme): My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

Proverbs 31:1 (Word): The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

Proverbs 7:1 (Word): My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Proverbs 3:1 (Word): My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 Timothy 1:5 (Parallel theme): When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org