

# Proverbs 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father:  
but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

## Analysis

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This verse begins the first collection of Solomon's proverbs proper (10:1-22:16), shifting from extended discourse to brief wisdom sayings. 'A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother' establishes the relational impact of wisdom and folly. Parents rejoice in wise children and grieve over foolish ones. The asymmetry (glad father / grieving mother) may simply vary the parallelism poetically, though some see it reflecting ancient gender roles in child-rearing. The principle remains: children's moral and spiritual choices profoundly affect their parents.

## Historical Context

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The shift from extended parental instruction (chapters 1-9) to brief proverbial sayings (chapters 10-22) reflects different pedagogical purposes. The longer discourses established foundational principles; the brief proverbs provided memorable applications for daily life. Both served ancient Israel's educational system centered in family and community.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. If you are a child, how do your choices bring gladness or grief to your parents?
2. If you are a parent, how do you balance grief over children's foolishness with trust in God's sovereign work in their lives?

## Interlinear Text

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מְשָׁלֵחַ	הַ	שֶׁל	מִן	הַ	מְשָׁלֵחַ	וְ	אָבִ	וְ	בָּ
<b>The proverbs</b>	<b>of Solomon</b>	<b>son</b>	<b>A wise</b>	<b>maketh a glad</b>	<b>father</b>	<b>son</b>			
H4912	H8010	H1121	H2450	H8055	H1	H1121			
בָּ	תַּ	מְשָׁלֵחַ	וְ	אָבִ	וְ	בָּ			
<b>but a foolish</b>	<b>is the heaviness</b>	<b>of his mother</b>							
H3684	H8424	H517							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 1:1** (Parallel theme): The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

**Proverbs 29:3** (Parallel theme): Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

**Proverbs 17:25** (Parallel theme): A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

**Proverbs 29:15** (Parallel theme): The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

**Proverbs 15:20** (Parallel theme): A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

**Proverbs 17:21** (Parallel theme): He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

**Proverbs 19:13** (Parallel theme): A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

**Proverbs 25:1** (Parallel theme): These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

**Ecclesiastes 12:9** (Parallel theme): And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

**Ecclesiastes 2:19** (Parallel theme): And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

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